

Aldermen E. E. Phillips, of Bath, England, formerly mayor of that city, says that the other morning he saw an assembly of rooks in the trees surrounding his home. The birds, about a hundred in number, appeared to hold a court-martial on three wrong doers. Suddenly they fell upon the three victims, who soon dropped dead into the gardens below. One had a broken and lacerated wing, another a lacerated wound in the throat and the third a severe injury to the head. Mr. Phillips cannot say what the offense was, but he suspects that jealousy was at the bottom of it.

A missionary traveling down the Lau river in Mongolia says he passed thirty-one rapids in one day. At most of them were water mills for the grinding of aromatic trees into powder to make incense. The trees were chopped into small pieces and thrown into a hole in a heavy millstone, which revolved on a larger stone as the water rushes through below. In the rainy season, when the river flows full and fast, a pair of mills can grind about 200 pounds of incense a day. It is made up into bundles of this weight and sold on the spot for fifty strings of cash, (about \$6).

In recent years it has become a matter of increasing difficulty for a living English artist to find a market for his wares, says the Academy. The middle classes appear to have concluded that original pictures are entirely beyond the means of persons with a moderate income and content themselves with photographs. The wealthy, on the other hand, appear to consider picture-buying merely in the light of an investment, and all they want is a safe thing like preference stock—the established reputations.

When the Rev. George R. Palmer presented himself at the meeting of the New England Methodist Historical Society the other day he came with him two chips from the mast of Peary's ship Roosevelt. One of these he gave to Bishop Mallaleu, who said that the receipts from his sale would go to start a church in Texas. The sum of \$50 was required to furnish the floor and windows for the little church in question and a member present immediately paid the bishop that sum for the souvenir.

Ernest Trepton, a writer of serial stories, has lately sold of the young woman amateur who chanced to get an unfinished story accepted by a weekly paper for immediate publication. Months passed and the thing went on. A desperate editor wrote letter after letter imploring her to wind up. The unhappy girl wrote despairingly that she couldn't stop it; the elongating thing had wound round her as the sea serpent wound about Laocoon. Finally the editor himself ended it.

A smuggling case which is probably unique, even in the strange annals of contraband, has just been before the customs court of Marseilles. On board the French steamer Touraine there was found a large quantity of opium smuggled, not by any individual in particular, but by the whole ship's company, and the strange spectacle was witnessed of the heavy fine of \$2,000 being levied on all, every man in the vessel being subjected in proportion, assessed according to wages.

In Brassey's "Naval Annual for 1905," which has just appeared, the figures on effective fighting ships of the various nations are as follows: Great Britain, all ships, 178, battleships 65; France, all ships 93, battleships 36; United States, all ships 75, battleships 36; Germany, all ships 69, battleships 36; Russia, all ships 44, battleships 26. As to first-class battleships the figures are: Great Britain, 50; France, 17; United States, 25; Germany, 22; Russia, 13.

A captive Japanese officer, imprisoned at Omsk, in Siberia, bet the Russian officer in charge of the prisoners a prospect for every minute that Port Arthur held out after June 1. He owed the jailer on October 1 nearly \$1,000. The Russian asked for payment on account and offered to terminate the bet. The Japanese said nothing, returned to his room and shot himself dead with a revolver.

F. R. Benson, addressing a meeting of the Dramatic Debaters in London the other day said his comedy "The Merry Men" "Romeo and Juliet," and in the balcony scene a cannon went off. He sent for the property man, who explained that it was the cannon that should have gone off in the performance of "Henry V," two days before.

B. F. Combs of Parker, Kas., says his prospect for a big apple crop this year is the best he ever had. He expects to raise 50,000 which represent 7,500 barrels. He has never yet sold a barrel of apples for less than \$3, and if his prospect keeps up and also the price he will get \$262,500 for his apple crop.

English doctors had an unexpected entertainment when they visited Dr. Druggan in the course of a trip to Paris. When he had shown them his museum he ushered them into his operating room, where he had arranged eight important operations, including one for appendicitis, in two hours and a half.

Messrs. Beardmore, of Glasgow, on May 15 laid the first keel of a new British battleship to be called the Agamemnon. She is the most powerful ship of the first line yet ordered. She will have a displacement of 16,500 tons, and be more heavily armored than anything afloat.

Marshall Van Worley has gone into a new business, viz., the shipping of cats out of Titusville. He has shipped about twenty to the farm of E. H. Walker, at Quay. There were all sorts of cats, large and small, and all shades of color; some with ears and tails and some without.

The town of Cardiff, Wales, recently was attacked by millions of foreign flies, brought by a south wind. Such was the severity of their sting, especially along the water front, that the docks were deserted, and all people who could shut themselves within doors did so.

Sienna, Italy, is famous for the large hats of its women, and the long horns of its cattle. The hats, which we know in America as Leghorn hats, are a peculiar product of Sienna, although they are known abroad by the name of the city from which they are exported.

Zurbaran's portrait of Valesquez, which contemporary writers praised very highly and which was supposed to have been burned in the Retro Palace, has been discovered in the Cathedral of La Seo, Saragossa, Spain.

The exportation of ostriches from South Africa has practically been prohibited by an export tax of \$487 each, as far as possible, the monopoly of the ostrich trade of ostrich farming.

ALLEGED ELEVATOR TRUST BEING SUED

An Omaha Grain Company Seeks to Recover Damages Amounting to \$128,000.

LATTER WAS BOYCOTTED

The Organization, Which It Is Alleged, Operates Over Nebraska Is Alleged, Prices, Stifles Competition and Then Divides Profits.

Omaha, Neb., June 21.—In a suit filed at Blair, Washington, county, by the Worrall Grain company of this city, asking for a judgment of \$128,000 against thirty-nine elevator companies and prominent elevator proprietors and grain dealers of Omaha and Nebraska, some of the innermost secrets of the Nebraska Grain Dealers' association—the so-called elevator trust—are laid bare. With this flinging open of the doors of the Nebraska grain dealers' combination charges of the most sensational character are made relative to the method of operating in fixing prices and absolutely annihilating competition.

The president of the Worrall Grain company and the voucher for the truth of the startling information contained within the twenty-three type written pages of the petition, is Thomas D. Worrall, for twenty-seven years a grain dealer of Nebraska, for a number of years a member of the Nebraska Grain Dealers' association, and intimately acquainted with the methods and manner in which it operates. Because he refused to be bound by the agreements of the association he is alleged that an attempt has been made to boycott him just as other independent grain dealers have been boycotted since the organization was perfected, and it is this fact which has led him to ask for damages.

FIVE GENERATIONS IN THIS FAMILY.



Allen, Neb., June 21.—A family of five generations, the oldest member 84 years of age and the youngest about 2 years of age, lives happily in the same neighborhood in Spring Bank township, Dixon county, Nebraska. The oldest member, Mrs. J. M. Pomeroy, 84 years is the president of the Ladies' Aid society at Allen, Neb. She was born in Steuben county, N. Y., in 1821 and married Nelson Pomeroy in 1839.

These cards are unsigned, but are official instructions, binding upon all the regular buyers until they are superseded by new cards. The state, it is alleged, is divided off into thirteen districts, in each of which certain members of the association have charge of seeing that all the dealers with their district are supplied with the price quotations fixed by the committee. The purposes and objects of the association are alleged to be to maintain a pool in the prices paid to farmers; to fix and control the sale of grain in all the markets of the country; to prevent all persons not members of the association from handling grain in the state; to prevent independent dealers from erecting and maintaining elevators; to prevent farmers from loading their grain into cars for direct shipment; to prevent farmers from establishing elevators; to compel farmers to deal exclusively with members of the association; to bankrupt and destroy all dealers who are not members of the association or are unwilling to abide by its agreements; to coerce all grain dealers in the United States into handling only such Nebraska grain as comes from the members of the association.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

Young Man Met Sudden Death While Plowing Corn. Aurora, Neb., June 21.—Arlie Kerns was killed by lightning near here. The father owns a farm two miles out from town, where the young man was plowing corn. A slight rain was falling, accompanied by a good deal of lightning.

NEBRASKA CITY MYSTERY.

There Is No Trace of the Negroes Who Attacked Montgomery Homes. Nebraska City, Neb., June 21.—The sheriff and police have made a thorough investigation of the alleged mysterious attacks on the home of J. P. Montgomery, south of this city, which resulted in the death of Mr. Montgomery from fright, but they have not discovered any clues which would substantiate the story of Claude Lewis, the grandson, who said that negroes were trying to kill him. The boy tells practically the same story that he did the morning following the death of his grandfather. He was taken suddenly sick today from nervous prostration and the physician in attendance says the boy is threatened with brain fever.

MURDERER HAS RECEIVED REPRIEVE

Frank Barker Will Not Hang as Sentenced by the Court.

THE STORY OF THE CRIME

It Was One of the Most Cold Blooded Assassinations in the History of Nebraska and Also as Mysterious.

Lincoln, Neb., June 20.—Governor Mickey has announced that he has extended the reprieve of Frank Barker, the condemned murderer, who was to have been hanged yesterday, for two years. The crime for which Frank Barker was convicted and sentenced, was the murder of Daniel and Alice Barker, his brother and sister-in-law. It was one of the most cold-blooded assassinations that has ever taken place in the history of crime. Frank Barker murdered the victims in the hope of gaining possession of a few chattels worth perhaps less than \$1,000, so that he might the speedier marry his affianced. It is said that the brothers were on the best of terms and there was more than ordinary affection seemingly between them. No one had heard the one utter an unkind word about the other. Young Barker made his home with Dan and Alice and always expressed admiration and liking for his sister-in-law.

The awful deed was committed about midnight January 31, 1904, at the Arnold ranch, seven miles from Red Cloud, Webster county. Frank Barker stealthily entered the house of his brother and while he and his wife lay asleep killed them, firing several shots into their bodies at close range.

He Then Buried Victims. The murderer carried the lifeless, bleeding remains of his relatives from the house and buried them under the cattle shed. The next morning the assassin reported with other men to cut ice a short distance from the Barker home.

The day he remarked that he had bought out his brother, paying \$1,000 for his chattels. He mentioned that Dan and his wife had decided to remove to Denver and had gone to Red Cloud the night previous to take the early morning train. He wondered why the Barkers had taken a notion so suddenly to leave the community and Mr. Arnold, the owner of the ranch, whom Dan worked for, was greatly surprised at his departure. He owed the man money for labor and Dan had failed to call and settle. It was a rather odd procedure, Arnold thought, for his tenant to leave without collecting his money and apprising him of his intention to sever the term of employment.

Lived in Victims' Home. Young Barker continued to live at the house of his brother, and later he was questioned more closely about the absence of the missing man and his wife. Barker said that Dan expected to return in time for the beginning of the spring work. A few days later Frank went to Red Cloud and persons who had begun to suspect that something was wrong concluded during his absence to search the premises of the Barker home.

In the loft of the barn were found clothing belonging to the missing couple, blood stained carpet and papers saturated with blood. Charles Hunter, a merchant of Invale, was in Red Cloud at the time and to him was telephoned the horrible discovery.

Hunter at once swore out a warrant and Barker was arrested as he was about to leave for home. He would say nothing and excitement was rising over the possibility that he was the slayer of his relatives. The search was continued by suspicious neighbors and others on the Barker premises. Human footprints were traced to the river. It was believed that murder had been committed and the slayer had placed the body of his victim under the ice. The river was dragged, but without success.

Important Clues Found. Search was then resumed near the home. The next day a soft place, indicating the removal of fresh dirt, was discovered. The soil was dug out and will but vigorous use of the shovel in short hands and the naked knee of a man was uncovered. The coroner at Red Cloud was hurriedly summoned, the digging was resumed and the remains of Dan Barker and his wife were discovered and positively identified. The dead man and woman were garbed in their night clothes, indicating that both had been killed during the night, evidently while they were lying asleep in their beds.

Crimes in the Family. The crime of Frank Barker was not the first that had been committed by a member of his family. Tom Madison, an uncle, committed murder September 14, 1903, only a little over a year before. Madison became desperately infatuated with Mrs. Edna Williamson, but she did not return his love and refused to marry him. The crime was accomplished less than eleven miles from the scene of the Barker killing. Madison killed Mrs. Williamson, her daughter and her mother.

RAVAGES OF HESSIAN FLY.

Investigation Shows Considerable Damage in Buffalo County. Kearney, Neb., June 20.—The report having been circulated for some time past that the Hessian fly, the most dreaded and destructive of the wheat pests, had crossed the Platte river and invaded the wheat fields of Buffalo county, the Hub has been busy for the last week making an exhaustive investigation. The result of these investigations is the establishment of the fact that there is some fly in the county, but not sufficient to do a great deal of damage this year. If the pest is not exterminated, however, and climatic conditions are as favorable for its propagation this year as last, there is no telling what the next season may develop.

The Hub has interviewed large numbers of farmers, and the invariable reply to inquiries was that there were no indications of the presence or work of the Hessian invader. In fact the greater portion of the farmers declared that their wheat was looking fine, and except where hail had done damage a very satisfactory crop was looked for. These inquiries, however, developed another fact, and that was that very few of the farmers were at all familiar with the fly and its habits.

The state agricultural department sent out circulars on this subject last week, but as they have never been any trouble here, Buffalo county farmers paid little attention to the matter.

NEW DAM FOR MISSOURI

Power to Be Transmitted Seventy-Five Miles.

Helena, Mont., June 19.—The Missouri River Power company will build a second dam across the Missouri river for developing electrical power at a cost of \$1,000,000. Work will begin at once. Power will be transmitted to Helena and Butte, as well as intermediate points, a distance of seventy-five miles. The Butte mines will be the chief beneficiaries of the new plant. The news was brought to Helena by ex-Senator Power, who has just returned from New York, while President Hauser, of the company, vouchsafed the information. Details have all been arranged and the financial backing secured upon showing the handsome profits of the present plant, which operates the east Helena smelter, the Helena lighting and street car systems, as well as being an important factor to the Butte mines, which receive 15,000 horse power therefrom. The new dam will develop 30,000 horse power.

STRIKE DOWN MERE BABY

Five-Year-Old Girl at Shelbyville, Ind., Victim of Robbers. Shelbyville, Ind., June 19.—May Hill, the five-year-old daughter of Charles Hill, a cabinetmaker, was attacked by thieves about 8:30 o'clock this morning and may die of her injuries. The thieves escaped and the entire police force of Shelbyville, with a large posse of citizens, is searching for the fugitives. May Hill, who is foreman in a local factory, went to work at the usual hour this morning and soon afterward Mrs. Hill left the house to make some purchases for the noon meal. She was absent about ten minutes and on her return found the house in confusion and her little daughter lying on the floor in a pool of blood with her head crushed. Thieves had entered the house thinking no one at home and on finding the child had struck her down to prevent an alarm.

WIFE MURDERER HANGED

Spent Night Preceding Death Telling Lewd Stories, but Lost Nerve on Scaffold.

Peoria, Ill., June 17.—Otis Batts, aged 21 who was executed in the county jail today for the murder of his wife, January 5, Batts spent the night laughing, joking and telling lewd stories. His mother wanted to attend the execution, but he said: "Don't do it. You'll make me lose my nerve."

When he faced the crowd the air of bravado which had marked his career to this time, deserted him and he broke down and wept. He was barely able to stand when the straps of the rose were being fixed.

Batts strangled his wife to death by tying a hair ribbon around her neck.

SKIRT TOO SHORT.

President Objects to His Picture Beside Mountain Maid's. Denver, June 17.—President Roosevelt has objected against a photograph in which, beside the picture of himself, is that of a young woman wearing a skirt which lacked many inches of touching the ground. The photograph is one of the presidential hunting party, taken when it was returning from the mountains of Tuesday by its two most distinguished guests of the day, the Rev. Beverly Ellison Warner, university chaplain, and Dr. William Peterson, convocation orator. The presence of a negro student among the candidates for degrees excited the wrath of Dr. Warner, who is pastor of the Trinity church of New Orleans. At the official luncheon following the exercises he was called on to make a speech, and responded by declaring that he was surprised a northern university should confer a degree on a negro.

EMBARASSES HIS HOSTS

New Orleans Preacher Draws Color Line at Chicago's Official Graduation Luncheon.

Chicago, June 17.—The University of Chicago was dealt two unexpected criticisms at the fifty-fifth quarterly convocation which, beside the picture of himself, is that of a young woman wearing a skirt which lacked many inches of touching the ground. The photograph is one of the presidential hunting party, taken when it was returning from the mountains of Tuesday by its two most distinguished guests of the day, the Rev. Beverly Ellison Warner, university chaplain, and Dr. William Peterson, convocation orator. The presence of a negro student among the candidates for degrees excited the wrath of Dr. Warner, who is pastor of the Trinity church of New Orleans. At the official luncheon following the exercises he was called on to make a speech, and responded by declaring that he was surprised a northern university should confer a degree on a negro.

The remarks of Dr. Warner at the luncheon were met with many grave faces. Nearly the entire faculty was present, as well as many alumni and students who had just received their degrees. The negro, whose name is Alexander Bismarck Terrell, did not attend the luncheon. "I am much surprised that a northern university would confer a degree on a negro," said Dr. Warner. "In the south we do not let negroes attend our colleges. In solving this problem of the negro we must leave out of all consideration the idea of social equality."

"The greatest social problem of all the ages is the negro problem. The solution of the problem must come from the south and not from the north, or the east, or the west. No one should interfere with the south in this matter. "There are many grave looks before me, but I know it is true. I plead with you to leave the negro question to the south and not interfere."

SECRETARY HAY RETURNS

Appearance Shows He Is Far from a Well Man.

New York, June 19.—Secretary of State John Hay arrived from Europe yesterday on the Baltic, much improved in health, but plainly showing that he was far from being a well man. His presence in this country evidently was anxiously expected by President Roosevelt, for an imposing and long documents were delivered to him at a luncheon by a special messenger from the White House.

Mr. Hay said in response to questions that he had no intention of leaving the cabinet.

BANKER SENT TO PRISON.

Toledo, June 16.—Orus M. Burns, a banker of Mt. Pelier, O., today pleaded guilty to embezzlement of bank funds and was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

NO LONGER "PROFESSORS." Columbus, O., June 16.—The American National Dancing association today elected Oscar Duryea president and decided to discard the word "professor" as a much abused word.

NEBRASKA AT THE PORTLAND SHOW

Agricultural Display at Exposition Is the Best of All States.

MANY ARE IN ATTENDANCE

An Average of Fifty Nebraskans Register Each Day at the State Pavilion—Great Exhibit of Corn and Wheat.

Fremont, Neb., June 19.—George L. Loomis has returned from Portland, where he went in his official capacity as one of the three Nebraska commissioners to the Lewis-Clark exposition. Mr. Loomis put in most of his time while at Portland assisting in getting Nebraska's exhibit ready and the results that have been obtained he is highly pleased with. "Nebraska has unquestionably the finest and most attractive display in the agricultural building," said he. "It is not only the best but it is the most talked of on the grounds. It is decidedly ahead of what the state had at St. Louis a year ago, though it is on the same general plan. The exhibit is mostly of corn, some 350 bushels of nearly eighty varieties being used. It is located in the rear of the agricultural building in a space 40 by 75 feet. It is given an excellent chance for display on account of the other exhibits near it being low. The ears of corn varying in shades from deep red to pale yellow are worked up into a great variety of effects, both inside and outside the pavilion. The interior of the theater, where the moving pictures are displayed is decorated with corn and varieties of grasses formed into attractive designs. An additional splendor is given it by the use of many electric lights.

The attendance of Nebraskans at the exposition, Mr. Loomis says, is much larger than has been generally believed over the state. The register in the pavilion has averaged fifty names of Nebraskans a day since the gates opened and is growing larger. Some of these persons who register are former residents of Nebraska who are now located in Oregon or Washington, but most of them are direct from the state.

GIRL ACCUSES HER FATHER.

Terrible Charge Against a Well Known Johnson County Farmer.

Tecumseh, Neb., June 19.—Miss Minnie Schroder, whose home is about eight miles east of this city, came into the county court and swore to a serious charge against her father, August Schroeder. Miss Schroeder is about 29 years of age. She says the crime was committed last January. Schroeder is about 50 years of age and has always borne a good reputation. Sheriff W. H. Cummings went to his place, placed him under arrest and brought him to Tecumseh, where he is now confined in the county jail. The date of his hearing has been set for July 12. Miss Schroeder's mother is living and she has several brothers and sisters at home.

HE NEARLY STARVES.

Creston, Ia., Led Falls from Exhaustion—Had Eaten Nothing in Four Days.

Omaha, Neb., June 19.—Starving to death and too proud to beg any one for something to appease his hunger, Arthur L. Hawkins of Creston, Ia., fell from exhaustion in the alley back of the Millard hotel and was found later in a comatose condition by an officer, who, thinking him drunk, sent him to police headquarters, where he was locked up. Rallying from the stupor shortly after being placed in a cell, Hawkins stated to the trunker that he was starving to death. Surgeons Wigton and Kennedy were called out of bed and found that Hawkins was not intoxicated, but suffering from the pangs of hunger. Hawkins stated that he had eaten nothing for four days. The surgeons gave him milk in small quantities all during the night.

Hawkins said that he is 20 years old and came from Creston to Omaha in search of work. He had only a small amount of money with him, which he gave out while he was searching for employment. Several times he started in restaurants to ask for something to eat, but his spirit rebelled against begging. He decided to write home for money, but he collapsed before the letter had time to reach his father.

KILLED BY TRAIN.

Millard, Neb., Man Too Deaf to Hear Its Approach.

Omaha, Neb., June 19.—Lars Johnson of Millard, Neb., was struck and instantly killed by Union Pacific passenger train No. 4. Johnson, who was deaf, started to cross the track in front of the approaching train. The engineer saw the man on the track and whistled a number of times, but Johnson continued to walk leisurely across the track. The engineer was unable to stop the train.

JAILED AT OMAHA.

Murderer of Alma Goos Taken from Plattsmouth for Safety.

Omaha, Neb., June 19.—Max Pleohn, who was arrested at Plattsmouth, Neb., and jailed for the murder of Alma Goos and the wounding of her sister, was brought to the county jail in this city for safekeeping. Sheriff McBride of Plattsmouth stated that a large crowd had gathered at the Cass county jail, but that no violence had been offered the prisoner. He said he brought Pleohn to Omaha to avoid crowds of curiosity seekers and others calling to see the prisoner.

WIPES OUT WHOLE FAMILY.

LaCrosse, Wis., June 15.—Herman G. Hurand, aged 53, whose wife and five children died suddenly recently, committed suicide over the graves of his dead. Despondency due to loss of family is the cause.

BAR SNAKES FROM HAWAII

Killed When Landed by Steamer for Exhibition—None in Islands.

Honolulu, June 17.—A box of snakes landed here by the steamer Alameda for exhibition has been confiscated because there are no snakes in the Hawaiian islands and the policy is to keep them out. Efforts were made to prevent the landing of the reptiles, but these were fruitless. They were killed, however, by collector. Strackable before they could be brought through the custom house.