

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS.

AT Falls City a little daughter of George Pledge was burned to death while playing near the fire.

EX-CONGRESSMAN BRYAN has sent a letter to Secretary John G. Carlisle, challenging him to a joint debate on the financial question.

It is alleged that George Taylor, the condemned Meeks family murderer who recently escaped from jail at Carrollton, Mo., was seen and recognized near Shelton the other day.

FRANK T. WALTON, a money loaner, threw himself in front of an engine at Lincoln the other day and was ground to pieces. He was driven to desperation through domestic trouble.

F. M. WOLCOTT, one of the oldest and most prominent residents of Weeping Water, was found dead in the Weeping Water river at that place recently, where it was thought he had accidentally fallen.

GEORGE and William Brown and Albert Palmer, fish pirates, were captured by deputy sheriffs while seining at Lake Quinnebaugh, near Tekamah. It is alleged the three men are a hard lot and have ruined several lakes in the vicinity of Omaha.

LEWIS C. BRATTON, a prominent board of trade man of West Superior, was found dead in the street one night recently with a bullet hole through his head and a revolver by his side. People differ as to whether it was a case of murder or suicide.

A FEW days ago a man giving his name as G. W. Spicer arrived at Shelton with a woman whom he called his wife. Later John Spicer, of Leon, Ia., arrived and caused the arrest of the couple, claiming they were his wife and brother and that they had run away together.

THE latest report to the state banking board of the condition of the 441 state and private banks in Nebraska shows loans and discounts of \$17,939,152.01 and cash resources of \$1,975,506.87. The capital stock paid in is \$8,996,125.00, undivided profits \$1,087,853.92 and general deposits \$13,796,059.77.

LINCOLN grain firms and elevator owners have had men over the state investigating the condition of wheat. Their reports show that no chinch bugs were found and the condition of grain fields were said to be superior to any year for a decade. Rumors that chinch bugs had appeared in some western counties were declared false.

A BURLINGTON fast freight ran into a washout near Liberty the other day, the engine and three cars leaving the track. Engineer Brannan was crushed between the engine and tender and instantly killed. Conductor Wilcox was badly mangled, one leg being torn from his body and the other badly crushed and he died a few moments later.

A BOLD daylight robbery occurred at Omaha at the residence of Edward Meadmitt. Jewels and diamonds worth \$300 were taken, and occupants of the house were not disturbed by the thieves, who ransacked every room on the upper floor. The robbers got away with their booty without being seen by members of the family or neighbors residing in adjacent houses.

AT Omaha the other day Judge Shiras, of the federal court, decided the Fort Robinson canteen case in which officials of the fort were arrested for selling liquor without a state license. The judge decided that the state could not enforce its liquor laws upon a military reservation, and that the army officers could maintain the liquor exchange without interference by state authorities.

Gov. HOLCOMB has announced his findings in the Norfolk asylum investigation. He attributes the charges, in the main, to partisan bias, and declines to ask for the resignation of Dr. Mackay, superintendent of the institution. The two main charges against Dr. Mackay, were cruelty to patients and immoral conduct and the governor says that neither were at all supported by the evidence.

DAWES COUNTY was the scene of a sad tragedy a few days ago. Glenn Santee and W. E. Welsh, neighbors living near Ida, quarreled over a trivial matter and in the fight that followed Santee was killed. Welsh then hitched up his team and taking his wife and two children drove to Chadron and gave himself up. Welsh claims self-defense. Mrs. Welsh was the only witness to the tragedy.

THE annual meeting of the State League of Local Loan & Building associations was held at Lincoln last week. C. J. Phelps, of Schuyler, was elected president; G. M. Nattinger, A. Treadwell and A. P. Tukey vice president, and Elmer E. Bryson, of Omaha, secretary and treasurer. Those present took strong grounds against the annual drain of the state of millions of dollars to foreign life insurance and other eastern financial institutions.

A FINE audience greeted the young orators in the state oratorical contest at Ashland the other night. Warren Sisson, of Fremont, won first place with the selection, "The Boy Orator;" Elisha Jackson, of York, was second with the subject, "The Power of Free Ideas." Miss Cora Neff, of Grand Island, won the dramatic with the selection, "Swan and Gazella," and Fred Winship, of South Omaha, got second place with the "Chariot Race." Miss Martha Reasoner, of Ashland, won first in the humorous class and W. M. Dixon, of Aurora, second. Miss Reasoner received the highest markings over all the contestants.

AMERICA APPEALED TO.

Appalling Account of Famine, Sickness, Distress and Misery in Asia Minor.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 6.—A letter from a friend at Zeitoun, Asia Minor, bearing date of March 23, has been received by a Kansas City woman, giving the following deplorable account of affairs in that country:

There must be about 3,000 people here very ill with either typhus or dysentery. Food is now plentiful for those who have money, but a good many people are living mainly upon the boiled leaves of the wild arum. I have read of famine, but never before realized its horrors. The ashy, shrunken faces and tottering steps of half the people on the streets, not to speak of the specters that lie groaning in almost every stable and den of the city bear terrible witness to the ordeal through which they have passed. The weather is still very cold, with a raw wind that blows half a gale. The city is still horribly filthy, although the carcasses of men and animals that lay in the streets upon the arrival of the consuls have been removed and the bodies buried in the stables have been exhumed and burned. The fever patients are from three to ten in every house, and even a larger number in some of the largest houses.

Letters from Harpoot report that 60,000 people from 288 villages are receiving aid and that famine is inevitable, since these people are in danger of their lives when they undertake to till the soil. There are 13,000 destitute people now being fed in Marsh.

The time has come for the earnest friends of humanity to make a permanent solution of the Armenia problem. Daily these poor people plead with our missionaries: Can't America do anything to rescue us—America, the world's greatest champion of freedom? The European powers have abandoned us to our misery. Won't America save us now?

Make them understand our dying condition so that they may hasten to our deliverance. We are so grateful to them for saving so many of us from starvation, but they cannot always feed us. We want safety for our lives and property, so that we can work and take care of ourselves.

BILLS FOR STATUES.

Those Now Before Congress Contain Appropriations for Over \$1,480,000.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Should all the bills which are now pending before congress providing for the erection in this city of monuments and statues to great men become laws, the national capital will be given a sudden and tremendous accession of art that would easily give it the name of the monumental city of the country, and perhaps of the world. There are no fewer than 13 such propositions, and the bills make appropriations aggregating \$1,480,000. The monuments or memorials proposed are in honor of Washington, Lincoln, Grant, the private soldier of the rebellion, the nurses of the late war, John Paul Jones, Edwin M. Stanton, Hahnemann, John Amos Comenius, Robert Dale Owen, Zachary Taylor, Gen. Spinner, Victor Hugo, Salmon P. Chase, and Generals Meade, Slocum, Sedgwick and Burnside.

MONARCHS IN DANGER.

Plots Against King Humbert and the Sultan of Turkey.

LONDON, May 6.—Two crowned heads in Europe are said to be in peril as a result of the assassination of the Persian shah. It is hoped here, however, that the idea of regicide will not become deeply rooted. Humbert, of Italy, is reported to be one of the menaced monarchs; the other is the sultan of Turkey, whose life, however, is virtually always in peril. No surprise would be created were poison or the dagger to remove Abdul Hamid—in fact one or the other is the route over the Styx generally assigned to Mohammedan rulers.

SHORT MANY THOUSANDS.

F. J. Kieckhefer, ex-Disbursing Officer in the State Department, Under a Cloud.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—It is reported on what is believed to be good authority that the expert accountant employed by the secretary of state has found a shortage of \$127,000 in the trust funds account of F. J. Kieckhefer, until recently the disbursing officer of the state department. This amount, together with the \$12,000 shortage said to be found by the auditing officers of the treasury in Mr. Kieckhefer's general account, brings the total up to \$139,000. What action the government will take in the matter has not been made known.

African Methodists in Conference.

WILMINGTON, N. C., May 6.—The general conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church convened here yesterday morning with 1,000 delegates, alternates and visitors present, every state except Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont being represented. Bishop Turner called the body to order and conducted the services. In the afternoon Rev. L. H. Reynolds, of Galveston, was chosen secretary with seven assistants. Eight bishops are present. The conference will continue about three weeks.

To Work for Reciprocity.

PHILADELPHIA, May 6.—A tour of more than a score of leading business men has been arranged with the object of carrying out the features of James G. Blaine's reciprocity ideas. They will spend several months in South America to promote trade with the various nations there. This business project has been arranged for by the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States, whose headquarters are here. Every large city in the country will be represented.

Two School Children Killed.

WHEELING, W. Va., May 6.—News from points in this state give reports of a severe electrical storm which passed over central West Virginia yesterday. Near Fairmont, lightning struck a schoolhouse. Miss Hattie Yount was instantly killed. Newton Jamison was fatally injured and a number of other pupils more or less badly burned. All the occupants of the building were terribly shocked.

BIG FLOUR TRUST.

The Greatest Millers' Combine in the Country's History Said to Be Perfected.

CHICAGO, May 7.—A special from Minneapolis to the Times-Herald says: R. D. Hubbard, the executive front of the lined oil trust, has succeeded, with the aid of the Pillsburys, in perfecting the organization of the greatest millers' combine ever put together in this country. The purpose is to advance the price of flour, to secure satisfactory rail and water transportation rates and to compel every spring wheat grinder in the country to become a part of the pool. There are 500 spring wheat millers in the United States. More than 100 have joined the new pool, which had its inception last fall, reached a head last February and is now a bona fide organization. The pool has been incorporated. Its name is the North American Milling Co. It is commonly known here, in St. Paul, Duluth and southern Minnesota as the American Milling Co. It is the successor of the southern Millers' association. Representatives of the trust here claim to represent 110 mills, having a daily capacity of 105,000 barrels. The whole aim of the organization is to protect the flouring interests of Minneapolis, now threatened by competition.

POLYGAMOUS INDIANS.

Disturbed at Having to Give Up Surplus Wives.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Ok., May 7.—The Oklahoma courts have struck a puzzler in the Indian custom relating to plural marriages. The law of Oklahoma is very severe on polygamists, and Indians on reservations are not exempt from its operation. The Kiekapoo bucks have an average of five squaws each. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes are nearly all polygamists, as are Kiowas, Apaches, Comanches and Wichitas. It is stated that the courts have decided to take action in the matter at once, unless polygamous practices cease. Capt. Woodson, of Anadarko agency, has issued orders commanding Indians of his agency, having several wives, to at once decide on the wife wanted and give up the others. No little uneasiness has resulted in all the polygamous tribe, as it is claimed by the Indians that one squaw cannot raise enough corn to support an ex-warrior in becoming dignity.

DROUGHT AND WAR.

Inhabitants of Madrid Invoke Divine Favor for the Speedy Termination of Each.

MADRID, May 7.—The great religious procession through the streets of Madrid to invoke divine favor for the termination of the drought and the speedy end of the Cuban war terminated late last night. It was a striking ceremony, remarkable signs of penitence being everywhere visible. There were at least 150,000 persons on the road of the procession. The papal nuncio and four cabinet ministers presided over the arrangements, while a large number of generals and other officers took part in the procession. Eight generals in gala uniform carried a silver bier, on which was the body of Saint Isidor, the patron saint of Madrid. Copious showers of rain have since fallen in Madrid and throughout the adjoining provinces, which is ascribed by the people to the beneficence of St. Isidor, to whom the populace appealed.

ILLINOIS TREASURY BANKRUPT.

No Money Available and Warrants Cannot Be Paid Before July.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 7.—The state treasury is bankrupt, no money is available for paying the expenses of the state's great institutions, and for the second time since the session of the legislature of 1893 the Illinois Central railroad has been appealed to to assist the commonwealth. Yesterday the treasury stopped payment on the warrants of the auditor and all state employees will be compelled to wait until July before they can get their money. The revenue fund is exhausted and there will be no money available until that time.

WORK FOR HUMANE SOCIETY.

A New York Millionaire Hires a Blind Man to Endure Torture.

NEW YORK, May 7.—John Martin, a blind man, is being paid by Charles Rous to submit to being pricked by needles and to endure other tortures that may result in a cure. Martin stood it when there were 10,000 wounds in his flesh but fainted when croton oil was rubbed on. He reports to Rous each day, and if his sight is restored the other will take a similar treatment. Rous' offer of \$5,000,000 to any oculist who will cure him or Martin is outstanding still.

EMPLOYED ASSASSINS.

Arkansas Man Paid Two Brothers \$5,000 to Murder a Wealthy Planter.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 7.—Officers arrived here from Canton, Ga., having in custody Floyd Willis, a young white man who, about three weeks ago, assassinated Vance Perkins, a wealthy planter of Craighead county, Ark. Willis and his brother relate that they were promised \$5,000 for the job by Elijah Bennett, a neighbor of Perkins.

Increase of Pensions for Veterans.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—The house committee on pensions ordered a favorable report on the bill introduced by Representative Stallings to increase the pensions of veterans of the Mexican and Indian wars and their widows from \$8 to \$12 a month.

WISCONSIN GOT FIRST.

Result of the Interstate Oratorical Contest at Warrensburg.

WARRENSBURG, Mo., May 9.—The Interstate League of State Normal Schools, composed of the states of Kansas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri, held its first annual oratorical contest at the normal chapel in this city yesterday evening. Harold D. Hughes, of Wisconsin, was awarded first honors and a \$50 check. I. J. Bradford, of Kansas, came in for second place and received a check for \$30; Illinois was third, Iowa fourth and Missouri last.

The decision did not please the audience and a number of hisses were heard. At the announcement of the winner there was faint applause, which gradually diminished in volume as the man who announced the decision proceeded down the list, and when the last man was named the drop of a pin could be heard. Many prominent people in the audience expressed the opinion that Illinois and Kansas should have received first and second honors, respectively. The next contest will be held at Emporia, Kan. The judges were: On thought and composition, Rev. J. A. Hinsdale, Ann Arbor, Mich.; E. C. Sabin, Fox Lake, Wis.; Isaac Loos, Iowa City, Ia.; Prof. Gilbert, St. Paul, Minn.; Prof. J. H. Freeman, Aurora, Ill. On delivery, Prof. H. C. Fellows, of Topeka, Kan.; Prof. E. D. Thorp, Kansas City Mo.; Dr. Joseph Robbins, Quincy, Ill.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

A Confidence Prevailing in Better Things to Come—Consumption Exceeding Buying.

NEW YORK, May 9.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: That the exports of \$5,893,000 gold this week have produced no monetary disturbance is at once proof of the soundness of financial conditions, and of the prevailing confidence in better things to come. Much of the hesitation at present is due to the temporarily reduced demand in some industries, and in iron and steel the power of the new combinations is being generally tested by refusal of orders, so that production exceeds consumption, but consumption exceeds new buying.

For textile manufacturers the situation is trying. Cotton mills have a fairly active demand, though not equal to their normal output, and for many months have been accumulating goods hoping for better things so that some are now stopping, although the demand for some grades, with higher prices for cotton, has helped to a small advance in prices. Print cloths are an eighth higher, but some other grades have declined, so that the average of all quotations is slightly lower. Men's woolsens show no improvement, but there is more active business in flannels and the demand for fancy dress goods is encouraging, though for plain goods it is but moderate.

Traders in wheat have lifted prices a little, and yet nobody questions the correctness of western reports indicating more than an ordinary yield of winter wheat and unusual progress in the planting of spring. With the narrow stock usual at this season, a speculation for advance always has many opportunities, but western receipts are still 41 per cent. larger than last year. Corn is also a shade lower, but without definite reason. Failures for the week have been 238 in the United States, against 237 last year, and 24 in Canada, against 31 last year.

DIAZ TALKS TO BAPTISTS.

The Missionary Predicts the Ultimate Triumph of the Cuban Cause.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 9.—At the meeting of the Southern Baptist association yesterday, Rev. A. J. Diaz, the Cuban missionary, recently under arrest at Havana, delivered an address in which he predicted the ultimate freedom of Cuba. He was frequently applauded. He thanked Americans for the interest they took in him while he was in jail and expressed the opinion that but for them he would never have been liberated. The election of officers resulted in the selection of President Haralson; vice presidents, Joshua Levering, of Maryland, F. H. Kerfoot, of Kentucky, S. H. Ford, of Missouri and ex-Gov. Northen, of Georgia.

TILLMAN WILL CONTROL.

His Friends in South Carolina Have Carried the Democratic Primaries.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Democratic county conventions have been held in every county in South Carolina to elect delegates to the state convention, which meets on the 18th of this month. The free silver men carried every county but three, and in one of these the delegation was divided. The bolting idea predominated in all but a few of the counties. While no open instructions in favor of a bolt were given the county delegates, resolutions against bolting were tabled wherever introduced. Senator Tillman's course was approved in nearly all of the conventions. Tillman and his friends will have complete control of the state convention.

Wheat in the Southwest.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 9.—Robert Atkinson, Jr., of Ottawa, Kan., secretary of the Kansas Millers' Mutual Insurance Co., was in the city yesterday and gave a most encouraging report of the condition of the wheat crop in the southwest. The splendid opportunities he has for observation and his long experience in the wheat and milling business make his statements worth the more in the face of the discouraging reports sent out within the last week.

Fatal Storm in South Dakota.

CLARK, S. D., May 9.—A severe storm passed over here Thursday night. J. H. Lindland's house, 12 miles south, was taken up by the wind and carried a distance of 50 feet and destroyed. There were ten persons in the house, and Mrs. Lindland is reported killed, while other members of the family are more or less injured. Lightning struck in five places here and upwards of two inches of rain fell in three hours.

HOLMES HANGED.

The Murderer Pays the Penalty for the Crime of Murder.

PHILADELPHIA, May 8.—Murderer Howard W. Mudgett, alias H. H. Holmes, was hanged yesterday in the county prison for the killing of Benjamin F. Pictzel. The drop fell at 10:19 o'clock and 20 minutes later he was pronounced dead by the prison officials, Dr. Sharp and Dr. Butcher. The execution was in every way entirely devoid of any sensational features. To the last he was self possessed and cool, even to the extent of giving a word of advice to Assistant Superintendent Richardson, as the latter was arranging the final details. He died as he had lived, unconcerned and thoughtless, apparently, of the future. Even with the recollection still vividly before him of the recent confession in which he admitted the killing of a score of persons of both sexes in all parts of the country, he refuted everything, and almost his last words were a point blank denial of any crimes committed except the deaths of two women at his hands by malpractice. Of the murder of several members of the Pictzel family he denied all complicity, particularly of the father, for whose death he stated he was suffering the penalty. Then with the prayer of the spiritual attendants sounding in his ears and with a few low spoken words to those about, the trap swung and beyond a few incidental post mortem details, the execution, which culminated in one of the worst criminal stories known to criminology, was ended.

VICTORY FOR IOWA.

Result of the Interstate Oratorical Contest at Topeka—Illinois Second.

TOPEKA, Kan., May 8.—A. M. Cloud, representing Lenox college, Hopkinton, Ia., won the interstate oratorical contest last night with an oration entitled "Policy of Metternich." Fred Elliott, of Monmouth college, Monmouth, Ill., took second place. Kansas' representative took third place, Indiana's fourth, Minnesota's fifth, Ohio's sixth, Missouri's seventh, Colorado's eighth, Nebraska's ninth. The result was not announced until long after midnight. Besides its orator each state sent a delegation numbering from three to 40. A brilliant but disappointingly small audience faced the contestants and greeted each oration with generous applause. It was a Kansas crowd, with sympathies with the Kansas orator, but the young men who came from abroad have no reason to complain of coldness or lack of appreciation. The judges on delivery were Rev. Myron W. Reed, of Denver; William Warner, of Kansas City, and Lafayette Young, of Des Moines. The judges on thought and composition were President James B. Angell, of the university of Michigan; Russell H. Conwell, of Philadelphia, and John Temple Graves, of Atlanta. Only the judges on delivery were present. The contest was followed by a banquet, and what with the music, toast responding and feasting, lasted until an early hour this morning.

A PARTIAL VICTORY.

Methodist General Conference Adopts the Compromise Report in Regard to the Women.

CLEVELAND, O., May 8.—By a vote of 425 to 96, the Methodist general conference decided the four women delegates might retain their seats. This does not mean that the women have won a complete victory. The decision was reached simply as the result of a compromise, and with the understanding that it should not prejudice the claims of women in the future or establish a precedent for future conferences to follow. But by the same vote by which the women were given seats the conference also decided to submit to the annual conference a proposed amendment to the constitution providing that hereafter all general conference delegates shall be over 25 years of age and that they shall have been members of the Methodist church for at least five years prior to their election. The amendment is construed to mean that women, as well as men, will be eligible as lay delegates, the word "layman" not being used.

HOOSIERS WANT M'KINLEY.

Indiana Republican Delegates Strongly Pledged for the Ohio Man.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., May 8.—The Indiana republican convention yesterday instructed its delegates for McKinley with scarcely a show of opposition, and the long impending battle between the McKinley and alleged Harrison forces ended in commonplace peace. The platform embodying the instructions was adopted by a viva voce vote and, without division, carried, being received without a challenge. Gen. Harrison did not make his eagerly expected speech to the delegates, and did not visit the convention at all. The platform declares for sound money, favors the use of both gold and silver, at a parity, urges bimetalism on an international basis, and condemns the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of sixteen to one.

McKinley Will Speak in Topeka.

TOPEKA, Kan., May 8.—Maj. Tom Anderson, a delegate-at-large from Kansas to the national republican convention, who is now visiting Maj. McKinley at Canton, O., wires that McKinley has given positive assurance that he will attend the soldiers' state reunion at Topeka this fall and deliver an address.