

What is Going on Here and There That is of Interest to the Readers Throughout Nebraska.

At a school election held to determine whether or not the city of Hebron should vote \$20,000 bonds for the purpose of building a new ward school, the bonds carried by a majority of fifteen.

While Mr. and Mrs. William Burke of Friend were out riding in their automobile, the machine was overturned and Mrs. Burke suffered the breaking of a collar bone beside some other bruises.

James Keith, a bartender from Raymond, was shot and killed at Bridgeport by Michael H. Hagerty, a saloon keeper of that place, as the result of a drunken dispute. Both men are well known.

Mrs. Dora Wilson, proprietor of the hotel at Manley, went to Lincoln to attend the funeral of her niece, Miss Edna Kennett. While in a restaurant she was attacked with appendicitis, taken to a hospital and operated on and died next day.

Leaving behind her husband and five children, Mrs. Ernest Olson, living about four miles north of Polk, deserted her home in company with Ray Helvery, the hired man, came over from Polk to Central City with him in an automobile, boarded the train at that place and has not been heard of since.

Judge Grimes held a brief session of the district court at Sidney and sentenced the following to the penitentiary: Henry Harris, burglary, eighteen months; Samuel Glim, forgery, two years and a half; Will LaMaar, a boy of 17, was sent to the state reformatory for a period of four years for burglary.

Word was received in Beatrice that Lon Eddleman, a young man whose home is near Ellis, had died in South Omaha from an overdose of cocaine. Eddleman was suspected of having robbed the store of the Jackson Drug company in Beatrice. He was also suspected of other robberies at Ellis and Plymouth and escaped from the officers a few years ago.

Sheriff H. U. Miner of Burt county has apprehended Fred Clark and Ed Orr, half brothers, wanted at Mt. Sterling, Ill., for jail breaking. The men do not deny having taken French leave of the Mt. Sterling prison. They had been given a preliminary hearing on a charge of assault with intent to kill, and were awaiting trial in the district court there when a jail delivery was effected.

A. E. Williams, living at 530 North Seventh street, says the Lincoln Journal, has succeeded in growing in his yard a very perfect cotton plant, which is now full of blossoms. It was planted in March and has been given care enough to bring it to full development. Inasmuch as it is only one of thirty stalks to come to perfection, it does not appear that cotton can be grown here to advantage.

The food commissioner has forwarded to County Attorney English of Douglas county information that six restaurants of Omaha are selling skim milk and directs that they be prosecuted under the pure food law. The law requires that milk shall test 3 per cent butter fat. Two and six-tenths per cent was the best any of the restaurants in the list did, according to the food commissioner's report.

The annual convention of the Lutheran synod of Nebraska opened in Hardy. The following officers were elected: Rev. L. Groh, D. D., of Omaha, president; Rev. George W. Livers of Benedict, secretary; Dr. James H. Miller of Surprise, treasurer; Rev. C. J. Ringer of Wayne, statistical secretary; Rev. M. L. Melick of Omaha, historian. The annual reports showed a general advance all along the lines.

Food Commissioner Johnson is proceeding against more farmers on a charge of selling rotten eggs. He has asked county attorneys to prosecute P. Smith of Rokeby and P. L. Cullen of Ashland for selling bad eggs to a storekeeper. It is the food commissioner's policy to catch farmers by having inspectors stationed at country stores to candle eggs and the first farmer that offers a bad egg is immediately detected.

Some boys at Shelton were using a high, slanting wire as a slide for life and sliding down hanging by their feet. While Harold Kesterson was making a slide the fastening to which his feet were attached broke, precipitating him to the ground head first. He alighted on his hands first with such force as to break both arms at the wrist, the bones protruding through the flesh. Although badly injured it is thought that his arms can be saved.

The assessed value of property apportioned to cities and towns, belonging to the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, under the provisions of the terminal tax law, is increased from \$277,190 in 1907 to \$435,191 in 1908.

A letter received at Fremont by her husband clears away the mystery which surrounded the disappearance of Mrs. Olson. Mrs. Olson is in Sweden staying with her parents. How she managed to get there Mr. Olson says he cannot imagine. He says she did not have any money that he knew anything about.

The Brazilian Milreis Case

By CAPTAIN PATRICK D. TYRELL

How Probably the Most Wonderful Counterfeit Plot of History Was Hatched, Flourished and Was Eventually Uncovered by Sleuths.



THE OFFICERS SEARCHED THE HOUSE AND FOUND THE 900 SHEETS

PRIOR to the year 1884 there was no law of the United States that prohibited anyone from counterfeiting in this country the money of a foreign nation. Out of the lack of legislation on this point had grown many cases of much importance to other governments, for your counterfeiter is a man usually well versed in the laws bearing on his trade and he had not been slow in perceiving the possibilities of large and quick gains in using the United States as a place for manufacturing bogus currency and coin to be circulated in other countries.

One of the most notable of these cases was that of the manufacture in this country of a large amount of the currency of China—a job that was cunningly conceived and cleverly carried to the point where the counterfeit currency was manufactured and ready for shipment to the Orient for circulation. Another plot of great international importance was that conceived by McDonald, Scott and Sheridan, who made and threw into circulation a counterfeit Bank of England note to the amount of about \$5,000,000. The criminals in this case were Americans and their daring was shown by the character of the task they set for themselves.

In the late '60s the movement for a Democratic government in the empire of Brazil had taken on great strength. Stories of the marvelous resources of the country and of the unlimited possibilities for achieving power and money were reaching the United States. A political upheaval in a country of great natural wealth is always a tempting bait to soldiers of fortune the world over, and the accounts of Brazilian conditions that reached southern Texas about this time were not to be resisted by the more adventurous. A party was made up for Brazil, and in this party were two brothers, Lucius A. and Joseph A. White. Lucius was a mere lad in his teens, while Joseph was nearly 20 years his senior and more a father to the boy than a brother. Joseph was married. The Whites were the sons of Judge White, who settled in southern Texas in 1839 and who was a noted lawyer and jurist of that section. Judge White was a man who was held in the highest esteem on account of his strict integrity and learning, and his sons grew up respected in their native state. Lucius had studied civil engineering and was an engineer or no meager ability. Joseph was a farmer. But in both the brothers there was a strong spirit of adventure, and after listening to the stories of gold and diamonds to be found and fortunes to be made easily in rubber, coffee and general agriculture, told by returned Texans, the brothers decided to join the party bound for the South American empire, which finally landed at Rio Janeiro.

While in Rio Janeiro Lucius White met a young woman who was visiting there and whose home was in Florida. He courted and married her, and three children were born to them. In 1884 he decided to return to the states to live, and brought his family to Florida, where he stayed a few months, going

from there to Whitney, Tex., where he bought a 90-acre farm for \$4,000 and settled down to the life of a Texas farmer.

In the early part of the summer of 1885 the United States district attorney at St. Louis received an anonymous letter stating that a certain engraving house of that city was preparing plates from which were to be engraved a large number of slips which had the appearance of being imitations of the currency of the Empire of Brazil.

The letter in question pointed out that which seemed to be a crime in process of execution, and, anonymous or signed, the letter was not to be ignored. It was turned over to me, and I went to work on the case.

I found the manager and was informed by him that he believed his firm did have a contract to engrave plates for and print some Brazilian matter; but he claimed to be ignorant of the identity of the party with whom the contract was made and of the exact character of the commodity contracted for. I was told to return later and consult with the official of the concern who had made the contract and who was conversant with all the details. This I did. This gentleman, after learning who I was, told me that a man named Lucius A. White had contracted with the firm for a plate of a "cigar label" to be used in the Brazilian trade. The work was under way at that time.

With this information the Brazilian consul was called into consultation. The appearance of the plate was described to him and he pronounced it a duplicate of the front of the Brazilian "Duzentos Milreis" note, or a treasury note of the Empire of Brazil representing 200 milreis. As a milreis of Brazilian money was equal in value to approximately 54.6 cents of United States money each one of the "labels" would be worth in Brazil \$109.20.

So far as I could learn the order left in St. Louis by the mysterious Mr. White called for the engraving of but one plate. If a currency note were to be produced there would of necessity be two plates, one for the front and another for the reverse side. The spokesman for the engraving firm claimed to take this as evidence that the plate was to be used for the purpose set forth by the man who had made the contract, and in this claim the engraver may have been honest.

I immediately came to the conclusion that the men who were planning to inflate the Brazilian currency had made a contract with one firm for the front plate and impressions printed from it and with another firm, probably in another city, for the plate and impressions of the reverse side.

From the engraving firm I learned that White had reached St. Louis May 28 and had asked for a price on the work he wanted done. He said he was going to New York and would return in a few weeks. He kept his word and closed the negotiations for the front plate. These negotiations were under way two weeks before they were finally closed, and after the contract had been signed White disappeared.

It would have been an easy matter at this time to have confiscated the plate; but it was always the plan of



the service to secure the guilty ones, as well as to destroy the product. I had a description of White from the engraver with whom he had made the contract, and, depending on its being correct, I believed I could pick out my man when he returned to the city. From this time a strict watch was maintained on the engraving establishment. This surveillance was rewarded a few weeks later by my seeing a man answering the description of Lucius A. White enter the building of the engravers. Satisfied that he was the man wanted, I called to my assistance a deputy United States marshal and from the time he emerged from the building till his arrest he was never out of our sight, unless in his room at the Moser hotel. He made more than one trip to the establishment where the work was being done, and in leaving he would pursue a zig-zag course, as though he feared being followed. He was waiting for the completion of the work, and put in the time sight-seeing.

As the work was now about ready for delivery, I believed the time was at hand to take White into custody. In company with a deputy marshal we went to his hotel and followed him into the dining-room at dinner time. After he had taken his seat the deputy and I sat down at the same table. As soon as he had given his order I slid my chair close to his and said, in a voice that would attract no attention at the next table:

"You may consider yourself my prisoner. It will do you no good to make a scene." Great beads of perspiration stood

on the man's face, but he collected himself almost instantly and said:

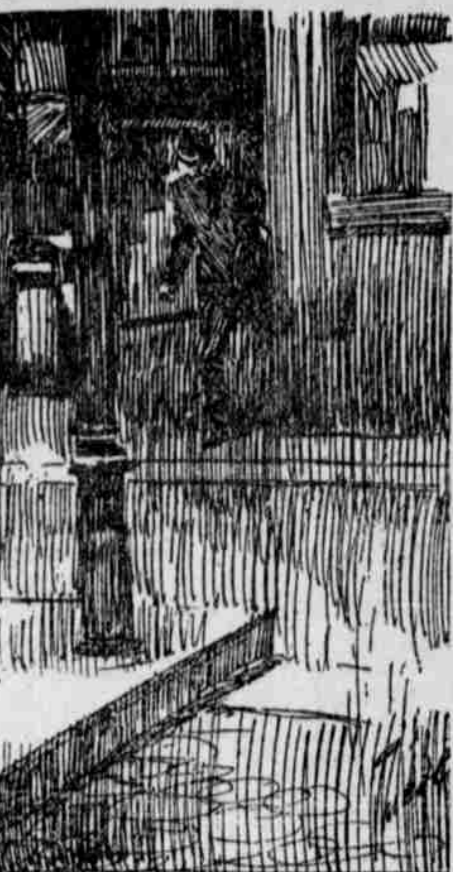
"I don't want a scene; what do you want me to do?"

"Come with us," I said.

We all arose quietly and walked out of the dining-room without attracting attention. White was taken to the federal building and subjected to an informal examination. When I searched him I found documents bearing on the milreis transaction and placing the firm that did the work in a peculiar light. One of these papers was the formal bid made by the firm, offering to engrave an exact facsimile of the front of the 200 milreis bill on stone for \$230 and a facsimile of front and back on steel for \$810. Another incriminating paper was a receipt from the engraving firm for payment of the "cigar labels" and for a 200-milreis Brazilian bill, to be returned to White. According to the papers found on White, he had increased the size of his order from 2,000 to 3,000 sheets of bills, four bills on a sheet. At first White denied any part in a counterfeiting plot, but later broke down and admitted his guilt. He claimed to have a partner named Lane, but refused to give details of information concerning him further than to say that he lived in Texas.

I shall always question the propriety of the course followed by the federal attorney in making his case against Joseph White, which was as follows: A package was made of 379 of the sheets I had brought in. Attorney Blinn then wrote out a telegram to

the agent at Bloom, Tex., requesting him to deliver a certain package to Joseph White, and had Lucius sign it. Deputy United States Marshal Wheeler and Assistant United States Attorney Drummond were then hastened to Texas by the first train for the purpose of "piping" Joseph White as he took the package from the express of free, and, later, of arresting him with the counterfeit in his possession. The package and telegram were sent, giving Wheeler and Drummond sufficient time to reach the destination first. It seems that after all this planning to establish the fact that Joseph White received the package, he was allowed in some way to take the package from the express office without being seen by the men who had been sent to watch him commit this very act. Joseph White took them to his home on his farm near Bloom and placed them in a bureau drawer. Knowing the



sheets were in his possession, although they had not seen him receive them, the officers went to White's home, placed him under arrest and searched the house.

In the meantime Lucius A. White, having seen his plan fall miserably and himself a prisoner, gave the authorities a complete confession. While in Brazil he and his brother had conceived the idea of manufacturing in the United States a large issue of Brazilian currency and returning to that country to float it. Lucius admitted that he was the originator of the idea.

Lucius A. White, after pleading guilty, was taken to Texas as a witness against his brother. Lucius was 33 years old at this time and his brother was a man of 50. As I have said, the elder brother also had stood in the relation of a father to the younger man, and the scene in the Waco courtroom when Lucius was placed on the stand and told the story that meant a penitentiary sentence for his brother was a most affecting one. "I would rather suffer than have Lucius suffer; he's only a boy to me."

After the evidence was in and Lucius was being led from the courtroom by the deputies, Joseph grasped him by the hand and with tears in his eyes said:

"Good-by, Lucius. God bless you."

Name Spelled in Many Ways. No fewer than 372 different ways of spelling "Lucius" have been copied from envelopes and recorded by a custodian of the town.