

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

James Glasher, the meteorologist and aeronaut, is dead.

The Austrian and Russian embassies will present to the porte the plan of the proposed reforms in Macedonia.

The senate committee on judiciary decided to hold special meetings for the consideration of the trust question.

The report of the senate committee at Havana in favor of the ratification of the reciprocity treaty has been ordered to be printed.

The Montana house killed the woman suffrage bill by a vote of 41 to 24. This effectually disposes of the measure at this session.

It is persistently asserted that Austria is preparing a partial mobilization of her military forces in view of possible events in the Balkans.

Samuel W. Glenn, the veteran actor, died at Baltimore, aged 75. In his early days Mr. Glenn was famous as an actor of German characters.

The French government had not received any information regarding the tidal wave disaster in the Society islands beyond the press reports.

The Illinois state senate, by a vote of 43 to 1, adopted a joint resolution in favor of electing United States senators by direct vote of the people.

The report that Speaker Henderson would enter the law firm of Simpson, Thatcher, Barnum & Bartlett of New York City was denied by the firm.

J. K. Davidson & Co.'s elevator "A," at Parsons, Kan., the largest elevator in that part of the state, was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$80,000; insurance, \$40,000.

Leo G. Berliner, a New York music publisher, was found dead on a Pennsylvania railroad train en route from New York to Philadelphia. Berliner died from heart failure.

In the executive session of the senate a memorial was read from the legislature of the state of Washington protesting against the ratification of the Alaska boundary treaty.

At New York John L. Sullivan, former heavyweight champion prize fighter, was discharged in bankruptcy. Sullivan filed a petition to be adjudged a bankrupt November 28 last, placing his liabilities at \$2,658, all unsecured, and his assets at \$60 in clothing.

A verdict for \$20,000 damages was returned by a jury in Judge Haney's court at Chicago in favor of Miss Nellie Scully of Austin, who brought suit against the Lake Street Elevated Railroad company. The plaintiff charged that she was permanently injured in a collision.

Postmaster General Payne has ordered a modification of the postal laws and regulations regarding the use of the mail sacks of the government by senators, representatives and others. The postal authorities have discovered that large numbers of the sacks have been kept for a long period.

The president has signed the bill appropriating \$1,500,000 for the construction of a new building for the department of agriculture in Washington. Plans for the new structure will be drawn at once. The building will be erected on the plaza directly in front of the present building.

One hundred thousand souvenirs for distribution to contributors to the McKinley memorial fund have been received at Canton, O., from New York and will be sent out to postmasters. Copies will be sent individual contributors as soon as an additional consignment is received from the printers.

Bishop Hare, Episcopal bishop of the Dakotas, preached at the Church of the Incarnation, New York, on the work among the Indians in his jurisdiction. Bishop Hare traced the history of the Niobrara league from its inception, thirty years ago. The missionary work has been successful, he said, and at the present time, there are eighty-five congregations with both native and white priests.

Information has been received to the effect that James Smithson, the founder of the Smithsonian Institution, is about to be removed from his grave in Genoa, Italy, to make room for a quarry. A movement has been started to have the United States government bring his body to this country and give him a permanent resting place in the grounds of the institution which he founded.

Capital punishment for murder may be abolished in Missouri. A committee of the house decided to recommend a bill making the penalty for murder in the first degree a penitentiary offense, at the discretion of the jury.

The house committee on ways and means favorably reported the bill providing that all registered breeding animals be admitted duty free whether they are to be retained as the property of the importer or are brought in to be sold.

THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

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

SENATE.

After a week's adjournment, the senate reconvened on the 9th. Chairman Brown of the revenue committee reported that the bill was not ready, and asked for more time. He stated that the bill would probably be ready by the middle of the week. Chairman Warner of the committee appointed to investigate the charge of telephone companies requested five days more time, and that the committee be authorized to summon witnesses and compel companies to produce books. The requests were granted. Hall of Douglas reported the item of meeting of the various committees, and this was ordered printed and distributed. At the afternoon session the following bills were passed: S. F. 14, authorizing county boards to appropriate money for agricultural societies; S. F. 81, compelling those in charge of portable engines to lay boards on culverts before crossing with engine; S. F. 117, to memorialize congress to oppose the Dietrich land-leasing measure. The bill was amended that fences around the public lands come down by July 1, 1904. H. R. 69, appropriating \$48,000 to pay expense of legislature. Amended to read \$25,000. The committee of the whole with O'Neill of Lancaster in the chair, reported favorably on S. F. 55, relating to the raising of money by cities of 5,000 inhabitants for the purpose of water works. Bills were introduced: Act providing for a commission to revise the statutes and Code of Civil Procedure of the state of Nebraska and to prepare the same for the consideration of the legislature of 1905. To amend subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 69 of article 1, chapter xiv, of the Compiled Statutes, entitled "Cities of the second class and villages," and to repeal said original subdivisions. Streets to be graded by two-thirds vote of council; three-fourths vote to construct sidewalks or curbing. Granting to persons, associations and corporations engaged in the generating and transmitting of electric current for power and other purposes the right of way in, along and across the public highways of the state of Nebraska, and prescribing a penalty for the willful and malicious injury to or interference with the poles or wires of such persons, associations or corporations. Joint resolution making application to the congress of the United States to propose an amendment of the constitution of the United States, providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Senate file 55, allowing cities of 5,000 inhabitants authority to levy an increased rate for establishment of water works, was passed on the 10th. The senate went into committee of the whole, to consider bills on general file. The committee made the following report: Senate file 64 changes lowest rate of interest on county deposits to 2 per cent. Report that it be considered in conjunction with senate file 23. Senate file 77, relating to organization of counties not under township organization; recommended for passage. Senate file 35, relating to guardians and wards, that it be passed. Senate file 12, providing for county commissions to contract for bridges, was taken up. A substitute was offered by the committee. Many amendments were offered and the bill, with the amendments was ordered engrossed. S. F. 82, an act to increase the powers of the Food commission, brought forth considerable debate. Hasty of Furnas made a big fight on the bill and said the Food commission didn't amount to anything, anyhow. In his category of boards that were not doing their duties or doing any good for the state, the senator said "most of the commissioners and the state oil inspector." O'Neill, Wall and others, were in favor of the bill. It went over on Thursday. The substitution for S. F. 13, providing for the letting of contracts by county commissioners, was the occasion of much talk. The debate occupied almost the entire session and enough amendments were offered to make the bill unrecognizable. A number of new bills were introduced.

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 amendments as may be deemed necessary and submit the same on or before February 15, 1903. 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. 83, providing for the payment of certain fines into the school fund, indefinitely postponed; S. F. 9, providing for a board of pardons, recommended for passage; S. F. 88, to prevent the mutilation of horses, recommended for passage; S.

F. 65, relating to marks and brands, recommended for passage; S. F. 120, 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. 120, 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.

HOUSE.

Speaker Mockett called the house to order at 11:30 on the 9th, after a week's adjournment. Belden of Richardson introduced this resolution, which was referred to the committee on revenue:

Your petitioners, residents and taxpayers of said state, present the following resolutions: That we think it unjust that in case property is mortgaged the property and mortgage should both be taxed. That the law of limitation on promissory notes, now and hereafter given, should be extended for ten years from date of note.

That the law should be so amended that instead of districts immediately along railroads getting the entire benefit of the school tax accruing from said railroads, that said tax should be distributed equally among all districts in the county voting bonds, inasmuch as all districts must assist in the payment of the bonds.

J. L. CORNELIUS, AND OTHERS.

These bills were passed: No. 16, by Davis of Buffalo, to permit township to buy land for cemetery purposes; No. 24, by Jones of Richardson, to make the town clerk, treasurer and justice of the peace constitute the town board; No. 8, by Perry of Furnas requiring all applicants for attorneys certificates to have an education aside from that in law equivalent to a three-year high school course before admission; No. 28, by Jones of Otoe, fixing fees for notarial service; No. 48, by Koester of Douglas, providing for school districts in metropolitan cities paying the cost of the bond furnished by the treasurer of such districts; No. 76, by Perry of Furnas, relating to sureties and stays of execution, making no material changes in the present law; No. 81, by Loomis of Dodge, requiring school teachers to be at least 17 years of age and otherwise fixing the qualifications of teachers.

Douglas of Rock, as chairman of the house special revenue committee, reported that the joint committee had failed to complete its work of drafting a revenue bill and could not submit such a bill for a few days. New bills were introduced as follows: Relating to regulations of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Island by abolishing visiting and examining board. To regulate the purchase of books by the state library, the university library and the Nebraska Historical Library. Relating to hall insurance companies, prohibiting the retention of more than three-fourths of the premium for expenses of the company. To establish an experimental station west of the 100th meridian, in the state of Nebraska, fixing the control and management of the same with the board of regents and making an appropriation of \$5,000 therefor.

Immediately after convening on the 10th the house passed house bill 89, by Gregg of Wayne, requiring notices of district school board meetings; also No. 100, by Hanna of Cherry, providing for the establishment of not less than three or more than five junior normal schools in western Nebraska; also No. 101, by Kittle of Sherman, raising the tax levy in townships for road purposes from 2 to 5 mills. Bills on first reading included: To provide for the location of grain elevators on the side-track and right-of-way of any railroad, corporation or company in the state of Nebraska by any person, firm, corporation or association of persons by making application to the managing officers of said railroad for an elevator site. To authorize and require counties, precincts, townships or towns, cities, villages

and school districts to compromise their indebtedness and issue bonds in payment thereof. Regulating the organization and operation of corporations, associations and societies to transact upon the assessment plan, the business of accident or sickness insurance. To provide for the state ownership, control, construction and repair of all bridges of five hundred feet or more in length, within the state on public roads. To prevent fraud in railroad tickets. This is an effort against scalping in unscrupulous manner. An act making it unlawful for any person to make, engrave, possess, keep or have any engraving implement for forging, counterfeiting, falsely altering, stamping or dating any railroad ticket. To provide for a lien on grain and seeds for threshing.

A petition from the Nebraska Federation of Women'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 83a, article 1, 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 \$292.96 into the state treasury.

The house on the 12th concurred in the senate's amendments to H. R. 90, 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. 105, by Kittel 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 22 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 Cropsey 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 saviour of our country.

In committee of the whole the house on the 13th considered the following bills, among others: H. R. 133, 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 Kittel 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. 132, by Gregg—to provide that in cities of over 1,500 and less than 100,000 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.

TACK IT ON REVENUE LAW.

An amendment is proposed to be made to the revenue bill now pending before the legislature making the same rule as regards taxation in municipal cities applicable to incorporated towns and villages in the state. This is intended to reach the same end as that aimed at by house bill 171, but making application broader.

This decision was arrived at Wednesday at a meeting of the "committee of ten," of which ex-Governor Crouse is chairman, which met at the Calumet. The bill as it now stands provides for the assessment of railroad property at full cash value within cities only.

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.

Swen 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 ball of \$800.

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 alling 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 of 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 Pawnee 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 her 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 pleasant. 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.