

# THE O'NEILL FRONTIER

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O'NEILL, NEBRASKA

Concerning the fundamental nature of electricity itself, there is still no certainty, but there are several hypotheses, says Electrical World. There are several theories for explaining both electricity and magnetism in terms of the ether. None of these theories seem capable of being submitted to experimental demonstration. It is certain, however, that since the interconnection of electricity and magnetism is known, a demonstration of the nature of the one must, by corollary, include a disclosure of the nature of the other. Moreover, it would not seem likely that the complete unravelling of the nature of electricity would necessarily include a revelation of the nature of both matter and gravitation.

Sarah Bernhardt attributes her personal youthfulness to a skin lotion thus composed: "Half a pint of alcohol, two ounces of spirits of ammonia and five ounces of sea salt, to be added to sufficient boiling water to make a quart in all, when the mixture should be placed in a bottle and thoroughly shaken before use. This lotion which should be rubbed into the skin daily, is said to be especially efficacious in taking the fatigue out of tired muscles."

A Nagasaki correspondent writes: "Last night the Japanese, who often try new methods in secret, essayed a novel experiment in embarking and disembarking troops in a way which would be of great use in rough water, when men had to be transferred to or from a lighter to a larger vessel. Some thirty soldiers sat upon a net, the ends were caught up, and they were swung on board like so much ordinary freight or cargo."

Pilgrims to both Buddhist and Shinto shrines are numerous in Japan, and their pure white dress makes them conspicuous among their compatriots, clad in the universal dark blue and gray. Even their long hair is white. They wear broad straw hats or white cotton caps with long streamers, and carry on their backs immense packs made of lacquered ware.

A number of Japanese staff officers have been instructed at the School of Military Ballooning at Aldershot, Eng., which is the most important one in the world. Officers are taught to take important observations from great heights, as well as the making of maps and taking photographs from both free and captive balloons.

French economists are asserting that when a monopoly becomes injurious it should be bought by the state and managed in the interest of the public. This question has gone so far beyond the theory that M. Rouvier, the minister of finance, has seriously thought of taking in hand the refining of oil.

Notwithstanding the most careful search, the causes of a number of transmissible diseases, both human and animal, still remain unknown. Of the human diseases belonging to this group may be mentioned especially scarlet fever, chickenpox, typhus fever and hydrophobia.

Italian children of the poorer classes can neither hang up their stockings at Christmas nor put their shoes out the window at Twelfth night for the wise men to fill. For when the weather is too cold for them to go barefoot they wear rags bound round their feet for coverings.

The laws in Russia pertaining to bankruptcy are very severe. A merchant is held liable for the debts he incurs if his liabilities exceed \$72, and he has not the ready cash to meet them. He can be arrested, and his retention depends on the good will of his creditors.

A machine has been invented which is capable of splitting wood two feet long and eighteen inches thick. It is run by a three-horsepower gasoline engine, and consists of a huge knife which works through the knottiest wood at the rate of sixty strokes a minute.

In 1903 Minnesota showed an increase in the total number of wage earners of 11.91 per cent. over 1902; that of the male adults was 12.67 per cent., and of the female adults 9.36 per cent., and of children a decrease from last year's number of 9.55 per cent.

Drury Lane theater is to have two balconies, one inside the other, and a proscenium wall and the other outside. They will be operated by separate apparatus—one set controlled from the prompter's side of the stage and the other from the orchestra.

The other day an Australian who had fought in South Africa received from the British War office notice that he had been overpaid \$275, with a request that he return the money forthwith. He says he will not and dares the War Office to do its worst.

Eastern Asia is one of the richest mineral fuel regions in the world. The area of all the paying coal layers in Europe comprises only 22,740 square miles, an area equal in extent to that of one of the Russian provinces—the Kazan province.

British manufacturers appear to be steadily losing ground as regards agricultural machinery in Russia, says the Mechanical Review of London, while America and Germany are continually increasing their output in that district.

A German scientist has succeeded, by treating the cleaned vegetable fibers of peat moss with the waste molasses of beet sugar manufacture, in producing a compound which serves as acceptably as food for domestic animals.

Numerically the Methodists lead the Sunday school host of Brooklyn with a membership exceeding 25,000 out of a total enrollment of 100,000. Most of the schools have efficient primary and intermediate or junior grade work.

The United States navy intends to emulate Germany in equipping all warships with miniature skeleton models of themselves, in order that the men may be made acquainted with the hidden part of the ship.

The cembalo, a quaint instrument, 200 years old, upon which Rossini took music lessons when he was ten years old, will be exhibited at the St. Louis fair. It is the property of the Malorbi family of Lugo, Italy.

Pasteboard made of 40 per cent. peat fiber and 60 per cent. wood shavings is a standard product both in Germany and Sweden, being stronger, lighter and cheaper than pasteboard made in the ordinary way.

Professor Charles L. Norton, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, declares that every skyscraper in Boston is in danger of collapse, owing to corrosion of the structural steel.

# STATE BOARD FIXES RAILROAD VALUATION

Will Also for Six Weeks Hear Complaints From Discontented Persons.

## A FORGER CONFESSES

Stranger Who Tries to Pass Number of Checks at Numerous Places in Hastings Is Apprehended and Confesses Guilt.

Lincoln, Neb., May 3.—For six weeks the state board of equalization will dally with the assessment of railroads. During the same period the corporations will conduct a campaign of education, seeking to show that the farmers have been shirking taxes heretofore. The dallying will begin tomorrow.

Secretary Beinitz, obeying instructions from the board, must recapitulate, analyze and tabulate railroad returns. The figures are already tabulated, but the process which the board desires is the one that will cause a delay of six or perhaps eight weeks. Then the farmers will be busy with their crops and the railroads can have an opportunity to argue with the people. A series of arguments are now being prepared by the railroad bureau and an effort will be made to inject them into the country papers in order to encourage flighty members of the board.

The levy will probably vary between 3% and 4 mills. The amount of assessable property in the state is merely a matter of conjecture.

## FORGER CONFESSES.

Stranger Tries to Pass Checks at Several Stores in Hastings.

Hastings, Neb., May 3.—Ed O'Brien was taken to the county jail charged with forgery, to which he pleaded guilty. He came to this city yesterday, and going to a butcher shop ordered two hams. In payment he presented a check drawn by P. J. Morrison and endorsed by E. J. Brown, whom O'Brien represented to be a farmer living four miles from town. Knowing no such farmer the butcher refused it, whereupon O'Brien proceeded to another butcher, attempted similar tactics and was again refused. Next he tried a cigar store and tried to collect \$10 upon the check, which was for \$16.80. Refused here he returned to Blades asking the clerk to take the check for \$5. His fourth refusal drove him to a saloon where he became drunk and was arrested for disorderly conduct. When told the story of the check had reached the police, who compared the signature of the prisoner with those upon the check and found them essentially the same. O'Brien is well dressed, middle-aged, and claims to be an artist from New York.

## CLUE TO MISSING MAN.

Victim of Recent Wreck Believed to Be Runaway From Germany.

Plattsburgh, Neb., May 3.—Four years ago a young man named Herman Engelmeyer disappeared from his home in Plattsburgh. Much mystery was attached to the case as only a short time before announcement had been made of his approaching marriage to the daughter of a prominent merchant. Several theories were advanced as to the cause of his sudden disappearance—one being that he sought to escape the military duties imposed upon all able-bodied young men by the German government. It appears that the young man has relatives in Cass county and at the time of his disappearance they were fully advised as to the circumstances connected with the incident and were asked to collect \$10 upon the check. Letters of inquiry have been forwarded to Engelmeyer, addressed to the Chicago hospital authorities.

## BIG LAND DEAL.

Holdrede Ranch Changes Hands at Consideration of \$50,000.

Louisville, Neb., May 3.—The big Holdrede ranch of 800 acres, one mile east here, changed hands Saturday, the purchaser being Thomas E. Parmele of Plattsburgh. The consideration is said to have been \$50,000. The sale includes the old Stout house, or castle, built years ago by "Boss" Stout for housing convict laborers who worked in the stone quarries along the Platte river.

## CRACK OMAHA SAFES.

Robbers Secure Several Hundred Dollars and Escape.

Omaha, Neb., May 3.—Robbers blew open the safe of the Norcross and Mahanna Lumber company and Miller's cereal mills, wrecking the latter building, at Glenover, a suburb of this city. They secured several hundred dollars and escaped. Bloodhounds were sent after them, but they were not captured.

## State Dentists to Meet.

Lincoln, Neb., May 3.—The twenty-eighth annual convention of the Nebraska State Dental society will be held at Omaha Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 17, 18 and 19.

## Hearst Headquarters Still Open.

New York, April 30.—A report is sent out from here that this state's Hearst headquarters were closed. This is an untrue report. The Hearst league has moved to a building just made ready for occupancy on the Grand Circle, in the heart of the city, where sufficient room is available.

# SIGNS KINKAID BILL.

President Signs Measure Which Increases Homesteads to 640 Acres.

Washington, May 2.—President Roosevelt, in the presence of Judge Kinkaid and others, affixed his signature to the bill providing for 640-acre homesteads in the sand hill country. This was done in the president's room at the capitol. Senator Millard spoke to the president in support of the bill, soon after he reached the capitol, and the president replied that if Judge Kinkaid would get the parchment over to him, at once he would take pleasure in approving the measure. Senator Millard sent this word to the judge who induced the house clerks to expedite the case. Later President Roosevelt sent to Judge Kinkaid the pen with which the bill was signed. To say that the judge was gratified is putting it very mildly.

## HOMESTEADER'S INTERESTED.

Now Is the Best Time to Look Over Lands Under New Law.

O'Neill, Neb., May 2.—Now that the president has signed the Kinkaid section homestead bill many desire information how to proceed to work out a home.

The bill will not become effective until sixty days after it is signed by the president. Those who are pioneers in Nebraska express the opinion that this measure will be a great benefit to the state and that it will be the means of many families securing homes under its provisions that would not be able to make a living on 160 acres as was heretofore allowed. There are thousands of sections available that will give good pasture to more than 100 head of cattle.

The settler should at the beginning plant out at least ten acres of timber. The government maintains a plant on the Dismal river that produces annually millions of tree plants adapted to Nebraska, and the plants can be had for the asking. While tree planting is not required, still it must be remembered that the settler must make a final proof he must show improvements to the value of \$125 per acre, and a nice ten-acre tract planted in trees would count for a considerable amount.

Settlers should not go onto these lands with the idea of doing extensive farming. The plans should be along the lines of dairying and stock raising. Generally speaking the stock can graze on these lands about nine months of the year, except the most severe winters. On small tracts raise millet, oats, clover, for food for calves and other roughness for winter feed for cattle.

## HANGS SELF IN JAIL.

Unknown Prisoner at Beatrice Found Dead in Cell.

Beatrice, Neb., May 2.—An unknown man, supposed to be about 45 years old, committed suicide in the city jail by hanging himself in one of the steel cells. His dead body was found by Officer Hall just as the latter was coming on duty for the night. Nothing was found on his person to indicate his identity, except an envelope bearing the name of M. Alexander, Geneva, Neb. Inquiry at Geneva by telephone elicited the information that Mr. Alexander formerly owned a meat market there, but had left for Missouri about three months ago.

When discovered by Officer Hall the man's corpse was hanging from the top bars of the cell with his face against the front bars, his body being suspended by a piece of a bed quilt which he had torn from the bedding. He had slipped the improvised rope over the top bars and standing with either foot upon a bunk had tied it around his neck and then dropped from the beds. He had \$10 in cash on his person but no letters that would give a certain clue to his identity. In speaking of one of the officers late in the afternoon Taylor, head of a wife and two children in Omaha, but gave no more information concerning himself. He is about 5 feet 7 inches in height, weighs about 140 pounds. He wore a cap, black coat and vest, grayish trousers, black shirt and a pair of congress shoes. His hair was black and his mustache, while his mustache is red.

## Arrested for Embezzlement.

York, Neb., May 2.—The Rogers Lumber company, having yards in York and nearly all other towns in this county, recently placed under arrest L. R. Leonard, head of a family, charged with embezzlement of the company's funds. This week J. W. Stratton, manager of the Rogers company in Henderson, was arrested for embezzlement of the company's funds, and yesterday before County Judge Taylor pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzlement of \$32.85 of the company's money. Mr. Stratton claimed the company owed him. He was fined \$85 and costs, amounting to a total of \$75.

## Bank Changes Owners.

Oakland, Neb., May 2.—The Wayne National bank has sold its business to the Citizens bank, and the building and fixtures were purchased by all the other banks of Wayne together. The move is for the reason that four banks were too many for Wayne to do a good business.

## Buried in Sand Bank.

York, Neb., May 2.—William McCullough, a well known citizen of this place, while loading sand yesterday narrowly escaped death. The sand bank caved in and buried him nearly three feet. Henry Graham and Patrick McGowan fortunately were near and saw the accident and immediately dug Mr. McCullough out.

## Escape From McCook Jail.

Kearney, Neb., May 2.—Another one of the Shelton railroad coal thieves has been caught. Last night Detective Bowers arrested John Kobay at North Platte while he was beating his way out of the country. He was brought here this morning, charged with stealing a quantity of coal from a car January 12. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail.

## Another Shelton Robbery.

McCook, Neb., May 2.—George M. Burchard and Harry Raymond were arrested and lodged in the city jail, charged with burglarizing the store of C. L. Degroff & Co. Goods to the amount of \$16 were found on their persons. They had sold some articles and have more in hiding. During the night both broke out of jail.

## For Beet Fields.

McCook, Neb., April 29.—Twenty-three families of Russians left McCook. They formed a party to travel and gathered up at various Nebraska points all bound for Colorado sugar beet fields.

# JAPS VICTORIOUS IN LAND BATTLE

The Russians Are Driven From Chiu Tien Cheng With Heavy Losses.

## FIVE DAYS OF FIGHTING

Japanese Are Now in Full Control and May Force Russia to Abandon Defenses Erected at Antung.

Tokio, May 3.—The Russians were forced to abandon Antung yesterday. They burned the town and retreated to Feng Huan Cheng.

The Japanese now control the estuary of the Yalu.

Tokio, May 3.—After five days of fighting, largely with artillery, the first Japanese army, Gen. Kuroki, has forced a crossing of the Yalu river, and today with a gallant infantry charge covering a frontage of four miles, drove the Russians from Chiu Tien Cheng and the heights on the right bank of the Ho or Aida river, which enters the Yalu from the north, almost opposite Wiju. The Japanese turned the left flank of the Russian position, and in the battle they swept away the new front interposed by the Russians to check their onward movement.

## Japanese Dominate.

The present position of the Japanese is a dominating one, and they may force the abandonment of the defenses erected by the Russians at Antung and other points lower down the river.

General Kuroki began the movement on Tuesday by ordering a detachment of the imperial guards division to seize the island of Kurito, which is in the Yalu above Wiju, and a detachment of the Second division to seize the island of Kinteto, which is situated below Wiju. The detachment of the imperial guards met with some resistance, but succeeded in clearing the enemy out and occupied Kurito island. The Russians abandoned the island of Kinteto when attacked by the detachment of the Second division.

The actual loss sustained by the detachment of the imperial guards is not known, as there is an error in that part of the message received here referring to the number killed, but nine of the detachment were severely and eight slightly wounded. The section of the detachment which took the island of Kinteto sustained no losses.

During these movements on the islands the Russians opened fire on the Japanese with eight centimeter guns from a hill behind Chiu Tien Cheng, and two Hotchkiss guns, which were mounted on the bank of the river at Kosan, where the Russians seemed to have established their headquarters.

One battery of Japanese artillery, which had taken a position on a hill to the east of Wiju, fired three volleys at Kosan, and at noon of Tuesday the Russian batteries behind Chiu Tien Cheng shelled Wiju, wounding one Japanese soldier with shrapnel. On Wednesday the Russians resumed the bombardment of Wiju, firing at intervals through the day. The Japanese artillery did not respond to this fire.

General Kuroki has received reports to the effect that the Russians are fortifying the heights on the right bank of the Ho river. These new defenses were declared to extend from Chiu Tien Cheng through the village of Makao to Koshiki, a distance of three and a quarter miles.

## Russians Resume Bombardment.

The Russians resumed their bombardment on Thursday, but it was generally ineffective. Subsequently General Kuroki ordered two companies of the imperial guard to cross the Yalu and to the village where a party of left bank of the Ho for the purpose of discovering the character of the Russian fortifications along the heights on the right bank of the river. The Japanese force advanced toward Kosan and then dispatched a small detachment to the village where the Russians were encountered. In the engagement which followed five Russians were killed. The Russians shelled the reconnoitering party from an emplacement in the hills in the southeastern part of Yoshoko. This fire was without effect.

## Attack on Wiju.

This firing continued into Thursday night, and General Kuroki reports that while ineffective it disturbs his preparations for an attack. The Russians resumed the shelling on Wiju on Friday, but the Japanese guns did not reply.

The Twelfth division of the Japanese army was chosen to make the first crossing of the Yalu. It began its preparations on Friday by driving the Russians from their position on the bank of the river opposite Suikochin, which is eight miles above Wiju, and the plan selected for the crossing. This division constructed a pontoon bridge over the river, and at 3 o'clock Saturday morning it began crossing, the entire division passed over the river during the day, and by 6 o'clock Saturday evening it was in the position assigned to it for the battle of Sunday.

## Russians Silenced.

Then both the Chiu Tien Cheng and the Makao batteries opened, and this fire brought a vigorous response from the chain of Japanese batteries on the Korean side of the river. The Russian guns fired for two hours before they were silenced.

## Attaches Join Army.

Tokio, April 30.—Fourteen military attaches who have been assigned to the first army left today for the city of Sibirsk-Moskoi. They will sail May 5 for an unknown destination.

Berlin, April 30.—The correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger, on the way to Ant, telegraphs from Tjajin, Siberia, that transportation across Lake Sibirsk had been interrupted through the breaking of the ice four days ago.

# RUSSIANS SUNK A JAP TRANSPORT

Part of Crew Are Taken Off, But 200 Ruthlessly Sent to the Bottom.

## THE JAPANESE ADVANCE

It Is Now Well Toward Antung, and on the Road to Mukden—Gunboat Forces Its Way Up the River.

Past the Batteries.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—The Russian torpedo squadrons sank a Japanese military transport, the Kinshiu Maru, of 4,000 tons, during the night of April 26, with all on board with the exception of seven officers, twenty soldiers sixty-five of the crew and eighty-five coolies and carriers. The others, who refused to surrender, were sent to the bottom with the ship.

The official report of Rear Admiral Yezzen to the emperor follows: "During the night of April 26 two Russian torpedo squadrons met at sea a Japanese military transport, the Kinshiu Maru, of 4,000 tons, laden with rice and other military stores and about 1,500 tons of coal. The transport was armed with four Hotchkiss guns of 47 millimeters. The Russians captured on board seventeen officers, twenty soldiers and eighty-five military carriers or coolies and sixty-five of the crew, who surrendered. The remainder of the crew, who were to form a landing party and who were left without officers, constantly refused to surrender or go on board the Russian cruiser. Furthermore, they offered armed resistance to the Russians. In the end they were sent to the bottom with the transport."

The number drowned is not given. Admiral Yezzen reports that besides sinking the Japanese steamer Gonsan Maru at Wonsan (Gensan), April 25, the Russian gunboats sank the same evening the Japanese steamer Nakamura Maru, of 220 tons, whose crew was saved.

## Two Hundred Drowned.

The satisfaction of the people of St. Petersburg in the exploits of the Vladivostok squadron is tempered with admiration for the bravery of the Japanese soldiers who were on board the sunken transport, and who preferred to drown rather than surrender. Rear Admiral Yezzen's full report says 200 men went down with the transport. The admiralty admits the men acted heroically, but holds that Yezzen had no other alternative than to sink the transport, since he could not spare a prize crew or hamper his swift squadron with a slower steamer.

It is pointed out that the officers on board the Kinshiu Maru appreciated the situation by accepting imprisonment rather than death.

In the case of the smaller Japanese transport sunk by torpedoboats at Wonsan the crew was sent ashore, because there were no accommodations for them on the torpedo boats. The crew of the Japanese steamer Nakamura Maru, as well as the Japanese of the Kinshiu Maru who surrendered have been taken to the Russian cruisers. The admiralty here professes ignorance as to the future plans of Admiral Yezzen, but it is believed he is in communication with Vladivostok by wireless telegraphy and is not likely to be surprised by a Japanese squadron sent to prevent its return.

## RUSSIAN DEFEAT.

After Two Days' Fighting With Japanese Along the Yalu, Czar's Forces Retreat.

Shanghai, April 30.—It is reported here that the Russians have suffered a disastrous repulse after two days' fighting on the Yalu river. The Japanese forces crossed the river and the Russians retreated.

## Doudon, April 30.—The Daily Telegraph's Tokyo correspondent asserts that the Russian cruisers slipped past the Japanese squadron during a fog and regained the harbor of Vladivostok.

This is the only additional news that has reached London concerning the Vladivostok squadron. No further details have been received regarding the sinking of the Japanese transport Kinshiu Maru, which incident is much commented upon here as proving that the Japanese are placed to the disadvantage in their command of the sea, and there is no doubt that it will induce greater vigilance on their part. There is some disposition to criticize harshly the action of Rear Admiral Yezzen, but most of this morning's papers prefer to wait particulars of the affair before passing judgment upon it. The report that the Japanese have occupied Klullen Cheng has not yet been confirmed.

## According to the Standard's Tien Tsin correspondent the whole country outside the Great Wall is abnormally flooded and any movement of the land forces is impracticable for the present.

A special dispatch from Port Arthur says that the demonstration made by Japanese torpedo boats covering a Japanese squadron off Port Arthur yesterday morning was for the purpose of creating a scare and inducing the batteries to waste their ammunition, but the Russians refrained from answering the Japanese fire.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the Morning Post says there are rumors that Russia is negotiating for the purpose of the Danish liners Hekla, Norge and Island.

## No Mediation Is Wanted.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—The Russian press is aroused over talk of mediation and is inclined to attribute the responsibility for the proposal to the Anglo-French agreement, the result being that the agreement does not obtain favor. The Novoe-Vremya declares the Anglo-French understanding has rendered poor service to Russia in prompting the idea of mediation, and adds:

"It is idle to expect an Anglo-Russian understanding as a result of the Anglo-French entente. It will take a long time for Great Britain to reach Russia's comprehension."

Port Arthur correspondent of the Russky-Invalid writes: "The Japanese have invented a new combustible. It is inextinguishable. They tried to burn the battleship Retvizan by setting adrift rafts loaded with this burning material. The Retvizan sank them, but the combustible continued to burn under water. A Japanese 12-inch shell exploded in the yard of General Stoessel's house, outside Port Arthur. It broke a rooster's leg."

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