

NEBRASKA MATTERS.

NEBRASKA TEACHERS IN COUNCIL.—At the state teachers' association meeting held in Lincoln, the following resolutions were passed: WHEREAS, The city of Topeka, Kansas, has made persistent effort to secure a meeting of the National Educational association west of the Mississippi, and is the only city that has made any effort looking to that end, and believing that a united effort is necessary to success, be it

Resolved, That the Nebraska State Teachers' association cordially joins in the request to the National Educational association to hold its meeting for 1886 in Topeka, Kansas.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Nebraska State Teachers' association be extended and hereby tendered to Chancellor Manatt and the faculty of the university for their successful efforts in endeavoring to entertain the members of the association; for the use of the university building and numberless courtesies received; also to those railroad companies and hotels which have given reduced rates to the teachers; to State Superintendent Jones, who as presiding officer has so faithfully performed the duties of his office with so much dignity and fairness to all; as also to Secretary Harty, Treasurer Blake and the executive committee who have the use of so admirably in making the meeting a success; to the Arion club, and Professor Webber and wife for excellent music furnished; to Colonel Parker for his able assistance, and to Mrs. Parker for her excellent recitations and lecture on elocution.

Resolved, That the association endorse most heartily the able efforts of our efficient state superintendent, W. W. Jones, and welcome the evident signs of all our educational work in Nebraska.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair to present a report at the next annual meeting concerning the best interest or methods of carrying into practical effect the law passed by the late legislature requiring the physiological effects of alcohol and narcotics on the human system to be scientifically taught in all the public schools of the state.

The following resolution was lost: Resolved, That we, the members of the state teachers' association of Nebraska, believe that the examination and use of the use of per cent is injurious in its results on education, that its use is not in harmony with our institutions, and that its further use should not be recommended.

THE BASCOMBE MYSTERY.—A gentleman from North Platte says that when the evidence collected by the jury investigating the Bascombe mystery is made public it will cause great excitement. The house of the Bascombes, about three miles from North Platte, was burned on the night of April 23. The next morning the bodies of Bascombe and his wife were found on a bed in the ruins. That of the man was clad in three shirts and a pair of pants, all the clothing being drenched with blood, which the doctors say was shed before death. The position of Bascombe's body, the manner in which it was dressed, the blood, and other circumstances warrant the belief that he was killed and laid on a bed. But the strongest evidence in support of the murder theory is the fact that nothing could be found of Mrs. Bascombe's body but the hip bones with two vertebrae attached. These bones were charred to an extent impossible in an ordinary house fire. It is thought that after the woman was killed the murderers cut up her body and laid it on a bed, being able to dispose of it quickly enough in that way, they picked up the bones found, put them on the bed with the body of Bascombe, and then set the dwelling on fire. In addition to the charred bones of the woman, the ruins of the house, the mangers and walls of the barn are spattered with blood, tending to show that one, and perhaps both, of the victims were killed and laid on a bed. The murders are thought to have been inspired by jealousy and a desire for revenge. Bascombe had an important land contest case pending before the United States commissioner at Washington. He had told his friends that he was afraid to win it, as certain parties had threatened, if it was decided in his favor, to kill him and burn his buildings. The night before the murder Bascombe was in North Platte and while there received news from Washington that he had won the case. The news did not seem to please him, and he several times said that he was almost afraid to go home, lest the three men against him would be carried out.—Omaha Herald.

LAYING CLAIM TO A TOWN SITE.—Messrs. Thurston & Hall, of this city, acting, it is understood, for an eastern client, are suing for an interest in a large piece of real estate in the town of Hastings. The case is stated by interested parties, as follows: In 1871 Jas. D. Carl and others organized a town site company at Hastings, each member putting in a certain amount of land as capital and giving the secretary of the company a power of attorney to make out warranty deeds to purchasers. In 1873, after a large number of lots had been sold, Carl revoked his power of attorney and quit-claimed his title to 387 lots to Martin N. Moody and wife. These parties in turn transferred it to Thurston & Hall's client. Several of the present holders, whose title comes from the town site company, have compromised with the claimant under the title of the. Others, including Oswald Oliver and C. H. Detrich, have retained R. A. Batty, of Hastings, to commence an action in the United States court to remove the cloud. The litigation affects a large number of the property owners who have hitherto "read their title clear," and the result is watched for with great anxiety.—Omaha Herald.

STATE IN GENERAL.

O'Neill has voted \$4,200 bonds for a new school building.

A census of Atkinson, just taken, shows a population of 707.

The skating rink at Columbus was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$4,000.

According to the result of the late election in Neligh the saloons must go.

The Oakland creamery is preparing for an extensive business the coming season.

The license board was elected in Bloomington and the saloons will not have to go.

The Fremont creamery turned out 18,000 pounds of butter during the month of March.

A prairie fire south of Hiram painted the sky red for some time, but did no particular harm.

A minister of Ewing is said to have fallen into disrepute, having been detected in vile practices.

The time of the State Teachers' association has been fixed for the 26th, 27th and 28th of March, 1886.

New buildings are to be added to Brownell Hall, Omaha, before another school year is entered upon.

A. G. Warner will represent the Nebraska university in the oratorical contest at Hastings on the 15th.

A servant girl in Columbus recently gave birth to a child which she made ineffectual efforts to destroy.

House breakers are again plying their vocation at the capital city. The shotgun has been taken down and carefully examined for future emergencies.

The Omaha municipal contest resulted mainly in favor of the citizens' ticket, headed by J. E. Boyd for mayor.

Chicago capitalists have been in Omaha looking over the ground with the view to establishment of a barb wire factory.

At the opening of the spring term of the Nebraska university Prof. Sherman delivered an address on "Literature and Culture."

Col. Wood, the great museum man, has rented the Academy of Music, Omaha, and will establish a permanent museum there.

There were present in the four Congregational Sunday schools of Omaha on Easter Sunday 666 individuals, teachers and scholars.

A colony of ninety-sixty persons from Terre Haute, Ind., recently passed through North Platte to locate in Antelope valley, Sioux county.

The Wakefield Republican remarks that the high price of land in that locality is driving hundreds of settlers farther west to find cheaper homes.

Ewing has a bevy of young rascals who engage in a quiet game of seven-up in the rear end of its church-room while divine service is in progress.

Charles Nutt, employed at the Willer mills was caught in the bolting gear. One arm was nearly severed from the body. His situation is precarious.

Engineer Ainsworth, of the Sioux City and Pacific, will begin laying track on the 15th and expects to put down two miles of 60-lb. steel rails every day.

The store of Kauffman Bros., Omaha, was burglarized the other day of \$300 worth of goods. A heavy plate glass was smashed to get at the goods.

Additional ties are being unloaded in Papillion, to be used in building the proposed double track of the Union Pacific between Omaha and that point.

A mad dog made a trip through a farming settlement near Columbus a few days ago, leaving his brand on several head of stock which have since died.

The Oregon horse and land company, at Fremont, shipped eleven blooded stallions to Ontario, Oregon, to be placed on a ranche. They were shipped in a car neatly arranged for their convenience.

Fremont's creamery is doing a large business, and it is said to be the third in the United States, the others being at Syracuse, N. Y., and Harrisburg, Pa.

Fred Stroeh, Jr., while sleeping at Stroeh's hotel, in Papillion, was robbed of a gold watch, chain and a pocketbook containing notes valued at several hundred dollars.

A son of Ed Walters, who lives near Talmage, while temporarily insane or suffering from somnambulism, threw himself from the second story window, cracking his skull and injuring himself fatally.

After prolonged efforts with unpromising outlook for a time, arrangements have at last been completed by which Omaha will probably secure a permanent base-ball organization.

The Okadale Journal is authority for the statement that a night express each way is soon to be put on the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley road. The increased traffic demands it.

Christina Wirth, an ex-soldier, who deserted from the army five years ago and started in business in Omaha, was arrested the other day by Constable Edgerton, to whom a false friend of Wirth had betrayed him.

The W. C. T. U. of Blair is taking steps for the establishment of a reading room, regarding this as one of the most effective and necessary steps toward breaking up the baleful influence of the saloons on the young.

Chief Butler, of the Omaha fire department, has arranged with the Western Union telegraph company to receive a bulletin whenever Gen. Grant's death occurs and will then have sixty-two strokes sounded on the fire bells of the city.

The Bloomington Guard says that a man named Levi Madison, who has resided in Franklin county several years, left his wife and two children last Monday and eloped with a girl fifteen years of age. He left his family in destitute circumstances.

Robert Easting, the tramp who attempted to murder Burns and McMurray near Columbus the other day, was tried for attempted murder and robbery and found guilty on both indictments. Burns and McMurray are improving and were in court as usual.

At Palmyra, Mrs. N. J. Hall's little girl, while playing about the house, got hold of a bottle containing corrosive sublimate and swallowed a part of it, and but for the prompt arrival of a physician, who administered restoratives, the dose might have terminated fatally. The child is now out of danger.

News was brought to North Platte the other day that the house of a farmer named R. Bascombe, five miles northeast of that city, with himself and wife, aged 50 and 30 years, were entirely consumed by fire. It is thought the couple were first murdered and then the house fired.

H. H. Carpenter, convicted at last week's term of the district court for shooting, and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary, escaped from the guard Sunday evening. The sheriff and deputies and constables are out hunting for him. No trace has yet been found of him.

William Miche, living seven miles north of Aurora, attempted suicide by cutting his throat. He was adjudged insane and sent to the asylum. He had for some time imagined himself possessed of a devil and proposed to get rid of the monster in the manner indicated by his act.

Orsa Root, of Nemaha county, met with quite a loss the other day. One of his teams hitched to a stalk-cutter became frightened and in running one of the horses fell down, the other dragging the cutter onto him, cutting off both hind legs. Such a loss, just at commencement of spring work, is decidedly discouraging.

The body of Wm. O'Grady, a blacksmith was found floating in the Nemaha river one day last week by some men who had gone there to fish. He was a man who was in the habit of getting drunk, and it is supposed that during one of these spells he was drowned in the early part of the past winter, as nothing had been seen of him since December. It is likely that the body had been frozen in the ice somewhere and was released by the spring break-up.

The state teachers' association, in session at Lincoln, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, W. W. Jones; recording secretary, Miss Anna Gray; treasurer, H. N. Blake; executive committee, A. W. Vanderman, county superintendent of Saunders county, chairman; Miss Honn, North Platte; J. B. Sexton, Geneva; George L. Farnham, Peru; George E. Howard, Lincoln; J. B. Sprecher, Norfolk; N. E. Leach, West Point.

The Aurora Republican says that a great scandal was about to be unraveled and perpetrated upon that community. A warrant was issued and placed in the hands of the proper officers and the arrest was about to be made, when the party for whom the warrant was issued skipped the country. For the present names are omitted, but it is a case in which a lady of respectability is soon to become a mother, the father being a well known citizen of that place.

The North Bend Flail says: We are informed by J. P. Mallon that the blackleg has been among his herd, and but for timely attention and prevention he thinks it would have swept his yards. He lost four of his finest yearlings before he was aware of the trouble, but he thinks he has completely checked—or prevented rather, for when the animal is once affected there is no cure—is copious bleeding. He cords the neck and takes from one to two quarts of blood from each animal, and leaves a seaton that continues to carry off the surplus blood.

Dakota City Eagle: The neighborhood in the southwest part of the county was shocked and all torn up a few days ago by the report that a certain young lady of 23 or 30 summers, who is rather handsome, and residing with her brother on a branch of the Pigeon above Beaudreux's, had taken a dose of strychnine, her wish being to climb the golden stairs on the easiest route. She was doped with grease, sweet milk and other emetics until a physician arrived, who went to work with a stomach pump and attempted to bring back the patient once more into this wicked world. Upon inquiring we learned that the lady is enceinte and that a young man in the neighborhood is the cause of her trouble.

A Papillion (Sarp county) special says: Considerable excitement prevails here over the discovery of gold quartz on P. T. Convey's farm, in the range of hills about twelve miles west of here. Samples of the rock have been assayed by Omaha, Chicago and St. Louis experts, and in every instance have been pronounced worth working. Messrs. Charles Behrendt and John Zimmerman, of Papillion, both men of abundant means, have become interested in the "find" and will work the lead for all there is in it. Convey, the owner of the premises on which the precious stuff has been found, has refused handsome offers for his land, and is confident the rock will yield better than the assays promise.

The project for bridging the Missouri at Sioux City does not materialize as fast as the people of that busy little town desire. The Minneapolis and Omaha railway ask for what is considered to mean an exclusive use of the bridge when it is built, and this the bridge company is not willing to grant. The Journal says the Minneapolis and Omaha cannot afford to take, if it were freely tendered, the exclusive privilege of crossing cars on the proposed bridge. Meanwhile without a bridge no cars are being crossed at all. Since the evening of March 6, when a portion of a freight train went off the temporary winter bridge, but one day's crossing has been done by the transfer boat. This has been no fault of the company, but of the river, which has cut out the landings on the Nebraska side as fast as they could be made.

A M. RMON EDITOR

A General Epistle to the Church Past North by the Recent Congress.

At the Mormon general conference at Logan, Utah, recently, a general epistle to the church was read from Presidents Taylor and Cannon, referring to the present condition of affairs in the polygamist prosecutions. It says: "Men of pure lives set examples worthy of the emulation of all lives, and lead to works of righteousness; citizens of the highest type of character have been selected as victims of vile persecution as criminals of the lowest grade. Jurors are selected for the express purpose of convicting men prominent in the community for their virtuous lives, so thoroughly known in the community that it is commonly considered that an accusation in court is now constituted equal to a conviction. The old rule of jurisprudence, that the accused shall be considered innocent until proven guilty, is reversed, and the burden of proof rested upon the accused. In nearly every instance judge and jury, equally with the prosecution, appear to be prejudiced against the accused. Jurors are selected who are known enemies of the parties accused, or of the principle involved in the trial. The result has been that the Mormon is about as safe in a deking justice as the infernal regions or of Algerine pirates as in courts of such character. Indictments are found on the flimsiest evidence. The result has been a reign of terror has prevailed, and continued for years. The conclusion is that we have no chance for a fair trial, the men have considered it best to avoid arrest until they have a prospect of receiving impartial justice."

It considers these violent prosecutions as only intended to provoke the people to some overt act whereby the incoming administration will be embarrassed; refers to the imprisonment of certain individuals, and says that the proceedings so outrageous that no other man who anticipated being accused dare submit to such treatment, and many left their homes for foreign lands. It concludes by saying that President Taylor remained home until, perceiving a determination on the part of several federal officials here to embarrass and harass every prominent man, and being informed of the same, he fled to the mountains. The conclusion is that we have no chance for a fair trial, the men have considered it best to avoid arrest until they have a prospect of receiving impartial justice."

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HIS PREROGATIVE.

The President Exercises It in the Case of the Postmaster at Rome, N. Y.

The postmaster at Rome, N. Y., has been suspended from further duty in his office by order of the president, and James Corcoran was designated to perform the duties of the office in his stead. The president proposed the removal of the postmaster and the nomination of Corcoran to the senate at a recent session and the senate refused to take action on the nomination. The postmaster general applied to the president for his directions in the case, and was served with a written communication as follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, April 6.—Hon. Wm. Vilas, Postmaster General—Dear Sir: In order to inquire as to the disposition to be made of the case of the postmaster at Rome, Onondaga county, N. Y., which was presented to the senate on the 26th of March, with the proposition that he be removed from office, and which proposition was not acted upon prior to the adjournment of that body on the 21 day of April, I have to say, to me it clearly seems to be my duty to exercise my prerogative in this case, and the power which the present condition of the law has left in my hands, so far as it may be done independently of the senate, to protect the interests of the government, to vindicate the laws which have been enacted for the regulation of the postal office, and to impress upon the federal officeholders the fact that no indulgence will be granted by the executive to those who violate the law or neglect public duty. This postmaster, under section 404 of the United States revised statutes, was required to transmit to the department weekly a report of the business done by him in the month or branch of the postal office. It appears from the official report of an inspector of the postoffice department, now before me, and which was submitted to a committee of the senate, that the postmaster removed this official report before the examination of his office was ordered on the 26th of January, 1885, in consequence of the fact that no such weekly reports had been made since the 6th of December, 1884. It further appears from this report that such examination developed the most disgraceful confusion in all that pertained to the accounts and financial condition of the office; that there had been no entry in the money order general account since July, 1884, and that, as might have been expected, there was a deficiency in the money order account of more than \$400. There is, I think, no reason touching these facts. The deficiency has been refunded to the government under arrangement with one of the trustees of the delinquent office, and he attempts to excuse his wretched condition of his office by alleging that his assistant had entire charge of the money order business as well as the other duties of the office. In making such excuse, this officer admits, it seems to me, a violation of a plain duty in turning over the operations of his office to an assistant without any pretext of sickness or unavoidable absence of the postmaster, which is contrary to a reasonable construction of section 403 of the revised statutes, which provides that in case of sickness or unavoidable absence of the postmaster of any money order postoffice, he may, with the consent of the postmaster general, authorize the chief clerk or some other clerk employed therein to act in his place and discharge all the duties required by law of such postoffice. The chief clerk, in making the excuse, having had full charge, is responsible for the delinquencies and irregularities shown. The postmaster also appears to contradict his own sworn statement made to the department on the 19th of September, 1884, to the effect that he himself had performed for the preceding quarter money order business in his office, except when necessarily absent. I shall do all that is in my power to rid the public service of officials who exhibit such loose ideas of their duty to the government. The fact that I have before me documents signed by many of the residents of the city where this postmaster is located, who belong to both political parties, asserting their entire confidence in his honesty and fidelity demonstrates the unfortunate facility with which such papers may be obtained and give rise to the unpleasant suspicion prevalent in the minds