

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE

IKA L. BARE, Proprietor.

TERMS: \$125 IN ADVANCE.

NORTH PLATTE, - NEBRASKA.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Omaha and South Omaha will probably join in a celebration of Labor day.

Miss Nettie E. Brosius of Valentine, Neb., has been appointed to the position at Fort Mohave Indian school, Arizona.

Norway has adopted the Erhardt system of artillery and has ordered twenty-two complete batteries from Germany.

E-Senator Pugh's condition shows improvement at Washington. His physicians express themselves as encouraged.

Francis Schlatter, the so-called Divine healer, was tried in the police court at Washington Saturday, and fined ten dollars or thirty days in the workhouse.

The president has appointed William Cameron mine inspector for the Indian territory, and D. Clem Deaver receiver of public moneys at O'Neill, Nebraska.

Mrs. Fred Hodge, a farmer's wife, residing near Oxford, Wis., was criminally assaulted by two masked men, while returning from the field. It is feared she will die.

The secretary of the German navy and some German manufacturers are using large quantities of an oily product of German brown coal tar called "Masut" for heating and steam producing purposes.

At Beatrice, Neb., Jack Gorman was arrested for stealing a horse and buggy from H. W. Rodman. As he had counterfeited money in his possession he will also be held for the United States authorities.

A London dispatch says: "The secretary of state for India has received a dispatch from the viceroy, saying that the monsoon is weak and irregular, but generally sufficient for sowing, except in Gujarat and Punjab."

The state department has issued a warrant to the representative of the state of Missouri to secure the return from Monterey, Mexico, under extradition of Adolph Groger, who is charged with embezzlement of \$3,000 from a company in which he was employed in St. Louis.

The weekly crop bulletin of the Burlington railway, which has just been prepared in the office of General Superintendent Calvert and submitted to General Manager Holdrege, shows that while Nebraska has not been doing itself proud this year in the production of record breaking crops, the state is going to do a great deal better than many others.

According to preliminary estimates, made by Commissioner Evans, the sum spent for pensions during the year ending Jun 30, 1901, was \$132,531,000—an increase of only \$69,000 over the total for 1899-1900. Meanwhile 44,861 original pensions were granted, 4,751 names were restored to the roll and re-ratings were allowed in over 60,000 cases.

The census office has issued a statement giving the statistics of the school, militia, and voting population of the states of Idaho and Illinois, and Hawaii, the results being as follows: School age, Hawaii, 33,774; Idaho, 54,964; Illinois, 1,589,915. Males of militia age, Hawaii, 72,596; Idaho, 41,785; Illinois, 1,091,472. Males of voting age, Hawaii, 79,607; Idaho, 79,607; Illinois, 53,932; Illinois, 1,401,456.

Secretary Root has appointed Chas. Conant special commissioner of the war department to investigate the banking and coinage in the Philippines and report to the secretary of war recommendations for remedial adoption.

Mr. Wilson, secretary of agriculture, does not take so gloomy a view of the agricultural prospects between the Allegheny and the Rocky mountains as do some of the so-called experts who are not connected with the government service.

The official mandate of the court of appeals of Kentucky, ordering the Scott county circuit court to grant ex-Secretary of State Caleb Powers another trial, was issued. It is possible that the trial will be held in October.

An alleged highwayman, giving his name as Will Jones of St. Joseph, Mo., was probably fatally shot through the base of the spine at Leavenworth, Kan., while seeking to escape from a policeman. His companion, giving the name of Murphy, was captured.

Rural free delivery will be established on September 2 at Sac City, Sac county, Ia., with four carriers. Reeves Bros.' boiler works at Alliance, Ohio, was completely destroyed by fire. Loss estimated at about \$100,000, with \$40,000 insurance.

The comptroller of the currency has approved the application of the following persons to organize the Farmers' National bank of Red Oak, Ia., with a capital of \$50,000: Ralph Pringle, M. Chandler, W. T. Marshall, R. F. Owens and others.

AS TO TIMBER FRAUDS

Commissioner Herman Takes Precautions to Prevent Them.

APPLIES TO ALL STATES HAVING

Directly Aimed to Check Recurrence in Montana and Idaho—Registrars Censured for Neglect—Other Matters from the National Capital.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—On account of timber land frauds discovered in Montana and Idaho Commissioner Herman of the general land office has suspended all proofs made during the present year under the timber and stone act pending conclusion of the full investigation and inquiry begun some time ago.

This action applies to all state where government timber land is purchased and involves thousands of cases. Many large companies and speculators, it is alleged, have had "dummies" as agents make purchases of these lands from the government. Commissioner Herman said today:

"Owing to the act of congress permitting selections of valuable timber lands as indemnity for lands held by individuals and operations within the forest reserve a speculation in so-called forest reserve scrip has started. By this means the owner may relinquish them to the government and take valuable lands on the unappropriated public domain, or may convey his holdings to another person seeking to hold the right of selection.

"This system provided great rivalry among speculators and mining companies in the acquirement of large tracts of timber lands. This has induced many others who are not owners of such scrip, or exchangeable lands inside forest reserves, to avail themselves of an earlier act of congress approved June 2, 1878, the timber and stone act.

"This act limits each purchaser to 160 acres and expressly requires applicants to swear that the purchase is not speculative, but made in good faith for his own exclusive use, and that he has not made any agreement for the transfer of his title. For many years, particularly the last year, this law has been grossly violated and abused by persons who perjure themselves before the local land officers. The general land office has directed its special agents to report on any further cases that may be discovered and all land officers have been warned to exercise the utmost strictness in the examination of parties and witnesses.

"Many of the fraudulent proofs made might have been detected had the registrars and receivers at the local land offices strictly applied the rules for scrutiny of proofs of applicants. After such proofs have passed the local officers, showing regularity and apparent good faith of entries, it is impossible for the authorities here to detect error or fraud."

GET NEBRASKA POTATOES.

Sioux City Eager to Get Them at Good Prices.

SIoux CITY, Ia., July 26.—The scarcity of early potatoes in the market here is causing a good deal of activity among local dealers to get hold of them. Every day from 400 to 600 bushels are brought in over the combination bridge in wagons by Nebraska farmers, and the wholesale commission men and retail grocers have men at the bridge from 3 to 7 o'clock in the morning to meet these wagons and buy as many potatoes as possible. This competition means good prices and the farmers like the arrangement very much. From 75 cents to \$1 a bushel is being paid. The late potatoes here will be very greatly damaged if rain does not come within a week.

FREE TRADE FOR PORTO RICO.

President Issues Formal Proclamation to This Effect.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 26.—The president has issued his proclamation establishing free trade between Porto Rico and the United States and declaring the organization of a civil government for the island. The proclamation is purely formal and only in the body of the resolution adopted by the Porto Rican legislature (heretofore published) does it appear that the island is set free commercially tomorrow in the commemoration of the anniversary of the planting of the American flag on the islands.

Drouth Puts Potatoes Up.

CHICAGO, July 26.—In less than a week the wholesale price of potatoes in the local market has advanced as a result of the drouth from 70 cents a bushel to \$1.10, the latter being the closing figure yesterday. This increase of 40 cents a bushel in so short a time is said to be unprecedented. Reports from southern Illinois, Missouri and Kansas indicate that the recent showers came to late to save much of the potatoes in those sections.

GENERAL DROUTH SITUATION.

Thunderstorms Followed by Hot Sun Little Benefit to Crops.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—Official reports show that the corn belt region continues hot and dry, with no prospect of immediate change in these conditions. Showers have fallen in the northern half of the corn belt area since last night, including eastern Nebraska, Iowa, northern Illinois, northern Indiana and Ohio. Most of these rains, which generally were light in amount, fell last night. Today there were some light rainfalls in western Nebraska and Oklahoma. These precipitations, however, the forecast officials say, are not always conducive of the best results to the growing crops, as they are mostly thunder showers, immediately followed by a hot sun. Showers, it is said, possibly may occur in the drouth-stricken region tomorrow, as they usually are inseparable from visitations of intense heat, but no general occurrence of them is predicted. Temperatures in the corn belt while a few degrees lower today than yesterday, were again high, ranging from 95 degrees to 100 degrees and higher.

WHY IS THE WEST HOT.

This Problem is Now Puzzling the Scientists.

PORTLAND, Ore., July 26.—Edward A. Beals, forecast official in charge of the Portland office of the weather bureau, said today concerning Mr. Serviss' theory of heat causation through sun disturbances:

"If Mr. Serviss' theory is correct the excessive heat being experienced in the east should be correspondingly felt in the North Pacific states, as we are under the influence of the same sun and situated in the same hemisphere. The facts are that the central west has had a month more of temperatures averaging from 6 to 12 degrees warmer than usual. The normal daylight temperature in Portland in July is 66.3. This year it has been only 62.5."

KAISER AS PEACE MAKER.

May Assume the Role to End South African Conflict.

LONDON, July 26.—"The rumor as to the early peace negotiations which has pervaded the House of Commons for some days," says the Daily Express, "has taken the more definite form that Emperor William is soon to assume the role of peacemaker. Mr. Kruger and his advisers are represented as having empowered the kaiser to act for the Boers, and he is willing to take the initiative in order to popularize his relations with the German people, who disapprove his friendship for Great Britain. Something apparently is on foot, whether Emperor William is in it or not."

Mr. Kruger's arrival at the Hague is connected, the Daily Express thinks, with the rumored peace suggestions.

GREAT BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.

And French Trampled Over Moors in Algiers.

LONDON, July 27.—"A few days ago," says a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Cadix, "a great battle was fought between the French and the Moors near Figuiq. It was the result of the French operations to subjugate the tribes south of the Atlas mountains and to occupy the oasis of Taflet. The French were victorious. The Moors assert that the French government has 90,000 troops on the Moorish border."

Of dose of Strychnine.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 27.—George Colby, a young man of Grand Island, took fifteen grains of strychnine and died in less than an hour later in excruciating agony. Information from his home is to the effect that he was leading a fast life and associating with dissolute characters.

Condition of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 26.—Today's statement of the treasury balance in the general fund exclusive of the \$150,000,000 gold reserve in the division of redemption shows available cash balances \$171,979,820. Gold, \$98,521,063.

King Receives the Congress.

LONDON, July 26.—King Edward received the foreign delegates to the British congress on tuberculosis at Marlborough. His majesty briefly expressed his keen interest in the congress and his hopes of fruitful results therefrom.

Rates for the Grand Army.

ST. LOUIS, July 26.—In general orders issued by Commander-in-chief Leo Rassieur of the G. A. R., in regard to the thirty-ninth national encampment to be held in Cleveland September 9 to 14, announcement is made that the Central Passenger association has made a rate of one cent a mile to and from Cleveland. All other passenger associations, east, south and west, have made rates of one fare and a third for the round trip, plus \$2.

MR. LONG WILL HELP

Navy Secretary Pleased to Grant Schley's Request for Investigation.

DEWEY AND OTHERS FOR COUNCIL

Wishes to Give Santiago Officer Fairest Possible Hearing—The Order Will Be Issued Soon and Become Effective Later.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—Secretary Long, in accordance with a request from Admiral Schley, advised that officer that he would order a court of inquiry to examine into the entire matter of Admiral Schley's course in the Santiago naval campaign. Later the secretary announced that, owing to the extremely hot weather, the court would not meet until September and that he would turn over his reception room to the court. The secretary said:

"It is too hot now and I don't believe it would be comfortable for officers to sit in their heavy full dress uniforms during August. I issued an order some time ago dispensing with the wearing of full dress uniforms during a court-martial, but this case will be so important that every foria of official dignity will be observed, even to the guard of marines at the door. I propose to give the court the use of the large reception room adjoining my office, which is a convenient and commodious place."

"Will the sessions of the court be open?"

"Unquestionably" was the emphatic reply. "I propose to make that fact very plain. It would be a great mistake to have a secret court. The country has the right to know all that transpires in the way of testimony offered. Personally, I should be very glad to have a court composed of a large number of officers, but the naval regulations restrict me to the selection of three. I hope to name the personnel of the court today and this will give the judge advocate and recorder ample time to prepare a list of witnesses who are to be summoned. This list will necessarily be quite lengthy and it will take some little time to assemble the officers here. I do not believe that the session of the court will be prolonged, because, after all, a great deal of talk over the Santiago campaign is like the Genii's vapor, which can be condensed in a small bottle."

"Will Admiral Schley be allowed to name witnesses?"

"Admiral Schley," was the reply, "will be afforded every opportunity for the appearance of all the witnesses he may desire. He is also entitled under the naval regulations to be represented by counsel."

While Secretary Long was not asked whether the court of inquiry would be asked to form and submit an opinion upon the facts disclosed by the investigation, it is considered quite probable that this course will be pursued. Unless the order convening the court expressly requires this opinion to be expressed, its report must be confined to stating the facts found.

Wyoming as a Pasture.

OHAMA, July 25.—R. M. Allen, president of the Standard Cattle company of Ames, Neb., and also connected with the beet sugar industry there, arrived in Omaha from Wyoming. He said that pasture there is superb and that the stockmen are taking unusual steps in order to derive the most benefits possible from this fact. They are buying in Nebraska all the cheap cattle and are taking them to Wyoming feeding grounds.

Canners Take Precaution.

MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., July 25.—Representatives of seventeen Iowa and Nebraska canning factories met here to discuss the situation in view of the protracted dry weather and decided to withdraw all price sheets until they can ascertain the probable shortage of the season's pick.

Condition of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—Today's statement of the treasury balance in the general fund, exclusive of the \$150,000,000 gold reserve in the division of redemption, shows: Available cash balance, \$169,054,538; gold, \$97,401,013.

Funeral of Mrs. Kruger.

PRETORIA, Tuesday, July 23.—Mrs. Kruger, wife of former President Kruger of the South African republic, who died Saturday last of pneumonia, after an illness of three days, was buried here today.

Root Speaks of the Forts.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 25.—Secretary Root speaks in high terms of the possibilities of Forts Riley and Leavenworth as posts for military instruction. He says Fort Riley is an excellent post for one of the big military camps of instruction and maneuvers contemplated by congress; also that troops to the present capacity of the quarters at Jefferson barracks and Forts Riley, Leavenworth and Sheridan will be retained.

LOOKS LIKE A LONG FIGHT.

Indications that Strike in the Steel Mills is to Be Allowed to Drift.

PITTSBURGH, July 24.—The strike persists practically no new situation and it appears as if the contending forces are settling down to a protracted struggle. While the company at the Wellsville mill received the accession of a few men from the ranks of the strikers yesterday, the number is not yet large enough to justify the mill in starting up in full. In the meantime the Amalgamated men are keeping a constant watch on the mill and all the avenues that lead to it. Pickets have been thrown out all along the streets and at the railroad stations, so that nothing will escape the vigilance of the strikers if the company should bring any new men in.

At the Dewess-Wood mill in McKeesport everything is as before. From unofficial sources, believed to be conversant with the company's plans, it is said the management has no intention of resuming the operation of the plant at present. Nevertheless the strikers are wary and evidently do not believe this because they continue to patrol the streets for the purpose of keeping their eyes on anyone going toward the mill. Pickets are lined along the streets as well as along the river front and strangers are kindly but firmly asked to show who they are and how it happens they are in McKeesport.

NEBRASKA CORN CROP.

Reporter Loveland Reviews the State by Counties.

United States Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Section, Climate and Crop Service of the Weather Bureau—University of Nebraska, Lincoln, July 24.—The past week has been hot and dry. The daily mean temperature has averaged 12 degrees above the normal in eastern counties and 9 degrees above in western. The maximum temperatures for the week have generally been between 105 degrees and 110 degrees.

The rainfall consisted only of a few scattered showers, with generally very light fall of rain.

The past week has been a good one for haying and threshing, but a very unfavorable one for corn. Early planted corn has been practically ruined in the southern counties. Late corn planted is quite generally beginning to tassel very small and is in a critical condition. In southern counties it has been damaged considerably and with rain soon would produce only a partial crop. In northern counties the late planted corn is in better condition, although it has suffered considerably from drouth. In many western counties a large percentage of the oats and spring wheat has been cut for hay and in many southern counties a large portion of the oat crop will not be threshed. Fruit of all kinds and garden vegetables have been damaged by the drouth. Apples and peaches are dropping badly.

DR. KOCH'S LATEST THEORY.

Bovine Tuberculosis is Not Transmissible to Human System.

NEW YORK, July 24.—Prof. Koch of Berlin will announce, says a Herald dispatch, from his discovery that bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to the human system. The famous bacteriologist, in an interview, made the statement that he has demonstrated that meat and milk tuberculosis infected cattle may be consumed with absolute immunity.

Dr. Allen F. Haight of Chicago, the official representative of the American Medical association, said: "If I had not heard Prof. Koch quietly announce his discovery in private conversation it would have seemed to me absolutely incredible. I can only say that Prof. Koch is too profound a student and has too much reputation at stake to promulgate such a proposition unless convinced of its soundness beyond the shadow of a doubt. If he is able to theoretically demonstrate his claim the sanitary systems of the world will be shaken to the very roots. The word revolution but faintly expresses what the discovery will precipitate."

Ohio Bryan Democrats.

CLEVELAND, July 24.—At a preliminary meeting here of the leaders of the bolt among the Bryan democrats, George A. Groot of this city has been chosen as temporary chairman of the state convention to be held at Columbus July 31. Dr. Abner L. Davis of Findlay will be the temporary secretary.

Fight to Bitter End.

CAPETOWN, July 24.—It is reported that General Delarey has informed the Klerksdorp commando that there is no longer any chance of European intervention, and that they must fight the war out to the bitter end.

Sheet Steel Goes Up.

NEW YORK, July 24.—The brokers and jobbers in the sheet steel and galvanized iron trade in this city advanced the price of sheet steel 1 cent per pound.

SCHLEY'S PLANS SUIT

Admiral Is Preparing to Make Maclay Answer for Criticisms.

ASK FOR A COURT OF INQUIRY

Wishes Exonerated by Fellow Officers Before Any Civil Action—Dewey Will Have to Serve—With Him Will Probably Be Ramsey and Benham Also.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—The Washington Post last night telegraphed Admiral Schley that in an editorial it insisted that he owed it to himself as well as to his friends to begin proceedings against Mr. Maclay, the author of the "History of the United States Navy," to disprove the latter's charge, adding, "Will you do this? Please wire statement."

Today it received the following telegram:

"GREAT NECK, L. I., July 23.—Editor Washington Post: I believe the first step should be investigation of all matter by a court, then a civil action afterwards. I am preparing to take this course.

(Signed) "W. S. SCHLEY."

The Post in the morning, as a result of extensive inquiries based upon the admiral's dispatch, will say in part: Admiral Schley proposes to ask an investigation at the hands of a naval court of inquiry and then to sue Historian Maclay for libel. His action is the sequel to the developments during the past week, when the entire country has been surprised by the publication of the unexampled abuse poured out on him in the third volume of E. S. Maclay's "History of the United States Navy," in which publication Schley is said to have run away in "cautious flight" and is, in addition, denounced as a coward, a cur and a traitor.

The Schley court of inquiry will undoubtedly be one of the most celebrated cases in the naval or military history of the country. The high rank of the officers involved in the controversy and the intense public feeling which has been aroused will combine to give the investigation a dramatic interest. Nothing has occurred in Washington for many years that will compare with it.

The appointment of the court of inquiry is expected to be made by Secretary Long, though it would be in the power of the president to make the selections if he chose. This is hardly likely to occur, however.

Admiral Schley's letter asking for the appointment of the court will be addressed to Secretary Long, who is his immediate chief. To address the communication to the president, ignoring Secretary Long, would not only be a breach of naval etiquette, but would be totally at variance with Schley's careful observance of punctilious procedure. The court, therefore, will be named by Secretary Long unless he shall prefer to refer the matter to the president.

Mr. Long has already stated that if Admiral Schley requested a court of inquiry he would grant the request and has also expressed his willingness to personally select the court. While he has not made any statement as to its personnel, there is every reason to believe that he favors Admiral Dewey and Rear Admirals Ramsey and Benham, the two latter being now upon the retired list.

Allen in Washington.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Governor Allen of Porto Rico arrived here yesterday afternoon. He came direct from Canton, Ohio, where he saw the president. The governor will now confer with state department officials, making a more detailed report on his administration than he made to the president.

It is said that he may remain here until after the issue of the president's proclamation of the 25th announcing free trade with Porto Rico. The belief is that he will then relinquish his office, in which event the nomination of Hon. William H. Hunt of Montana, at present secretary of the island, to the governorship of the island is believed to be probable.

Illinois Corn Is Withering.

CHICAGO, July 24.—Although the maximum temperature in Chicago yesterday was only 86, five more persons died from the effects of the terrific heat of Sunday. Many others overcome during that day of unparalleled torridity are in a serious condition. The government thermometer registered 102 at Springfield. There were several prostrations and one death.

Will Hang to Nearest Tree.

FORT SILL, Okl., July 24.—A law and order league has been organized here to suppress the dozens of crooks who have infested the country since the Kiowa-Comanche registration began. The organization has decided to print and distribute 1,000 handbills bearing the following: "Notice is hereby served on all confidence men, pickpockets, thieves and crooks who are caught playing their vocations that they will be hanged to the nearest tree."