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JEWELER & OPTICIAN

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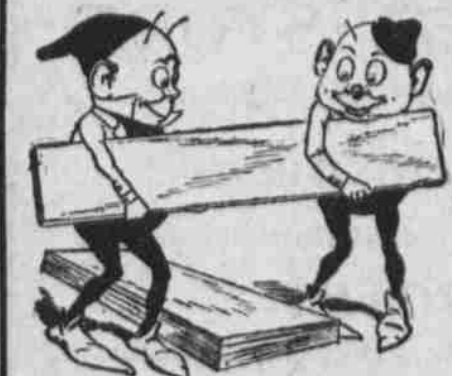
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## DAVIS NOT GUILTY.

Acquitted on Charge of Murdering Dr. Rustin at Omaha.

Omaha, Dec. 11.—By returning a verdict of not guilty after thirteen hours of deliberation the jury in the Charles E. Davis case freed Davis from the charge of murdering Dr. Frederick Rustin on the morning of Sept. 2 and left the death of Dr. Rustin involved in as deep a mystery as it was the morning he was found dying on his front porch.

Davis, the defendant, apparently was the least concerned of those in the court room. Less than two hours after he had been acquitted of a capital offense he was at work unconcernedly at his place in the ladies' department at the First National bank.

While the verdict leaves the mystery unsolved, jurors who discussed the trend of the debate in the jury room declared it was not the opinion of the jurors that Abbie Rice could have committed the crime. The principal theory among the jurors was that Dr. Rustin committed suicide. The absence of evidence that Davis was in the neighborhood of the Rustin home at the time the shooting was done was a weighty fact in the minds of some of the jurors. He was last seen at 11 o'clock, according to the evidence, a block and a half from the Rustin place, four hours before the shooting.

## STATE NEARLY OUT OF DEBT.

Treasurer Brian Recommends Change in Taxation System.

Lincoln, Dec. 12.—A revolution in the taxation system in Nebraska is recommended by State Treasurer Brian in his annual report. He believes the corporations should pay all the running expenses of the state government and that the taxation in counties should be sufficient only to support the county government.

Treasurer Brian says that the state debt has been reduced \$1,198,000 during the past two years, leaving the debt only \$718,750. The treasurer figures that on this basis the state will be entirely out of debt July 24, 1909.

## Lincoln Lawyer in Trouble.

Holdrege, Neb., Dec. 14.—Lafe Burnett, a Lincoln lawyer, and Mrs. Wilson, wife of the sheriff, are under arrest here. The man was sent to jail and the woman taken to a hospital. Mrs. Wilson was recently discharged from the state insane asylum, and with Burnett had been settling up an estate she received from a former husband. Wilson came here and will file a complaint against the lawyer, who, Wilson declares, undertook to secure a large part of the fortune his wife received after the death of her first husband.

## Lion Hunt in Nebraska.

Callaway, Neb., Dec. 11.—A mountain lion which has been carrying away calves and other live stock in this vicinity is to be rounded up by a body of hunters which will begin operations tomorrow. The animal has caused great depredations and has been seen by a number of farmers, but none of them has been close enough to it to tell whether it is a big wolf or a mountain lion. It was first seen near Lexington, twenty-five miles south of here, and is believed to have moved its lair to this vicinity.

## Causes for Insanity.

Lincoln, Dec. 11.—Dr. B. W. Kern, superintendent of the state hospital for insane, has given some interesting data regarding inmates who have been brought to that institution during the past year. Thirteen of them lost their minds because of plain worry, while Dan Cupid was responsible for eight others going wrong. Of these eight who were disappointed in love, five were women. Domestic troubles claimed sixteen, but hereditary insanity explains why sixty-seven are there.

## Three Complaints Against Congdon.

Wilcox, Neb., Dec. 14.—Henry Congdon, who has had three wives, is the object of three complaints which have just been filed against him. One is filed by wife No. 1, living in Michigan, who seeks to secure possession of their two-year-old child, which she says he is keeping in custody without warrant of law. The second complaint is filed by his second wife, who charges adultery. To make Congdon's cup of woe deeper, a complaint for illegal liquor selling has just been filed against him.

## Nebraska Orators Win.

Lincoln, Dec. 12.—Nebraska's three debaters—J. E. Bednar, R. W. Bates and Dean Driscoll—were awarded the decision over S. M. Thompson, R. B. Frizzell and J. C. Herbatman, representing Illinois university, in the oratorical contest held at Memorial hall of the University of Nebraska. Nebraska had the affirmative of the question favoring a commission form of municipal government. Governor Sheldon acted as presiding officer.

## Adams Mad Dog Scare.

Adams, Neb., Dec. 12.—A dog with a pronounced case of rabies ran rampant in the streets, and in consequence the city marshal has killed from five to nine dogs and still the slaughter goes on. There were some very narrow escapes. George Southard put an end to the dog, and a conservative estimate is that twenty people were bitten.

## Kills Without Felonious Intent.

Tekamah, Neb., Dec. 12.—At the inquest held at Decatur over the body of Lester Ball, who was killed in a row there, the jury returned the verdict that Ball came to his death by blows inflicted, without felonious intent, by Nicholas N. Farrers.

## NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

### Bryan Says Legislature Must Keep Platform Pledges.

Declares They Must Be Carried Out as Contracts Made With Voters—Democratic Legislators Will Be Welcomed at Fairview.

Lincoln, Dec. 15.—That William J. Bryan will not attempt to dictate the action of the Nebraska legislature this winter, but will act only in an advisory capacity, is indicated by the following statement:

"I have only one interest in the legislature," said Mr. Bryan, "and that is to see every pledge of our platform carried out, and this applies to the pledges made in our state platform and to such pledges in our national platform as can be carried out by the state legislature. I need hardly add that I shall take no part in contests for offices to be filled by the governor. My one interest is to see the promises kept. This I am interested in because platform pledges are a contract made with the voter and also because I believe that the keeping of such promises is necessary if the Democratic party is to maintain its position in the state."

Mr. Bryan said that he would spend his winters in Texas hereafter, but he had no intention of changing his residence from Nebraska. Named as the logical candidate for senator from Nebraska, Mr. Bryan explained his position by saying merely that the election did not occur for two years and that no one could tell what might happen. The greater part of the winter will be spent by Mr. Bryan at Fairview, where Democratic legislators will be welcomed.

### AWARDS AT THE CORN SHOW.

Nebraska Boy Wins Junior First Prize at Omaha Exposition.

Omaha, Dec. 11.—Some of the highest awards on Nebraska corn were made public by the judges of the National Corn exposition and Lee Smith and son of De Soto, Aye brothers of Blair, Milo Binsall of Fairbury, Neb.; Harry Seltz of De Soto, W. W. Bell of Auburn and Miss Anna Martin of Du Bois were among those who won the principal prizes on Nebraska corn so far as the lists had been completed.

As the result of years of instruction under the tutelage of his father and his grandfather, the famous "Corn" Smith, Lee Smith, Jr., of De Soto, has swept the state, country and world in the ten-year junior competitions.

Young Smith is but thirteen years old and yet his ten ears were so wonderful that most of the judges agreed had he been an adult his exhibit would have won first prize under L. B. Clore's first. As it is, he captures over \$500 in premiums and prizes.

Another feature of the clean sweep made by the Nebraska lad is that his father, Lee Smith, wins second prize for ten ears in the grand sweepstakes, second to Clore of Indiana.

The Iowa student team won the \$1,000 trophy offered by the National Grain Dealers' association for judging competition, with Kansas second.

### Mexican Trophy Admitted Free.

Omaha, Dec. 15.—Following an extensive telegraphic correspondence between the local customs officials and the authorities at Washington, the \$1,500 trophy offered by Senor Dominguez of the Mexican government to the best qualified team of student judges at the National Corn exposition, has been admitted duty free. Colonel Barrows, the local collector of the port, was enabled to deliver it to the corn exposition after receiving permission from the treasury department at Washington. It already has been awarded to the Ames (Ia.) Agricultural college judging team.

### Report of State Auditor.

Lincoln, Dec. 15.—The biennial report of the state auditor has just been issued. It shows that bonds to the value of \$2,301,686 were recorded during the year. Of this amount \$75,000 was issued by counties, and \$886,500 by cities, villages and towns. The remainder of \$1,331,000 was issued by school districts. Much of the aggregate amount is in refunding bonds and in a majority of cases does not indicate an increased indebtedness. A large majority of the bonds issued by school districts was for the construction of new buildings.

### Brilliant Function at Omaha.

Omaha, Dec. 15.—Seldom has Omaha seen a more brilliant affair than the ball given last night by the officers of Fort Omaha and Fort Crook, in honor of Generals Carter and Morton. The affair was not only brilliant because of the dazzling array of gold lace and buttons, but by reason of the very exclusive character of the guests who were invited to be present. The ball was held at a local hotel, and the arrangements were most elaborate.

### Five Burglaries at Holdrege.

Holdrege, Neb., Dec. 15.—Five burglaries in one night is the record for this town. The reward the burglars received was small, the aggregate being less than \$25, and officers followed them to Minden the following day, where they lost the trail.

### Money for Public Schools.

Lincoln, Dec. 14.—The semi-annual school apportionment to be sent out this week amounts to \$267,132.91. The apportionment is made on a basis of .72198 per pupil, there being 369,996 children of school age in the state.

## FARM PRODUCTS, \$7,778,000,000.

Twelfth Annual Report of Secretary of Agriculture.

The secretary of agriculture in his twelfth annual report to the president renders a comprehensive account of his stewardship and presents a review of the progress of agriculture in the United States during this period. Concerning the farm production of 1908, he says that the farmer has created wealth by the billions. Production has been above the average of recent years with few exceptions, and while some prices have fallen, others have risen.

The farm value of all farm products of 1908 reaches the most extraordinary total in the nation's history—\$7,778,000,000. Greatest of all crops is Indian corn, whose production this year is 2,643,000,000 bushels. The value of this crop is \$1,615,000,000. This wealth, grown out of the soil in four months, rain, sunshine and some drought, is enough to cancel the interest bearing debt of the United States and to pay for the Panama canal and fifty battleships. This crop is worth this year nearly as much as the great crops of cotton, hay and wheat combined. Compared with the averages of the preceding five years the quantity is 2 per cent higher and the value 43 per cent higher.

The greatest hay crop in history has been gathered this year, 68,000,000 tons, or 12 per cent above the average of the preceding five years.

Wheat is 1 1/2 per cent above the five-year average in production and 23 per cent above the total value. The 660,000,000 bushels of this crop are estimated to be worth \$620,000,000 to the farmers, or \$68,000,000 more than the most valuable wheat crop heretofore produced.

Although the oat crop suffered from drought, the value is \$321,000,000 for 789,000,000 bushels, or 10 per cent above the five-year average value and 9 per cent below the average product.

The barley crop, 167,000,000 bushels, is 13 per cent above the five-year average and its value, \$86,000,000, is 23 per cent below. Both have been exceeded only once.

Rye remains in the notch that it has occupied in production in recent years, but its value, \$22,000,000, is 17 per cent above the average.

All cereals aggregate 4,329,000,000 bushels, a total that has been exceeded three times, but the value reaches \$2,694,000,000, or more than \$300,000,000 above that of 1907, and exceeds still more the totals of former years.

### FAVORS WATERWAY BONDS.

Rivers and Harbors Congress at Washington Adopts Resolution.

With great enthusiasm the national rivers and harbors congress at its concluding sessions in Washington placed itself on record in favor of the issuance of government bonds for the improvement of the great waterways projects.

The congress declared for an authorized issue by congress at its present session of \$500,000,000 worth of bonds, the proceeds to be used in the payment exclusively for such river and harbor work as may be authorized by congress, provision for the issue to be similar to the Panama canal bonds.

A committee presented to Vice President Fairbanks and Speaker Cannon the bond resolution. Mr. Fairbanks expressed a favorable opinion of the proposition, but Mr. Cannon merely assured the committee that the resolution would be referred for consideration.

A movement was inaugurated for the establishment of permanent headquarters for the congress in Washington.

### Northcote Praises American Fleet.

Words of praise for the American battleship fleet and its officers and men were uttered by Lord Northcote, retiring governor general of Australia, at a luncheon in his honor at the Lawyers' club in New York. Lord Northcote said the vessels gave Australians a broader conception of the importance and power of the nation across the Pacific from them than they had before the visit. Of greater consequence, however, he regarded the fact that the appearance and conduct of their officers and men created an impression to their credit that he believed would be everlasting.

### President Hegeman Freed.

John R. Hegeman, president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company, was freed by the New York supreme court in a decision that, if it stands, will serve to quash all indictments now outstanding against insurance officials. This is according to a statement by District Attorney Jerome, who, however, expects to take the case to the court of appeals. Mr. Hegeman was charged with perjury in the verification of a report made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance company to the superintendent of insurance in January, 1905.

### Stevens' Slayer on Trial.

Presentation of evidence against Whang Chang, the young Korean who shot and mortally wounded Durham White Stevens, adviser to the Japanese government in Korean matters, was begun at San Francisco, Monday. A partial description of the shooting at the ferry building on the morning of March 23 last was given by E. B. Finley, a hotel runner, who failed to see the actual attempt at assassination, but who witnessed the striking of Mr. Stevens by Chung, another Korean.

### Ruef's Sentence Delayed.

The pronouncing of sentence on Abraham Ruef, former political boss of San Francisco, convicted of bribery, was postponed by Superior Judge Lawlor until next Saturday, Dec. 19.

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