

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Lieutenant Guy Hanna of Iowa, heretofore detailed at Fort Hunt, Virginia, has been transferred to San Francisco.

Part of the navy department buildings at Buenos Ayres was destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at about \$800,000.

The statement of the treasury balances in the general fund shows: Available cash balance, \$221,971,889; gold, \$102,571,295.

At a meeting of Americans in Havana it was arranged to hold memorial exercises at the wreck of the Maine on the anniversary of the destruction.

The Idaho senate passed the house bill providing for a tax on the net output of mines. Strong efforts, it is said, will be made to induce the governor to veto it.

Joel Sumner Smith of the class of 1853 of Yale died at his home in New Haven, Conn. He was assistant librarian at the university and was 72 years of age.

The Kansas senate adopted a concurrent resolution recommending United States Senator William A. Harris for appointment as a member of the Ishmian canal commission.

Joseph E. Cot and Juan Gonzales were hanged at San Quentin, Cal., for the murder of an old man in San Benito county named Buiz, whom they killed for purposes of robbery.

The international convention of the Building Laborers' Protective union, in session at Fort Wayne, Ind., for two weeks, adjourned after choosing St. Louis for the meeting place next year.

Twenty-five states were represented by more than 100 delegates at the first session of the annual meeting of the American Roadmakers and International Good Roads conference at Detroit.

The foot and mouth disease has become serious again in Massachusetts and Dr. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry, will return to Boston in a few days to investigate the situation.

At Mystic, S. D., the air compressor plant of the Castle Creek Mining company was totally destroyed by fire. The plant consisted of boilers and engine, as well as air compressor and pump. The loss is \$7,000.

The great prevalence of smallpox in the Pennsylvania coke region has prompted the officials of the H. C. Frick Coke company to issue an order calling for the free vaccination of all its employes and their families.

Captain W. W. Brown, general manager of the United States Transportation company of Cleveland, O., died suddenly at Rome, Italy. He was 43 years of age and was in good health when he left for Europe in January.

Willie Stoltzman, aged 20 years, acquitted ten days ago at Fort Scott, Kan., of the charge of killing R. J. Morrison, postmaster at Pawnee, Kan., was arrested at Kansas City for stealing a suit case from Dr. A. Craig of Chicago.

Orders were issued to shut down the print works of the Cochebo Manufacturing company at Dover, N. H. The closing of this branch of the industry is due to the strike of the 250 ring spinners and carders and will throw out of work about 1,000 additional operatives.

William E. Parnell, superintendent of the Tamarack, Osceola Consolidated and the Isle Royale mines of the Bigelow group, Michigan, died at Calumet of cancer of the intestines. He was vice president of the National bank of Houghton, and was interested in many other enterprises.

The Nebraska Telephone company has filed amended articles of incorporation, increasing the capital stock from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000. This action was taken at the annual meeting at which provision was made for the expenditure of about \$60,000 this year in improvements and extensions.

An agency dispatch from Corunna, Spain, says that a resolution was passed at a meeting of workmen there in favor of a general strike in consequence of the increase of the octroi duties, which have advanced the price of food. The authorities have taken precautions to cope with possible disturbances.

Senator Cullom, from the senate committee on foreign relations, reported an amendment to the general deficiency bill providing for the payment of \$5,000 to the Italian government on account of the killing of two Italians in a riot at Erwin, Miss., in 1901.

The greater part of the \$10,000 worth of watches and jewelry stolen from the sale of S. Vann & Co., jewelers of Albuquerque, N. M., November 20, 1902, was found under an old barn by two boys who were hunting for hens' eggs.

THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

A Synopsis of Proceedings in Both Branches of the Twenty-Eighth General Assembly.

SENATE. Most of the day in the senate on the 11th was taken up as a committee of the whole in discussing the bulk law; providing that no retail merchant should be allowed to sell his stock, entire or in part, outside of the regular trade routine, without first having notified his creditors and filing a list of creditors with the county clerk. The bill was amended and discussed so much that it was finally sent back to the committee, which was instructed to patch on the amendments and again bring it forth. S. F. 114, calling for a convention to amend the constitution, after a lengthy discussion, was recommended for passage by the committee of the whole. Sheldon of Cass introduced a resolution authorizing the judiciary committee to get up a bill making such changes in the ballot law regarding constitutional amendments as may be deemed necessary and submit the same on or before February 18, 1902. Bills on first reading included: Fixing fees for county clerks for issuing instruments. To provide for the sale by railroad companies of unclaimed goods. Authorizing mutual fire insurance companies to do business outside of the state. To extend the boundaries of all cities, villages, school districts and other municipal incorporations bordering upon navigable streams which constitute state boundaries. To define the crime of desertion of minor child or children, wife or husband or home, by father, mother, putative father, husband or wife, and to provide punishment therefor.

After being in session an hour on the 12th the senate adjourned for the day. This was done in order to give the committees time to get up a large general file. Standing committees reported as follows: S. F. 68, providing for the payment of certain fines into the school fund, indefinitely postponed; S. F. 3, providing for a board of pardons, recommended for passage; S. F. 38, to prevent the mutilation of horses, recommended for passage; S. F. 65, relating to marks and brands, recommended for passage; S. F. 139, for issuance of bonds for irrigation purposes, recommended for passage; S. F. 138, in regard to water rights, recommended for passage; S. F. 137, water rights, irrigation, recommended for passage; S. F. 131, relating to the destruction of wild animals, favorable; H. R. 16, substituted for S. F. 23, providing for the division of counties into districts; S. F. 64, relating to county treasurer's deposits, indefinitely postponed; S. F. 114, providing for the calling of a constitutional convention, was passed. Bills on first reading were: Providing for general revision of election law; Providing for the appointment of a union soldier having served three years a member of Board of Soldiers' and Sailors', to serve three years, and the appointment of one member annually thereafter.

The senate on the 13th went into committee of the whole to consider bills on general file, with Howell of Douglas in the chair. S. F. 126, an act to provide for the state superintendents making a uniform course of study for district schools, was ordered engrossed after it had been amended so that no change be made in text books. S. F. 9, providing for the appointment of a board of pardons to consist of three members, one of whom shall be a practical attorney. After some discussion the bill was allowed to retain its place on the general file and no action was taken. S. F. 131, to repeal act providing for bounty paid for killing wild animals. O'Neill wanted to amend by attaching the emergency clause. The following bills were placed on general file: To provide for school districts in metropolitan cities paying for cost of bond for treasurer. Providing for making five-year contract for purchase of text books by school districts. Relating to qualifications of teachers. Relating to notice of annual school meetings. Relating to printing report of state superintendent. Relating to establishment of public school system. Providing for payment of bond of treasurers of school board by school district. An act providing for compiling abstracts of title bonds. Providing for the publishing of statutes. Providing for the procedure against tenants holding on. Providing for appeals to supreme court. Defining child dependency, neglect, cruelty, etc., and providing for protection.

The senate, with eighteen members in sight and twenty-seven marked present, held a thirty-minute session on the 14th, beginning at 9 o'clock. This early was chosen so that those who had not gone home would be able to get out of town and the entire thirty-three members would draw pay for a full day. The reading of the journal was cut short. The committee on enrolled and engrossed bills reported that H. R. No. 60, appropriating \$25,000 for incidental expenses of the legislature, was taken to the governor Thursday evening at 4 o'clock. Three bills were introduced and read by title, and two senate bills and three house bills were read a second time, and an adjournment was taken until Monday at 2 o'clock. One of the house bills advanced to second reading is to prevent the docking of horses' tails and the others were of little more importance. The following were the bills introduced: S. F. No. 138, by Hall of Douglas, to legalize illegal special assessments levied in the city of Omaha. S. F. No. 137, by Cox, by request, relating to the removal of guards.

Jennings of Thayer introduced in the senate on the 14th a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three to investigate the management of the office of the commissioner of labor and to report finding within ten days. The resolution went over one day. S. F. 65, relating to marks and brands, ordered engrossed. S. F. 98, to prevent mutilation of horses, recommended for passage. H. R. 16, to provide for township organization, recommended. S. F. 49, providing

for school districts in metropolitan cities paying for bond of treasurer. Committee asked leave to sit again. S. F. 120, relating to school lands and funds. H. R. 22, to make five years' contract for purchase of textbooks, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

HOUSE. A petition from the Nebraska Federation of Woman's Clubs, praying for the passage of a pure food law, was introduced in the house on the 11th by Gregg of Wayne and referred to the committee on commerce. H. R. 119, by Gregg, requiring district school board to notify officers when reports are due, was read the third time and passed. Anderson of Kearney, moved that the house go into committee of the whole to consider H. R. 112, a bill introduced by Deles Derner of Cass to authorize and empower boards of county commissioners or supervisors to make contracts for the construction and repair of bridges, to buy material and employ the necessary help to construct or repair the bridges. The matter was discussed at much length, but definite action was not taken. Bills were introduced: To amend section 2a, article I, chapter xviii, Compiled Statutes, by requiring clerks of district courts to file notice of foreclosure or payment of mortgages with both county treasurer and clerk. Emergency clause. To authorize county commissioners to appropriate unexpended balances credited to any precinct to such precinct. To permit the payment of money arising from the sale or purchase of irrigation bonds or coupons at county treasurers' offices as well as state. H. R. 301, by Rouse, relating to district court fees. A joint resolution relating to the unexpended balance in the hands of the Nebraska State Relief commission, created by an act of the legislature at its twenty-fourth session, and to provide for converting said balance of \$396.96 into the state treasury.

The house on the 12th concurred in the senate's amendments to H. R. 60, reducing the appropriation for legislators' expenses from \$48,000 to \$28,000. It was shown by a report by the house deficiency committee that the reduction was warranted, as last session thousands of dollars were spent for furnishings and decorations, which are not required this year. These bills were read the third time and passed: H. R. 88, by Shelly of Douglas, to prevent and punish the desecration of the federal flag; H. R. 166, by Kittell of Sherman, repealing the wolf bounty law; H. R. 175, by Burgess of Lancaster, known as the anti-printing trust bill, was recommended for passage. New bills introduced were: To establish an experimental station at or near Crawford, Neb., fixing the control and management of the same and making an appropriation of \$18,000 therefor. Providing for holidays to be known as Lincoln and McKinley anniversaries and Flag day. February 12, January 29 and June 14, respectively. To amend an act to give an award for the discovery of coal, iron ore, gas and crude oil, and to provide an appropriation of \$25,000 to pay the award. To provide for the abandonment of operations by irrigation districts and for their disorganization. To provide for full width of public roads of sixty-six feet and to keep them unobstructed.

This resolution by Cropsy of Jefferson was adopted: "Whereas, This, the 12th day of February, being the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; and Whereas, His memory is revered by all people, his ability and loyalty acknowledged and admired, his unbounded love for humanity and devotion to principle, marks him as an honorable example for generations to come; therefore, be it Resolved, That the flag of our country, for which he gave his services and his life, be placed at full mast for today as a token of respect to the memory of the lamented savior of our country.

In committee of the whole the house on the 13th considered the following bills, among others: H. R. 153, by Gregg—to repeal the law providing for rural high schools without requiring a consolidation of districts. Recommended for indefinite postponement. H. R. 112, by Deles Derner, to authorize county boards to construct bridges without letting contracts, when such boards deem it best to reject all bids for the contract. After a number of futile attempts to amend the motion for indefinite postponement was lost by a vote of 27 to 45. An amendment was offered by Kittell of Sherman requiring boards to advertise for contracts by competitive bidding for bridge work costing \$300 or more. The amendment was adopted. An amendment by Rouse of Hall to provide that the work done by the county board shall not exceed the cost of the lowest bid rejected, was adopted. McAllister offered an amendment striking out all that portion of the bill which authorizes the board to build bridges without contract where the amount involved is \$300 or more. It was lost, and the bill as amended was recommended for passage. H. R. 152, by Gregg—to provide that in cities of over 1,500 and less than 10,000 inhabitants school boards shall consist of five members, to hold for a five-year term, one member to be elected each year. The committee voted against the bill. Mockett of Lancaster then amended the bill so as to make it apply only to the city of Lincoln. The amendment was adopted, and the committee then decided to report progress on the bill.

The house convened on the 14th with a bare quorum present. Because of the small attendance, Spurlock of Cass moved to adjourn when the order of bills on third reading should be reached. This prevailed. Rouse of Hall was very anxious to compel the members to labor in committee of the whole, and though many demurred, they were finally compelled to do a little work. H. R. No. 152, by Gregg, was first considered. The measure was amended by Speaker Mockett so it related only to Lincoln reducing the number of members of the school

board. The bill was passed over till the amendment might be printed. H. R. No. 142, by Gregg, specifying qualifications for county superintendents, was next on general file. The committee rose without taking action on the bill. Mr. Gregg endeavored to amend the report of the committee by ordering H. R. No. 143 to a third reading. A parliamentary struggle resulted over the attempt to adjourn without acting on Mr. Gregg's motion. A motion to adjourn by Wilson of Pawnee finally prevailed by a vote of 26 to 23. The following bills were introduced in the house on the 14th: H. R. No. 216, by Koetter of Douglas, to amend section 215 of chapter 21 of the criminal code. Relates to the statute concerning keeping gaming fixtures. H. R. No. 317, by Bacon of Dawson, to amend section 59 of article I, chapter 18, of the statutes of 1901. Relates to the duties of chairmen of board of county commissioners. H. R. No. 318, by Mockett of Lancaster, to provide for the appointment of a board of commissioners to inspect and weigh for the state of Nebraska, and prescribing their compensation, duties and regulations pertaining thereto. H. R. No. 319, by Jones of Otoe, by request, to prevent shooting and injury to pigeons and other birds.

The house renewed consideration of H. R. 143, by Gregg of Wayne, providing that no one shall be eligible to hold the office of county superintendent of schools who does not hold a first grade teacher's certificate. Mr. Gregg moved that his bill be engrossed for the third reading. Douglas of Rock opposed the bill, arguing that many of the counties in the western part of the state were without first grade certificate teachers and therefore, if this bill was passed, it would impose the necessity of importing persons for county superintendents. Bartow of Valley thought this was an argument for the bill. Spurlock of Cass made a forcible speech in favor of the bill, urging the importance of raising the educational standard. Gregg's motion finally carried by a vote of 50 to 25. These bills were passed: Appropriating \$10,000 from the unexpended board and clothing fund of the Norfolk asylum to the maintenance of patients removed from that to the Lincoln asylum. Permitting the small printer to bid on any state work in separate items he can furnish, instead of as at present, letting the printing out in bulk. This is the so-called anti-printing trust bill. Strengthening the powers of county commissioners and supervisors in the suppression of contagious and infectious diseases. To provide county treasurers with a seal. Providing the school teachers, principals and superintendents shall not receive their full term's pay until they shall have made the full report required by law.

REAPPOINTMENT OF JUDGES. Warner of Dakota is out in a bill to reappoint the state into judicial districts. According to the bill introduced the state will have four less judges than at present, the Omaha district losing one judge. The Lancaster district gains one county. Following are the districts as apportioned under the bill: First—Johnson, Richardson, Nemaha. Second—Otoe, Cass, Sarpy. Third—Douglas, Washington, Burt. Fourth—Jefferson, Gage. Fifth—Lancaster, Saunders. Sixth—Platte, Colfax, Dodge. Seventh—Boone, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Thurlston, Dakota, Antelope. Eighth—Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Wayne. Ninth—York, Seward, Polk, Butler. Tenth—Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Nuckolls, Thayer. Eleventh—Franklin, Webster, Phelps, Kearney, Adams. Twelfth—Hamilton, Hall, Howard, Merrick, Nempe. Thirteenth—Dawson, Buffalo, Sherman, Custer. Fourteenth—Cherry, Brown, Rock, Holt, Keya Paha, Boyd, Wheeler, Garfield, Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan, Sioux, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Valley, Greeley, Blaine, Loup. Fifteenth—Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel, Logan, McPherson, Lincoln, Keith. Sixteenth—Cass, Hayes, Hitchcock, Dundy, Red Willow, Furnas, Harlan, Frontier, Gosper. In the third district there shall be six judges, in the fifth district three judges, in the seventh and thirteenth districts two judges each and in all other districts one judge each.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES. Major Buchanan, general passenger agent of the Elkhorn road, appeared before the house committee on agriculture in the interests of H. R. 138, by Jahn of Washington, providing for more expedient methods of compiling and publishing state statistics. Major Buchanan said the railroads favored the bill as it would facilitate the work of their advertising departments. Since the introduction of bills into the legislature providing for the killing of prairie dogs, the legislature has attracted attention outside the state. Governor Mickey received a letter from a Hoosier who has a remedy that he desires to be tried in Nebraska that he guarantees will bring about the desired results. The letter, dated "Chitty, Ind.," follows: "Your honor, I have a device for the extermination, for the destroying of the pests, the prairie dogs, guaranteed to do the work you desire will remunerate. I will send you the device. I have applied for patent. The device is this: attach rubber hose to steam engine, insert the nozzle in the holes occupied by the dogs. Let steam on by proper attachments; will burn them out in a few seconds. Will destroy badgers or anything that lives in the ground, by this means you can destroy the dogs on the prairie. Please give notice in some paper that will extend over the state that is infested with dogs." Belden of Richardson presented a bill designed to impose greater restrictions on the proprietors of barber colleges and their students. It contemplates an annual license fee of \$500, to be paid August 1 each year; provides not less than a two years' course for every student, who in addition to this must possess a certificate from the manager before he can work at the barber's trade.

That Beef Trust Case. CHICAGO, Ill.—The principal brief of the argument for the government in the beef trust case was filed in the United States circuit court Wednesday, and the whole case is now before Judge Grosscup for consideration. It is possible that a decision will be given next week.

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF.

A new bank will begin business in Barneston, March 1st. The Nebraska Editorial association meeting at Hastings was unusually well attended.

The telephone company at Arlington will erect a suitable building for carrying on its work.

York county farmers are organizing to handle their own products by elevator and otherwise.

Fire destroyed four buildings in Bartley and scorched another so badly as to practically render it worthless.

The Y. M. C. A. board of Fremont, has decided to build a two-story building with basement, to cost about \$25,000.

The Fremont public library building, the cost of which, \$15,000, was donated by Andrew Carnegie, has been completed and accepted by the library board.

Cyrus Kelley, a young man of Burwell, was instantly killed by the accidental discharge of a gun. The remains were taken to Tekamah for burial.

The two children of Mrs. James Lyons, Lincoln, were burned to death while the mother was temporarily absent. She had locked them in the house while making a neighborly call.

While trying to start a fire in the furnace at the home of Mrs. Wadsworth at Beatrice, Miss Bessie McKinney was badly burned about the face and hands by the explosion of gas.

Mrs. Nancy J. Taylor of Fremont, has sued the Union Pacific Railroad company in the district court for \$20,000 damages, alleged to have been sustained at the passenger station in Council Bluffs.

The Lange Canning & Preserving company of Beatrice, which contemplated moving its plant to Fremont, has decided to remain in Beatrice and will erect a new factory north of town which will cost about \$15,300.

Fred Sibert, a young man living fourteen miles southwest of Red Cloud, was killed while chopping down trees. A tree fell carrying him and pinning him to the ground. His arms and legs were broken and his body horribly mangled.

H. C. Grese, representing the Ames beet sugar people, has been at Trenton interesting the farmers in sugar beets. He secured a number of contracts and a large acreage will be put in. Culbertson has organized a sugar beet association.

Otto L. Gibson, a former prominent resident, met death in a peculiar manner near Blackfoot, Idaho, recently. He ate from a raisin stew prepared in a galvanized iron vessel. By some chemical action a poison was formed, causing death during the night.

Sven E. Benson, an Elkhorn section man, was run over and killed in the company's yards at Fremont. He was clearing the ice from a switch and was struck by some cars that were being kicked back. The dead man was 35 years of age and leaves four small children.

John Krema, a prominent Bohemian and former business man of Schuyler, shot himself fatally. He had been brooding over financial matters for some time and was, it is alleged, short in his accounts as treasurer of the Woodmen of the World. He leaves a wife and three children.

At Anoka, during a quarrel between Clarence Dutcher and F. L. Williams, bus drivers of Butte, as to the proper places to have their buses at the depot, Dutcher drew a 45-caliber revolver and shot at Williams but missed. He was arrested, charged with shooting with intent to kill and bound over under bail of \$500.

Albert Gerling, a farmer residing twelve miles north of Humphrey, made an attempt to commit suicide by taking strychnine. It seems that an overdose was taken and with medical assistance he was saved. Gerling has been ailing for the past two years is the only cause given for his attempting to take his own life.

Raymond Brooks, carrier on rural route No. 1, was killed by train No. 6 at Glen Creek. He arrived in town at 3:20 and was struck at the crossing by the train, which was going forty-five miles an hour. The engine struck the middle of the carriage, demolishing it and carrying him eighty feet. He fell close to the track.

Sheriff Hodges took Joseph Robinson to the penitentiary from Nelson, to begin serving a sentence of seven years at hard labor for setting fire to a saloon building in Lawrence last June which resulted in a property loss to the extent of about \$9,000. Robinson made a confession in which he stated that three saloonkeepers here hired him to burn out their competitor.

While a train of the Union Pacific was pulling along at the rate of forty miles an hour in the vicinity of Lexington, in the baggage car there was born to the happy parents, passengers from the west to Fairfield, Cornish by name, a bright, bouncing baby. When the train arrived at Grand Island the company physician was at the depot, but his services were not needed and all in the party were reported to be doing finely.

CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RY.

Fist Road to Double Its Track from Chicago to Omaha.

A double track, block system line of transcontinental railway now reaches from the Missouri river to Chicago. This will be in the way of a distinct revelation to the man who made the trip across the plains twenty-five years ago in a prairie schooner, or on the emigrant train of the seventies.

The rapid development of our great agricultural states has been lost sight of to a certain degree in the discussion that has arisen lately concerning the commercial invasion of China and the far east, our occupation of the Philippine Islands, the annexation of Hawaii and the whole general movement by which we have suddenly become a world power. But while we have patriotically discussed these questions, commerce has moved ahead positively and relentlessly in the direction of the Pacific coast, raising up new towns, building up old ones, making factories and farms where wild prairie had been.

The result is shown, in part, in the necessity on the part of the Chicago & Northwestern for this double track line, where great trains of live stock and grain move in long lines eastward to feed not only the eastern states, but to afford an outlet for the products of what is now, more than ever before, the granary of the world.

To the westward there is also a continuous stream of travel. The Northwestern Line, with its connections, operates three daily passenger trains between Denver and Chicago and three from San Francisco to the east. One of these, known as the Overland Limited, is probably the most luxurious and beautiful train in the world. Through Pullman service from Denver, Ogden, Cheyenne, Portland, San Francisco and Omaha to Chicago daily. As to freight movements, the great double track system across the plains is busy carrying manufactures for Asiatic Russia, cotton cloths for the Chinese, various articles required by the pioneers who have crossed the Pacific to Manila and gone north to the gold mines of Alaska; as well as the tremendous traffic for Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and the Pacific northwest, comprising the product of every known branch of the country's commercial activity.

It was in 1848 that the Galena & Chicago Union, having been completed from Chicago to the Des Plaines river, a distance of ten miles, the first train over the line opened the traffic to Chicago by stopping on its way east to take on a farmer's load of wheat, the first grain shipment by rail to Chicago from the west. It may be imagined that this wheat was hardly destined for export, and that the travelers on this junket of early days little thought to what proportions this nucleus of a great railway system would grow.

But the road grew and in 1867 the line to Council Bluffs was complete, and the Pawnees on the Platte and the Sioux on the Missouri began to feel the crowding of the white man's outposts. In 1880 Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin had become well settled, while along the Platte the Indians still remained. The Northwestern had, however, built a line across southern Minnesota and into Dakota as far as Watertown, with feeders to various points, while in Wisconsin and northern Michigan lines had been extended into the Lake Superior district through Escanaba to Negaunee and Ishpeming.

This all seems very recent, but since that time the system has grown until it penetrates nine states of the union, and its heavy lines of freight trains and its palatial passenger service reach all important points from Chicago to Milwaukee, Madison, St. Paul and Minneapolis, Duluth and Superior, Omaha, the Black Hills and Colorado, with three fast trains between Denver, Salt Lake, Ogden, Cheyenne and Chicago daily; fast service to and from the Pacific coast.

The completion of the first double track between Chicago and the Missouri river puts the road not only at the front as compared with the other western roads, but in advance of many of the eastern lines that traverse country where he population is much more dense.

The Original American Expansionist. Captain Thomas Read was the pioneer in our expansion policy, but that was just 112 years ahead of time. On a voyage—this is interesting history—in the old frigate Alliance, which his friend Robert Morris had converted into a merchantman, he made the first out-of-season passage to China. There were supposed to be million in it, but they did not pan out. Commodore Dale and George Harrison accompanied him, the former as chief officer and the latter as supercargo. Read discovered two islands, which he named Morris and Alliance. They were in the Caroline group, and by virtue of discovery belonged to the United States. The Carolines are not far from the Philippines. Spain came along and appropriated them, while America sat back on her dignity and looked on. Our rights never were asserted nor respected. Germany bought the Carolines, the Pelew and Ladron islands in 1899 for 16,750,000 marks. Read's discovery is a forgotten chapter in our history.

The Oldest School House. The "old log school house" at Camp Run, Westmoreland county, Pa., is said to be the oldest school house in this country. It is very primitive in all its appointments, but the teacher, Miss Celia J. Miller, who is only 16 years old, has enlisted the help of the "big boys" to make some improvements.

Silence and Superstition. A curious request has been made by the minister of Alsace and Lorraine to the Societe Industrielle de Mulhouse, whom he has asked to select for him a competent electrical specialist capable of writing series of articles in order to refute scientifically the superstitions of various villages in Alsace. It seems that the villages in which these superstitions people live have been recently provided with electric tramways, and the inhabitants believe that the aerial wires attract storms, and are the special cause of heavy falls of hail.