

Sioux County Journal.

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A Free Fight.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Hannamtown, Ill., says a free fight took place at a Christmas tree celebration in High Creek precinct, Monday night, in which Thomas Burroughs, a prominent farmer, was dangerously stabbed and several other persons received quite serious injuries.

Destroyed by Fire.

MARSHALLTOWN, IA., Dec. 27.—The Times-Republican Toledo special says the building of the Western college burned yesterday morning. Only a part of the library and the contents of the treasury were saved.

Great Damage by Rain.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Dec. 27.—The heavy rain of the last few days still continues. All trains from the north, east and south are now cut off, and the damage to tracks is very great.

A Second Conference.

WOBURN, MASS., Dec. 27.—A second conference between representatives of the leather manufacturers' association and the Knights of Labor was held yesterday.

Thought to be Rube Burrows.

VAHON, TEX., Dec. 23.—At McKenzie Lake, about fifty miles from here, a man was killed Saturday while resisting arrest who is thought to be Rube Burrows, the celebrated bandit.

A Slave Liberated.

HAMPSHIRE, DEC. 25.—An unique case was decided in the probate court of Cooper county today. At the commencement of the war Joseph Hickham, now a wealthy and influential farmer in that county, bought a negro slave and took her to his farm as a sewing maid.

Worse Than White Caps.

BUTTE, MONT., Dec. 28.—W. A. Clarke one of the wealthiest men in the city, a few days ago received a letter signed by "Nineteen Desperate and Determined Men," demanding that he have ready for them on the 24th of December \$400,000.

Lost by Fire.

MINNAPOLIS, MINN., Dec. 25.—Fire last night caused a total loss of \$170,000, distributed as follows: Switzer, Newtiner, \$50,000; insurance \$60,000; Res. Bank, \$10,000; insurance \$12,000; \$10,000, fully insured; \$10,000, fully insured; \$10,000, fully insured; \$10,000, fully insured.

Struck by a Train.

PITTSBURG, DEC. 24.—While returning from a Christmas eve dance yesterday evening, Miss Minnie Campbell and her sister, Miss Jennie Lovell of Willingham, were struck by an oncoming train on this city.

Smallest Construction Recorded.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The Engineering News will say in its coming edition: Five thousand miles of railroad have been constructed in the United States during the past year.

Obliged to Close her Institutions.

BISMARCK, N. D., Dec. 27.—Governor Mallett says South Dakota will be obliged to close up some of her institutions. The receipts of the state will fall so far short of the expenses that there is apparently no other alternative.

A Desperate Plot.

ZANESVILLE, O., Dec. 28.—This forenoon one of the prisoners in the jail here disclosed a plot of ten other prisoners to murder the jailer and escape with outside assistance.

Discovery of Natural Gas in South Dakota.

SIoux FALLS, S. D., Dec. 28.—Natural gas has been found at Gedfield, in Spink county. The find is the strongest yet struck in the state and the quality is of the best.

A Fatal Collision on the Columbia River.

PORTLAND, ORE., Dec. 28.—At 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning the Union Pacific steamer Oregon ran into and sunk the British ship Clan McKenzie at Coffin rock, on the Columbia river.

Dom Pedro's Grief.

LISBON, Dec. 30.—Upon arriving at the bedside of the ex-empress, just after life had passed away Dom Pedro knelt and kissed the forehead of the dead.

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A Riot is Threatened.

AUSTIN, TEX., Dec. 28.—The governor has information that a riot is threatened in Tyler county, and he has ordered the militia there to aid the sheriff in keeping the peace.

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A Christmas Difficulty.

McFALL, MO., Dec. 28.—A difficulty occurred Christmas day between Selus Harold and Bennett Fallis, living near here, but ended only in harsh words.

Will go into Liquidation.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 27.—The Pittsburg Southern Coal company, a syndicate of the large river coal operators of this city which was formed three years ago with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, will go into liquidation at once.

Eight persons Injured.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30.—Eight persons were injured and shaken up by the derailing of a car on the Philadelphia & Reading railroad at Eighteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue last night.

The Bold Bad Man.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—At 11 o'clock yesterday morning a startlingly bold burglary was committed in a private house in the central portion of the city.

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NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

Plattsmouth is to have a new gas plant.

Wolves recently killed three horses at Redington.

Teumseh is to have a national bank the near future.

The court house at Valentine has been provided with new vaults and fire proof safes.

The farmers of Cass county are piling large quantities of corn on the ground for want of cribs.

Hose company No. 2 has been organized at Pawnee City with twenty-one members enrolled.

Hereafter the treasurer of Fillmore county will be required to give bond in the sum of \$100,000.

The elevators and corncribs at West Point are full and the grain buyers have no more room for corn.

Arrangements are being perfected to commence moving the town of Lisbon, c Perkins county, further west.

A Nebraska City woman makes a living by pawning clothing which is given her to distribute among the poor.

The Odd Fellows of Arcadia instituted a lodge last week, commencing with a membership of about twenty-five.

The young people of O'Neill have organized a literary society and will give entertainments during the winter.

The building of a new bridge at the forks of the Stinkingwater has brought an increase of business at Wauneta.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska state farmers' alliance will be held at Grand Island, commencing January 7.

The peaceful citizens of Nebraska City can't rest at night on account of a weinerwurst man with a fog horn voice.

Hon. Church Howe is acting governor in the state during the absence of Governor Thayer and the lieutenant governor.

W. H. Webster, the ex-treasurer of errick county who was convicted of embezzling \$33,000, has been granted a new trial.

Doc Cronin, of O'Neill, will start to Chicago this week and demonstrate to the officials there that he was never buried in a sewer.

Lindsay, Platte county, which was laid out as a town three years ago, has a population of 350 and many public improvements.

The Nebraska supreme court has decided that sleeping car companies are liable for goods stolen when placed in charge of the porter.

Andrew Giesen has almost recovered from his wounds received in the Schwerk shooting affray at West Point and is able to be out again.

George Smith, one of the prisoners who broke jail at Dakota City last week by digging through a brick wall, was captured Sunday at Fort Dodge.

Propositions have been made by eastern manufacturers to Grand Island capitalists for the construction of woollen and paper mills at that place.

Mrs. Olive Cook, living near Dunbar, has sued for a divorce on the grounds that her husband was in the habit of caressing her with a blacksnake whip.

A Beryyn young man recently came near dying from the effects of putting on a new shirt. Poisonous matter in the coloring of the garment was the cause.

Banner county's commissioners have decided that the question of bonding the county in the sum of \$10,000 shall be put to a vote of the people on January 21.

Charles H. Richards of Falls City while reading the other evening was stricken with a congestion of the optic nerve and has become blind. The doctors hope to restore the sight of one eye.

While John Zost, a farmer living about four miles south of Bancroft, was examining a revolver, it was discharged, the ball entering his breast and producing a wound supposed to be fatal.

G. W. Soward, a farmer living near Redington, was kicked in the head by a horse one day last week and lay unconscious for three days after the accident. It is believed he will recover.

The possibility of a change in the channel of the Missouri river at Nebraska City is being discussed. Such a change would do untold damage to the city, the railroads and private interests.

A special from Hastings says it is currently reported that the Improvement company has ceased to operate its street car line in that city. The reason given is that the cars have been run at a loss.

Little Daisy Stoddard of Republican City, who won much distinction at Chicago in her successful contest for the Democrat medal, has donated \$50 to help pay for the W. C. T. U. temple at Fremont.

According to a recent survey there are a number of buildings in Wood Lake which are situated on the railroad grant but it is thought that the titles can be established without serious results following.

The Exchange bank will commence business at Westerville January 1. The institution has an authorized capital of \$50,000, and the officers are E. T. Garland, president, and G. H. Kinsey, cashier.

The Seward Blade received a watermelon the other day for a Christmas present.

An attempt was made last week to wreck a train on the Harrington branch. For this purpose a rock weighing 100 pounds was placed near the rail at the end of a small bridge about five miles west of Wakefield.

Albert Seydell, a young man living near Alliance, met with a painful accident last week. In endeavoring to take down a loaded gun which was hanging on the wall the piece was discharged, the entire load passing through his arm below the elbow, making a very ugly wound.

The time for which the Pawnee county agricultural society was organized having expired, a meeting was recently held and a resolution adopted to the effect that the organization be extended for a period of ten years, with the title of Pawnee county agricultural, horticultural and mechanical association.

B. E. Grissom, supposed to be insane, mysteriously disappeared from his home near Powell December 11. He is described as a man about five feet five inches in height, weighs about 140 pounds, with sandy colored beard.

A young man named George Winters residing south of La Porte, concluded that it was not good for a man to be alone and for the purpose of gaining a helpmate paid court to an estimable young lady in the vicinity, says the Wayne Gazette.

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PECCARY VS. LOCOMOTIVE.

How a Pack of the Obsolete Little Brutes Came to Grief.

A Fort Davis (Tex.) correspondent of the N. Y. Times writes: The following story, which has now become a part of the unwritten history of this section, will best serve to illustrate the headstrong disposition and wonderful courage of the little peccary.

The Southern Pacific Railroad, which passes this point for a part of its route, cuts through a long stretch of chaparral country abounding with peccaries, wild mustangs, and various wild animals.

One day, while driving along at moderate speed through the Pecos bottoms, an engineer saw a herd of small animals scattered along the track a few hundred yards ahead.

Believing them to be domestic porkers, he blew the whistle a couple of blasts and kept straight ahead supposing of course, that the brutes would take the hint and get out of the way.

No such thing. With snouts in the air they scornfully surveyed the approaching engine and made up their minds to stand their ground.

Quickly forming a semi-circle en masse, with angry eyes and gnashing teeth they coolly awaited the crash, evidently determined to demolish the locomotive and cars or get "husted" themselves, so to speak.

Still the engineer thought they would move and made no attempt to ease up or stop the train. When almost upon them he saw that a collision was inevitable, and so he opened the throttle, let the old whistle to screeching, and bore down upon the band with all the speed he could command.

Crash! he went through the band of peccaries like a rocket, filling the air with spare ribs, tenderloins, and bits of flying pork.

Those belligerent little rascals who were unhurt rushed madly at the wheels, the cars, and the cow-catcher, showing their spitefulness to the bitter end, but, of course, they were smashed out of existence in their attempt to do—nothing.

The engineer says: "Next day when I came back over the road there were the remaining peccaries on the same spot, arranged in battalion front, and all waiting for the train to come along so that they could get even for the previous day's disaster.

Away I went at them again, filling the atmosphere with pork, while the live ones frantically rushed at the cars, wheels, and trucks, attempting in their mad fury to wreck the train.

This they kept up trip after trip until only three peccaries remained. True to their resolution, when the final day came they took a bold stand side by side in the middle of the track and prepared to make a last fight for the honor of peccaries and hogs generally.

Two were tossed into eternity by the cowcatcher and the third was cut into sections by the iron wheels. Since then no more peccaries have attempted to buck against Uncle Sam's mail."

Thackeray's Great-Grandmother.

The little old house was as pleasant within as without; big blue china pots stood in the corners of the sitting-rooms and of the carved staircase with its low steps.

In the low-pitched front parlor hung the pictures (a Sir Joshua Reynolds among them) of generations as so far removed in my childhood days as they are at present, being now buried away by succeeding days—'you soon son pere on retourne encore son pere comme l'onde sous l'onde dans une mer sans fond."

My father's great-grandmother, Mrs. Becher, had sat to Sir Joshua in her youth—she died in 1825 at eighty-nine years of age. Her name, which the writer has inherited, was Anne Haysam before she married, and we have a copy of the Sir Joshua portrait, representing a stately dame in the flowing draperies of the period.

She lived in the old house at Fareham, after her husband's death; she was the mother of many daughters and tempestuous sons. The sterner role of those Spartan times did not always quell the wild spirits of their rising generations.

My grandmother has often told me that Mrs. Becher never called her eldest daughter anything but "Miss Becher; her little granddaughter was "Miss Nancy." She used to come and go leaning on a beautiful tortoise-shell-headed cane. I have played with the cane, though its owner died long before I was born; as for the great-uncle, I remember her perfectly well, a little old lady in a flaxen front with apple cheeks and a blue shawl, holding out her welcoming arms to the third generation of her brother John's descendants.

When she died, she left her brother's picture out of the parlor to my grandmother, his only surviving daughter, and now in turn it hangs with its red coat upon our parlor wall. We are all very fond of our great-grandfather, with his nice coat and lace ruffles. He is, in the portrait, a young man of some twenty-five years of age with an oddly familiar face, impulsive, inquisitive,—so he strikes me at least. His name was John Harman Becher, and he too went out to India and did good work there, and died young, as did so many others—in those days. He was born in April, 1764, and died about 1800.

A Church Built by a Girl.

Let no one sneer at the hired girl. There is a church in this city which was built and is sustained out of her savings. It belongs to one of the evangelist societies and is located on fashionable street. In a quiet artistic neighborhood. It is a name after any saint, but is simply and affectionately known as the "Church of the Hired Girl."—Detroit Free Press.