

NEBRASKA NEWS.

The jail at Schuyler contains seven regular boarders.

Trenton voted bonds for water works by a majority of 78 to 11.

Monroe is hopeful of getting a depot before the spring rains set in.

Pneumonia is uncomfortably prevalent in the southern part of the state.

M. M. Warner of the Lyons Mirror is writing a history of Dakota county.

Wilson Horie, a pioneer of Holt county and a leading Odd Fellow, is dead.

The new Baptist church at Norfolk has been formally consecrated to the Lord.

A Plattsmouth dancing club is to give a charity ball on the evening of December 29.

Burglars who cracked the postoffice safe at Exeter secured \$100 worth of postage stamps.

Holt county will be represented by at least six delegates in the state irrigation convention.

Charles Wilson was arrested at Table Rock, charged with robbing his roommate of a suit of clothes.

Otto Bader, a farmer near Newman Grove, is short one hand. The corn-sheller is responsible.

The O'Neil schools, which were closed because of scarlet fever, will not re-open until January 2.

There are only three papers on the poor farm of Custer county. The farm is more than self-sustaining.

John Nichol, a 19-year-old Norfolk boy, went through the ice while skating in the river and was drowned.

Nebraska City is stirring herself to secure a \$50,000 opera house. The old one is getting weak in the upper story.

A Mr. Longfellow, living near Hardy, has contracted for 14,000 bushels of corn. It will all be fed on his ranch.

The third annual fair of the Plattsmouth turnerine will be held December 23, 24 and 25 and it will be opened with a ball.

Elkanah Decker, a resident of the Nemaha valley since 1836, died at his home near Table Rock last week from the effects of the grip. He was 68 years of age.

Thirty graduates of the Ashland High school who have been attendants at the State University, completed forming a club.

The acreage of winter wheat in Nebraska is much larger this year than last, and conditions are favorable for a great harvest next year.

The young ladies of Elmwood are preparing a literary entertainment, to be given for the purpose of raising funds to help those in need.

Beatrice is to have a new factory employing about forty persons—the Florence Pump and Lumber company. It was formerly located at Florence, Ala.

The resignation of Rev. Mr. Powell as pastor of the Congregational church at Hastings will take effect January 1. His poor health necessitated a change.

Frank Craft, who mysteriously disappeared from Tecumseh some months ago came back the other day in the same manner. He does not say where he has been all this time.

While Ray Calkins of Fairmont was out hunting he placed the muzzle of his gun on his foot. Only one toe was shot entirely away, but another only hung by a shred of flesh. The doctor hopes to save the rest.

A little piece of poetry in the Liberty Journal resulted in a "scrap" between the editor and the postmaster. As a consequence the newspaper man paid \$5 and costs for the privilege of throwing the Nasby out of his office.

John H. Dundas, editor of the Auburn Granger, has been called before the bar of justice on the charge of contempt of court. He had taken occasion to "roast" courts in general and certain features of the district court of his own county in particular.

The program for the annual meeting of the State Horticulture society at Lincoln, January 8, 10 and 11, is an extensive affair, and the papers to be read are numerous. A large part of the program is given to the apple this year, and it is most urgently requested that special preparations be made upon the topics assigned. In addition, any contribution upon any phase of the apple will be gladly received. The desire is to treat the subject fully and adequately. On account of the severe drain upon the resources of the society, made by the cost of fruit and expenses of collecting it for the Columbian exposition, it seemed that it might be best to pay no premiums at the winter meeting. The president sent out inquiries to members on this question, and received over thirty replies, all favoring the cutting off of premiums for this winter. Hence, no premiums are offered. It is urgently requested, however, that those who have fruit to exhibit, for the sake of the exhibit and as a matter of public opinion, should readily carry as much fruit as possible. With a load of 400 bushels of fruit, and a few dollars in cash, and a few more in kind, and make a grand exhibit.

Harrison's Assassin Agitated.

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—Assistant State's Attorney Todd opened the trial of Prendergast yesterday with an address to the jury, in which he outlined the plan of the prosecution. Mr. Todd paid a tribute to Mayor Harrison and referred to the similarity of his assassin and that of Lincoln and Garfield.

He said that the prisoner's actions at the time of the murder indicated that he was sane. The attorney called particular attention to the assassin's well developed sense of self-preservation as evidenced by the way he cared for his personal safety during and after the shooting. As Mr. Todd told the story of the shooting Prendergast turned pale and shrank into his chair with ill concealed agitation.

At the conclusion of Mr. Todd's speech Attorney Wade addressed the jury for their defense. "We will not deny that the prisoner killed Mr. Harrison," he said. "The sole question to be solved is, did he at the time of the murder know the difference between right and wrong?"

After the conclusion of Attorney Wade's opening speech for the defense the first witness called was Mary Hansen, the servant who admitted Prendergast to the house. She said she answered the bell, at about 7 p. m. and told a man, whom she identified as the prisoner, that the mayor was at dinner, but that he would be finished in half an hour. When that time elapsed he came again and was admitted by her.

Maggie Freunsch told of seeing the man leaving the house.

The prisoner was ordered to stand up. He did so promptly, and stepping toward the witness chair said: "I am the man you saw, ain't I?"

After an affirmative answer to the question the witness showed how Prendergast left the house, illustrating it by walking along in front of the jury in a crouching manner.

Helma Johnson, the cook, gave evidence of a similar character.

Basberg, the coachman, told his story next and expressed the attitude of the prisoner when he saw him between the second and third shots.

When the coachman was telling how Prendergast turned from his victim and covered him with the revolver to keep him at bay, the prisoner said to his attorney in a loud whisper: "That is not the way that I did it."

William Preston Harrison, son of the mayor told what he knew of the shooting. He was not on eye witness, so his evidence was confined to the events immediately following the assassination.

Thurston Reaches California. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 14.—Hawaiian Minister Thurston arrived here Tuesday on a delayed overland train from Ogdén.

"I am looking for news myself," said Mr. Thurston. "The advices will tell you more than I can of the state of affairs on the islands. As I explained in an interview at Chicago, I have come on here from Washington so as to be able to make the earliest possible reply to official communications reaching me by the steamship Oceanic. I may go to Honolulu should there be any reason for my presence there, but that I do not anticipate."

When asked what he thought of the present situation on the islands and the outlook, he declared himself as being as much in the dark as anybody else. "I cannot say what the outcome will be," said Mr. Thurston, "but of this I am sure, that the provisional government was never stronger in the support of the best element of Hawaiian people than it is now. I cannot enter into any discussion of matters that affect the relation of the provisional government with the administration at Washington. I do not know what the instructions of Minister Willis are, and of course could not undertake to criticize them if I did."

Mr. Thurston declined to say anything regarding Blount's report on Hawaii, or in addition to his published statement, in which he replied to certain assertions made by the commissioner having a personal bearing.

Grave Robbers Convicted. DES MOINES, Dec. 14.—The trial of John W. Schaeffer, assistant United States signal service officer here, on the charge of robbing a grave in Woodland cemetery last February, came to an abrupt termination in the district court. Only one witness for the state was examined, when it was announced that the state rested and the audience, eager for sensations, was electrified by the announcement that the defense also rested. Then the attorneys for both sides agreed to let the case go to the jury without argument. The jury filed out and in a few minutes returned with a verdict of guilty. Then the cases of J. W. Martis and J. E. Sloan on the same charge were as quickly disposed of, with verdicts of guilty.

It is understood that Dr. J. W. Overton, supposed to be the chief conspirator in the case, and who forfeited his bond and disappeared last spring, has been located in London, England. It is probable the cases will all be appealed.

Fleeds Guilty. MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 14.—Phillip M. Sobieg, the absconding teller of the Bank of Minneapolis, surprised every one yesterday morning by pleading guilty in the district court. He did this without consulting with any attorneys and as soon as he was arraigned. It is believed that he had made terms with the bank and this plea is a part of the agreement. The grand jury is now considering the question of the complicity of Louis and Frank Floyd in the defalcation.

How She Got the Check

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The World this morning says: The case of Zella Nicolaus, who is suing George Gould for \$40,000, appears in an entirely new light by reason of a story which has come out, giving what purports to be the true history of the affair. This account comes from an authoritative source among the friends of Mrs. Nicolaus.

According to her friends Mrs. Nicolaus obtained the check originally from Howard Gould when the latter was in Chicago at the World's fair. As the story is told, the \$40,000 check materialized in a settlement of a part of Jay Gould's estate just before Howard Gould started for Chicago. His share in this particular division of a portion of his father's estate was \$40,000, and to make the account on the books appear all right, George Gould as executor, made out a check for this amount to Howard, and gave it to him to deposit. Howard, however, carried the check to Chicago with him. While there he met and became fascinated with Mrs. Nicolaus. He was with her in Chicago, and before he left he gave the check to her.

George Gould got wind of this transaction in time to stop payment on the check. Mrs. Nicolaus presented it at the bank in Chicago, but when it was pronounced "no good" she came to New York and sought an explanation of Howard Gould. The latter told Zella that he would set the matter right at once, and went to his brother to know what right he had to interfere with the check.

There was a stormy interview between the brother, George, declaring \$40,000 was too much money to pay any woman and expressing his determination to never pay any such demand. Howard refused to sever his acquaintance with Mrs. Nicolaus and returned to her and reported the result of his talk with George. Then it was that Zella saw George Gould herself and threatened to bring suit for the payment of the check unless the amount it called for was at once handed over to her. George sought the aid of Superintendent Byrnes and the latter sent for Mrs. Nicolaus. It is said that when she called on Byrnes and he threatened to expose her past if she annoyed the Goulds, she calmly informed Byrnes that no matter what her past might have been, or what position she might now be in, the \$40,000 had been paid to her by Howard Gould and it was as much hers as though the amount had been paid in cash. She claimed that George J. Gould, after once signing the check and paying it out, had no control over it; that he was not authorized by Howard to stop payment, and that George had finally obtained the check from her in a fraudulent manner.

This she explained by saying that when she came to New York with the check in her possession and told Howard Gould the circumstances, he had endeavored to get his brother to withdraw the stop order on the check out after several interviews between herself and George Gould the latter told her he had decided to pay the amount she claimed rather than have any trouble over it. But for family reasons, he said, he did not want the check to go through with her signature, so if she would give up the check he would give her \$40,000 in bills. This she agreed to do, and received from George two payments of \$500 each. When he paid her the second \$500 she handed him the check, supposing he was going to count the balance of the \$40,000. George Gould, she says, grabbed up the check and then told her to get out of his sight or else he would have her arrested as a blackmailer.

J. A. Robinson Robbed. CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—Cashier A. J. Robinson of the wholesale stamp department of the Chicago postoffice was slugged at 7:30 o'clock last night and a large sum of money taken. How much is not known, but is estimated as reaching into the thousands.

Robinson was alone in his office, when a rap, such as is given only by employes of the Postoffice money department when they desire to see the cashier, was given on his door. Mr. Robinson at once opened the door and was confronted by a stranger, who gave him a terrific blow on the head with a club or sandbag and knocked him senseless.

He was still unconscious when found nearly three hours later, and by the time he was able to tell his story the thief had been gone nearly four hours. He left absolutely no clue behind him; nobody saw him leave the building. The government officers and police were looking in every direction at midnight, but had nothing to work on.

Hurricane in London. LONDON, Dec. 13.—A hurricane is reported in the south of England. The channel mail-boat was unable to enter Folkestone yesterday morning and was obliged to proceed to Dover. A boat in Plymouth harbor capsized and four men-of-war men were drowned. The roof of the railroad station at Portsmouth collapsed wounding two persons, one of whom will die. The gale is very severe.

Able to Pay Taxes. TOPEKA, Dec. 13.—A. A. Hurd solicitor of Kansas of the Santa Fe, denies that the company's refusal to pay its taxes is only a scheme to put off a hard payment, as had been charged by Secretary of State Osborne, until the company's financial affairs should get into better shape. The company is simply able to pay its taxes in full this year, as it has always done in the past, and in proof of this it would pay its taxes in every state and territory which it traversed, except in Kansas.

Bank Robbery.

PLANO, TEX., Dec. 11.—The Plano National bank was robbed last night. At 1:30 five men rode into town, four on horseback and one in a wagon. When W. Houston, the bookkeeper and C. Jasper, the cashier, went to the bank at 7:30 in the morning they found a complete safe cracker's outfit scattered over the floor, the safe blown to pieces and money scattered everywhere. The amount has not been footed up, but it is estimated that from \$20,000 to \$30,000 was taken. No silver was taken. There is no clue to the identity of the robbers. The burglars removed the plate glass window in order to prevent an alarm being given by the sound which would follow the breaking of the glass. They also set the fuse so it would burn and explode the powder while a heavy freight train was passing, which proved to be "timers" to the minute. Cashier Jasper said that the amount of money stolen would exceed \$10,000, but the footing up had not progressed far enough to state more definitely the loss.

The robbers pried open the safe vault with their tools and did not use explosives on it. The money safe, an old-fashioned time locker, was inside the vault and contained the funds. This safe was rolled out of the vault, the explosives applied and the safe blown into fragments. As this is the only bank in Plano everybody who deposited money or transacted any other local banking business had to patronize the Plano National. The deposits are aggregated from small amounts of workmen to the thousands of merchants and cattle dealers.

The following has been sent to the chief of police at Dallas: "Look out for four or six men on horses or with a light wagon; robbed bank here last night. Rode into Plano from southerly direction about 2 o'clock yesterday morning and later passed out in the same direction."

Think They Found the Robber. SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 11.—The police suspect three men as the robbers who on Thursday last took \$16,000 from the South Bend National bank, and think the principal was none other than Frank Smith, alias Woodruff, a gold brick swindler, who is said to be well known in all parts of the United States. Smith was known to have been in South Bend for ten days preceding the robbery, and on Thursday is alleged to have changed his attire and taken a Lake Shore train five minutes after the robbery. While he was waiting for the train a young man well known about town slipped up to him and thrust a package into his hands. A travelling man for a stock yards firm in Chicago saw Smith alight from the train at Goshen, Ind. He carried two small leather grips, which were distorted by the weight of their contents. It is now believed that \$4,000 in gold taken from the vault was in these two satchels. Smith wore a full beard on the train. False chin whiskers, which he carried in his pocket, had been so neatly adjusted that it would have been difficult for his newly made acquaintances in the saloons and billiard rooms to have recognized him had they seen him on his way to the train. The manner in which the robbery was committed is still a matter of conjecture.

Lehigh Strike Resumed. BUFFALO, Dec. 11.—The Lehigh strike may be reopened in all its intensity. An official circular has been prepared, which will be promulgated Monday, addressed to the employes on the northern (Buffalo) division, and announcing a reduction in wages. The employes on this division have enjoyed a pay schedule which has been the envy of railway men in the vicinity of other companies. The present reduction applies to yard engineers and firemen and road firemen. The new scale fixes the pay of yard engineers at 25 cents an hour, yard firemen at 16 cents an hour for the first six months, 17 cents for the next six months and 17½ cents for and after that; road firemen \$1.90 a day for the first six months, \$2 for the second six months and \$2.10 after that.

The peculiar feature of this order is that it will not affect the Lehigh's old employes who did not go out on a strike last month. They are to receive the old wages as a reward for their fidelity to the company's interests.

The new schedule will affect the "scabs" and "taken-back" brotherhood men alike and alone. The leaders of the federated brotherhoods have counseled the men not to be harsh or hasty in passing judgment on the action of the road officials.

A chief of the brotherhood said to the Associated press correspondent: "We believe in letting the officials back down gracefully, not in trying to humiliate them because we have won, but the temper of our men, who find their old places filled by incompetent men and are met with refusals to employ, has to be cooled by continual application of sensible advice. Now that this order has been issued reducing wages, not on the basis of relative competency or length of service, but as a punishment for being a brotherhood man, it is possible that the men will insist on re-opening the strike again."

Russia Responsible for It All. SOFIA, Dec. 11.—The Svoboda denounces Russia as the instigator of all plots against Bulgarian rulers and statesmen and declares these attacks will not cease while an autonomous Bulgaria exists.

The Svoboda convinced that the acquittal of the murderer of M. Belcheff led to the attempt of Lieutenant Ivanoff to attempt the government to kill Prince Ferdinand and demands that the government visit all plotters with the equal penalty.

A \$15,000 Heist.

SOUTH BEND Ind., Dec. 9.—The bold-est robbery in the annals of crime in Indiana was committed about noon, the victim being the South Bend National bank, one of the leading banking concerns in the state. The amount taken was \$15,000. No clue to the identity of the robbers has yet come to light and they seem to have made good their escape. From the manner in which the details of the theft were carried out it is certain that it was engineered by a gang of experienced criminals, who have for some time been shadowing the bank and its officers and had become thoroughly conversant with their business habits.

The South Bend National bank is located on North Michigan street, the First National being just north of it, an iron fence joining them. Shortly after noon yesterday while Cashier Campbell was absent at dinner, Assistant Cashier Kelly, who resides in the rear of the building, was called to his front door by a man who said he wanted to see him on some business.

HAD A CONFEDERATE. Just about this time a man approached the bank building on the north and effected an entrance to the directors' room, prying open the window sash with a steel chisel. He then forced a heavy oak door and was immediately in front of the vault. The outer vault door was open, but a two inch middle door had been closed by Cashier Campbell. This yield readily the combination having for some reason failed to work, and before the robber stood the counter tray containing \$3,000 and \$10,000. In the safe a pile of \$14,000 in gold and many thousands in greenbacks was arranged on shelves. The prime idea seemed to be to take as much as possible of the money in sight without arousing suspicion before the robbers had plenty of time to make good their escape.

LEFT THOUSANDS IN SIGHT. For this reason the counter tray with its loose thousands, was undisturbed, the robber confining his theft to the safe, from which he took \$4,000 in yellow coin, about all he could carry, and \$11,900 in bills. No silver coin was touched. The vault was then closed and the robber made his escape by means of a back door before Assistant Cashier Kelley had again passed through the building. It is probable that but one man entered the bank, he being protected by an outside guard, who could easily have been placed where he could watch closely through the large plate glass windows the movements of anyone inside the building without attracting attention.

The money was not missed until some time after Cashier Campbell returned from dinner, and then information of the theft was suppressed for some time in the hope that some clue to the robbery might be discovered.

Murderer Landers Dead. TOPEKA, Dec. 9.—Henry Clay Landers, who on December 1, murdered his fellow waiter in the Throop hotel in this city as the guests were coming in to supper, and who gave himself up to the authorities December 5, died yesterday morning in the county jail. Landers' death is from exposure and suffering during the four days after he stabbed his companion. He concealed himself in a hay-stack for several days, went without food and froze his hands and feet. Unable to bear the pain and privation longer, and hoping he had only injured Howard and not killed him, he begged a passing farmer to take him to prison. Had he survived, the amputation of both feet would have been necessary.

Bond Investment Companies. CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—The United States authorities have determined to suppress the bond investment companies which are operating all over the country. Postoffice Inspector Stuart received from Washington a list of over fifty concerns, operating in much the same manner as the Guarantee Investment company of Chicago, whose officers were convicted in Judge Grosvenor's court. Accompanying the list was a communication from the chief postoffice inspector at Washington stating that the companies named had been investigated by Assistant Attorney-General Thomas and had been pronounced by him fraudulent and not entitled to the privileges of the United States mails. Inspector Stuart was instructed to notify the postmasters in his district not to deliver any of them registered letters or money orders. He was also directed to secure evidence against any of the companies operating here or anywhere else in the west and prosecute them under the law forbidding the use of the mails for swindling purposes.

Inspector Stuart was instructed that any change in the plan of operations by these companies is not to be allowed to change their statutes before the post-office authorities. Abandoning the bond maturity plan will not save them from prosecution if evidence can be secured that they have heretofore violated the law forbidding lotteries.

House of Commons Well Guarded. LONDON, Dec. 12.—In the house of commons yesterday a motion of sympathy with the French chamber of deputies were greeted with cheers. In replying to questions the home secretary said that the officials of the house and the police were certain every precaution had been used to guard against such outrages in the house of commons.

Discontinued the Use of the Mails. DENVER, Dec. 12.—The five bond investment companies in this city and the two in Pueblo, which are declared to be lottery concerns, have discontinued using the mails. There are three companies of the same character in Utah. The Denver inspectors, in whose district Utah is located, opened correspondence with these companies as prospective agents. The officers very naturally fell into the trap and Inspector Nichols was there to grab them.

Saved by the Messenger's Knife.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Dec. 12.—A circus car occurred late last night at the crossing of the Lake Erie & Western and the Illinois Central, a mile and a half southeast of this city. As the westbound Lake Erie express train stopped for the crossing the glass of the United States express car was broken, and Messenger Weekly, looking up, saw a man's arm pass into the opening, the hand reaching for the latch. Weekly jumped up and rushed to meet the intruder. The messenger was unarmed, having laid his revolver beside a pile of packages at the other end of the car. As the door of the car opened the men grappled, the intruder grabbing the messenger by the throat. In the struggle which followed the messenger proved the victor, hurling the robber from the train to the ground. None of the other trainmen had noticed the struggle and the train proceeded without further molestation. Messenger Weekly's face and neck were badly scratched and bruised. There was from \$5,000 to \$5,000 in sight in the car as the messenger was ready to make a transfer at the Bloomington union depot.

Tax Riots in Sicily. ROME, Dec. 12.—A dispatch received from Giardinelli gives further details of the tax riot at Partenico, Sicily, on Saturday. The mob of peasants who had protested against the milk tax wrecked the communal building and dragged on the ground two carabinieri, who tried to summon military reinforcements. When the troops arrived, they found at the head of the mob several women, who carried aloft portraits of the king and queen and screamed: "Down with the taxes." The officers in command of the troops appealed to the women to be quiet, and called upon the mob to disperse, but no heed was given to their words. Several shots were fired by the rioters before the troops received orders to shoot. After the first volley the mob retreated, carrying away several killed and wounded. As soon as the troops were withdrawn the rioters gathered again, entered the rooms of the sheriff and killed him and his wife. The leaders cut the heads from both bodies, stuck them on poles and carried them thus at the head of the mob through the town. Of the eight persons killed during the riots four were shot dead by the soldiers and two were wounded so severely that they died within an hour. The other two on the death list were the sheriff and his wife. Ten persons who were wounded are still alive. The majority of them will recover.

Imprisoned and Whipped. PANAMA, Dec. 12.—Advices here from San Jacinto, Honduras, give details of an outrage committed in that town which tends to illustrate the present state of affairs in that republic. On the night of September 25, while Mr. Gierling, an American citizen, and superintendent of the Rosoria mining company, was walking through the town of San Jacinto he was suddenly surrounded by soldiers and rushed into the cuartel and by the order of the commandant, Gambetta Cruz, 350 lashes were given him. Had it not been for the presence of George Tyng he would have been shot. Mr. Tyng's intervention and the payment of \$250 enabled him to get Mr. Gierling out and up to the office of the company, where the other employes of the company were found heavily armed and fully decided to defend themselves against the Cruz soldiers had they attacked them.

During the time Gierling was in the cuartel soldiers were firing up and down the street, evidently with the intention of keeping off a rescue. During the same night Cruz and all his detachment skipped out, taking with them the money obtained, Gierling's watch, revolver and other valuables. The government here is making a hue and cry, but Cruz has not been caught. The company offers \$1,000 for his capture. This is a matter that will occasion some diplomatic questions for the powers that be.

An Old Lady Burned to Death. FAYETTE, Mo., Dec. 12.—Last night while Gus Hinch and family were at church in Fayette his dwelling house and its contents and \$50 in cash were burned. After the heat had subsided the body of an old lady named Delphia Brooks, over 100 years old, was found. Her head, arms and legs were burned off, nothing but the charred chest being found. She had been left in the house and must have accidentally fired the building.