

THE BEST NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

Thinks It Would Help.

Labor Commissioner C. E. Watson is optimistic concerning the prospects for a state convention of real estate dealers. "The splendid enthusiasm manifested by the real estate agents in favor of a state convention," he says, "cannot but be extremely gratifying to all who have the best interests of Nebraska at heart." On Monday another letter will be addressed to the real estate men, asking for their views in regard to the date and place of the convention, the matter of program and the selection of a committee to take charge of the convention and attend to other details in the work. Some have suggested that two conventions be held, one for the south Platte and the other for the north Platte section of the state; but Mr. Watson is of the opinion that a solid state convention would accomplish more good, as important questions involving the state rather than sectional issues should be discussed. "For example," he thinks, "the Nebraska delegation at Washington and the president should be given encouragement, and their attitude on the problem of irrigation in the west should be indorsed by resolution of whose meaning there could be no doubt."

Sees Chance for Young Men.

Senator Dietrich has been making a practical study of the civil service system since he went to Washington. He is fully convinced he sees in it a multitude of possibilities for the young men of Nebraska which heretofore have not been called to their attention with proper emphasis. It is his opinion that if the schools and colleges throughout the state would examine carefully the advantages offered by this great politico-civic organization they would certainly be induced to change their existing curricula and broaden their present course of study to such an extent and in such a way that the young men graduated therefrom would be easily able to pass the required civil service examinations for nearly all branches, and in a proportionately large number of cases secure desirable positions under the government.

Flag Day in Nebraska.

Flag day in commemoration of the Louisiana purchase 98 years ago was very generally observed in Lincoln and throughout the state. Exercises were held in some of the public schools, the ceremonies marking a fitting closing of the school week prior to the pupils' holiday recess. There was a general display of the nation's flag on state and school buildings. Special maps were prepared in the schools, showing the territory embraced in the great transfer. On the maps the great cities which have sprung up in the new territory were indicated, showing that some of the least important are now worth much more than the amount of the original price of the entire territory.

"Shortchanged" His Father.

Sam Polsky, of Lincoln, gave his young son what he thought was a \$5 bill to have changed. The young man brought back the \$5 all right and then left town. Upon counting the money remaining in his purse the father found that he had given his son a \$100 bill. The senior Polsky had a warrant issued for the young man and he was arrested at Omaha.

Thurston Much Interested.

Ex-Senator John M. Thurston, member of the national world's fair commission, is anxious that Nebraska be properly represented at the 1903 exposition. He thinks \$100,000 should be raised by private subscription on condition that the legislature of 1903 shall reimburse the subscribers.

Couldn't Lecture for Money.

Carrie Nation, the Kansas "saloon-smasher," was billed to deliver a pay lecture in Lincoln Sunday, but Mayor Winnett forbade it under a city ordinance prohibiting entertainments for money on Sunday.

Savage Favors Union Labor.

Gov. Savage has gone on record to the effect that he desires to appoint a union labor man on the board of fire and police commissioners for the city of Omaha.

Workmen Buy a Temple.

The financial committee of the Nebraska grand lodge, A. O. U. W., has paid \$11,000 for a building at Grand Island which will be permanent state headquarters.

Easy Victory for Kersey.

Kersey Holmes, nominated by the president for receiver of the Kearney land office, is a cousin of Senator Hanna and won out over a half dozen candidates.

Cannon Knows a Good Thing.

Congressman Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois, has purchased 10,000 acres of improved land in Saunders and Cass counties, paying \$50 and \$55 an acre.

Made It Two Years More.

Ed Morgal, convicted at Omaha of criminally assaulting little Mary Marks, was sentenced by Judge Baker to 17 years at hard labor in the state penitentiary. Morgal feigned insanity when arraigned, as he has done for several weeks past in the county jail, but the judge refused to allow a piece of acting, and poor acting at that, to soften his feelings. Before passing sentence Judge Baker said that the prisoner had been watched by an insanity expert for the past three weeks and there was no doubt that he was merely shamming. Judge Baker dwelt upon the heinousness of the crime and characterized it as being inferior to murder only. He said that the case was one of the most revolting that had ever come under his notice. "I had determined to give you 15 years, Morgal," said his honor, "but the more I think of your crime the more I am convinced of the inadequateness of the punishment provided by law. Twenty years is the limit and I am not sure that it ought not to be for life. Your feigning of insanity has not helped you and I will change the sentence from 15 to 17 years."

Mrs. Bowser Sees Governor.

Mrs. Mary Bowser, of Omaha, who was owner of the sod house at the Transmississippi exposition and later presided over a similar establishment at the Buffalo exposition, is making an effort to secure recognition from the Nebraska commission for the Louisiana Purchase exposition. She called on Gov. Savage and proposed a plan by which she hopes to assist in making the Nebraska exhibit all that is desired by the governor. Consideration will be given her effort, but it is not likely that any contract will be made for a repetition of the sodhouse feature in connection with the state's exhibit.

Democratic Press Association.

The Nebraska Democratic Editorial association was organized at Columbus last week and the first annual meeting will be held at Lincoln in February. C. W. Bowlby, of the Crete Democrat, was elected president; J. H. Johannes, of the Columbus Blene (German), vice president, and James Tanner, of the Fullerton Post, secretary and treasurer.

Fifth Member of Fair Commission.

Gov. Savage named H. S. White, of North Platte, as the fifth member of the commission which will arrange for a state exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase exposition in St. Louis in 1903. As previously announced the other members are: G. W. Wattles and E. E. Bruce, of Omaha; J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska City, and C. H. Rudge, of Lincoln.

Divorce for Ex-Senator Murphy.

A surprise was sprung at Beatrice when Mrs. Clara E. Murphy filed suit for divorce on the grounds of cruelty and non-support. There was no contest and Mrs. Murphy was given \$7,000 alimony. G. A. Murphy, the husband, has served as prosecuting attorney and state senator and was the running mate of M. L. Hayward for governor four years ago.

Cough Loosens a Bone.

Sixteen years ago Henry Sauer, now an inmate of the soldiers' home at Grand Island, swallowed a bone which lodged and rested on his lung, causing him to become an invalid. One morning recently he had an unusually severe coughing spell during which the bone, a piece of spare rib an inch long, was thrown up.

Osborn's Remains Brought Home.

The body of Luther W. Osborn, late consul general at Samoa, was brought home this week for interment at Blair. The masons and G. A. R. veterans had charge of the funeral.

Officers Destroy Liquor.

John B. Cook, of Kenesaw, was arrested for selling liquor without a license and several barrels of liquor found in his place were publicly destroyed by officers.

Starch Works to Resume.

The Argo starch works at Nebraska City will start up January 1 after an idleness of several months. Employment will be given 200 persons.

Speakers for Jackson Banquet.

Mayor Carter H. Harrison, of Chicago and Congressman DeArmond, of Missouri, will speak at the Jackson club banquet in Omaha, January 6.

Price of Water at Lincoln.

The city council of Lincoln fixed the water rate at 15 cents per 1,000 gallons and doing away with the minimum charge of \$6 per year.

Schools at Pickrell Close.

The public schools at Pickrell, acting upon the advice of the board of health, closed on account of small-pox.

Scarlet Fever Closes Schools.

The public schools at Pender closed because several pupils had been exposed to scarlet fever.

THEIRS AN AWFUL FATE.

Ten Men Literally Roasted to Death by Molten in a Blast Furnace Explosion.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 20.—By an explosion of gas in the Soho furnace of Jones & Laughlin, ten men were burned to death and probably 20 others more or less injured. The explosion occurred in one of the big blast furnaces. The men were at work at the top of the furnace over 120 feet from the ground. They were just getting ready to quit work, when the gas which accumulated in the furnace exploded and tons of molten metal, cinders and slag were thrown over the unfortunate men on the top of the structure. When the gas let go, a panic ensued on the small platform about the top. The men made a rush for the elevator but it had gone down and there was no escape. The jump meant death and to remain on the platform was just as certain doom. Their bodies dropped to the roof of the mill 85 feet below, every bone broken and an unrecognizable mass of human flesh.

THIS MIGHT ALLAY STRIFE.

Senator Penrose Would Revive Grade of Vice Admiral and Promote Sampson, Schley and Clark to That Rank.

Washington, Dec. 20.—A bill was introduced in the senate Thursday by Mr. Penrose (Pa.) reviving the grade of vice admiral of the navy and promoting Rear Admirals Sampson and Schley and Capt. Clark to that rank.

Representative Pearre, of Maryland, introduced a similar bill in the house. As Mr. Pearre represents the district from which Rear Admiral Schley comes and has been an active adherent of the admiral, the proposition to unite Sampson, Schley and Clark in advancement to the rank of vice admiral is regarded as a conciliatory step.

NONE OTHERS LIKE THEM.

Gen. Chaffee Says Filipinos Are Pastmasters in Deception and All Are War Traitors.

Washington, Dec. 20.—"History affords no parallel of a whole people thus practically turning war traitors and in the genius of no other people was ever found such masterful powers of secrecy and dissimulation; but it is needless to say that no powerful state was ever erected or ever can be erected on such immoral and unlightened foundations." This statement is made by Gen. Chaffee, military governor of the Philippines, in a review of one of a number of court-martial cases in the islands.

TO PENSION MRS. MCKINLEY.

Senator Hanna Presented a Bill Thursday Providing \$5,000 Annually for the Late President's Widow.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Hanna Thursday introduced a bill granting a pension of \$5,000 a year to Mrs. McKinley, widow of the late president.

It has been reported that the Indiana senators would introduce a bill granting a pension of \$5,000 a year to the widow of ex-President Benjamin Harrison, but much opposition developed on the ground that Mr. Harrison married after he left the white house.

CROSSLAND GOES TO LIBERIA.

Missouri Negro Did Not Get the Recorder-ship of Deeds of the District of Columbia, as He Hoped.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The president Thursday selected Dr. J. R. A. Crossland, of St. Joseph, Mo., to be minister to Liberia, and J. C. Dancy, collector of the port of Wilmington, N. C., to be recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. Both appointees are negroes.

Granite in Oklahoma.

Guthrie, Ok., Dec. 20.—In the Wichita mountains granite of the finest quality has been discovered. From one ledge located near Granite the Rock Island railway will quarry granite for its new passenger station in Chicago. A company will at once open up quarries and crushing works near Granite to employ 200 men.

Crocker Talks Schley for 1904.

French Lick Springs, Ind., Dec. 20.—In a conversation here Richard Crocker expressed a decided opinion that Rear Admiral Schley would make a strong democratic presidential candidate in 1904 and that the probabilities all favor a boom for him in the east, with a strong following both in the south and west.

Don't Use Enough Flour.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 20.—There is every probability that nearly all the Minneapolis mills will be closed before the end of the week. The closing down of the mills results in part from a temporary depression in the demand for flour from abroad.

Roar Heard 100 Miles.

Vladivostok, Russia, Dec. 20.—A terrible volcanic eruption has occurred at Mount Ivtch, Kamchatka. A terrible roaring underground noise that was heard 100 miles preceded the eruption. The lava flowed into the rivers, poisoning thousands of fish.

TURN FIRST DIRT.

Impressive Ceremonies Attend Starting of World's Fair Work.

The Governors of Four Louisiana Purchase States Present—Short Addresses Made at the Site and a Banquet Held in the Evening.

St. Louis, Dec. 21.—The governors of four Louisiana Purchase states—Minnesota, Nebraska, Arkansas and Missouri—several members of congress and world's fair national commissioners and other invited guests, among them Gen. John C. Bates, commanding the department of the Missouri, and Col. John D. G. Oglesby, representing Gov. Yates, of Illinois, were present and participated in the ceremonies attending the breaking of ground yesterday on the site of the world's fair in Forest park. The exercises at the site, where the thermometer registered around zero, consisted of an invocation by Rev. Dr. S. J. Nicolls, addresses by the chairman of the committee on ceremonies, Corwin H. Spencer, and President David R. Francis, and the breaking of ground on the site of the education building by the officials of the exposition company, municipal authorities and invited guests. Three historic shovels were used in the ground-breaking. The first was one of iron and oak, loaned by the Massachusetts state arsenal, Boston, where it had been placed in 1805 as a relic of early American workmanship. An exact reproduction of that shovel, a manufacture of the Louisiana purchase, made of ebony and steel, silver plated, was next put into use. A veritable relic, an old wooden shovel, thought to have been one of the tools employed by the 200 white miners from France and the 500 African slaves from San Domingo, brought over by Francis Renault in 1718 to work in the St. Genevieve (Mo.) mines, was the third used.

Speaking by Gov. Francis, Congressman James A. Tawney, of Minnesota, and Gov. Jefferson Davis, of Arkansas, and music by "Seymour's famous sixty" was the programme at the Coliseum, where several thousand persons were present. A banquet at the Southern hotel in the evening completed the day's programme.

MILK REDUCED TO POWDER.

Swedish Scientist Claims to Have Made a Discovery That Will Be of Interest to Dairy Farming.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The state department has published the following report to Robert Bergh, United States consul at Gothenberg, Sweden: "Dr. M. Enkenberg, of Gothenburg, has made a discovery which will be of importance in dairy farming. He claims to have invented an apparatus by which milk can be brought into the form of powder, like flour in appearance, but possessing all the qualities of milk in concentrated form, moisture excepted. It is said that this milk flour is completely soluble in water, and can be used for all purposes for which common milk is employed."

MISSOURI HOSPITAL BURNED.

Sick Ones at Maryville Were Carried Out at Night with the Thermometer Thirteen Below Zero.

Maryville, Mo., Dec. 21.—St. Joseph's hospital was almost completely destroyed by fire last night and the lives of 25 patients were jeopardized, fatal results being feared in several cases, owing to the shock and the zero weather into which the sick ones were carried for refuge from the flames. The thermometer registered 13 below zero at the time. An overheated furnace was the origin. Estimated loss, \$6,000. Residences were thrown open for the temporary accommodation of the patients.

SECOND FURNACE HORROR.

Five Workmen Dead and a Dozen Others Injured in Another Catastrophe at Pittsburg, Pa.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 21.—The Black Diamond steel works of Park Bros., on Thirteenth street, was the scene Friday morning of an awful accident in which three or four workmen lost their lives and 12 were injured.

From what can be learned the four boilers exploded at one time reducing the mill to a heap of burned and charred timbers and twisted iron. There is not a straight piece of iron or steel left in the entire building.

ROBBED A BANK AT NOON.

Only the Assistant Cashier Was Present When an Arkansas Burglar Walked Off with \$7,000.

Fayetteville, Ark., Dec. 21.—A robber drove up to the bank at Springdale at noon when no one was in except the assistant cashier, whom he compelled to go to the vault and hand him all the cash there, about \$7,000. The robber then coolly walked out and drove away, dropping \$1,000 on the sidewalk before entering the buggy.

THE BEET-SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Messrs. Oxnard's and Cutting's Views on the Subject.

The following editorial appeared in the New York Evening Post of December 12 last, and as every household, in fact, every man, woman and child is interested in sugar, it being one of the most important articles of daily food, our readers will thank us for reproducing this highly-interesting editorial:

The Evening Post bids the heartiest welcome to every American industry that can stand on its own bottom and make its way without leaning on the poor rates. Among these self-supporting industries, we are glad to know, is the production of beet-sugar. At all events, it was such two years ago. We publish elsewhere a letter written in 1899, and signed by Mr. Oxnard and Mr. Cutting, the chiefs of this industry on the eastern side of the Rocky mountains, showing that this was the happy condition of the trade at that time. If parties masquerading as beet-sugar producers are besieging the president and congress at this moment, and pretending that they will be ruined if Cuban sugar is admitted for six months at half the present rates of duty, their false pretenses ought to be exposed.

The letter of Messrs. Oxnard and Cutting was probably written for the purpose of inducing the farmers of the Mississippi valley to go more largely into the cultivation of beets for the sugar factories. This was a laudable motive for telling the truth and showing the large profits which awaited both the beet-grower and the manufacturer if the industry were perseveringly and intelligently prosecuted. To this end it was pointed out that farmers could clear \$65 per acre by cultivating beets, and might even make \$100. But in order to assure the cultivator that he would not be exposed to reverses by possible changes in the tariff, they proceeded to show that the industry stood in no need of protection.

The beet-sugar industry, these gentlemen say, "stands on as firm a basis as any business in the country." They point out the fact—a very important one—that their product comes out as a finished article, refined and granulated. It is not, like cane-sugar grown in the West India islands, a black and offensive paste, which must be carried in wagons to the seaboard and thence by ships to the United States, where, after another handling, it is put through a costly refinery, and then shipped by rail to the consumer, who may possibly be in Nebraska, alongside a beet-sugar factory which turns out the refined and granulated article at one fell swoop. Indeed, the advantages of the producer of beet-sugar for supplying the domestic consumption are very great. We have no doubt that Messrs. Oxnard and Cutting are within bounds when they say that "sugar can be produced here cheaper than it can be in Europe." The reasons for this are that—

"The sugar industry is, after all, merely an agricultural one. We can undersell Europe in all other crops, and sugar is no exception."

It follows as naturally as the making of flour from wheat. If we can produce wheat cheaper than Europe, then naturally we can produce flour cheaper, as we do.

But the writers of the letter do not depend upon a priori reasoning to prove that they can make sugar at a profit without tariff protection. They point to the fact that under the McKinley tariff of 1890, when sugar was free of duty, the price of the article was 4 cents per pound. Yet a net profit of \$3 per ton was made by the beet-sugar factories under those conditions, not counting any bounty on the home production of sugar. They boast that they made this profit while working under absolute free trade, and they have a right to be proud of this result of their skill in industry. Many beet-sugar factories had been started in bygone years, but in the sixties and seventies of the nineteenth century, and had failed, because the projectors did not understand the business. Since then great progress has been made, both here and abroad, in the cultivation and manipulation of the beet. What was impossible thirty years ago is now entirely feasible. The industry is already on a solid and enduring basis. There are factories in the United States, these gentlemen tell us in their letter, capable of using 350,000 tons of beets per annum at a profit of \$3 per ton, and this would make a profit of \$1,050,000 as an income to be earned under absolute free trade.

It must be plain to readers of this letter, signed by the captains of the beet-sugar industry, that the people in Washington who are declaiming against the temporary measure which the president of the United States urges for the relief of the Cuban people are either grossly ignorant of the subject, or are practising gross deception. The tenable ground for them is to say: "Other people are having protection that they do not need, and therefore we ought to have more than we need." This would be consistent with the letters of Messrs. Oxnard and Cutting, but nothing else is so

Cigars in London. London alone reduces to ashes 1,000,000 cigars a week.