

NEBRASKA NOTES

Joe Schmarder, an employe in the stone quarries of Newell & Atwood at Louisville, in accidently had one arm broken.

H. B. Waldron has sold his 160-acre farm near Union to Albert E. Lake for the sum of \$18,000, being \$112.50 per acre.

Fire broke out in the workroom of J. E. Robbins' art store at Nebraska City and did about \$2,000 damage before it was extinguished.

Twenty-five persons of foreign birth have secured their full naturalization papers at the recent term of the Cuming county district court.

The new city hall at Humboldt is rapidly approaching completion, being now in the hands of the plasterers. It is thought it will be ready for occupancy inside of thirty days.

William Collins has sold his 160-acre farm north of West Point to August Stark of Elkhorn township for \$38 per acre. This farm is considered one of the best stock farms in the country.

John W. Trammell, a prominent citizen of Oxford, Furnas county, has recently met with a serious accident and will be laid up for some weeks. While stepping from a freight car he broke a small bone in his ankle.

A gang of Union Pacific workmen have been at Schuyler installing the electric gongs at the crossings. The work is now completed and the gong in working order. In all four were installed. This will end trouble between the railroad and the city speed ordinance.

Marcie Knapp, the 13-year-old son of J. D. Knapp, of Ansley, has been killed by the accidental discharge of a gun. The boy had been gathering corn and returned home with his load and when taking the gun from the wagon, it was discharged, the load taking effect in the side of his face and head.

The Wells-Hand Grain company is experiencing a shortage of cars at Schuyler. Grain has been coming in faster than cars can be secured to ship it out, and at the present time the elevator is full to the top. Over five cars of wheat were received one day. The hay dealers are also having trouble in getting cars.

A fine single driving horse, valued at \$250, was stolen from the barn of W. C. Feller, of Table Rock. It was thought by Mr. Feller that his clerk had the horse out on a drive, so that the thief had twenty-four hours the start of him. Officers in adjoining towns were notified and are aiding in the search for the animal.

Mrs. Christiana Ricker, an aged woman who resides at 504 South Third street, Nebraska City, was fatally injured recently by falling off a steep bank near South Third street bridge. She fell about twenty-five feet, striking on the ice, which broke, precipitating her in the water, where she remained for some time. She was taken to her home where her injuries were dressed.

Henry Mock, a dipsomaniac, committed to the Lincoln asylum from Cuming county, and who was visiting in West Point on parole, became intoxicated and in a fit of despondency attempted to take his own life. He only succeeded, however, in causing a flesh wound. He was taken in charge by the sheriff and will be returned to Lincoln to remain until the completion of his sentence.

James Parker, a young Omaha Indian is under arrest, charged with the crime of killing Bryan Preston, a young Omaha Indian, son of White Weasel, a well known Omaha Indian. Preston has not been seen for several days, all efforts to find him proving futile. One theory is that the two Indians got into a drunken quarrel and that Parker disposed of Preston by killing him and putting his body under the ice.

Guy Morris, a telegraph lineman in the employ of the Northwestern railroad company, was almost instantly killed by the fall of a telegraph pole near the Great Northern crossing at Fremont. He was near the top loosening a wire in order to replace it with a new one when without warning, it fell, throwing him to the ground, breaking his neck. He was 21 years of age and his parents reside in Ohio.

The wearing of garments that sweep the pavement is prohibited in Nordausen, Saxony. Any person thus arranged must not walk the streets under penalty of thirty marks.

OF HER OWN FREE WILL

KOREA A WILLING PARTY TO JAPANESE TREATY

American Diplomatic Adviser to Korean Government Gives What He Insists Are the Entire Facts

WASHINGTON.—In a private letter to a friend in this city, Durham White Stevens, diplomatic adviser to the Korean government, comments as follows upon recent reports that the treaty establishing a Japanese protectorate was extorted by force.

"In Seoul," he says, "we learn that curiously distorted accounts of the occurrences of the night of November 17 have been telegraphed to America and Europe.

"One in particular, to the Berlin Anzeiger, is especially mendacious. It speaks of the tragedy in Seoul, of which reports have come from well informed quarters, and asserts that Marquis Ito, together with Minister Hayashi and General Hasegawa, accompanied by a large contingent of Japanese troops, forced the emperor to sign the new treaty, which they had already prepared and brought with them; that the Korean ministers fled from the palace in order not to affix the seal of state to a document which robbed their country of independence; that Japanese soldiers were sent after them and that they were forcibly brought back and ordered to affix their seals. The account closes with the statement that this violent act has led to tumults among the people."

"Another dispatch to the China Gazette, Shanghai, states that Mr. Namano, accompanied by a file of soldiers, went to the residence of the minister of foreign affairs and forcibly brought the seal of the foreign office to the palace, where the Japanese minister himself used it to seal the treaty. Possibly other canards, equally silly, have gained circulation at home, and therefore knowing your interest in eastern matters, I feel sure you would like to know the facts.

"Marquis Ito came to Korea with an autograph letter from the emperor of Japan to the emperor of Korea. This letter expressed an earnest hope for a closer union between the two countries. Its tone and purpose were well calculated to demonstrate Japan's friendly intentions and to soothe Korean susceptibilities. The choice of an envoy, moreover, was decidedly happy, as Marquis Ito is especially persona grata to the emperor of Korea. He came here on a somewhat similar mission at the beginning of the war, and several times since, to my personal knowledge, has been urgently requested by the emperor to repeat the visit. His reputation for fair dealings and the considerate regard for Korean rights, as well as for Korean susceptibilities, have earned him a high place in the emperor's estimation. On this occasion he presented the autograph letter at a formal audience and several days later had a private audience of over four hours' duration. He explained the situation and Japan's wishes fully to the emperor, and the latter agreed in principle to the proposition the marquis stated would be formally submitted later on by the Japanese minister.

"The emperor stated that the decision regarding the details of the new arrangement would be left to his cabinet, consulting with the Japanese minister. Conferences then ensued between the cabinet and Mr. Hayashi, the last one, by mutual agreement and in accordance with the emperor's order taking place at the palace. All of the cabinet ministers came to this meeting in accordance with the prearranged plan, and there were no soldiers present, except Korean soldiers forming the palace guard.

"The Japanese minister, with his secretaries and interpreters, attended and there was a full and frank discussion of all the details of the proposed treaty. Ultimately Marquis Ito was asked to attend and he came accompanied by General Hasegawa, but unattended by any soldiers, save the small body guard of a half a dozen gendarmes, who go about with him everywhere in Seoul. The discussion then proceeded for several hours, amendments were proposed by the Korean cabinet and accepted and finally the amended form was agreed to by a majority of six out of eight members of the cabinet.

TELLS OF SYSTEM

JUSTIFIES LEGISLATIVE SECRET SERVICE OF THE GREAT INSURANCE COMPANIES.

His Statement Was Heard

Frivolous Bills Must Have Attention of Companies Would Be Legislated or Taxed Out of Business—Open Resistance Would Be Disastrous

NEW YORK.—John C. McCall, secretary of the New York Life Insurance company, who a few days ago returned from Europe, where he went to get an accounting of money advanced to Andrew Hamilton, was the first witness in the insurance investigation when the last week of the committee's work was taken up.

Mr. McCall said that he saw Hamilton in France and that Mr. Hamilton was seriously ill, though able to walk about. Mr. McCall also presented a physician's certificate describing Mr. Hamilton's illness and stating that the patient could not undertake a voyage or leave France within two months.

Mr. McCall said he asked Hamilton for his check books but Hamilton refused to give them up, saying that the stubs related to his own personal business. Mr. McCall did, however, get a statement from Hamilton regarding the expenditures of funds entrusted to him by insurance companies. The statement was then produced and put in evidence.

Mr. Hamilton in opening his statement expresses regret that he cannot return to the United States at present because of his health.

At the time of his employment in charge of the bureau of taxation and legislation of the New York Life, the life insurance companies feared that unless concerted action was taken they might be practically legislated and taxed out of existence.

"The usual practice of depending alone upon counsel to attend and present arguments was determined to be insufficient," says Mr. Hamilton.

"The very fact that the great life insurance interests of New York favored or opposed pending legislative propositions, would itself often concentrate the opposition against their views; so likewise did the knowledge that we were represented at the capitals of various states lead to demands that that political favorites should be employed in the role of counsel, which, if acceded to, placed our affairs at the mercy of those who did not possess our confidence. "These and other considerations led the three companies to but one conclusion. We felt that if a secret service was a permissible government agency, a confidential service would be the only effective and at the same time proper plan to guard the welfare of the most extensive commercial interests in the world—the life insurance business of the state of New York. This confidential secret service was decided upon as the only feasible plan of protection. I explained to the president of the New York Life Insurance company, as did the other gentlemen who were associated with me in this work, to the officers of their respective companies, that itemized accounts by names, or amounts by separate vouchers, details or particulars, should not be demanded if we were to be held responsible. The protection of the companies under such a plan was ample.

Mr. Hamilton gives a long summary of the various styles of bills hostile to insurance companies, many of them taxation measures. "Bills to compel the companies' reports to be repeatedly and unnecessarily published in newspapers are advocated," says Mr. Hamilton, "to gain favor with the press by increasing their revenues. Outrageous propositions, such as the 10 per cent tax proposed in Arkansas, or absurd propositions like the Michigan bill, where a doctor's certificate of ill health would excuse the non-payment of the insurance, premium and keep a policy in force; for the Virginia bill, making it actionable, for a life insurance agent to enter the office of a man where the sign 'no agents allowed' is displayed, find legislative favor. However ridiculous these bills may seem, they demand attention.

TIME FOR CHANGE

GRAFT IN LIFE INSURANCE HAS REACHED LIMIT

Plea For Federal Control

Third Nebraska District Member Gives Views in House—Believes Supreme Court Will Sustain Law

WASHINGTON.—"Insurance is undoubtedly one of the most important subjects that has come before congress for many years," said Representative John J. McCarthy, of the Third Nebraska district, on the floor of the house the day before the holiday adjournment.

"That proposition is conceded on all sides. Why is it important? It is important because the great life insurance companies of their hands and filching from the pockets of our people all over the land. As the gentleman from New York (Mr. Cockran) stated the other day, it has become the occupation of thieves and the pastime of scoundrels. It is a question of so much importance that our president has seen fit to call the attention of congress to it again and again. He called the attention of the fifty-eighth congress and called our attention to it in the fifty-ninth congress, repeating only and emphasizing his advice to the last congress. But it has been said that the president is not a lawyer. That may be true, but he is surrounded by lawyers. He has a department of justice, and there are able, thorough-going lawyers who have undoubtedly examined this question and examined it carefully and have advised the president as to its legal status. After this advice has been considered he sees fit to call attention of congress to the subject.

"Now, I assume that it is the opinion of the president and the opinion of the department of justice for some time, that congress has jurisdiction and power to deal with this subject, otherwise it were folly for the president to repeatedly call our attention to it.

"The gentleman from Pennsylvania said that he himself had discussed the constitutionality of the question with an assistant attorney general of the United States and had been assured that in the opinion of that gentleman there was no question but what congress had power to deal with the subject.

I am aware of the fact that a great many gentlemen believe that congress has no jurisdiction and power.

That opinion is founded entirely upon a few decisions rendered by the supreme court of the United States, the first being Paul against Virginia, rendered in 1808, or nearly forty years ago. I submit, gentlemen, that at that time the insurance proposition was not what it is today; that in the years that have elapsed since 1808 to the present time insurance has come to be a vastly different proposition from what it was when the opinion in the case of Paul vs. Virginia was rendered. We did not that time have any Hydes, McCalls, and McCurdy's and others whose names have now become quite familiar to the American people.

"The other day I read, and I presume that other members have done so, that this young man of Equitable fame gave a dinner costing twenty or thirty thousand dollars, to Sarah Bernhardt. At the same time perhaps some poor woman and babies may have been dying of starvation in the same precinct where he was giving his dinner. Had he used the money for the purpose of buying them some of the comforts and necessities of life we might applaud and not complain, but we have a right to complain when he blows in that money to make a good fellow of himself with Sarah Bernhardt, because it is our money that he is using when he does it. "I was saying that insurance is a different proposition now from what it was some years ago. The supreme court of the United States has declared that what is an article of commerce is determined by the usage of the commercial world. That is held in the case reported in 125 U. S., page 465. As stated by the gentleman from Massachusetts the other day, the case of Paul vs. Virginia was practically overruled in the case of Champion against Ames.

EMPIRE TOTTERS

CALLING OF A GENERAL STRIKE MEANS DESPERATE STRUGGLE

All Russia Intensely Excited

Government Reaches Vainly For Skulking Leaders of the Revolution—Situation in Provinces Grows Worse Momentarily

ST. PETERSBURG.—The proclamation of a general strike has created the most intense excitement. If it can be successfully begun and maintained the revolutionaries are confident that it will break the government's back. In government circles, however, confidence is expressed that the proletaria organizations cannot effect a complete tie-up and that the strike must be of short duration.

This hope seems to be based on the theory that the extreme program of the reds has alienated the sympathy of a large proportion of the real workmen and also upon what they claim to be absolute knowledge that the organizations are without funds. The government's calculations, however, have proved deplorably at variance with the true situation in the past, and the strike leaders declare the government is again hopelessly ignorant of the magnitude of the struggle confronting it. Their plans are exceedingly ambitious.

From the nature of the appeals of the leaders to the troops, it is evident that they expect to precipitate a crisis in the army.

The central committee of the railroad men of Moscow, which determined the issue by voting in favor of a strike, has telegraphed over the railroad lines that the employes of twenty-two roads are ready to stop all traffic. The decision is to close everything in the empire, railroads, manufacturing, wholesale and retail stores and all government works except the water works. The bakeries in the cities, however, will not be closed so long as they do not raise their prices. If they raise the price of bread even the bakeries will be closed. It was proposed in Moscow to exempt the electric light plants but this was defeated.

Although the blow is timed on account of the difficulty of communication the strike leaders do not hope to bring the empire to a standstill by a single strike, but they will labor for a gradual extension of the strike movement.

The nature of the manifesto of the workmen's council of Moscow to the army is so inflammatory that even the radical papers are afraid to print it. They will distribute only the organ of the workmen's council.

The police are hunting down and arresting the strike leaders as rapidly as they can be found. Comparatively few captures have been made, as the leaders keep in hiding, avoiding their residences and meeting in secret, each time at a different locality.

The helplessness of the government in this crisis is demonstrated by the inability of Interior Minister Durnovo to get through instructions to arrest the members of the workmen's council of Moscow. He attempted to use the railroad wires but the operators obeyed the dictum of the council and refused to send the message.

The government is unable to forward instructions to General Linevitch, commander of the Manchurian army. Five operators in succession on the railroad lines declined to send a cipher dispatch signed by the emperor.

The government enters on the news struggle greatly crippled. The situation in the Baltic provinces is growing steadily worse and in the Caucasus the renewal of the outbreak of the Tartars and Armenians has produced another reign of terror. The inhabitants of Tiflis and other cities are begging the authorities to furnish them with arms to organize a militia for self protection.

At Sebastopol new mutinies have occurred and 1,600 soldiers have been disbanded and are under guard. The troops at Kharkoff have revolted and the inhabitants are still administering the city.

The weather has become very cold. Deep snow covers the country as far south as Kiev. It is believed that a few days' hunger and starvation will easily drive the people to desperation and provoke uprisings and attacks on strikers and perhaps general pillage.