

THE O'NEILL FRONTIER

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YNEILL, NEBRASKA

Because its employees frequently were late, a London house recently ordered that the tardy ones should write their excuses in a book provided for that purpose. But the clerks proved lazy and unoriginal. At the top of a page a late one would write "Train delayed" or "Omnibus horse died," as the case might be. The next fell into the habit of making ditto marks and letting it go at that. But not long ago one man had a new excuse. He wrote with pride: "Wife had twins." The second slow person that morning was in a great hurry and did not notice the ditto marks, but made his customary ditto marks, and the rest of the men on that page followed suit. The excuse book was abolished.

In the far east language has always been more florid and more ambiguous than in the west. The king of Ava, in Burma, called himself the "regulator of the seasons, the absolute master of the ebb and flow of the sea, brother of the sun and lord of the four and twenty umbrellas." The king of Arracan, in Burma, was "possessor of the white elephant and two earrings, as well as lord of the twelve kings who placed their heads under his feet." In the Mozambique-Zambesi region of Africa the king of Monomtopa was not only "lord of the sun and moon," but "great magician and great thief."

Ants have a wonderful power of existing long periods after losing important parts of their bodies, which are not reproduced. They have been known to live two weeks without the abdomen, which is so bulky in proportion to the rest of the insect. Under the most favorable circumstances an ant may live more than a month after its head has been cut off. One case is recorded in which the rest of the ant moved about forty-one days after decapitation. Ants also revive after being submerged in water for many days, although they seem to be dead a few minutes after they are immersed.

An incident of the early days of the present German empire: The question as to how the kaiser's title should run divided the court into three sections. One division favored "German emperor," the second was for "emperor of Germany," while the third wished it to be "emperor of Germans." Bismarck, who was present at one such discussion, looked up from a meal. "What's the Latin for sausage?" he asked. "Farciamentum," said one. "Farciemen," said another. Bismarck smiled significantly as he replied: "Farciementum or farciemen, it is all the same to me."

Camille Flammarion has been making experiments in Paris to see whether the moon exerts any influence on the growth of plants according to the legend. He made different sets of plantings at dates which correspond to the different phases of the moon, using peas, beets, carrots, potatoes, beans and many other vegetables and ornamental kinds. The results were extremely variable and no fixed rule seemed to govern them. The plants appeared at periods which had no connection with the moon's phases.

Sir Edward Elgar, who is professor of music at Birmingham university, delivered the first of a series of public lectures there recently, and, dealing with English composers, contended that music was not helped so much as other arts. It was utterly hopeless, for a young musician to expect to keep himself by writing serious music. He wanted to see larger concert rooms in towns where works could be produced at a small fee.

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Richmond, of Columbus, O., celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, attended by near relatives and the intimate family. A feast was served, and the guest was the placing of fifty \$20 gold pieces in the huge cake, and it was carved the coins fell to various members. One was so fortunate as to receive three of the double eagles in his one slice of the anniversary cake.

The famous tapestries of the palace at Fontainebleau have been cut and slashed until they are almost in shreds; the sculptors and carved wood mantelpieces chipped and scored by a modern vandal. A well known architect, who had been engaged to make a report on the condition of the palace, states that an expenditure of \$100,000 will barely cover the costs of the most urgent repairs.

Eight years ago three young English university men decided to start a laundry that should be a model in its processes and work, and they succeeded. Recently they opened an exhibition of their achievements in Bond street, where it is hoped it will make a proper impression upon the "smart" London women who have been sending their linens and laces to Paris to be dealt with.

Benjamin K. Thorn, a native of New York, nephew of United States Senator T. C. Platt, age 75, and classed as the most fearless sheriff in California, died recently. As sheriff of Calaveras county he was leader in the most famous man hunt in the state's history. No chance was too desperate for him to take, and he took many desperate chances in his fifty years of service.

A few years ago an Indian on the Coeur d'Alene reservation brought to the reservation two "Belgian hares." Their descendants are now numbered by tens of thousands and they are devastating the crops of white settlers far and near. To make matters worse, the Indians believe that to kill a rabbit or hare brings bad luck.

A stone carving of a grizzly bear in the attitude of defending her cubs has been made by A. C. Thompson, Seattle, and will be shipped to Alaska, to be placed over the grave of R. Shadesty, one of the most prominent Indians of the north when alive. He died on December 17, 1903, leaving \$600 to pay for the monument.

In accordance with the expressed desire of the Roman Catholics of Nevada, that state will be made a separate diocese. Most of it has hitherto formed a part of the diocese of Sacramento. A splendid cathedral will be built in Reno on the site of a church that was burned recently.

Honolulu has on exhibition a specimen of the Illini or "stone that breeds," from Kauai Island. The natives say that if the stone is placed in a glass jar and water poured over it, and the jar covered for a couple of days the stone will reproduce itself in the form of four or five smaller stones.

One of the oldest settlers in Kingman county, Kansas, is a mule. It helped to draw the first wagonload of provisions into the country. The mule has been admitted as a member of the Old Settlers' association and attends every picnic. It is one of the landmarks of the county.

A PIONEER DEVOTES HIS LIFE TO REVENGE

Massacre of Seven Children Nerves Henry Wiseman to Slay Indians.

LIVES IN CEDAR COUNTY

Was Settler When State of Nebraska Was Wild, but Now Alone and Miserable, He Occupies a Log Cabin.

Norfolk, Neb., Dec. 26.—Fifty miles west of Sioux City, high above the Missouri river, among the wild, picturesque hills of northern Nebraska, lives an extraordinary man, whose life has been a thrilling romance, full of tragedy, revenge and hatred.

The story of Henry Wiseman is familiar to all the inhabitants in and about Cedar county, Neb., where the strange man lives, and will be handed down from father to son for generations to come.

A man whose boyhood was spent within a few miles of Wiseman's home can never forget the powerful effect of the tale upon his imagination when it was first unfolded to him.

Henry Wiseman was one of the first white inhabitants of Cedar county, settling there before 1860. He hailed from Kentucky, and possessed the strength, agility and courage characteristic of Kentuckians.

He was over 6 feet tall, and straight as the barrel of his long carbine, a fact well known to his enemies, both in Kentucky and the west. He was an abolitionist, who left his southern home because of slavery.

When the civil war broke out, Wiseman sent his grown-up son to the front to fight against the slave power, and the boy fell in battle.

Wiseman himself joined a regiment of soldiers to protect the settlers on the frontier against the Indians, who became warlike and bloodthirsty when hostilities began in the south.

During the summer of 1862, while the family was in this precarious situation, Mrs. Wiseman was obliged to go to Yankton, Dakota Territory, on business.

When she returned to her home an awful discovery awaited her. The white doorknob was stained with blood. The alarmed woman did not dare enter, but she returned to the rear of the house to look in through a window.

The worst fears took possession of her. Where were her children? Why did they not come running out to meet her, and why did she not hear any noises from them?

Behind the house lay a bleeding Indian at the point of death. He had just strength enough to raise himself on his elbow and meet Mrs. Wiseman with a look of unspeakable malice and hate.

The two youngest children, the twins, could not at first be found, and it was believed that the Indians had carried them away alive to be reared by squaws. But such was not the case.

The effect of these shocking disclosures upon Mrs. Wiseman was so crushing that she broke down both mentally and physically, and her life was despaired of. She rallied physically, however, but her mind was partially deranged from that day until her death, forty-three years later.

It is supposed that during the absence of Mrs. Wiseman a band of Indians approached the house, probably with no hostile intent. The children saw them coming and were filled with fear.

The eldest boy, a lad of about 15, seized the loaded gun, and when the Indians were within a few rods from the house fired at them, wounding the leader. This enraged the rest and the massacre followed. The dying Indian found by Mrs. Wiseman was the victim of the boy's deadly aim.

JAIL BREAKERS CAUGHT

Three Bad Men Who Escaped from Kearney, Neb., Are Retaken After Fight with Officers.

Kearney, Neb., Dec. 27.—Fred Gillette, W. B. Warner and Fred Englebrecht, the three men who broke jail in this city last week have been captured near Holdrege, where they were brought to bay in a haystack. They were pursued until night-fall by Sheriff Sammons and Chief of Police Trindle, who secured an automobile for the chase after hearing the men had been sighted near Elm creek.

Making a stand in a haystack the trio fought off one posse with a revolver fusillade. Sheriff Gustav Phelps of this county, with several deputies, then drove down upon the exhausted men with Winchester rifles leveled and the men surrendered.

PEANUT KILLS LITTLE ONE.

Kernel Lodges in Bronchial Tube and Baby Dies.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 26.—The lodgment of a peanut in the bronchial tube caused the death of Gertrude Briggs, 1 year and 10 months of age. Dr. Allison performed an operation to remove the nut, but death followed after acute inflammation of the lungs had set in. The child was the daughter of Harry Briggs, a carpenter.

RIFLE AND FENCE ARE FATAL.

Trigger Catches on Wire and Ball Enters Boy's Heart.

Hastings, Neb., Dec. 25.—Samuel Evans, the 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Evans, who reside two miles south of Roseland, accidentally shot and killed himself while hunting rabbits. The lad had crawled through a barbed wire fence and attempted to pull a twenty-gauge rifle after him. The trigger caught on the wire fence and discharged the load. The ball entered the boy's heart and killed him instantly.

FACTORY NEEDS MORE WORKERS

Beet Sugar Plant is Running Full Force Night and Day.

Freemont, Neb., Dec. 26.—The Standard Beet Sugar company is having the biggest run since the plant began business. The present campaign will probably last until March. The company is working at full capacity both night and day. Competent help is scarce and about all who apply are taken on. Owing to the class of floating labor which the company is obliged to employ the force in constant flux, and a good many men are kept on the payroll simply because there is no one to take their places.

HEAD SHOT OFF.

Boy Pitching Hay at Ansley Was Accidentally Killed.

Broken Bow, Neb., Dec. 25.—The 14-year-old son of John D. Knapp, a farmer living three miles south of Ansley, was accidentally shot and instantly killed. The father and son were in the field loading hay, the boy working on the wagon where the shotgun lay. While stooping to another fork of hay, Knapp heard the report of the gun and looking up saw the boy with the right side of his head blown off. The father does not know how the accident happened.

HOG CHOLERA PREVALENT.

In Vicinity of Allen and Martinsburg Farmers Report Losses.

Allen, Neb., Dec. 25.—The hog cholera is raging through the part of the county near Martinsburg, and also in the vicinity of Allen. Farmers are reporting the loss of many of their fine porkers which they had planned to market just before Christmas this year. This is a serious loss to farmers when such a big crop of corn is in the crib for feeding pigs.

RUNAWAY CAUSES EXCITEMENT

Frantic Team at Pierce Nearly Runs Over Some Children.

Pierce, Neb., Dec. 23.—A team belonging to J. E. Sexton created a lot of excitement here by running away in the main business streets of Waterbury and also teams and snappers. The team ran south and turned a corner while going at a terrific rate of speed. Just as they reached the corner some children who were promading on the walk reached the corner also. For a moment it looked as if the team would dash right into and crush the children. Happily the horses turned to short a corner and a wheel of the vehicle came into contact with a large electric pole stopping the horses suddenly. Only this probably saved the children from death.

CALLED POPCORN KING.

L. H. Lederer, of Pierce, Sells His Product by Novel Idea.

Pierce, Neb., Dec. 23.—L. H. Lederer who is deputy clerk at this place is also becoming widely known as a popcorn king. This year he planted a considerable area to this crop and was rewarded by an enormous production. He attempted to sell it to several local merchants, but they could use but a few bushels at a time. Lederer set his brain to work and originated the idea of placing the popcorn, shelled, into small round packages ready for popping. His idea was introduced by several wholesale firms over the state and now he is completely covered with orders for his popcorn. He intends to devote much attention next year to this crop.

HUSBAND AND WIFE ENTER SUICIDE PACT

Former Iowa Newspaper Man in Hospital at Lincoln, Nebraska.

WIFE SHOT HIM TWICE

O. H. Tibbitts, of Hamburg Appears in a Strange Role and It is Believed He Agreed to Suicide.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 25.—In accordance with what is believed to be an agreement to die together, Mrs. Susie V. Tibbitts Tuesday shot her husband, Oliver H. Tibbitts, twice with a 22-caliber revolver, inflicting wounds which are not considered dangerous. Which she could turn the gun on herself, her husband weakened in his purpose and overpowered her. She was arrested and taken to the city jail, while he was removed to St. Elizabeth's hospital, where he was treated by City Physician Slattery.

The shooting occurred in the block at 1330 O street, where Mr. and Mrs. Tibbitts have been living for several days. Since their marriage they have had considerable trouble, partly over their 5-year-old child and partly because of the drink habit to which both are addicted. Tibbitts has been employed at the Milford home, but a day or two ago came to Lincoln to join his wife. They rented a room and Tuesday night both began to drink absinthe. Wednesday forenoon they quarreled, and at the request of the woman Officer Boegh was sent to the block about 9 o'clock to settle the difficulty.

Mrs. Tibbitts declared her husband had been choking her, and the revolver was in the time. Officer Boegh told Tibbitts to leave the place and stay away from her and required her to put the gun away. He left orders with Mr. Carter, the landlord, not to allow Tibbitts to return to the room and Tibbitts said he would go to Bedford.

He did return, however, and at the request of Mrs. Tibbitts was allowed to go to the room. They quarreled again, and as a result, it is thought, the compact to die together was made. Mrs. Tibbitts to shoot him first and then herself.

According to her story, told to the police matron at the station, she turned the gun on him and fired, hitting him between the eyes. Before she could turn the weapon upon herself he grabbed her, and the second shot struck him just over the apex of the heart, loosing between two ribs. The screams brought neighbors to the room and the police were notified. Mrs. Tibbitts went constantly to the room, Mr. Tibbitts in spite of his condition, refused to be helped to the ambulance. He walked downstairs and got into the vehicle alone. He was taken to the hospital, where it was found that his injuries were not serious unless blood poisoning should set in.

Mrs. Tibbitts refused to talk to a reporter. When she was asked about the case she buried her face in her hands and returned to the back of the cell, sobbing. A conference was held with a representative of the county attorney's office and it is doubted if she will be prosecuted. It is not believed that her husband could be induced to make a complaint.

Mrs. Tibbitts is only 26 years old, while her husband is 58. Her maiden name was Church and her father is Andrew Church of Fairmont. She has a brother who works in a lurch room on N street. Tibbitts is said to be a former newspaper man. He is said to have run a paper at Hamburg, Ia., for some time.

Later in the afternoon Tibbitts was removed from the hospital to the city jail for safe keeping. It is said he became not communicable at the hospital that he could not be controlled.

HEARING FOR BARKER.

Webster County Murderer to Be Examined for Sanity.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 25.—The supreme court has handed down its formal opinion in the application of the attorney for Frank Barker, the Webster county murderer to have his sanity passed on by the district court. The order reversing the district court and commanding it to assume jurisdiction was issued in time to prevent the hearing last June. The court says in the syllabus: "The jurisdiction of the district court of Lancaster county to inquire as to the sanity of a convict confined to the state penitentiary under sentence of death does not depend upon the sanity of the prosecuting attorney. If it is alleged in a proper application to the judge, under oath, that the convict is insane, and that the warden unjustifiably refuses to give the statutory notice, it is the duty of the judge to make such investigation as will satisfy him whether there are such appearances of insanity as will justify the summoning of a jury to try the question."

MOTOR CAR HURT WOMAN.

Union Pacific Novelty Has Accident Near Callaway.

Callaway, Neb., Dec. 23.—The motor car which was loaned to Callaway by the Union Pacific Novelty Co. was struck by a wagon in which rode Mr. and Mrs. Charles Felker. Mrs. Felker received a bad gash on her head but her husband escaped with few injuries. As they started to cross the track, the car was without lights because of trouble the motorman was having, struck the wagon. It was ground to kindling and one horse was killed.

MADISON MURDERER FREE.

Mickey to Release Frederick Sargent, Who Killed Wife at Battle Creek.

Norfolk, Neb., Dec. 23.—It is announced from Lincoln that Governor Mickey issued a commutation to Frederick Sargent, a Madison county man, sentenced in 1882 to twenty years in the state penitentiary for wife-murder.

Sargent, who has served twelve years and is the oldest inmate of the prison at point of service, will be released on New Year's day. He has been a trusty for several years.

SCHOOL BONDS SOLD.

Bancroft Will Now Begin Erection of Modern Building.

Bancroft, Neb., Dec. 23.—Twenty thousands dollars worth of school bonds were bought by a Nebraska Institution, being the entire issue of the \$20,000, 5 per cent. semi-annual bonds voted for the purpose of erecting a new brick school house. They were sold to the Bankers' Reserve company of Omaha at a premium of \$700.

The next highest bids were the McDonald, McCoy & Co., at a premium of \$643, and H. C. Speer & Sons Co., at \$210.

DAIRYMEN IN LINCOLN.

Butter Exhibit Will Be One of the Best in Recent Years.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 23.—The Nebraska State Dairymen's association will hold its twenty-first annual convention in Lincoln January 17 and 18. The meeting promises to be one of the most interesting ever held. There will be addresses by experts on dairy products and dairy herds and there will be a cow judging contest and a butter judging contest. All members of the association who are residents of the state are urged to take part in these contests. The stock judging contest will take place in the stock judging pavilion of the university farm at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, January 18. Liberal prizes have been offered for the best scores in judging.

OVER CENTURY OLD.

Former Old Settler of Cuming County, Nebraska Is Dead.

West Point, Neb., Dec. 21.—Edward Loney, grandfather of E. H. Loney, who was one of the oldest settlers of Cuming county, living on a homestead near Beemer for many years, is dead at Portland, Ore., at the age of 103 years.

CHANGES HER PLANS.

Will Return to Pittsburg to Institute Divorce Proceedings.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 23.—Falling in her intentions to secure a divorce without publicity by going to England, Mrs. W. E. Corey, wife of the president of the steel corporation, is coming back to Pittsburg for the purpose of instituting proceedings. That these are the present plans of Mrs. Corey was learned from an authoritative source yesterday. Mrs. Corey left Los Angeles yesterday for the east, and her friends here are expecting her the latter part of the week. When she went to Nevada about a month ago, her plans were to remain there until spring, and having secured a divorce by that time, make application for divorce, but owing to the publicity given the case this has been abandoned.

BIG GIFT FOR BOOTH.

London Man Provides \$500,000 for Colonization Work.

London, Dec. 20.—General Booth of the Salvation army, wrote to King Edward, announcing that George Herring, chairman of the City of London Electric Light company and a prominent member of many other corporations, had donated \$500,000 to the army to be used in a home colonization scheme. The general had engaged to repay this sum in twenty-five annual installments to the King's hospital fund.

General Booth says he hopes to provide for those who for various reasons are unable to leave England, by the emigration schemes of the Salvation army. Mr. Herring is well known as a philanthropist.

NO HOPE FOR SPALDING

Sporting Goods Man Injured in Auto Accident Probably Will Die.

Avignon, France, Dec. 20.—The doctors have little hope of saving the life of J. Walter Spalding, who was injured in an automobile accident yesterday. The front bone was fractured, one eye destroyed, and the other injured by splinters from his glasses.

Details of the accident show that Mr. Spalding's automobile, in which he was accompanied by three friends, was traveling at a high rate of speed. It broke down close to the crossing barrier, swerved along the track, and overturned.

Mr. Spalding's head struck a fence post and the other passengers were severely bruised. A minute later an express train passed the scene of the accident.

DIVISION OF CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Convention at Merna Chopped This Large Territory Into Four Parts.

EACH WAS GIVEN A NAME

The Ambition of the Town of Merna to Be the County Seat Is Declared by Delegates to Be the Motive of the Factional Fight.

Merna, Neb., Dec. 22.—At a county division convention held at this place a large representation was in attendance and the meeting was enthusiastic.

Lines were drawn cutting Custer county into four counties, the northwest quarter of the county to be named Noble, the southwest quarter Arbor, the southeast quarter Custer and the northeast Axamas. This divides the county into four equal parts and the petition will be circulated at once.

If the division of the county is completed by legal confirmation Merna probably will become the county seat of the northwest county, which is given the name Noble.

It is generally known that there has been considerable rivalry between Merna and Broken Bow and Merna's ambition to be the county seat, it appears, could be granted only by division.

The movement has long been agitated and on various political matters Broken Bow is said to have won some ill feeling over the county.

Custer county is situated in the heart of the state. Next to Cherry, and closely run by Lincoln county, it is the largest county in the state.

RETAINS OLD DEPUTIES

United States Marshal-Elect Warner Assumes Duties Tomorrow, Making No Great Changes.

Dakota City, Neb., Dec. 22.—United States Marshal-elect Warner will assume his duties as marshal at Omaha tomorrow morning. He says the appointment was wholly unsuspected. He expects to retain the present deputies and will make no changes at all unless he finds them unworthy in some respect. It is presumed he will move his family to Omaha. He has been deluged with letters and telegrams congratulating him and asking for jobs. He began answering them at 4 a. m. and is still far from caught up.

AGENTS BUNCO FARMERS.

Signatures to Contracts for Samples Followed by Demand for Payment.

York, Neb., Dec. 22.—Several farmers in north York county are complaining of being taken in by a medicine or remedy company, that claimed headquarters in Nebraska.

The agents, who called on the farmers wishing to introduce their remedies, which were guaranteed to cure every disease a farmer might have. They had a new plan to introduce their remedies that would make it profitable to the farmer and that was to make the farmer their agent, and in consideration of an agency the farmer would receive samples of the remedies which he agreed to show his neighbors and friends, and on all orders he would get a commission.

The agent, securing consent of the farmer to accept samples free of cost, pulls out a contract telling the farmer that as an evidence of good faith that he will receive the free samples and recommend the remedies, he must send a contract signed in to the house, or company.

The remedies arrived and were received. Sixty days afterwards a collector called stating that he was from Lincoln and wanted payment of \$40 for remedies purchased and to prove his right to collect \$40 he shows the farmer a contract which the farmer signed agreeing to pay at the expiration of sixty days for the remedies.

Some of the farmers are paying to avoid a suit; others are holding off.

VICTIM OF ANGRY MOB.

Coleridge Man, Accused of Wife Beating, Badly Beaten by Citizens.

Hartington, Neb., Dec. 22.—Henry Haack, the Coleridge wifebeater, was given a dose of his own medicine.

About two weeks ago Haack was fined \$50 and costs on the charge of beating his wife while intoxicated. He was also admonished to leave the town for good. He came to Hartington, and wishing to effect a reconciliation with his wife, he returned to Coleridge.

As soon as it got round that he had returned a vigilance committee was formed of twenty men and boys and he was marched out of town and unmercifully beaten.

For a distance of four miles he was driven like a wild animal. He was kicked and hammered with clubs until he was unable to move, and a sympathetic farmer brought him to Hartington more dead than alive. His nose was broken, his jaw fractured and his head pounded so both eyes were swollen shut. His left ear was broken and there were black and blue spots all over his body.

While there is no one who justifies his treatment of his wife the best citizens of Coleridge condemn the action of the men who participated in his punishment.

WIFE'S THROAT CUT.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 20.—Bathed in her own life's blood, the body of Mrs. Marta Mathauer was found lying on the floor of her kitchen by Mr. Mathauer, the victim of self destruction. A razor, lying by the side of the body, was mute evidence of how the woman had chosen to end her existence.

Then Mr. Mathauer returned from work he attempted to enter through the kitchen door, as was his custom, but the door was blocked by the body of his wife. After forcing the door he found his wife with a ghastly gash in her throat.

She had evidently been dead several hours.

WHITEMORE TRIAL IS ON.

O'Neill, Neb., Dec. 20.—The case of Bridget Carrigan vs. Fred Whitemore, involving the liability of a bank examiner and his bondsmen in the event of a bank failure, was called in the district court here.

The case arises out of the failure of the Elkhorn Valley bank of O'Neill over a year ago. Several depositors of the defunct bank have filed identical suits and the fate of the one now being tried determines the fate of all. Negligence on the part of the bank examiner when he last checked up the Elkhorn Valley bank is alleged.