

THE FRONTIER.

VOLUME XXV.

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1905

NUMBER 41.

TRAGIC DEATH OF ROBERT B. CEARN

Twice Stabbed and Survived But a Few Minutes.

MYRON IRWIN TO FACE CHARGE

Quarrel Near Badger Mills Last Week Ends in Fatal Stabbing—Story of the Affair.

A little thing culminated in an unfortunate and tragic death on the farm of Myron Irwin in the Badger country some forty miles northwest of O'Neill last Thursday afternoon.

Robert B. Cearns is now in his grave and Myron Irwin is held under \$5,000 bonds to answer the grave charge of murder. In a quarrel on the above date a knife in the hands of Irwin was twice driven into the body of Cearns, once penetrating the heart and drawing a stream of life-blood that soon ended in the victim's death.

It is an unpleasant task to The Frontier to recount stories of blood. Relatives of Irwin were in O'Neill Monday to see the prisoner but were not admitted to the jail. One of them told his version of the story in the presence of a Frontier representative. He had not seen the stabbing himself, however. Robert S. Cearns and wife, father and mother of the victim, were in O'Neill Tuesday. A Frontier representative called upon them at the office of L. C. Chapman. Mr. Cearns, a man of large and rugged frame, with silvery hair and marks of years and toil, told his story with quivering lip and suppressed emotion.

From these and other sources it is learned that Irwin had made some remark to Robert Rumsey, a neighbor of both the Cearns and Irwins, that Robert Cearns (junior) was going to "lick him (Rumsey) on sight." On last Wednesday the three were in Butte when Rumsey met Cearns and wanted to settle it with a fight. Cearns, it seems, avoided getting into a fight, denying he had said any such thing to Irwin and agreeing to face Irwin with Rumsey and get an explanation. Irwin could not be found, so the matter was dropped until evening. Cearns and some friends that were in town with him remained in Butte to hear a trial that was in progress in court and while in the courthouse that night listening to the trial Irwin and Rumsey came to the courthouse yard and sent a boy in to have Cearns come out. Fearing to meet the two men in the darkness and also listening to the advice of friends, Cearns did not go out to meet them.

He remained in Butte that night, starting home in the morning and arriving there a little after noon. Shortly after his arrival home Rumsey drove up to the Cearns place and was talking over the affair with Robert when a prairie fire was discovered on the Irwin place just north of them. Rumsey was in a buggy and started at once for the fire. Robert Cearns, his brother John and their father and their cousin John Smith got a team and wagon ready as quickly as possible and hastened to the fire. During the fire fighting the crowd became somewhat scattered, Irwin, Rumsey and John Smith being at a distance from the Cearns'. After the fire was extinguished young Cearns told his father he wanted to see Irwin and went with his brother to where Irwin, Rumsey and Smith were, leaving his father to hitch the team from the plow to the wagon.

The old gentleman had just got the horses hitched onto the wagon and the plow loaded when his son John came running to the top of hill that stood between him and the rest of the crowd and shouted:

"Come quick, Bob has been stabbed."

He drove to the scene as fast as the horses could run and found his son lying on the ground unable to rise with his cousin supporting his head. Another brother of young Cearns came on the run with a team and buggy and into this the victim was loaded and taken home, life being extinct when they reached the door.

There were three witnesses of the stabbing, Robert Rumsey, John Cearns and John Smith. The Irwins claim that Cearns struck and kicked Irwin as he was sitting down; that a fight ensued in which Irwin drew a knife and stabbed in self defense. John Cearns and John Smith say that when their brother got into the fight with Irwin, Irwin called Rumsey to help him and that Rumsey got hold of Cearns from the back and held his arms and while in this helpless predicament Irwin twice struck him with a knife, coolly wiped the gore from the blade on his pants and put the knife in his pocket. He and Rumsey then

LIGHT UPON THE QUESTION OF CLOTHES



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got into the latter's buggy and drove away.

They drove to Dustin where the sheriff and coroner were called by telephone. The officers went to Stuart that evening and drove to Dustin at once, Irwin being brought to O'Neill Saturday and placed in jail. Tuesday of this week the prisoner waived preliminary hearing and was admitted to \$5,000 bail, which was furnished, Wade Irwin and George W. Irwin of Brockberg, father and brother of the accused, and E. S. Eves and J. S. Harrington of O'Neill signed the bond.

Irwin has employed M. F. Harrington of O'Neill to defend him and they will try to show the stabbing was done in self defense.

The coroner's jury returned the following verdict:

State of Nebraska, Holt county, ss: At an inquest held at Robert S. Cearns' in Holt county, on the 31st day of March, 1905, before me, B. F. Trueblood, coroner of said county, upon the body of Robert B. Cearns lying dead by the jurors, whose names are hereto subscribed, the said jurors upon their oath do say that Robert B. Cearns came to his death by being stabbed in the heart with a knife in the hands of Myron Irwin, on March 30, 1905.

In testimony whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands the day and year aforesaid.

C. N. Biglow (foreman)
Jas. W. Zink.
George H. Post
F. F. Wefso
John Fundas
John Staples
B. T. Trueblood, coroner.

Obituary.

Robert B. Cearns was born in Pocahontas county, Iowa, on September 20, 1881, died in Holt county, Nebraska, on March 30, 1905, at the age of 23 years, 6 months and 10 days. He came with his parents to this county when a babe of twelve months and had lived here ever since except for eight years, when the family lived in Cherry county, this state. He was a single man and had always lived at the home of his parents, except last summer when he farmed for himself in the Phoenix neighborhood. The remains

were laid to rest on Saturday, April 1, the funeral being held at Butte, Boyd county.

Card of Thanks

In the hour of our sorrow and affliction, words can not express our gratitude to the neighbors and friends without whose sympathetic and comforting words and acts of helpfulness our affliction would be unbearable. We thank them one and all for what they have done for us and most earnestly hope and pray that none of them may ever be cast down by the dark shadows that have entered our home.—Robert S. Cearns and family.

LOCAL MATTERS.

For farm loans see Lyman Waterman, O'Neill. 38-8

Col. Barney Stewart was up from Page yesterday.

Editor Miles made a business trip to Sioux City Monday.

Mrs. E. R. Townsend visited with relatives at Page this week.

Lots for sale or exchange in all parts of the city.—E. H. Benedict. 39-6

The Black Hills Northwestern passenger train being delayed nine hours yesterday, the local from Long Pine was run on Black Hills train's time.

American steel hog fencing 20c per rod at Golden & Hodgkin's. Think it over. 39-1f

M. F. and J. S. Harrington and E. Eves drove to Boyd county Tuesday afternoon.

The Rev. T. W. Bowen will preach next Sunday at 8 p. m. on "Consolation in Trouble."

For Sale—26 registered Hereford bulls coming 2 years old.—Hay W. McClure, Little, Neb. 40-4

Tom Coyne, who has been in Arizona for something over a year, arrived in the city Saturday last.

Hardware and furniture stock and buildings to trade for land. Come quick.—T. V. Golden. 41-3

Frank Phillips was in from Star yesterday and says they had an inch of snow there the night before.

Wanted—at once, a girl for general house work. Call on or address Mrs. L. G. Gillespie, O'Neill. 41-1pd

There will be service at the Episcopal chapel next Sunday morning at the usual hour, conducted by W. W. Wells.

Dennis Hunt of Atkinson was in the city Tuesday assisting in the erection of a stone at the grave of his mother.

Tom Shively, an engineer on the Northwestern, is visiting at the home of his parents here, Capt. and Mrs. W. T. Shively.

Lyons Mullin, Mike Horiskey and Arthur Duffy went to Omaha Tuesday to take examinations for admission to the railway mail service.

C. I. Bragg of Burwell has been in the city this week being an attorney in the land contest case of James T. Mars vs. Irwin Darling.

William Ballard of Wood Lake, a cattle man of that section, had business in O'Neill Tuesday and visited the Cronin ranch while here.

There is a pretty good chunk of a docket for the district court grind this term, which begins April 10. The jury is called for the 11th.

Miss Kittie McLaughlin, who had been employed the past five years at the Independent office, departed Tuesday for Omaha, where she expects to remain.

Hazel Thompson and Irma Curle, two little girls from Lincoln, relatives of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Weekes, returned home this morning after a visit here.

The local markets yesterday were: Stock steers, \$4.00; fat steers, \$5.00; Hog \$4.75; corn — shelled, 31c; ear, 30c; oats, 21c; wheat, 89c; rye, 62c; potatoes, 25c@30c; eggs, 12½c; butter, 18c.

Henry Grady has his new rig of regulation build for the rural mail route and will start out the 15th as a U. S. postal man. It's a neat little wagon and came from Council Bluffs through the order of O. F. Biglin.

On motion of S. B. Howard a levy of seven mills was made for township purposes.

On motion the meeting then adjourned to Saturday, July 1, 1905, when the committee and person that is to check up the township books will make their report.

Special Teachers' Examination
For the benefit of those who are unable to attend the regular examinations this month provision has been made to hold special teachers' examination on April 27, 28 and 29, when any who desire may take the examination for teachers' certificates.

R. E. Slaymaker,
County Superintendent.

MAYOR DOYLE NOW, IF YOU PLEASE

Municipal Election Generated Some Steam and Smoke.

TOWNSHIP HAS GOOD MEETING

And Will Check Up the Books and See Where They Are At.—Make Seven Mill Levy.

D. A. Doyle was elected mayor of O'Neill at Tuesday's election by a majority of thirty-five votes, after a pretty torrid sort of a municipal election. Mr. Doyle carried all three wards, the Third contributing the largest majority to him, or eighteen more than Mr. Campbell received. The Second ward—the home of both candidates—gave Doyle a majority of one vote and the First went to him by sixteen.

Romaine Saunders was elected city clerk over Robert R. Morrison by a majority of twenty-four votes. Saunders carried the First by four votes, lost the Second by thirteen and carried the Third by thirty-seven.

James F. Gallagher for treasurer and O. E. Davidson for police judge were elected without opposition.

P. J. Biglin was re-elected alderman in the First ward over Peter Kelly by a majority of two.

The Second ward alderman contest was of considerable interest owing to fact that J. S. Harrington, the present mayor, had entered the race for that place after declining to run for mayor the third time. He was defeated by William Fallon by sixteen votes.

The alderman contest in Third was very close, J. A. Cowperthwaite being elected by two votes over Jas. Davidson.

The vote by wards as taken from the poll books are as follows:

First. Mayor—Doyle, 59; Campbell, 43. Clerk—Saunders, 52; Morrison, 48. Alderman—Biglin, 52; Kelly, 50.

Second. Mayor—Doyle, 42; Campbell, 41. Clerk—Saunders, 32; Morrison, 45. Alderman—Fallon, 49; Harrington, 33.

Third. Mayor—Doyle, 55; Campbell, 37. Clerk—Saunders, 62; Morrison, 25. Alderman—Cowperthwaite, 46; Davidson, 44.

The vote on treasurer and police judge was not obtained as there was but one candidate for each office.

Township Meeting.

The most largely attended annual township meeting held in Grattan township for years was held at the court house Tuesday afternoon. The meeting was called to order by township Clerk Carney and on motion John Kelly was made chairman and Pat Conley secretary of the meeting. The chairman announced the first thing in order was the making of the levy for township purposes for the ensuing year. At this juncture someone called for a report from the township treasurer.

Mr. Hanley, the treasurer, made a verbal report to the effect that he kept no books for the township business except the warrant register. The clerk then read the report of the township treasurer made on January 21, 1905, which report has heretofore been referred to in these columns. The clerk then proceeded to read a list of the claims allowed against the township for the past year, among them being something over \$800 issued to ex-treasurer Pat Handley for "overdrafts" in township funds. The claims or records showing for what purpose the warrants have been issued against the township were not present. After some discussion it being apparent that but little information was being gleaned as to the affairs of the township.

Geo. Gaughenbaugh moved that a committee of three be appointed to check up the township books. This motion was amended to empower the committee to employ some competent person to check up the township books for the past eight years. The motion as amended carried unanimously and Patrick Hughes, H. J. Hershiser and John Coffey were appointed as such committee.

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R. E. Slaymaker,
County Superintendent.

M. DOWLING, President	JAS. F. O'DONNELL, Cashier
CAPITAL @ \$55,000.00	
5 Per Cent Paid on Time Certificates of Deposit	
This Bank carries no indebtedness of Officers or Stockholders	