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NEBRASKA NEWS

Polio-Myelitis Kills Dr. Leonard J. Schneider Suddenly.

VICTIM OF STRANGE DISEASE.

Omaha, Dec. 27.—Dr. Leonard J. Schneider died of polio-myelitis at the General hospital. When Dr. Schneider became ill, a week ago, he seemed affected only with a nervous breakdown, but the fatal malady progressed rapidly and death resulted most unexpectedly. Dr. Schneider was twenty-eight years old. He is survived by a wife, three brothers, Dr. A. E. Schneider of Chicago, Otto and Charles Schneider of Nebraska City, and two sisters, Mrs. Paul Jessen and Miss Mary Schneider of Nebraska City. Dr. Schneider's death is the latest of a series which have resulted from polio-myelitis, the strange spinal disease which has been the puzzle and despair of physicians in this territory.

DUNN MAKES AN APOLOGY

Former Omaha City Attorney Again in Good Standing.
Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 24.—I. J. Dunn, former assistant city attorney of Omaha, last evening apologized to the supreme court, thereby purging himself of contempt, and was by the court restored to all his rights as an attorney and counselor before the courts of the state.

A brief, for which Mr. Dunn assumed responsibility, was several weeks ago adjudged contemptuous, and he was thereupon debarred. Mr. Dunn nominated W. J. Bryan at the last Democratic national convention.

ALFALFA PROMOTER GUILTY

J. Nelson Sentenced to Five Years in Penitentiary.
York, Neb., Dec. 23.—J. Nelson, formerly a resident of Grand Island, an alfalfa meal mill promoter, who, when arrested, charged with embezzlement of several thousand dollars by the York Alfalfa Meal company, had about completed arrangements for the promotion of two other alfalfa mills in this state, was found guilty of embezzlement of funds of the York Alfalfa Meal Mill company and received a five years' sentence.

Pioneer Engineer Dead.

Omaha, Dec. 24.—Stebbins A. Teal, one of the first engineers to run on the Union Pacific after the eastern end of the road was opened, died at Waterloo, Neb. His death was rather sudden, although he had been in poor health for several months. He was for over a generation one of the prominent figures among the railroad employees of the west. For the last thirty years he was master mechanic for the Northwestern at Missouri Valley.

Farmers Rush Grain In.

Omaha, Dec. 24.—Considerable grain is being moved to the Omaha market in spite of the bad weather. The roads have completely frozen over and the farmers are able to haul small loads to the railroad stations. The price is attractive and considerable is being moved. The farmers also seem to be anxious to get grain on the road now, knowing when the thaw comes the roads will be in very bad condition.

Sunday School Convention.

Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 23.—A meeting of the district officers of the Gage County Sunday School association was held here and it was decided to make the dates of the state convention June 14 to 16. A committee was appointed to secure the option on three of the largest churches in the city for the convention, which will bring more than 1,000 delegates to the city.

Lincoln Has Shortage of Steam Coal.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 23.—A shortage of coal, which may develop into an actual famine, confronts Lincoln. The supply of steam coal now in the hands of dealers is practically exhausted and none is being received. When the steam supply is exhausted it means the manufacturing plants must draw on the domestic product, which is small.

Bride Dresses at Court House.

Omaha, Dec. 23.—Miss Jessie W. Gossett of Papillion did not propose to be married in any "going-away" gown. So she brought her bridal robes to the court house and donned them in the private office of the county judge. Outside one door, Thomas E. Thompson, the lucky man, kept watch and Mrs. Gossett was sentinel at the other.

Postmaster Secor Reappointed.

Madison, Neb., Dec. 24.—Postmaster Secor of Madison received a telegram from Senator Brown stating that he and Senator Burkett had joined in recommending him for reappointment as postmaster at Madison and his name had been sent to the senate for confirmation. Mr. Secor is serving his eighth year as postmaster.

Man Accused of Desertion.

Pierce, Neb., Dec. 24.—Sheriff Wiley went to Foster and arrested Jake Marshall on the charge of wife desertion. Marshall lived with his family on a farm near Foster, this county, up to about two years ago, when he left. About the same time the wife of John Marshall, a brother of the accused, left home also.

GUARD IS FINDING FAVOR

Regular Army Officers Are Forgetting Prejudices.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Regular army officers have so far forgotten any prejudice that was once entertained in regular army circles against the national guard that they would like to see the guard double its present size and are bent on doing all possible to increase the guard's efficiency. Assistant Secretary of War Oliver, in the recent hearings of the house committee on military affairs on the army bill, told the committee he hoped to see the national guard increased to 200,000. He said the war department was going to carry out the policy that had been adopted of trying to make the guard an efficient force.

CZAR MENACED BY BOMB PLOT

Six Conspirators Arrested; Explosives Found in Basement.

Moscow, Dec. 27.—The secret service police have unearthed a plot against the czar and zarina, who are to arrive here soon. There were arrested here two women and four men who are members of anarchistic groups. It is expected these arrests may throw some light on the killing by a bomb a few days ago in St. Petersburg of Colonel Karpoff, the chief of the secret police of that city. The arrest of the men and women was made in a house in Baskakow street, where they had been living for a fortnight. In the house, hidden in the cellar, were found several bombs filled with a high explosive.

\$141,250,000 GIVEN AWAY

Public Benefactions This Year Doubled Over 1908.

New York, Dec. 27.—The total public benefactions in the United States during the last twelve months was \$141,250,000, an amount just \$40,000,000 greater than any previous year in the history of the country, according to statistics compiled by a New York paper. The amount this year was over twice as large as was given away last year, following the panic of 1907. The principal benefactors in 1909 have been the late John S. Kennedy of New York, \$28,550,000; John D. Rockefeller, \$12,825,000, and Andrew Carnegie, \$6,056,511. Of the total amount given in 1909, over a third was given specifically for educational work.

WILL CONTINUE INQUIRY

Investigation of Insurance Company's Affairs to Go On.

New York, Dec. 27.—George P. Sheldon's death Saturday at his home in Greenwich, Conn., may cause a hitch in the proceedings which have been instituted to recover money that he is alleged to have overdrawn on his salary account as president of the Phenix Fire Insurance company of Brooklyn. The inquiry into the affairs of the company will be continued, however. The books of the Atlanta and Chicago offices are yet to be examined and the district attorney's office here will continue its activity.

CAR CRASHES THROUGH ICE

Motorman and Conductor Drown in Naugatic River.

Seymour, Conn., Dec. 27.—A trolley car jumped a switch alongside the Naugatic river during a storm and plunging down the bank, crashed through the ice. Motorman Fred Beard and Conductor Marcus Dono van, who were in the enclosed forward vestibule, were drowned. The five passengers escaped.

JUDGE LURTON RESIGNS

Prepares to Take Up New Work on Supreme Bench.

Cincinnati, Dec. 27.—Judge Horace H. Lurton tendered to President Taft his formal resignation as judge of the United States circuit court. This step is preliminary to assuming his place as associate justice of the supreme court of the United States in succession to the late Justice Rufus W. Peckham.

MOB AVENGES MURDER

White Man Taken From Jail and Hanged at Hurley, Ia.

Hurley, Va., Dec. 27.—Following the killing here of Samuel Baker and the serious wounding of his wife and two children by the former's old enemy, Henry Pennington, a mob of 100 citizens took Pennington from jail and hanged him to a steam pipe.

Pioneer Woman Is Dead.

Denver, Dec. 27.—Mrs. Susan Walthall Peck, aged seventy-six, one of the best known of Colorado's pioneer women, died here. Born in Danville, Ill., she came to Colorado from Charleston, Ia. in a covered wagon in 1850.

Passenger Kills Miners.

Shelburn, Ind., Dec. 27.—In a blinding snowstorm two Hungarian miners were struck and killed by a passenger train on the Evansville and Nashville railroad near here.

Miners Burned to Death.

Cumberland, Md., Dec. 27.—Three miners were burned to death near Harrison, Va. Two other men, who boarded at the same house, are missing.

Louisville Fire Chief Dies.

Louisville, Dec. 27.—Benjamin Dillon, chief of the Louisville fire department, died as the result of injuries sustained while making a fast run to a fire.

Fitzsimmons Defeated.

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 27.—Bill Lang won from Bob Fitzsimmons in the twelfth round of a scheduled twenty round fight.

AMERICAN FARMER AND THE NATION

James J. Hill Discusses the Future Needs of Both.

LESS WARSHIPS; MORE FARMS

The Distinguished Railway President and Foremost Developer of Our Great Northwest Writes in the World's Work of the Need for Prosperous and Scientific Agriculture.

Land without population is a wilderness, and population without land is a mob. The United States has many social, political and economic questions, some old, some new, to settle in the near future; but none so fundamental as the true relation of the land to the national life. The first act in the progress of any civilization is to provide homes for those who desire to sit under their own vine and fig-tree.

A prosperous agricultural interest is to a nation what good digestion is to a man. The farm is the basis of all industry. The soil is the only resource that renews itself continually after having produced value. I do not wish to belittle the importance of manufacture or its relative value in general growth. But for many years this country has made the mistake of unduly assisting manufacture, commerce, and other activities that center in cities, at the expense of the farm. The result is a neglected system of agriculture and the decline of the farming interest. But all these other activities are founded upon the agricultural growth of the nation and must continue to depend upon it. Every manufacturer, every merchant, every business man and every good citizen is deeply interested in maintaining the growth and development of our agricultural resources.

"Preserve Jealously the Soil."

It is most important that our own country should realize the situation and take thought for its own future.

With our magnificent areas and the relative sparseness of our population as compared with the more densely peopled countries of the old world, the time of economic trial should be a long way off for us. With greater wisdom than we have exercised in the past it may never come. But we must preserve jealously the right and the possibility of free access to the soil out of which grow not only all those things that make happy the heart of man and comfort his body but those virtues by which only a nation can endure and those influences that strengthen the soul. This is the safeguard not only of national wealth but of national character. The fertile fields of this country are its real gold mines from which it will gather a richer yield than the deposits of Alaska or South Africa or any other land can furnish. These are the true national inheritance.

For the first time in the history of this country thousands of farmers from states like Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are seeking homes in the Canadian northwest owing to the cheap lands offered there and the difficulty of securing such lands in the United States. Toward saving a supply for the future something is now being done. We are at least saving at the spigot though we have not quit wasting at the bung. While we are spending great sums to transform worthless lands into orchards and gardens by the work of the reclamation service, we still retain as to other areas the land-laws under which for so many years the great heritage of the people has been passing so largely into unworthy hands.

The Greatest Lesson of History.

For the sake of our national future, for the sake of the coming millions who will be helpless unless each can be furnished with a piece of tillable land as a defense against misfortune, we should see that the speculative abuses which these laws have fostered are brought to an end. It should not be possible to obtain public land of any kind anywhere in the United States henceforth except after complying with all the terms of the homestead law. I cannot urge too strongly upon every man who wishes his country well and who desires all to be prosperous in order that he may prosper with them, the importance and growing necessity of taking such care of our public domain as shall preserve the remnant of it for the use of generations yet unborn.

Such close and careful cultivation as will yield the highest profit per acre is cultivated in comparatively small can best be given to and when it farms. The greater the number of prosperous farmers the greater will be the prosperity of every business man. It takes more labor to earn the same profit from a tract too large to be tilled thoroughly. Ten farmers each cultivating from 40 to 100 acres at the outside, with the most approved methods, supplemented where necessary by irrigation, can each earn a profit equal to that taken from two or three times the same area by slovenly tillage. Ten farmers instead of one increase the aggregate volume of trade with the merchants of the community and add in the same ratio to the general prosperity.

The Long Neglected Farmer.

Including Alaska, this country has about the same area as Europe. It has a little more than one-fifth as much population. With a trifle more

than five per cent. of the population of the world, we are producing 43 per cent. of the world's supply of wheat, corn and oats. We raise more than 70 per cent. of the world's cotton. All political economy that is not mere empty theory rests upon the ratio of population to land area, the abundance and value of the products of the soil, and the proper balance and interrelation of different industries. We have been busy as a nation helping the so-called industrial interests of the country—in fact, everybody except the man on the farm.

But when we have as many people to the square mile as Europe has now, we will know the economic troubles of Europe. Our task will be to increase correspondingly the volume of the earth's product. When we get down to business and take stock of those national affairs in which we are vitally concerned as workers and home-builders, as citizens and as fathers of the children who are to make our future, we find that the main thing is the utilization and conservation of the soil and the resources drawn from it. This interest must more and more take precedence of all others. The man must be encouraged to go to the farm. The man on the farm must be considered first in all our policies, because he is the keystone of the national arch. When he has produced the share of natural wealth that corresponds to his best effort he must be able to find a purchaser at prices that will enable him to live in comfort and enjoy at least a moderate degree of prosperity. This has always been the final test of every country and every civilization; and it will no more change than the seasons are likely to reverse the order of their succession.

A Farm School for Every Farming County.

This country has from the beginning established and maintained a common school system on the sound principle that education is essential to a right discharge of the duties of citizenship. Another element must be introduced into the educational system. To direct the minds of the young to work upon the land as an honorable and desirable career and to prepare for them work when they return there by suitable instruction is to promote good citizenship and national security. To raise the productivity of our soil 50 per cent. would be an increase greater in value than the entire volume of our foreign trade. These results can be brought about only by a general understanding and practice of agriculture as modern science and experiment work explain it; by such instruction as we now give in our technical schools and institutes for the trades. Anyone who has studied the growth and decline of nations and would read our own industrial future must be convinced that instruction in farm economy and management should become an indispensable part of the educational work of this country.

Why So Many Warships?

If I could have my way I should build a couple of warships a year less. Perhaps one would do. I would take that \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 a year and start at least 1,000 agricultural schools in the United States at \$5,000 a year each, in the shape of model farms. This model farm would be simply a tract of land conforming in size, soil treatment, crop selection and rotation, and methods of cultivation to modern agricultural methods. Its purpose would be to furnish to all its neighborhood a working model for common instruction. Cultivating, perhaps from forty to sixty acres, it could exhibit on that area the advantages of thorough tillage which the small farm makes possible; of seed specially chosen and tested by experiment at agricultural college farms; of proper fertilization, stock raising, alternation of crops and the whole scientific and improved system of cultivation, seeding, harvesting, and marketing. The farmers of a county could see, must see, as they passed its borders how their daily labors might bring increased and improved results. (Mr. Hill's striking articles will be continued in the December World's Work with a discussion of the development of the northwest.)

SAFER RAILROAD TRAVEL

All American Railroads Report Notable Advances in the Protection of Life.

The best safety records made public by the big American railroads are now coming to light month by month. The Pennsylvania railroad set the example by announcing that not a single passenger had been killed on its rails in the 12 months that ended last December. Now follow others, says the World's Work.

The Erie railroad, probably the most decreed of all the big trunk lines, claims the unique record of having carried more than 125,000,000 passengers in the last five years without killing a single person in a preventable accident. The Lehigh Valley makes a similar report.

Four western railroads—the Burlington, the Rock Island, the Atchison, and the Northwestern—claim that in the past year they killed not a passenger in any accident chargeable to the railroad. This is a matter of the greatest importance.

And there is a new spirit in the railroad world. In the passenger departments of our railroads a deep impression was made a year or so ago by the announcement from England that all the railroads of that island had been operated for 12 months without killing a single passenger. The Pennsylvania took pride in its record of last year in equaling the English record; and there is no doubt that the other railroads are engaged in a contest of this excellent sort.