

NEBRASKA NOTES

Campbell Bros. Cierus company at Fairbury received an addition of three cars of animals for their show and one of the new animals, a fine zebra, broke its neck the same day.

The comptroller of the currency has authorized the First National bank of Litchfield, Neb., to begin business with a capital of \$25,000. L. J. Titus is president, E. L. Titus vice president and D. W. Titus cashier.

The Rev. Mr. Cooper of Wapello, Ia., has been called by the Presbyterian church of Fullerton and has accepted the call. The church has been without a pastor since the resignation of Rev. Ralph Houseman, which took effect January 1, last.

Engineer Glynn and Conductor Peterson, who were in charge of the train that killed Mrs. Wacha last fall were found guilty in court at Schuyler of exceeding the speed limit. Sentence has not been pronounced. The case will in all probability be appealed.

The ice men at Ainsworth are feeling good over their good luck in getting such fine ice and the weather could not have been better for harvesting it. They say that they have put up over 800 tons and are through. The average thickness is sixteen inches and a pure crystal quality.

The Barnston Mutual Telephone company resumed operations. George Drew of the New Home Telephone company of Beatrice having connected up the lines, which were cut by the outgoing secretary. The central station has been established temporarily in the office of Dr. Woods of Beatrice.

Lester Lewis, of Beatrice, a driver of one of the wagons of the Adams Express company found a check for \$3,295.52 from an eastern firm and payable to H. Fishback a poultry dealer of that city. Mr. Fishback lost the check and had a half dozen men in search for it. The check was indorsed and negotiable.

Engineer Al Shearon of the Rock Island, while oiling his engine in the yards at Fairbury slipped and fell with his left arm across the rail. The engine was moving slowly and the drivers cut off his hand and lacerated the flesh to the elbow. The wound was dressed by the company surgeon and Shearon was removed to his home in Fairbury.

The fire bell has been housed into place at the top of the new seventy-foot tower at Humboldt and can be heard much more plainly in the remote parts of the city. An automatic ringing attachment will be provided whereby alarms may be sounded from the central telephone office by simply touching a button, or from the front of the city hall.

The 9-year-old son of Mr. Van Hausen of Norfolk was accidentally shot during a scuffle with his brother and will have to have one of his legs amputated. The two were trying to take a gun down from the wall when the scuffle ensued. A charge of shot tore through the boy's leg, mangling it so that the limb must be removed.

Hartington is suffering from an epidemic of telephones. A few months ago the residents became dissatisfied with the service and organized a local company. After that the new State company got possession of the old system and began to improve it. Now there are two exchanges, and a rate war seems imminent.

Dr. A. Murphy of Ainsworth has started for Green River Wyo., where he has an established business. E. B. Smith loaded a car with his household goods preparatory to moving to Seattle, Wash., where he expects to make his future home. He has been county clerk there for the last ten years and he leaves many friends and several others will go later to different parts of the west.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers' Grain and Live Stock company of Oakland was held in the opera house there. The reports showed the company to be in a flourishing condition and a 10 per cent dividend was declared, payable May 1, 1906. The president board of directors were re-elected for the ensuing year by acclamation.

McCook will have a full-fledged driving park this coming season. About a thousand dollars has already been subscribed to aid in putting the enterprise on its financial feet, the old fair ground land and track east of the city have been leased, the grand stand and fence of the old athletic park have been secured and as soon as spring weather will permit the park will be placed in condition for the season of 1906.

DIES AS A SOLDIER

HOCH KEEPS HIS WORD STANDING ON THE SCAFFOLD

A Wife-Murderer Is Hanged

MILITARY BEARING MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT

Declare Intention of Carrying Case to United States Supreme Court Even After Death—Record of Man's Crimes

CHICAGO.—Johann Hoch, convicted murderer, confessed bigamist, and who, if but a fraction of the stories of crime that are told of him are true, was one of the greatest criminals this country has ever known was hanged in the county jail for poisoning his wife, Marie Welcker-Hoch.

He faced death as he has always said that he would face it when the final moment came—calmly and without fear. He stood on the scaffold beneath the dangling noose in the attitude and with the placid courage of a soldier who realizes to the full that death is his portion, but is still unafraid. He died with a prayer on his lip for the officers of the law who took his life, and save for the words "Good-bye" his last utterance was an assertion that he was innocent of the crime for which he paid the extreme penalty of the law.

The last scene in the career of Hoch came at 1:34 o'clock in the afternoon while his attorneys were still making desperate efforts for a little more time on earth for him. His death, the lawyers say, has not ended the appeal that was made in his behalf, and although the man himself is dead, they promise to carry the case to the supreme court of the United States, and if it is there decided that he was unlawfully hanged, proceedings will be commenced against the officers of the law who officiated at the execution.

The time set for the hanging was between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Shortly after 9 o'clock his attorneys appeared in the offices of the clerk of the United States circuit court where they filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus on the broad ground that Hoch was held in peril of death in direct violation of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States, which declares that no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person the equal protection of the laws.

As soon as the application for the writ had been filed Attorneys Maher and Comerford, who were acting in behalf of Hoch, hastened to the jail, where they informed Jailor Whitman and Deputy Sheriff Peters that the application for the writ had been made, and asked them to delay the execution until the court had granted or refused the writ. The jailer and sheriff agreed to this, and the attorneys returned to the court, and appearing before Judge Landis asked that the writ issue forthwith if it was found that it was drawn in proper form.

"It is also requisite", said Judge Landis, "that proper cause be shown for the issuance of the writ."

The attorneys then argued that the writ should be issued because the state court was not a court of competent jurisdiction; that the sentence was in violation of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution; that Hoch was compelled and did give evidence against himself; that he was arrested in New York and extradited on a charge of bigamy, and upon a being brought to Chicago was charged with murder.

After some consideration Judge Landis replied:

"The application for the writ is denied. The proper remedy for counsel was a writ of error from the decision of the state supreme court to the supreme court of the United States. The writ is fatally defective and cannot be made good."

Attorney Maher then asked for an appeal from the decision of Judge Landis. The court responded to this request:

"Later in the day I will enter such an order as will enable you to have this case reviewed by the supreme court in the absence of your client. I will not complicate matters by a further delay. It would be much easier for me to grant this man ten days' time in which to have his case reviewed by the United States supreme court, but respect for orderly procedure compels me to do what I have done. That is my order."

THE LAW IS TOO LAX

CHANGE IN LIFE INSURANCE MANAGEMENT NECESSARY

Despot Power Exercised by the Officers—State Insurance Department Comes In For Mild Scolding

NEW YORK.—The committee appointed at the last session to investigate life insurance made its report. The report is extremely voluminous, extending over 314 printed pages. It embraces a long review of the testimony taken by the committee and its recommendations and conclusions as to remedial legislation. In addition there is a chapter devoted to the state insurance department, in which it declares that it would seem that the superintendent of the department has ample power to ascertain the transactions of insurance companies, but that the supervision by the department has not proved a sufficient protection against extravagance and maladministration.

After reciting the resolution authorizing the work and the plan adopted for the investigation by the committee, each individual company is passed in review.

There are fifteen companies organized under the laws of New York issuing level premium policies, and in a single instance only the committee departed from the policy of limiting its investigation to companies organized under the laws of New York. This company was the Prudential Life Insurance company of New Jersey.

The matters demanding the consideration of the legislature for the purpose of remedying existing evils and of establishing more securely the business of life insurance in this state are grouped under the following heads:

- First—Organization of life insurance corporations.
- Second—Control of the rights of policy-holders in the election of directors.
- Third—Retirement of stock.
- Fourth—Investment, including syndicate participants.
- Fifth—Limitation of new business.
- Sixth—Political contributions.
- Seventh—Lobbying.
- Eighth—Limitation of expenses.
- Ninth—Valuation of policies.
- Tenth—Rebates.
- Eleventh—Surrender values.
- Twelfth—Ascertainment and distribution of surplus.
- Thirteenth—Remedies of policy-holders, or right to resort to the courts.
- Fourteenth—Forms of policies.
- Fifteenth—Publicity and state supervision.
- Sixteenth—Penalties.

The committee recommends that article II of the insurance law be so amended as to permit the formation there under of mutual corporations without capital stock to transact the business of life insurance and for such other purposes as are authorized to be connected therewith in the case of stock corporations provided at least 500 persons have subscribed to become members therein in the aggregate amount of at least \$1,000,000, to be insured upon their lives, and shall each pay in one full annual premium in cash upon the insurance subscribed for, and provided, further, that it shall make the same deposits with the superintendent of stock corporations formed for similar purposes.

Section 200, permitting the incorporation of companies upon the cooperative or assessment plan, should be amended so as not to permit such companies to be incorporated in the future, and foreign companies of this sort not already transacting business in this state should not be permitted to enter the state.

Concerning the so-called mutual companies, the committee says:

"Notwithstanding their theoretical rights, policyholders had little or no voice in the management. Entrenched behind proxies, easily collected by subservient agents and running four long periods, unless expressly revoked, the officers of these companies have occupied unassailable positions and have been able to exercise despot power. Ownership of the entire stock of an unmixt stock corporation scarcely could give a tenure more secure. The most fertile source of evils in administration has been irresponsibility of official power."

KEEP FAR APART

FRANCE AND GERMANY HOLDING OUT AT ALGECIRAS

Europe Is Growing Uneasy

"OUT TALK OF WAR, BUT KEPT ON ANXIOUS SEAT

No Prospect of France Yielding Further—Washington Less Hopeful and Gloom at St. Petersburg

LONDON.—Great Britain is still pessimistic in respect to the Moroccan conference. The officials here believe the delegates leave Algeciras without solving the question of policing Morocco unless Germany withdraws her demands for international control of the gendarmerie.

Some surprise is expressed at the fact that France should have even proposed giving Spain a hand in policing the police, but the British officers cannot see where France can further yield towards Germany's views. In some quarters it is believed that Germany at the last moment finding that all the powers, excepting possibly, Austria, are sympathizing with France, will agree to the compromise offered by the French delegates. On this account France will be urged to allow a continuance of the conference, giving the representatives of the powers an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject on which Germany and France could not agree.

WASHINGTON.—The statement was made in official quarters that proposals and counter-proposals are being made at the conference at Algeciras, but the outlook is not quite so favorable as it was. So far the officials here have not been advised of the reported intention of the convention to terminate its sessions if it has reached such a point where it is possible to fix a date for the adjournment that point might be construed to make certain the failure of the conference. But the officials here are far from hopeless, and indeed still feel that the neutral powers may bring together France and Germany.

ST. PETERSBURG.—A gloomy feeling prevails in diplomatic circles here regarding the outlook at Algeciras.

An official news agency dispatch from Paris which bears strong marks of inspiration, suggests the possibility of intervention by President Roosevelt in the case of Russia and Japan, to reconcile the diametrically opposed views of France and Germany "in the general hope that an entente may be reached."

ALGECIRAS, Spain.—The American delegates decline to discuss the rumor that the United States and the other neutral powers are exerting outside influences toward securing an agreement on Moroccan affairs. Italy appears to be doing the most in the way of mediation, but the pressure of any power will be exercised more at Paris and Berlin than here.

BERLIN.—The Cologne Gazette expresses the opinion that a possible solution of Moroccan police question lies in the appointment of a naval force, the officers themselves to be under an inspector belonging to some neutral power, but in the Moroccan service. This newspaper's relations with the foreign office give this suggestion significance as probably reflecting the final effort of Germany to satisfy France's wishes. The Gazette also says an agreement between France and Germany had subsequently been secured on the bank question but the French representatives suddenly assumed an irreconcilable position under strong pressure from outside sources.

PARIS.—The foreign office considers that the Franco-German situation is stationary, and does not expect notable developments until the proposed Moroccan reforms are discussed in open conference.

MADRID.—An important Spanish statesman is authority for the statement that the question is now mooted of charging The Hague arbitration tribunal with the settlement of the Moroccan controversy owing to the apparent inability of delegates at Algeciras to secure an accord. The newspapers say that while war is not likely, the Franco-German controversy keeps Europe in a state of constant uneasiness.

THE PART OF A PLOT

FACTS IN STEUNENBERG MURDER COMING TO LIGHT

Western Federation of Miners Represented As Organization of Assassination—More Arrests Coming.

DENVER, Col.—Publication was made here of the complaints on which Governor Gooding of Idaho asked requisitions for Charles H. Moyer, president, and William D. Haywood, secretary-treasurer, of the western federation of miners, and G. A. Pettibone, a former member of the executive committee of that labor organization.

From this it appears the men who were secretly arrested here and hurriedly removed to Idaho were charged directly with the murder of Former Governor Frank Steunenberg of Idaho, and not merely with being accessories to the crime. The complaints and requisitions in the cases are identical, and charge the accused men with having discharged the bomb by means of which Steunenberg was killed at Caldwell, Idaho, December 30, 1905.

The specific charge of murder was made, it is explained, in order to forestall habeas corpus on behalf of the accused men but no attempt will be made to show that they were in Idaho at the time of the commission of the crime.

It is alleged, however, that they conspired with others to murder Steunenberg and furnished funds to carry out the plot. The atrocious murders committed during labor troubles in the Cripple Creek and Telluride districts in this state, which have been shrouded in mystery, the earlier Coeur d'Alene murders and the more recent Steunenberg assassination form a chain of crimes with which efforts are being made to connect the officers of the western federation through the confession said to have been made by Harry Orchard, who is charged with the Steunenberg murder.

This confession, it is asserted, disclosed a plot to kill Former Governor James H. Peabody of Colorado, William H. Gilbert, chief justice of the Colorado supreme court, and John Campbell associate justice. Orchard is said to have confessed that wholesale assassinations were planned at the headquarters of the western federation of miners as in Denver, chiefly by refugees from the camps at Cripple Creek and Telluride.

It is also said that Orchard's confessions gives a history of the explosion at the Independence station near Cripple Creek, on June 1, 1904, which killed fourteen men and injured many others.

Governor McDonald, who issued the necessary papers for the extradition of the federation officers to Idaho, said that he had read a copy of Orchard's confession, but was not at liberty to divulge its contents.

James McPartland, head of a detective agency which was employed by the Idaho authorities in the Steunenberg case, declared that the evidence against the men who have so far been arrested is very strong, and that more arrests are yet to be made. He would not state the nature of his evidence, or how it was obtained.

Vincent St. John, who was arrested in Burke, Idaho, was president of the miners' union at Telluride, Col., at the time of the assassination of Arthur Collins, superintendent of the Smuggler-Union mine at that camp. He was arrested and charged with complicity in that murder, but was not brought to trial.

It develops that Orchard's confession according to best authority, stated bombs had been placed in the gateways of the residences of two of the members of the Colorado supreme court and that more than a dozen attempts had been made to assassinate Former Governor James H. Peabody. An investigation since the alleged confession was made disclosed the presence of bombs in exactly the spots indicated. The man who unearthed the bombs, a prominent member of the Colorado national guard is now in Idaho having accompanied the party that returned with Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone. He will appear as a witness in the Orchard trial. It is said, to prove the truth of the alleged confession.