

Details of Friday's Catastrophe.

The Findings of the Board of Investigation and the Coroner's Jury.

Not in many years has anything happened in this vicinity that so excited and completely awed the community in general as the terrible disaster of last Friday morning when the lives of three of our citizens were blotted out with the suddenness of a flash of lightning, and thousands of dollars worth of damage inflicted on rolling stock of the Union Pacific company as well as to perishable goods in shipment, such as fruit, grain, fish, lumber, etc. Evidently not one moment's warning came to give the ill-fated men a chance for their lives, as eye witnesses say Engineer Kelly was seen to reach for the cord to whistle for a crossing and a faint whistle was heard just before the explosion.

As is always the case in such accidents, even those nearby cannot describe very completely, or in an intelligent way, just what followed. The complete confusion of the mind following the shock of such sights so bewilders or awes one that but little is remembered or can be explained of what is seen, and so a graphic account of the explosion will never be told. The tons of amassed, twisted and distorted steel and wreckage piled high in a heap, the fragments of the mechanism and boiler of the mighty locomotive scattered over a space of several hundreds of yards, and the gruesome bodies of the sacrificed lives, told plainly and more than any word picture, the awful casualty.

The explosion occurred at about 9:30 o'clock when the freight, coming east, was nearing North Platte, and had reached the siding about one mile east of Birdwood, or about five miles west of this city.

News of the accident reached the company officials here almost instantly, and the wrecker and medical assistance was dispatched at the earliest possible moment. The news spread almost as rapidly over the city, and in a remarkable short time autos and vehicles of every description left for the scene, while hundreds who had no means of conveyance struck out afoot. Some in autos reached the scene in advance of the wrecking crew and viewed the grounds before anything had been disturbed. All day and late into the evening, as well as on Saturday morning, a constant string of the autos and conveyances transported sightseers, so that most everyone in city got a glimpse of the worse mix up that ever occurred on that division. In loss of life and destruction of rolling stock, it is considered one of the most costly in the history of the company. It is the first accident of the kind that ever occurred here.

Some better idea of the mighty force of the explosion can be grasped when it is known that the compact forced the boiler clear from the truck, across one track, plunged into the south embankment of the ditch, tore a hole in the earth large enough to hide an ordinary wagon, bounded up through and demolished the telegraph wires, traveled some 80 ft. and tore another big hole in the earth, bounded again for 20 ft., plunged into the ground, leaving an imprint of the boiler rim and flues in-

delibly impressed, turned a complete somersault and partly imbedded itself into the earth.

Engineer Kelly was buried a distance of 350 yards. His body was mutilated beyond recognition. Not only was he frightfully scalded and bruised but the head and trunk were separated. His body was flung to the southwest of the engine, while the fireman and brakeman were tossed almost in the opposite direction for 400 ft., the brakeman's body being found about 50 ft. east from that of fireman Smith. The latter's body was badly mutilated but brakeman Thompson's body showed no signs of mutilation beyond a gash in the forehead, some bruises on the body and scalds from the steam.

Thirteen freight cars burdened with shipments consigned to all parts of the country, were wrecked and compressed in a heap that in length would not cover more than a distance of four car lengths. Fruit, grain, fish, and lumber were scattered promiscuously. A car of oranges was telescoped, the roof of the car and a layer of oranges being transplanted to the ditch as nicely as if placed there by hand. Oranges were strewn everywhere.

The big hole torn in the earth by the boiler when it first struck was partly filled with the fruit. Everybody thought them free for the taking, and took, till the cargo was pretty well disposed of, in spite of the strenuous efforts of Watchman Robinson to prevent the appropriation of the company's goods.

Mr. Hunt, a farmer at work nearby, and Charles Trovillo, driving at a short distance from the scene, both witnessed the explosion.

The wreckage was cleared from the track by 4 o'clock p. m., so that passenger traffic was not delayed for any length of time.

A larger force of men were constantly at work from the time of the accident till Sunday night clearing away the ruin. Saturday morning the body of the unknown man who was buried beneath the wreckage was removed and brought to this city.

Nothing found on the body of the man disclosed his identity, beyond a small note book in which was kept a memorandum of time worked in Boise City, Idaho. Later a wayfarer who had been put off the train at Julesburg, reached the scene of the accident and upon learning particulars and securing a description of the unfortunate, stated that the man had been in the employ of a banker at Boise City as chauffeur, that he was going to his home in the east, and that he had a gold watch and chain when last he had seen him. Sheriff Miltenberger wired the banker at Boise City, and in response secured the address of the man's mother, who was notified of the accident. Her address is, Mrs. Sarah Ginsberg, 176 Madison St., New York. A telegram from her Sunday evening requested that the body of her son Louis be shipped at once, but later she telegraphed to bury the body here, and her wish was complied with.

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TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS

The C. F. Iddings Co. is erecting a 250-ton capacity coal shed at Sutherland. Sutherland is showing its progressive-ness by putting in cement crosswalks.

The Indian Card Club will be entertained by Mrs. Ed Vanderhoof on Wednesday afternoon.

Judge Grimes has accepted an invitation to deliver the Fourth of July address at Oshkosh.

Master Kenneth Whelan is giving a party this afternoon in honor of his eighth birth anniversary.

Rob Armstrong and Dr. O. H. Cressler went to Omaha yesterday morning to attend the Masonic grand lodge.

Silk Hose 50 cents a pair at the Wilcox Department Store.

Mrs. Isaac Dillion left Saturday for a month's visit with her son Sidney on the ranch twelve miles north of Sarben.

Miss Emma Smith, principal of the Lincoln school, left Saturday night for Farley, Iowa, where she will spend the summer vacation.

W. M. Baskin was over from Gandy Saturday laying in a supply of necessities. His children who have attended school in the city, returned with him.

L. Carpenter was in town yesterday transacting business. He says crops in the south part of the county look fine. They had rains in that section last Thursday and Friday evenings.

Ernest Rincker returned Saturday from Quincy, Ill., where he had been attending the Gem City commercial college. He has completed the course and will take a position in his father's store.

About 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon an alarm of fire called the department out for a long chase to the northeast part of town. A family living on Tenth street had a lively experience with a gasoline stove that took fire. The blaze was smothered before the firemen arrived and no danger resulted.

A number of Sunday School instructors of the various churches of the city have signified their attention of attending the state meeting in session in Grand Island this week. It is stated that a much larger attendance is expected at the convention this year than at any previous session, through the registration at Kearney last year was a thousand.

John Byerle will leave for Sutherlin, Oregon, the last of the week where he will engage in the furniture and hardware business in company with Mrs. Jennie Armstrong. He will ship a car of goods from here, and contained in the consignment is four splendid horses. Mrs. Byerle will not join her husband for several weeks, during which time Mrs. Armstrong expects to dispose of her interests here. Her son Frank and wife, will go to Sutherlin about the 15th. He will look after his mother's interests in the store. Mrs. Armstrong says she was delighted with the western country when out there last season, and is anxious to locate there.

The entertainment given by the pupils of Mrs. W. V. Lucas' room in the Washington building Friday afternoon, was an exceptionally interesting one. Four members of the board of education were present and many of the parents of pupils, as well as others. The first part of the program consisted of songs and recitations, the second part was a cantata. This latter was presented in a very creditable manner, there was not a "bobble" on the part of any of those taking part. Mrs. Lucas as well as the pupils were warmly congratulated upon the success of the entertainment. Short addresses were made by members of the board and others.

Symbolic of marriage itself, a wedding present should endure for generations of service. Solid silver does this. That is the reason it has always been preferred for wedding gifts. May we show you some of our new patterns? DIXON, The Jeweler.

Born on the frontier; nursed on the boundless prairies; raised on the plains; educated in the saddle, that is the history of Frank Kirsch, the owner and manager and Director General of The Big Show that bears his name. He is as proud of his ancestors as if they were Kings and potentates and well he may be, as his family moved from Kentucky long ere the principal figures of The King of the Cowpunchers appeared on the scene of life and here they have lived and here they live today, owning and farming a vast area of land in Southern Kansas as Mr. Kirsch advanced in years his mind pictured out a wild western play. He wrote the piece and plays the leading character. This in brief is the history of The King of the Cowpunchers, and their popular owner. Note the date Thursday, June 8th.

TIME GROWING SHORT!

In less than a month the Great Alteration Sale at The Leader will close. This sale is nothing less than a carnival of bargains, an opportunity to buy all classes of seasonable merchandise at a

25 to 50 Per Cent Discount.

This sale is no advertising dodge--the stock must be decreased before the interior alterations of the rooms begin. The plans for remodeling the building have been accepted and work will begin July 5th. The economical buyer should recognize the value of this sale to them—a saving of from one-fourth to one-half on goods that are needed at this season of the year.

Why further delay this opportunity to save money?

THE LEADER,

J. PIZER, Proprietor.

Mail Matter Handled.

During the month of May, by order of the department, an accurate account of the mail handled by the local post-office was kept. To those who pay little attention to such affairs the result will no doubt be surprising. The figures are as follows:

Number of pieces handed by clerks—incoming mail 112,257, outgoing mail 93,207, total 205,464.

Number of pieces handled by carriers—pieces collected 6,284, pieces delivered 87,644, total 93,928.

Office business—Letters and packages registered and handled 1,200, number of money orders issued 1,100, postal business \$1,160.37, special delivery business \$6.40.

Pieces carried by R. F. D. carrier (one route) 5,596.

Mail matter is handled by from five to eleven times by clerks and carriers before it is sent out or received and put in the hands of the patrons. Taking eight as the average times handled, it is equivalent to handling one piece of mail over one million six hundred times; these figures not including the matter handled in the money order and registry departments.

For a town of 5,000 the above showing of postal business is certainly gratifying.

Acts of Kindness.

The latter part of last week Switch Foreman Harry Johnson found an old soldier seventy-eight years of age, sick and penniless in the railroad yards. It appearing to Harry that the old gentleman was in a critical condition he took him to his home, and reported the matter to the G. A. R. post. Some of the members called on the comrade, learned his story and furnished him transportation to Sidney. It seems the old gentleman had been living in Ogden and had gone to Missouri to visit a brother. When he reached the latter state he found the brother had moved and no one knew his whereabouts. He started back to Ogden, but when he reached here he had expended all his money, and also became sick, and when found by Mr. Johnson was in a pitiable condition.

Not Now, But Later.

The News-Blade has secured an admission from prominent railroad men that the grading which was commenced last week at this place is being done to prepare for the line from Bridgeport to Kearney, and that this work is included in the new trackage which was decided upon when \$60,000,000 bonds were authorized by the Hill companies. They say that no contracts have yet been let, and that a re-survey of the line will be necessary, but sometime before the expiration of three years the line will be built and in operation.—Bridgeport News-Blade.

Station Agent Bullard went to Omaha last night to attend the sessions of the grand lodge of Masons.

In a recent game of ball between the Ft. Logan soldier team and the team of the Denver school which Leo Pass is attending, the score stood two to one in favor of the school team. Leo caught the game and made the winning score on a three bagger. He has had offers from several teams, but has decided to spend vacation at home and will return here the latter part of this month.

The woman of today who has good health, good temper, good sense, bright eyes and a lovely complexion, the result of correct living and good digestion, wins the admiration of the world. If your digestion is faulty Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets will correct it. For sale by all dealers.

The Keystone correspondent of the Ogalalla News says: Mr. Drury came in from North Platte Friday in response to a dispatch from his wife who is living on their homestead in the hills. He was met by Coroner Likens and Sheriff Beal and presented with a small-pox card which he was requested to post outside his home and consider himself and family quarantined. It appears that they have had small-pox for some time and the neighbors are apprehensive of the dread disease becoming general.

A Dreadful Wound

From a knife, gun, tin can, rusty nail, fireworks, or of any other nature, demands prompt treatment with Bucklen's Arnica Salve to prevent blood poison or gangrene. Its the quickest, surest healer for all such wounds as also for Burns, Boils, Sores, Skin Eruptions, Eczema, Chapped Hands, Corns or Piles. 25 at Stone Drug Co.

Bids For Two School Houses.

The school board of District No. 127 hereby calls for bids on the construction of two school houses in District No. 127, one school house to be located near the Catholic cemetery and one about 1 1/2 miles east of the Bratt School House.

The board desires bids on three kinds of construction—hollow tile stucco, cement block, and frame above the foundation and also on the foundation alone according to plans and specifications in the office of County Superintendent Ebright. Sealed bids will be received in the office of Supt. Ebright or in the North Platte Post Office not later than 6 p. m. June 15th.

Each contractor offering a bid must accompany the bid by a certified check for \$50.00 payable to Scott Reynolds, Treasurer. All checks will be returned when bids are rejected or contract signed. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

School Board No. 137
Per W. P. Snyder, Director.

Any Mites in Your Poultry House?

Gather them right with Conkey's Lice Liquid. That will fix them. It drowns them out in the cracks, where they breed and thrive and hide away through the day until the fowls come back to roost at night. Get into old clothes and with a sprayer or sprinkling can full of Conkey's Lice Liquid, go over the whole place and paint the roosts with the same stuff. Try this. We guarantee it effective. Conkey's Lice Liquid 35c qt.; 60c 2 qts.; \$1.00 a gallon.

Schiller & Co., Agents.

To Close Out

The balance of our spring line of

LADIES' TAILOR SUITS

We will make a price on the 19 suits remaining that should interest you.

\$15.00 Suits for \$7.98	\$18 and \$20 Suits \$12.98	\$25 and \$35 Suits \$16.98
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You will have to come early if you get one.

Wilcox Department Store.