

NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

INTELLIGENCE HERE GATHERED  
COVERS WIDE AREA.

GREATER OR LESSER IMPORT

Includes What is Going On at Wash-  
ington and in Other Sections of  
the Country.

Washington.

President Taft may ask the assistance of congress in solving the question of the high cost of living through legislative authorization for the United States to participate in a world wide conference on the subject.

It was held by the interstate commerce commission that where two or more carriers are competing for business at equal rates between two points they should be allowed to continue the competition, despite the long and short haul provision of the law.

One of the most important and significant peace functions is to take place in Washington early in February, when the committee on foreign affairs of the house of representatives will be the host at dinner to Secretary of State Knox and the members of the diplomatic corps.

Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh, whose advice has been sought by the national monetary commission in framing a statute prohibiting the stocks of banks from falling under the control of other banks or corporations, believes this end can be accomplished by a broad provision of a law designed to maintain the dependence of each individual bank.

The development of the Missouri river as a navigable stream will engage much attention during the next few weeks from the congressmen, whose districts border on that portion of the river between Sioux City and Kansas City. Three years ago Captain E. A. Shultz of the United States army engineers reported that it was feasible to deepen the channel to a minimum depth of six feet at a cost of \$3,900,000, and that the work could be done in three years.

General.

An effort is being made to oust the Goulds from the Wabash railroad.

The steel schedule is to come first before the house revision committee.

After a nine-day siege Russian occupation of Tabriz, Persia, is complete.

Ohio progressives at their meeting declined to endorse anyone for president.

Turks claim a complete victory over an Italian force in a battle fought on December 22.

The United States has been asked to join an international council in an exploration of the sea.

The Standard Oil company has announced an advance of fifteen points in all grades of refined oil.

Although troops have been ordered home, the United States will keep a close watch on the Mexican border.

Capt. John Cussons is dead at his home, Glen Allen, in Henrico county, Virginia, where he had a house of 100 rooms.

Ecuador is drifting toward a three-cornered revolution as a result of the sudden death of President Estrada, December 22.

Advices from Guaymas, Mex., say the home of Senor Jesus V. Forcade was entered and family jewels to the value of \$10,000 taken.

Senator Rayner of Maryland announced that he would make a minority report making ratification of the arbitration treaties unanimous.

James W. McDaniel, who was the first literary adviser of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), was found dead in bed at his home in Hannibal, Mo.

Fire in Count Ludwig Bathany's palace in Budapest destroyed the costly furniture and a collection of pictures. The damage amounted to \$600,000.

The Havemeyer refineries of the American Sugar Refining company in Williamsburg, N. J., have shut down and five thousand men have been thrown out of employment.

When Charles Richards was sentenced to life imprisonment at Belding, Ill., for the murder of his wife he implored the court to make the sentence death instead.

The tariff board's investigation of the leather schedule will actually begin January 16, when tanners throughout the country will be given a hearing as to the method of conducting the inquiry.

More than sixty persons took a New Year's bath in the surf at Coney Island Jan. 1. The water was only 37 degrees above zero and a cold, north-west wind was blowing, but a number of the hardy ones ventured to swim far out.

It is currently reported that President Aroumena intends to waive his candidacy for re-election in Panama in favor of Ricardo Arias.

The seven-acre plot at Coney Island, formerly occupied by the Dreamland amusement park, burned last spring, will be turned into a public park.

The Hamburg-American line has ordered a third 50,000 ton liner for the trans-Atlantic service.

Senator LaFollette said if another than the republican party afforded a better opportunity for reform he would desert his present affiliation.

Admiral Bob Evans died at Washington in two hours after being taken ill.

Gladys Madden, 22 years of age, an actress, was shot and killed in Chicago.

Taft and Roosevelt are still good friends, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

According to a witness the profits of packers on dressed beef products is very modest.

Postmaster General Hitchcock is planning a reorganization of the railway mail service.

Lawrence W. Abbott, editor of the Outlook, says Roosevelt is not a presidential candidate.

Seven hundred imperial troops are reported to have been killed in a battle near Hankow, China.

Senator Bristow of Kansas introduced a bill for a government Panama canal steamship line.

Radical reductions in livestock rate have been ordered by the interstate commerce commission.

The warden of the Atlanta federal prison asserts Banker Morse attempted to bribe him.

Bryan was tentatively launched as a presidential candidate by progressive democrats of Ohio.

The Nebraska protest against the appointment of Judge Hook has arrived at Washington.

France will back up President Taft in any movement he makes looking to international arbitration.

Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska denounced the arbitration treaties with Great Britain and France.

The house passed the senate bill providing that the circuit judges sit on circuit court of appeal.

The equal suffrage association of Colorado is preparing to wage a vigorous campaign in other states.

In a magazine article Theodore Roosevelt says courts are prone to err and are not above criticism.

Pay for actual transportation service is the recommendation of the second assistant postmaster general.

The government tightened its case against the packers insofar as the existence of a beef pool is concerned.

The first dinner of the season to President Taft by cabinet members was given by Secretary of State Knox.

Salt Lake City passed under the commission form of government Jan. 1, when Mayor Samuel C. Park and four commissioners were inducted into office.

House and senate conferees are hopefully divided on the resolution providing for election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Miss Anna Thornton was found dead from starvation in her luxurious home in Bay Side, Long Island. Coroner Amber gave his verdict as death by starvation.

At Pittsfield, Ill., John C. Gingery and Henry Hatfield lost their lives when they overturned a stove and burned to death in the house at Gingery's farm in a fight.

Attorney General Wickersham and Secretary Nagel and Samuel Untermyer of New York have been asked to appear before the house rules committee January 15 and give their views upon the proposed investigations by congress.

Formal calls have been sent out for a conference of the Wisconsin supporters of the democratic presidential candidacy of Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey to be held in Madison about January 18.

At Hot Springs, Ark., one thousand persons escaped with difficulty from the First Presbyterian church of that city when the church was burned.

The congregation had assembled to hold special watch services, when the flames burst forth.

Representative Bartholdt of Missouri introduced a bill to appropriate \$50,000 for erecting a monument overlooking the Panama canal, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the Isthmus of Panama by Balboa, the Spanish explorer.

The house committee on foreign affairs concluded hearings on the Sulzer bill intended to carry into effect the recently promulgated treaty between the United States, Great Britain, Russia and Japan for the protection of fur seals and sea otter in the north Pacific ocean.

The "See American First" propaganda, preached so extensively through the country, at last has reached the federal government. Plans are in contemplation for sending abroad a well-known government official whose name will not be revealed at present to give illustrated lectures in the important cities of Europe on the beauties of America.

Personal.

Provisional President Sun Yat Sen admits the present situation in China is delicate.

There is no hope of an agreement between the senate and house on the direct election of senators.

Fire in Louisville, Ky., caused a loss of \$100,000.

The death of Rear Admiral Evans was a shock to official Washington.

Governor Foss sent a progressive message to the Massachusetts legislature.

Congressman Norris declared the postoffice department was a huge political machine.

Senator La Follette in effect told Chicago people he was in the presidential race to stay.

The testimony of William D. Miles proved a disappointment in the trial of the Chicago packers.

BANKS OF NEBRASKA

THEY ARE REPORTED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION.

NO FAILURE IN FIVE YEARS

Secretary Royle of the Banking Board Makes Report Up Till Early in December.

The abstract of the condition of incorporated commercial and savings banks operating under state charters, at the close of business December 5, 1911, shows there are 569 such banks. One gratifying thing connected with the state banks is the fact there has been but one small failure, that of a bank at Firth, since 1904. The Firth bank was closed in 1907 on account of its principal officer absconding after getting the bank into financial difficulties. It finally paid back to depositors about 96 per cent and there is every reason to believe had the officer remained with the bank and wound up its affairs in the ordinary way not even that small amount would have been lost to depositors.

Another gratifying condition which Mr. Royle finds is that a number of the soundest banks in the state at present at one time several years ago under less stringent supervision and regulations were on the verge of insolvency. Taken all in all the banking department is highly pleased with the showing made by the December statement.

The report shows a decrease of deposits since the report of August 31, 1911, of \$1,694,799.56 and an increase of seven in number of banks reporting.

Compared with one year ago it shows an increase of deposits of \$2,209,674.35 and an increase of three in number of banks reporting.

Loans are \$4,000,000 more than at the date of the August report and about \$300,000 less than they were a year ago.

The average reserve is 27 per cent, being 3 per cent more than a year ago and 6 per cent less than the average shown by the August report.

Industrial Conditions.

Deputy Labor Commissioner Louis V. Guye gives out the following statistical information showing the industrial conditions of Lincoln for the month of October, 1911. Number of persons reporting, in skilled crafts, 1,045; number belonging to the labor union, 794; number unorganized, 155; average wages of the organized, 41 1/2 cents per hour; average hours constituting a day's work for the organized, 8; average wages per hour of the unorganized, 33 1/2 cents; average hours constituting a day's work for the unorganized, 9; total number of days employed during the month of October, 22,464; total number of days unemployed, 4,706; total number of days lost by sickness, 329; total number of days lost by accident, 52; total number of days lost through the lack of employment, 4,325; total number killed, 1; thus giving us a loss of approximately 16 per cent through the lack of employment, and 1 per cent for sickness and accident.

School Bonds in Issue.

A case argued in district court here may effect school bonds issued in all districts of the state, the attorney general contending in the case of the bonds sought to be registered that the law is defective in that the legislature, when it amended the law regarding school levy in 1891, neglected to put in the title anything regarding the issuance of bonds.

Checking Out Funds.

January 1 Treasurer George drew checks on all state banks for the total amounts of state funds in their hands as state depositories under the existing law. There was on deposit \$577,364.53 in state depositories. Of this a considerable portion will be paid out in the semi-annual school apportionment in January and new deposits will be made of the remainder under the new guaranty law, which becomes effective January 1. Checking out simply means a change in the security.

Railroad Makes Report.

The annual report of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railway commission shows a slight increase in the net income for 1911 over the year 1910 in the face of an increase in operating expenses. This year the road reports for the first time a division of intrastate and interstate freight and passenger income. Formerly these items were reported merely as freight and passenger income with no assignment of any portion to state or interstate income.

Enlistments in Nebraska.

According to a report filed in the local naval recruiting station, the total number of applicants from Nebraska during 1911 for service in the United States navy was 2,252. Eleven hundred and seventy-five were examined medically at Omaha and 861 were examined at the substations, including those at Lincoln and Hastings. The total number of applicants accepted by the medical examiners was 490. The total number of men enlisted was 459, a comparison with 275 for the year 1910.

NEBRASKA TREASURY.

Cash Balance Somewhat Reduced in 1911.

When State Treasurer George closed his books for the year 1911, he had a cash balance of \$530,776.54 against a balance of \$605,716.25, when he assumed office January 6, 1911. The state's permanent investments are \$9,029,438.89.

The state board has invested money in the permanent fund at present up to the limit, and in fact so closely that the treasurer has been unable to care for registered state warrants as is usually the case at the close of the year. The receipts from settlements with county treasurers, however, are coming in now and the outstanding warrants will all be taken care of and in addition those issued in the course of current business. There are now outstanding \$250,000 of general fund warrants.

Farmers' Institutes.

The agricultural extension department of the University of Nebraska has held 162 days' work at farmers' institutes and short courses in this state, up to January 1, 1912. This amount of work has been given at ninety-four points.

The speakers report that the attendance has been larger and the interest keener than during any previous year. With the exception of one or two weeks the weather has been ideal for the work.

There will be no institutes held during the third week of January, as this is the week of organized agriculture at Lincoln. Beginning with the fourth week in January from three to four institutes will be held each day for the rest of January and all of February. The month of March will be devoted to short courses, both with farmers and with boys and girls.

Asking About Water Rights.

H. C. McNew, who resides near the Colorado state line, called at the office of State Engineer Price for the purpose of getting information as to the ways and means by which to proceed to apply for water rights in the state. Mr. McNew proposes to irrigate 15,000 acres of land near Chapell.

Perkins Retires.

A. B. Allen, recently appointed secretary of the railway commission, has assumed that position, Clark Perkins having decided to retire to his editorial sanctum at Aurora.

Files For Lieutenant Governor.

Herman Diers, a well-known York county merchant, has filed as a democratic candidate for the nomination for lieutenant governor. Mr. Diers is well known in his section of the state.

Manuel Reports on School.

Superintendent Manuel of the Boys' Industrial school at Kearney reports that the school has raised during the last year 4,000 bushels of corn, \$2,661 worth of sugar beets, 6,000 bushels of potatoes. He also reports that while on account of weather conditions that section of the state produced little in the way of garden truck, the school raised a large amount, which was consumed by the school, by resorting to irrigation, the water being pumped at an expense of \$450, which was small in comparison with the additional amount produced. He also announces the school has adopted the plan of permitting inmates who make good records to have vacations to visit their homes, the vacations being from one to two weeks.

May Organize Association.

Owners of stallions and jacks in the state are to meet in this city January 10 for the purpose of going over provisions of the registration law enacted by the last session of the legislature. According to Secretary Nelson of the registration board, an effort will be made to organize an association at that time.

Present to the Governor.

Governor Aldrich has been presented with a fine specimen of the toy-maker's art—a well shaped, handsome elephant, the gift of State Treasurer George.

Smiths Are in Evidence.

A careful computer of local vital statistics has figured it out that there are 328 Smiths in this city and suburbs, exclusive of the family members who are not listed in the records obtained. Using the multiple of two and a fourth for family averages, the total number of Smiths is given as 760, the Andersons, 385, and the Browns a close fourth with 364.

Guardsmen Are Criticized.

Nebraska national guardsmen are scored by regular army inspectors for failure to care for the guns entrusted to them by the government. According to these inspectors from the regular army who attended the last state encampment of the Nebraska national guard, the members of the two regiments do not know how to care for rifles.

Not Complying With Order.

Judge W. D. McHugh of Omaha called on the state railway commission to protest against compliance by the Missouri Pacific with an order by the state officials, compelling that company to report from time to time the sale of \$30,000,000 worth of securities and the disposition of the proceeds. This was one of the primal requirements of the order issued by the commission last June in which the Missouri Pacific was authorized to issue \$10,000,000 of 5 per cent bonds and \$20,000,000 of 5 per cent notes.

MADE A CONFESSION

REV. RICHESON SAYS THAT HE KILLED MISS LINNELL.

IS MOST DEEPLY PENTENT

What the Final Outcome Will Be Now Depends Upon Action of Governor Foss.

Boston, Mass.—The Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson confessed his guilt of the murder of his former sweetheart, Miss Linnell of Hyannis, in a document presented by his counsel. His confession declares that the accused is guilty "of the offense of which he is indicted," which is murder in the first degree.

Whether Richeson will pay the extreme penalty, which under Massachusetts law is death in the electric chair, no court official cared to predict today.

The confession was as follows: John L. Lee, esq. Wm. A. Morse, esq. Philip R. Dunbar, esq.

Gentlemen: Deeply penitent for my sin, and earnestly desiring as far as in my power lies to make atonement, I hereby confess that I am guilty of the offense of which I stand indicted.

I am moved to this course by no inducement of safe-benefit or leniency. Heinous as is my crime, God has not wholly abandoned me, and my conscience and manhood, however depraved and blighted, will not admit of my still further wronging her by a public trial whose pure young life I have destroyed. Under the lashings of remorse I have suffered and am suffering the tortures of the damned.

In this I find a measure of comfort. In my mental anguish I recognize that there is still, by the mercy of the Master, some remnant of the divine spark of goodness lingering with me. I could wish to live only because within some prison's walls I might, in some small measure, redeem my sinful past, help some other despairing soul, at least, find favor with my God.

You are instructed to deliver this to the district attorney or to the judge of the court. Sincerely yours, CLARENCE V. T. RICHESON.

The indictment against Richeson charged that he "feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought" gave Miss Linnell cyanide of potassium with deadly intent, and that because of her death he is guilty of murder in the first degree.

District Attorney Pelletier declared, after the confession had been made public, that the trial set for January 15 would surely be called and that he would accept no compromise in the way of a plea for a lesser crime.

It was pointed out that if the district attorney maintained this attitude, only an insanity commission or commutation by the executive council and the governor could save Richeson from the electric chair. It lies, however, with the court and the district attorney to accept a minor plea, such modification usually coming through some weak link in the government's case.

To Reform the Currency. Washington.—The monetary commission's long awaited report, detailing a plan to reform the currency system will be laid before congress Monday. It proposes a perfection of Chairman Aldrich's original plan for a national reserve association, which is to be a co-operative union of all the banks—in effect an evolution of all the clearing house idea extended to include a central organization.

Richeson's Fate. Boston.—Speculation was rife Sunday as to what ultimately will be the fate of Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, who in a written statement confessed to the murder of his former sweetheart, Miss Linnell. From a source close to Governor Foss the statement came Sunday that the attitude of the executive probably would be in favor of a commutation of sentence of death in the electric chair to one of life imprisonment if the law's fullest penalty is imposed by the court.

Public Dance Houses Assessed. Des Moines, Ia.—A yearly license of \$100 and a monthly tax sufficient to defray the cost of placing two peace officers will be assessed against public dance halls in this city.

Eulogies Spoken for Senator. Washington.—The late Senator Stephen B. Elkins, as soldier, statesman, lawyer, friend and man, was eulogized in the house of representatives Saturday.

Carnegie Will Be on Hand. Washington.—Andrew Carnegie has been asked by the house steel trust investigating committee to appear before it and replied to Chairman Stanley that he would be present.

Former Bankers Arraigned. Juneau, Alaska.—Clem H. Summers, former president, and Stuart G. Holt, former cashier of the First National bank of Juneau, Alaska, were arraigned in federal court upon indictments returned by the grand jury charging fraudulent banking.

Many Killed in Collapse. Seville, Spain.—A large number of children, together with their teachers, were killed and maimed by the collapse of the building of a private school here on Thursday.

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF.

News Notes of Interest from Various Sections.

Campbell had a small fire loss a few days ago.

Lincoln is taking preliminary steps for a commission form of government.

The Illinois Central will build a new freight station in Omaha in 1912.

Andy Clark, aged 70 years, hanged himself in his haymow at Clay Center. He was a veteran of the civil war.

Henry Scheele, late representative from Seward county in the last two legislatures, has filed for state senator from Seward county.

Governor Aldrich has issued a requisition for the return of George Morrow from St. Joseph, Mo., to Omaha, passed a forged check on M. W. Walters.

Colonel Henry C. Richmond of Omaha, chief clerk of the house at the last session of the state legislature, has filed as a candidate for the democratic nomination for state auditor.

The authorities of Burt county, the county attorney and Coroner M. J. Gilkerson decided that no inquest was necessary in the case of the death of Ed Baldwin, who was found dead at his home.

R. D. Pinnell, aged seventy years, and one of the early settlers of Custer county, was compelled recently to undergo an operation in order to save his life. His right leg was amputated just above the knee.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Prison association was held at Lincoln. It was decided to enlarge the scope of the work during the coming year and that it would be necessary to raise \$3,000 for this purpose.

The second power plant of Seward county will be built at Staplehurst by the Jacobs Electrical company, a home concern. A dam will be built on the Blue river 60 feet long and 8 feet high with a wing on each side.

New Year's day Henry Elkabary and wife of Plattsmouth celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. About forty of their relatives were present to make merry over the event and a fine dinner was served.

In the closing hours of the old year Madison received a Christmas present from Andrew Carnegie in the form of a positive assurance that a donation of \$6,000 will be given for the erection of a Carnegie library building.

The monthly report of the state treasurer shows \$530,776 on hand in all funds against \$489,550 one month ago. This balance will be greatly reduced by the payment during the month of the semi-annual school apportionment.

"Billy" Widener, a state university student, must pay \$15 damages to S. P. Warford because a stray dog which followed Widener home when he was out hunting bit the aforesaid Warford when he attempted to enter a barn where the dog had taken up quarters.

Eight new steel bridges were installed in Dodge county during 1911. This is in accordance with the policy of the county board to replace wooden structures with steel as rapidly as the old ones fall into disrepair. The total span of these bridges is 670 feet.

Fremont national banks declared their semi-annual dividends. The First National declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent. The Farmers & Merchants National declared semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent. The Commercial National declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent and added \$10,000 to its surplus.

Earl Shock of Arapahoe and Miss Rachael Given of Western, W. Va., were married in the vestibule of a Burlington westbound train from Lincoln, and departed on the same train for their new home at Arapahoe. The two young people were youthful sweethearts in West Virginia, where both resided until about a year ago.

The city of Chadron, through Allen G. Fisher, is asking the Board of Irrigation for permission to take an additional amount of water from the creek from which the city now obtains its water supply. The city built its water works without making any filing on a water right and no objection has been or could be made by those who filed subsequently to the works already existing, but they do object to the extension of the works, which the growth of the city has rendered necessary.

C. C. Wells, an extensive feeder and farmer living near Harbine in Jefferson county, has returned from a trip to the live stock markets at South St. Joseph. Mr. Wells had two car loads of short-fed calves on the market, which sold at \$6 per 100. These cattle were fed only fifty-seven days, and made a good gain, being corn and alfalfa products. According to Mr. Wells, there has been very little sickness among the hogs in the vicinity of Harbine, and disease losses have been nominal. It is now thought there will be no further trouble from the disease in this vicinity.

In spite of the cry of the scarcity of money and unpaid bills at this time the records at the county treasurer's office show that the taxes of Adams county property owners, both personal and real, are paid up in advance of what they were on the corresponding date a year ago.

Samuel Patterson of Arapahoe filed a claim of \$6,000 with State Auditor Barton, claiming that amount for salary as secretary of the state banking board during the time that the bank guaranty law was suspended from operation and was held up in the courts as to its validity.