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NEBRASKA NEWS

Makes Flight From Fort Omaha to Jackson, Neb.

BIG GAS BAG IS DESTROYED.

Flight Was an Entire Success Until Within a Few Feet of the Landing. Neither Captain Chandler Nor Lieutenant Ware, the Occupants, Seriously Injured—Accident Believed Due to an Electric Spark.

Omaha, May 11.—Army balloon No. 12, which ascended from Fort Omaha, landed at Jackson, Neb., after a flight of over 100 miles in six and a half hours. In making a landing, the gas bag exploded a few feet above the ground and was destroyed, but neither Captain Chandler nor Lieutenant Ware, who made the flight, was seriously injured. The town of Jackson is about thirty miles west of Sioux City.

Lieutenant Ware declared that aside from the destruction of the gas bag, the flight was an entire success. Captain Chandler believes that while at a high altitude the gas bag became charged with static electricity and that on reaching the ground, contact with the earth caused an arc to form, thus producing an electric spark, which set fire to the big bag.

The ascension was made from Fort Omaha at 11:15 a. m. and was supervised by Captain Chandler, assisted by a detachment of trained signal corps men. The balloon started north as soon as it was well in the air and soon crossed the Missouri river. It followed the general course of the river for nearly a hundred miles, the flight following an east-northwesterly direction.

The highest altitude reached was 4,000 feet, shortly after the balloon left the earth. A fair breeze carried the bag at a thirty-mile gait the first hour, when the wind died down and the balloon was becalmed for an hour and a half. The wind then sprang up and carried the big bag at a rapid rate to the north.

Running out of ballast in the vicinity of Jackson, Captain Chandler decided to make a change. The balloon came down in an open field in an easy manner, but just as it reached the earth the explosion occurred.

Both Captain Chandler and Lieutenant Ware were knocked down by the force of the explosion, but not seriously injured. Captain Chandler said that despite the destruction of the balloon, much was accomplished in an experimental way by the flight. The bag was a new one and had never before been inflated. The distance traveled was about 120 miles and, deducting the hour and a half the balloon was becalmed, the flight was made in about six hours. Much of the time, however, the wind was so low that the balloon moved only about five miles an hour.

The occupants of the balloon were taken to town in a farmer's wagon and reached Omaha this afternoon.

DROUGHT IS ON IN LINCOLN

Capital City Saloon Men Close Doors for at Least a Year.

Lincoln, May 11.—Last night brought the close of the municipal year in Lincoln and with it the banishment for at least a year of every saloon in the city for the first time in its history. Yesterday was bargain day in the twenty-five drinking places, the owners of the saloons making an effort to cut prices in order to dispose of their goods and, it is claimed, with great success. The bars were dismantled early in the evening. Accumulated stocks will be shipped back to wholesalers. The saloon keepers will unite with officials in striving for the enforcement of the law.

LOWER RATES ON EXPRESS

State Wins First Round in Its Fight With Carriers.

Lincoln, May 11.—The state has won the first round in the litigation to enforce the Sibley act reducing express rates 25 per cent in Nebraska. Referee J. J. Sullivan, appointed by the supreme court to take testimony, reported that the act was not confiscatory and that judgment should be entered in favor of the state. The railway commission attempted to enforce the Sibley act two years ago. The United States, the American, Adams, Wells-Fargo and Pacific Express companies are involved.

Nebraska Observes Mothers' Day. Omaha, May 10.—Mothers' day was generally observed in Nebraska and especially in this city. White carnations were mostly in evidence. A donation of several thousand was made by Henry T. Clarke, a local philanthropist, and they were sold by 200 young women for the benefit of a child saving institution at prices ranging from 5 cents up to charitably inclined people on the streets.

Superintendent Bram Promoted.

Lincoln, May 11.—H. E. Bram, general superintendent of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy for Nebraska, received notice of transfer to Chicago headquarters, as assistant to Daniel Willard, second vice president of the system. He will be succeeded in Lincoln by W. B. Throop, now general superintendent of the Iowa division, with headquarters at Burlington.

OFFICIALS GET HIGHER PAY

Secretary of Banking Board and Assistant Secretary of State.

Lincoln, May 10.—Under a decision of Attorney General Thompson, Secretary Royle of the state banking board will get three months' pay at the increased rate allowed by the legislature when it passed the guaranty of deposits act. That bill increases the pay of the secretary of the board from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year. The appropriation act took effect April 1, but the banking act authorizing the governor to appoint a secretary of the board does not go into effect till July 1. Mr. Royle is entitled to pay since April 1 at the rate of \$3,000 a year, according to the attorney general. Addison Wait, deputy secretary of state, and Mr. Redmond, deputy state superintendent, will also draw pay as usual at the rate of \$1,800 a year, although the statute increasing their pay to that amount does not take effect till July 1. The last legislature appropriated \$1,800 a year for these officers and the attorney general, following custom, holds that they are entitled to the amount appropriated by the legislature, although the statute now in force fixes the pay at a lesser amount.

FUNERAL OF MAJOR SLAUGHTER

Buried With Military and Masonic Rites at Omaha.

Omaha, May 10.—The funeral of Major Bradner D. Slaughter, paymaster in the army here, who died Saturday of heart trouble, was held this afternoon and was both Masonic and military. The services were under the auspices of the Masonic bodies of the city, and Rev. Dr. Loveland delivered the address. The military escort consisted of a battalion of the Sixteenth Infantry from Fort Crook. Burial was at Forest Lawn.

Major Slaughter was born in New York, Nov. 12, 1849. He came to Nebraska in the early '70s and was more or less identified with the political history of the state from that time up to his appointment to the United States army in 1899. He was at one time United States marshal of this district, commander of the department of Nebraska, G. A. R., and grand master of the Nebraska Masonic lodge. He was appointed to the army by President McKinley and served in the Philippines.

JOHNSON WANTS DRAINAGE

Farmers on Rich Nemaha Bottoms Have Started the Movement.

Tecumseh, Neb., May 10.—Preliminary steps for the organization of a drainage district in Johnson county were taken in Tecumseh. A meeting of land owners along the Nemaha bottoms and others in the district was held at the Commercial club and R. E. Grintland of Salem, who is considered an authority on drainage matters and who heads the movement in Richardson, outlined the plans of work necessary. A preliminary organization to go ahead with the work was perfected, with H. W. Harms of Sterling as president and O. E. Bicknell of Elk Creek as secretary. A committee of four was chosen to solicit the land owners along the bottoms in the interest of the organization.

HILDRETH SUES FOR DAMAGES

Cody Man Asks \$10,000 of Franklin Banker for Alleged Libel.

Hastings, Neb., May 10.—W. H. Austin, formerly postmaster at Franklin, Neb., now of Cody, Wyo., has instituted suit in the federal court here against Carson Hildreth, a banker at Franklin, for \$10,000 damages for alleged libel. The claim for damages is based on the charge that when Austin was a candidate for admission to the Masonic lodge at Cody Mr. Hildreth sent the lodge officials a note calculated to have him blackballed. Both the plaintiff and defendant are well known here and throughout Nebraska.

Governor Appoints Five.

Lincoln, May 10.—Governor Shallenberger, acting under the provisions of a new law, which gives him power to appoint secretaries of the state board of health and also an inspector of the board, appointed four secretaries of the board. Dr. A. L. Muirhead of Omaha is the only secretary reappointed. He is given a two-year term. Dr. C. P. Fall of Beatrice is appointed for four years; Dr. H. B. Cummins ofeward is given three years, and Dr. E. Arthur Carr of Lincoln is to serve the short term, one year.

Deputy Auditor's Report.

Lincoln, Neb., May 8.—The report of Deputy State Auditor Shahan shows that the last legislature appropriated \$836,497 more than the preceding legislature. Not taking into account the 1 mill levy for the university, which the legislature appropriated, the total exceeds that of the previous session by \$521,001.

Boyer Must Serve Sentence.

Lincoln, May 10.—George Boyer must serve the sentence of three years imposed upon him by the district court of Cheyenne county for hitting a neighbor named Perlick over the head with a two-by-four so hard that he died two days later. Boyer was convicted of manslaughter.

Prominent Omaha Man Ends Life.

Omaha, May 11.—Julius Meyer, for many years a prominent figure in business circles of Omaha and president of the Metropolitan club, committed suicide in Hanscom park, by shooting. Dependency on account of ill health is the supposed cause.

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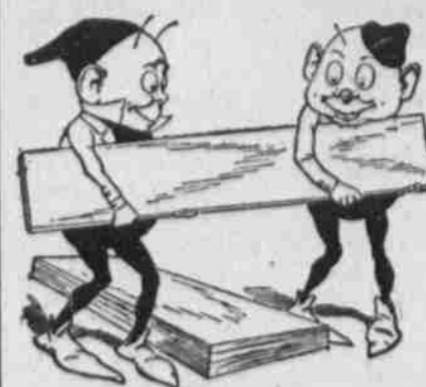
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