

NEBRASKA NEWS NOTES.

Bevidere wants a brass band. Five divorces were granted at Bloomington last week.

With elaborate services the new and handsome Lutheran church at Erie, Kansas will be dedicated on the 17th.

The Methodist parsonage at Hildreth is ready for occupancy, and Rev. Unsharper and family will be given a housewarming as soon as they get settled.

The Monroe Looking Glass appears regularly every Thursday, notwithstanding the fact that the office was wrecked by acrobats two weeks ago.

William Sutton, aged 87, died at Fremont Friday. He had lived there twenty-five years.

Will Summers hauled into Beatrice one day lately 108 bushels and two pounds of corn on one wagon and with one team.

Henry Kramer of Cook has been repaired by the doctors, after an exhilarating runaway experience. He will celebrate Christmas in bed.

"She Took the Bunn," is the way a Thayer county paper announces the marriage of W. L. Bunn and Miss Ella Pritts at Hebron.

James F. Nixon died at the family home near Fairview a few days ago. He was an Ohioan, a veteran of the civil war and sheriff of Clay county, 1851-55. He came to Nebraska in 1871.

Six thousand sheep passed through Elm Creek last Friday. They are wintering in Buffalo county.

The Baptists at Holdrege are renovating and rearranging their meeting house.

Man. C. A. Baldwin was run over by a St. Joseph & Grand Island train Monday and instantly killed.

Master Casey charged with the murder of Henry Murrion near Ponca last August, has been placed on trial.

Sergeant Peters of company C of the old First regiment has been authorized to reorganize and recruit that company.

The creamery plant recently completed at Brady has been rented to the Fremont Creamery company and is now in operation.

Speaker Paul Clark of the lower house has received judgment against the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Trust company for \$15,000.

It was decided at a meeting of the state board of agriculture Monday to hold the next state fair in conjunction with the Lincoln street fair.

Arthur Johnson, late of Bloomington, will be quartered at Lincoln for the next two years. He stole two horses and last Friday was sent to the penitentiary.

Two Union Pacific trains collided in the yards at Grand Island Monday. Both engines were pretty badly wrecked and Engineer Myers was injured in the leg and arm.

A foxy burglar, who thought he had struck a good thing, entered some shoe and clothing stores at Chappell for the third time this season. One of the proprietors caught the burglar.

Secretary J. M. Wilson of the State Board of Irrigation is attending a meeting in Salt Lake City, held to consider the disposition of arid and semi-arid lands of the United States.

The Farmers Elevator company of Holdrege, capital stock \$6,000, has been incorporated by E. H. Cannon, president, and A. R. Saffey, secretary.

The Dowling & Purcell company of North Bend, a grain company, has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state. The incorporators are M. Dowling, T. B. Purcell and H. R. Dowling. They have a capital stock of \$50,000.

As the result of trouble over an article published in the Belden News, Charles H. Harris, editor, shot and instantly killed J. H. Bledsoe, a prominent stockman living at Atkinson, last Sunday. At the coroner's inquest held Monday a verdict of self-defense was returned. The case will be given a preliminary hearing before the county judge.

Josephus Moore, living four miles west of Elm Creek, was severely injured while husking corn by the team of another husker, which became frightened and ran over him, cutting one ear, nearly scalping him and inflicting on him so badly internally that physicians say he cannot live. Mr. Moore is 59 years old and one of the pioneers of Nebraska.

The 3-year-old girl of Mr. and Mrs. A. Beaman, south of Fairbury, was accidentally shot with a shotgun in the hands of her 6-year-old brother. The children were playing with the gun in the kitchen. The charge first struck a chair round, preventing instant death. Dr. Clarke picked thirty shot and a handful of shivers out of the little one's leg. She will be crippled for life.

A good many letters are being received from live stock men out in the state complaining that the new rules regarding the shipment of live stock by the railroads work a hardship on shippers. H. B. Bear writes from Kimball: "The new rate raises the freight considerably at this point. November 17, 28,250 pounds cost me \$48.31. The car was not overloaded. Also 26,340 pounds cost me \$68.57, and 26,000 cost \$53.23."

At Omaha, Judge Munger is hearing the case of the government against Christian A. Reimers and his son, Edward O. Reimers, respectively president and assistant cashier of the First National bank of Neligh, now defunct, who are charged with having extracted some \$13,000 from the funds of the bank, and with having issued certificates of indebtedness to about the sum of \$6,000 with which to pay indebtedness. Horace J. Whitmore, receiver for the bank, is the prosecuting witness representing the government. An entire day was consumed in the presentation of the opening statements, and the testimony of one witness, William Sumner, who was bookkeeper for the bank, who explained the large amount of documentary evidence offered.

METHUEN'S DISASTER.

STORY OF HOW HE MET HIS SECOND DEFEAT

Attempted to Capture Boer Position at Magerfontein, But Was Repulsed with Great Loss.

London.—(Special).—The Daily Telegraph has the following from its correspondent at Modder River: "We attacked the Boers yesterday. It is estimated that they were 12,000 strong. They are occupying a very strong position, six miles to the northeast, in the Magerfontein kopjes.

The Highland brigade advanced before dawn to storm the line of Boer trenches. They got to the base of the kopjes, but were repulsed with heavy losses. I regret to state that General Wauchope, commanding the brigade, was killed.

Our artillery, consisting of four batteries and a naval gun, shelled the enemy's position. Methuen's force then tried to break through on the Boer left flank, between the kopjes and the Modder river, but the Boers were too strong.

The attack on the enemy's front, where the Highland brigade had failed in the morning, was pressed all day. The Gordon Highlanders made a heroic attempt to relieve the previous failure. Colonel Downham, with a few of his men, got within 200 yards of the trenches, but could not get any further. The Colonel was mortally wounded.

The brigade, having lost very heavily in officers and men, retired and returned this morning to the general camp here. The guns of the Guards brigade covered the retirement.

Our losses are very heavy. The Marquis of Winchester is among the killed. The force engaged in the battle consisted of the Guards brigade, the Highland brigade, the Eighteenth, Sixty-second and Seventy-fifth field batteries, a battery of Royal Horse artillery, the Ninth and Twelfth Lancers and a Howitzer battery.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF IT. London.—(Special).—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Forester-Walker: "Capetown, Dec. 13.—Methuen wires that General Wauchope was killed in action yesterday.

Orange River, Cape Colony, Dec. 13.—Three hundred and twenty wounded men have arrived here from the Modder river. London.—(Special).—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Methuen, dated Tuesday, December 12: "Our artillery shelled a very strong position held by the enemy in a long, high kopje, from 4 until dusk, Sunday. It rained hard last night. The Highland brigade attacked at daybreak on the south end of the kopje.

"The attack was properly timed, but failed. The guards were ordered to protect the Highlanders' right and rear. The cavalry and mounted infantry, with a howitzer artillery battery, attacked the enemy on the left and the guards on the right, supported by field artillery and howitzer artillery. They shelled the position from daybreak, and at 1:15 I sent the Gordons to support the Highland brigade. The troops held their own front of the enemy's position until dusk, the position extending, including the kopje, for a distance of six miles toward the Modder river. Today I am holding my position and entrenching myself. I had to face at least 12,000 men. Our loss was heavy.

General Forester-Walker, telegraphing from Capetown, sends the following dispatch from Lord Methuen, dated Modder river, Tuesday, December 12, 1:30 p. m.: "As the Boers occupied their trenches strongly this morning, I retired in perfect order here, where I am in security.

"I have gathered from some of the prisoners and from our men with the ambulances who talked with the Boers, that the enemy's losses were terrible, some corps being entirely wiped out. The Boers have been most kind to my wounded.

London.—The war office has received the following message from General Forester-Walker: "Capetown, Tuesday, December 12.—No further details from Methuen. "From Orange river it is reported that 320 wounded, including twenty-seven officers, have arrived from the Modder river.

"The morning Post says: "We have had our day of humiliation appointed for us. Let us accept it humbly and soberly and be stronger for the lesson it has taught us. This last reverse will make us a fresh but for Europe. There never was a more apt occasion to prove to Europe what we are worth."

ENGLAND HUMILIATED. London.—(Special).—Each important battle seems to bring a worse reverse for the British, and the papers this morning sorrowfully admit that Lord Methuen's check at Magerfontein is the most serious affair the war has yet produced.

The morning Post says: "We have had our day of humiliation appointed for us. Let us accept it humbly and soberly and be stronger for the lesson it has taught us. This last reverse will make us a fresh but for Europe. There never was a more apt occasion to prove to Europe what we are worth."

The position Lord Methuen assaulted is thus described by a correspondent: "Magerfontein ranges terminate on the east with an abrupt saddle rock, some 150 feet high. Boer entrenchments run around the whole front. The position is some two miles long, due east and west. The western end of the trenches follow the contour of the kopjes and afford a retreat."

It is estimated here that Lord Methuen's force amounted to 11,000 men, and perhaps more. No reliable estimate of his losses has been received. They are believed to have been at least 150.

All the papers comment upon the extreme gravity of the situation and upon the momentous decision Lord Methuen now has to take, whether to remain at Modder river or to retire on Orange river.

The Times says: "At least \$3,000 additional must be sent out. The entire available reserve must be called up and the militia and volunteers must be turned to account. Efforts must be made to increase the local volunteers and offers from Canada and other colonies must be sought and accepted."

The Standard, which comments upon the "seemingly astonishing numbers of the Boers," is driven to the conjecture that a substantial portion of the Boer commandoes has been recruited from the Natal Dutch. All eyes are now turned hopefully to General Buller.

MILITARY GOVERNOR OF CUBA.

President Appoints Gen. Wood to the Position.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—By direction of the president, Major General Leonard A. Wood, United States volunteers, has been assigned to the command of Cuba, in place of General Brooke, who is relieved of his duties as division commander, exercise the authority of military governor of the island.

On completion of the transfer of the command, Major General Brooke is ordered to repair to this city and report to the adjutant general of the army for he will be accompanied by his authorized aids.

In relieving General Brooke, the president desires to express his high appreciation of and thanks for the faithful and efficient service rendered by that officer as military governor of Cuba.

Secretary Root said that General Brooke had been ordered to Washington, but beyond that nothing had been settled with regard to his assignment. His presence in this city is desired by the president for the purpose of securing information as to the actual conditions of affairs in Cuba. Although Secretary Root would not admit it, the impression prevails that General Brooke will be assigned to the command of the military department of the lakes, with headquarters at Chicago, a position held by him prior to the outbreak of the Spanish war and known to be agreeable to him in every respect.

General Wood called at the war department and personally thanked Secretary Root for the honor conferred on him by his selection as military governor of Cuba. He said that he would start for Havana at once, and if possible would leave New York City on Thursday.

IRISH-AMERICANS TO FIGHT.

Twenty-five Leave Cleveland to Go to South Africa.

Cleveland, O.—(Special).—The Plain Dealer says: A party of twenty-five young Irish-Americans have left this city to join the Boers in their fight against Great Britain. At New York the young men, who are mostly veterans of the Spanish-American war, will join the Boers in their fight against Great Britain. At New York the young men, who are mostly veterans of the Spanish-American war, will join the Boers in their fight against Great Britain.

Among others who join in the call are: Hon. Frank S. Monnett, attorney general, Columbus, O.; Judge M. E. Tuley, Chicago; Hon. C. A. Towne, Duluth; Alexander DeCar, New York; Hon. George W. H. Harrows, ex-leutenant governor of Pennsylvania; Senator R. F. Pettigrew of South Dakota; Hon. T. W. Sims, member of congress, Tennessee; Hon. James B. Weaver, Colfax, Ia.; Hon. James Barrett, vice president, Georgia; Hon. J. H. McLaughlin, Governor, William A. Foynter, Lincoln, Neb.; Hon. James Hamilton Lewis, Seattle, Wash.; Governor Andrew S. Lee, South Dakota; Senator W. E. Mason, Illinois; H. P. Opatky, secretary farmers' alliance, New York; James H. Sovereign, Buffalo; ex-Senator Wilkinson Call, Florida; Mayor R. S. McKisson, Cleveland; Hon. Ignatius Donnelly, Minneapolis; D. W. Williams, president Patrons of Industry, Ohio; H. A. Humphrey, secretary, South Dakota; Hon. Horace Boies, Iowa; W. H. Burke, Farmers' Voice, Chicago; Hon. Richard Dalton, president Single Tax league, Missouri; Garrett Dropper, president University of South Dakota; Lawson Purdy, New York City; Bolton Hall, New York; C. B. Matthews, Buffalo; John T. Wilson, president Public Ownership league, St. Louis, Mo.; S. H. Ellis, master Ohio State Grange; Hon. E. G. Benson, supreme court, Seattle; C. C. Des Moines; Rabbi J. I. Stern, Cumberland, Md.; Hon. Wm. Sulzer, member congress, New York; Hon. Stephen Willis J. Abbot, Chicago; John Sherman Crosby, New York; Hon. Samuel Jones, mayor Toledo; General A. C. Warner, president American Bimetallic union, Marietta, O.; Prof. George D. Herron, Grinnell, Ia.; Governor Sheldon, California; Rev. Alexander Kent, People's church, Washington, D. C.; John W. Willis, St. Paul; ex-Governor C. D. Llewelling, Wichita, Kan.; Hon. George T. Jester, ex-leutenant governor, Texas; S. W. Sample, Minneapolis; John W. Breidenthal, bank commissioner, Topeka, Kan.; Thomas E. Will, president agricultural college, Manhattan, Kan.; John B. Clegg, New York; C. W. Alfred M. Webster, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Senator Charles A. Ward, Ann Arbor, Mich.; H. H. Swain, professor of political economy, normal school, Dillon, Mont.; Ed. Boyce, president Western Federation Miners, Butte, Mont., and 500 others.

DAIRY AND BUTTER MEN JOIN.

Meetings of South Dakota Associations Results in Amalgamation.

Mitchell, S. D.—(Special).—As a result of the annual meetings here of the South Dakota Dairyman's association and the Buttermakers' association, one organization is formed of the two and the South Dakota Dairy and Buttermakers' association elected these officers: President, Leland Griffin, DeSmet; treasurer, L. S. Tyler, Salem. Vice presidents were chosen for each of the seven judicial districts.

At the first business session a general discussion of the dairy and creamery topics was indulged in. At the afternoon session an instructive paper was read on "Smooth Brome Grass as a Forage Plant," by Prof. Saunders of the Brookings college. John Armstrong of DeSmet spoke on "Feeding of the Dairy Cows." During the afternoon the Buttermakers' association held a meeting and sent a committee before the dairymen asking that the two organizations be consolidated, adding the word "buttermakers" to the name of the association, and giving to E. Baer, president of the combined organization.

At the buttermakers' convention the exhibit of butter was the largest seen at any of the conventions in many years. There were over fifty entries in the competitive contest. First prize was awarded to E. Baer, of Hansen, whose butter scored 97 1/2; second, to John Straube, Mission Hill; third, to James Bately, Riverside. Prizes were awarded to the other buttermakers by the business men of this city. At night addresses were made by Prof. Leighton of New Hampton, Ia., and Prof. Gilchrist of Burnside, S. D.

The location of the meeting of the new association will be decided by the executive committee.

Buller Moving Forward.

London.—(Special).—General Buller's advance in the direction of Colenso seems to have actually commenced. The military attaches have left Capetown to join General Buller, via Durban. General White reports, under date of December 12, that there are thirty-two cases of enteric fever at Ladysmith. There are renewed reports of a cabinet crisis at Capetown, where it is said that Governor Milner is about to act, in consequence of disclosures involving the ministry's loyalty.

The White Star steamer Majestic has sailed from Liverpool for South Africa with 2,000 troops on board. The White Star line steamer Cyrcic has been chartered for use as a transport.

A dispatch from Frere camp, dated Tuesday, December 12, morning, says: "This morning a union brigade, consisting of English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh Fusiliers, under General Barton, with several naval guns, advanced and took up a strong position three miles from Colenso, meeting with no opposition."

Shipping Beer to Manila.

Cincinnati.—(Special).—The Enquirer says: Considerable shipments of beer from here to Manila have been going on. A consignment of five cars goes out today to San Francisco, thence by vessels of the Southern Pacific line to Hong Kong, where it is reshipped to Manila. The remaining fifteen cars of an order of twenty cars will go next week.

The beer is all in the shape of bottled goods and the consignee is a saloon keeper in Manila, who says that he has a consignment of eight cars a week, and that in addition to this he can find a market for a much larger regular consignment.

TO FIGHT THE TRUSTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES CALL FOR A CONFERENCE.

Anniversary of Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, Date Set For Move Against Monopoly.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special).—The executive committee in charge of arrangements for the proposed national anti-trust conference has issued an address, calling the conference to meet in Chicago on the anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1900.

The call says that unless the criminal conspiracies in restraint of trade commonly known as trusts, which so alarmingly characterize the present times, are overthrown there will be established in free America a moneyed oligarchy on a scale and in a form of freedom of the masses of the people on the other. The only possible way of successfully combating these gigantic capitalistic monopolies is the aroused and organized hosts of the people to whom the government and the country rightfully belong and in whom all power of right inheres. In order to restore the equal rights of the people and deliver them from the criminal despotism of these monopolistic combines it is imperative that the special privileges which created and foster them be uprooted and forever destroyed.

The herculean task can only be accomplished by the organization of the lovers of freedom in every part of the republic and through the persistent and determined efforts of united people.

Patriotic citizens from all states and territories, fully accredited and in sympathy with the objects, are invited to the conference.

Applications for admission, if it is desired to be made to the secretary, Unity Building, Chicago, at an early date, as credentials of delegates must be countersigned by the chairman of the executive committee. The call is signed by M. L. Lockwood, chairman, and the other members of the executive committee.

Among others who join in the call are: Hon. Frank S. Monnett, attorney general, Columbus, O.; Judge M. E. Tuley, Chicago; Hon. C. A. Towne, Duluth; Alexander DeCar, New York; Hon. George W. H. Harrows, ex-leutenant governor of Pennsylvania; Senator R. F. Pettigrew of South Dakota; Hon. T. W. Sims, member of congress, Tennessee; Hon. James B. Weaver, Colfax, Ia.; Hon. James Barrett, vice president, Georgia; Hon. J. H. McLaughlin, Governor, William A. Foynter, Lincoln, Neb.; Hon. James Hamilton Lewis, Seattle, Wash.; Governor Andrew S. Lee, South Dakota; Senator W. E. Mason, Illinois; H. P. Opatky, secretary farmers' alliance, New York; James H. Sovereign, Buffalo; ex-Senator Wilkinson Call, Florida; Mayor R. S. McKisson, Cleveland; Hon. Ignatius Donnelly, Minneapolis; D. W. Williams, president Patrons of Industry, Ohio; H. A. Humphrey, secretary, South Dakota; Hon. Horace Boies, Iowa; W. H. Burke, Farmers' Voice, Chicago; Hon. Richard Dalton, president Single Tax league, Missouri; Garrett Dropper, president University of South Dakota; Lawson Purdy, New York City; Bolton Hall, New York; C. B. Matthews, Buffalo; John T. Wilson, president Public Ownership league, St. Louis, Mo.; S. H. Ellis, master Ohio State Grange; Hon. E. G. Benson, supreme court, Seattle; C. C. Des Moines; Rabbi J. I. Stern, Cumberland, Md.; Hon. Wm. Sulzer, member congress, New York; Hon. Stephen Willis J. Abbot, Chicago; John Sherman Crosby, New York; Hon. Samuel Jones, mayor Toledo; General A. C. Warner, president American Bimetallic union, Marietta, O.; Prof. George D. Herron, Grinnell, Ia.; Governor Sheldon, California; Rev. Alexander Kent, People's church, Washington, D. C.; John W. Willis, St. Paul; ex-Governor C. D. Llewelling, Wichita, Kan.; Hon. George T. Jester, ex-leutenant governor, Texas; S. W. Sample, Minneapolis; John W. Breidenthal, bank commissioner, Topeka, Kan.; Thomas E. Will, president agricultural college, Manhattan, Kan.; John B. Clegg, New York; C. W. Alfred M. Webster, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Senator Charles A. Ward, Ann Arbor, Mich.; H. H. Swain, professor of political economy, normal school, Dillon, Mont.; Ed. Boyce, president Western Federation Miners, Butte, Mont., and 500 others.

TIN PLATE TRUST IN DANGER.

Upheaval Among Officers of the Concern is Threatened.

Indianapolis, Ind.—(Special).—An upheaval among officers of the tin plate trust is proposed shortly, with an early change in the market, the overthrow of the new trust and the formation of some kind of an organization to take its place. Two years ago tin plate was \$2.25 a box. Today it is \$5.30 and another advance of 10 per cent will be made within two weeks.

The rapid increase has caused new plants at Wheeling, W. Va., Washington, D. C., Rogers, Pa., Meadison, Mich. and others are organized at Pittsburgh, Denver and San Francisco. All of these are independent concerns. Sixty per cent of the tin plate workers are in Indiana and are preparing to advance the wage scale. A committee of tin workers will visit Washington during the session of congress.

Miners Send Out Warning. Indianapolis, Ind.—(Special).—Notices were sent to the different states from the miners' headquarters in this city, notifying the workmen that agents representing the coal companies of Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and the Indian Territory are trying to secure representation of tin workers by visit Washington.

It is claimed the agents represent there is no strike in those states, when, as a matter of fact, the men in Arkansas and Indian Territory have been out since March. The miners are preparing to fight the case of Organized Kelly, who was arrested in Arkansas ten days ago and taken to Springfield, Ill., at the instance of Federal Judge Allen.

Tobacco Growers Combine.

Charlotte, N. C.—(Special).—The tobacco growers of this state have begun a movement to raise the price of the product throughout the southern states, which planters say has decreased in ten years from 35 cents per pound to 15 cents. District conventions are to be held in the tobacco growing states in January for the purpose of appointing delegates to a convention to be held in Raleigh on January 1. The purpose of the convention will be to organize a company to purchase the entire crop of tobacco grown in the state of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, and the farmers are to enter into an agreement refusing to allow the trust, which the growers claim is reducing the price, to purchase any of the product for five years.

WESTERN NEWS NOTES.

The wheat crop of Washington is said to be much greater than has been estimated.

The Jute mill at the California peninsula is running full time making grain sacks.

A firm of stockmen at Kayville, Utah, is preparing to import a large number of highly bred shorthorn cattle.

The Montana volunteers who served in the Philippines have formed an association called the Veteran Volunteers. The people of Tacoma are trying to induce the Western Iron and Steel company to remove its plant from Lakeview to that city.

Wheatland, Wyo., has aspirations to become the great sheep center of that state. At present Fort Collins has that distinction.

The father of Vincent Rooney of Butte has sued the railroad company for \$15,000 damages for the loss of a foot by being pushed under the cars at the time of the reception of the Montana regiment at Butte.

All the big coal mines in Webster county are reported to be tied up by the strike of about 500 men at Kalio, Coalville, Lehigh and Carbon. The men went out because of the unwillingness to grant advance of wages, which the men thought just. In view of the advancing prices of coal the struggle promises to be long. The Boone county district, immediately adjoining Webster county, is likely to be drawn into the trouble.

Articles of incorporation have been filed at Pierre for the Hot Springs Bottling works, with a capital of \$500,000. Incorporators: Theresa M. Evans, Archie W. Riordan and Fred T. Evans. Also the Mathews' Skimming Station company, in Mathews township, Kingsbury county, with a capital of \$5,000. Incorporators: Gay Harrows, Luke Kelly and Charles Mathews.

Judge Moore, in the circuit court in Deadwood, rendered a decision in favor of the defendant in the case of James L. Hardin against Patrick H. Smith, over the mining ground in Two Butte. Hardin claimed 490 feet of the ground Smith sold to the Detroit & Deadwood Mining company, upon which a shaft has been sunk to quartzite and a costly hoisting plant has been erected.

Peter Supree, owner of the Cheyenne river buffalo herd, which is claimed to be the largest herd owned by any one man, says his herd now consists of forty fullbloods, 100 halfbreeds and thirty three-quarter bloods. He is negotiating with the interior department for a permit to be placed in the National park. He expects to realize about \$500 per head on the fullbloods.

The report of the insurance commissioner for this year shows the volume of insurance business which has been transacted in South Dakota since statehood, or rather since 1890. The fire risks written have been \$193,839,334, with premiums paid of \$4,848,161 and losses paid of \$1,747,648. In life insurance risks written amounting to \$2,366,918, premiums paid \$3,255,288 and losses paid, \$1,100,000.

Sioux Falls was the scene of a hold-up which nearly resulted fatally. Gus Dreiter, who has been employed on a farm near Sioux Falls, came to town for the purpose of taking a train for Pierre, S. D. He fell in with two men, one of whom was armed with a revolver. He was struck in the head and rendered unconscious. A desperate struggle for life ensued, which was terminated by the farmhand getting out his pocketknife, with which he stabbed his assailant four times, seriously wounding him. He then fled back to town. The wounded farmhand succeeded in making his way back to town although greatly weakened from loss of blood. He has been lodged in the county jail and his hurts attended to.

COAL MINERS STRIKE.

Fort Dodge, Ia.—(Special).—The Collins Bros., the Glenson, the McClure and the Pleasant Valley coal mines, the leading coal mines in Coalville and Kalio, are closed on account of a strike. The Webster county mines which up to this time have been working, are being very peaceful, have been the scene of considerable trouble between employer and employes since the coming into the mining district of a state organizer this fall. The miners all over the county went on a strike general on Monday, December 11, and the coal mine owners in the face of a coal famine which they dared not stand. They then raised the price of coal, ostensibly on account of the increase in wages, made necessary by the higher cost of living, and the decrease of output brought about by the fewer hours of labor. The miners claim that the advance in price was out of proportion to the increase in wages and demand their share in the way of prosperity. Should the strike become general, a coal famine will be inevitable.

PACKING HOUSE STATISTICS.

Cincinnati, O.—(Special).—The Price Current shows a considerable increase in shown in the offerings of hogs the last week. Western packings represent a total of 605,000, compared with 466,000 the preceding week and 775,000 last year. From November 1 the total is 3,665,000 against 3,725,000 a year ago. Primal places compare as follows:

Cities	1899	1898
Chicago	1,035,000	1,385,000
Kansas City	350,000	425,000
Omaha	280,000	275,000
St. Louis	225,000	275,000
Indianapolis	163,000	203,000
Midwaukee	131,000	146,000
Cincinnati	125,000	150,000
St. Joseph	122,000	185,000
Ottumwa	88,000	102,000
Cedar Rapids	31,000	62,000
Sioux City	70,000	57,000
St. Paul	54,000	50,000

BRYAN GIVES HIS OPINION.

Austin, Tex.—(Special).—When asked by an Associated Press correspondent as to what he thought of Allen's appointment as senator from Nebraska, Mr. Bryan replied: "I think the appointment of Mr. Allen ought to give universal satisfaction. He has made a good record in the senate and last year had the unanimous support of the fusion members of the legislature. I think that in making this appointment the governor acted wisely. There are several demerits in the state who would have filled the office acceptably, but the fact that Allen was last year the choice of all three parties makes him the logical man for the place. I have no doubt that a democrat will be chosen next year to succeed Senator Thurston and that will give our state a populist and a democrat in the senate."

The prevailing use of electricity has brought about a large increase in fires, owing to crossed wires. Ten years ago there were only sixty-five such fires and last year there were 968.

IS A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR BRITAIN.

Gatacre's Defeat by the Boers Has Deastrous Effect.

London.—(Special).—What little information reached London from the seat of war contained nothing pertaining to the advance of General Buller or General Methuen. The details of General Gatacre's defeat show that his column was guided into a position where he was at the mercy of a heavy Boer fire. Ignorance or treachery on the part of his guides, neglect of a proper reconnaissance as the ordinary precautions of such a movement are responsible for this serious setback to the British arms. It is not yet known at what stage of the fighting the 600 men were cut off. As at Nicholson's Nek, it is assumed as certain that they continued to give a good account of themselves as long as their ammunition held out.

BOERS MAY GROW BOLDER. As a result of the reverse General Gatacre's advance will be delayed, as also will that of General French from Nauwpoort. Stormberg. It is now known, held a far greater force than was supposed. General Gatacre will require powerful reinforcements before he can make another essay to advance. It remains to be seen whether the Boers, emboldened by their success, will venture south to try to cut General Gatacre's line of communication.

MOORE TROOPS SOON TO ARRIVE. Before another ten days have passed the transports bearing the Fifth division, which is to be commanded by Sir Charles Warren, will begin to arrive in South African waters, and it is almost certain some of the newcomers will be hurried up to strengthen the hands of General Gatacre and General French and to protect General Methuen's line of communication. Experts here would not be in the least surprised to find that a considerable number of the Boer line and Ladysmith had been called off and hurried down to the south frontier of the Free State to bar approach from the north of Cape Colony.

General Buller held a review of the troops at Frere camp, probably as a prelude to giving an order to advance.

PRISONERS SENT TO PRETORIA.

We are still without intelligence of any serious fighting by General Methuen's column at Modder river, but it is to be noticed that a Boer telegram from Pretoria states that General Conde, who is in command of the Boer forces, has sent fifty British prisoners to the Transvaal capital. An important statement is that the main Boer position is not Spytfontein, but Magerfontein, a point on the railway near Modder. They are also in force at Jacobabad, within the Free State border.

A sharp artillery duel between the Boer and the Boer guns Sunday ended in the latter being temporarily silenced, while the Boers did not reply to the naval 4. gun used by the British.