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## DIAMOND DIDDINGS

### Things that are Transpiring Before the Base Ball Season Opens.

#### WESTERN AVERAGES SHOW QUEER CONDITION

#### Indication that Some Players Must Have Played Through the Winter.

John F. Byrne, secretary of the Des Moines base ball club has resigned to go into business. It is not stated what kind of business he will engage in, but if it is something that will take him outside of base ball the game and the Western League will have sustained a great loss. Mr. Byrne was the sort of man who makes base ball better because he is connected with it and we hope that wherever he may be or whatever business he may engage in that the game will not have lost at least the benefit of his presence and experience.

"Bill" Dwyer will be with Des Moines again next year. This news will be hailed with delight by the fans all over the circuit. Dwyer was one of the most popular players and managers in the Western last year, and while most of us would have been pleased to have seen him make good with Chicago, and feel that if given a chance he would have done so, it will be considerable satisfaction to know that if he is sent back that he will be seen at the initial sack for Des Moines.

Phil Kerner and Jack Niehoff are two of the Des Moines bunch who will be sent back for further development.

The fact that Pittsburg has decided to return Billy Fox to Omaha will probably be a joy to fans in the Western league, but one is led to wonder what the management of the Pittsburgers can be thinking of. Fox is a wonder around the second position and it is doubtful if there is a man who can discount him there. Take the responsibility of management off of the shoulders of Billy Fox so that he is free to get into the game without being hampered with the thought that he has got to be responsible for the work of the other eight men and there wouldn't be a man in the big league who could approach him when it comes down to playing the second sack. However there will be no regrets from this department, except that of disappointment because his worth is not appreciated by the big fellows, to see him back with us.

And now as to that Western League official average just sent out by the president of our much suffering league. It has taken nearly as long to prepare the averages as it did for the players to make them and even the player at the bottom with a batting average of .043 put up a better game with his stick than did the president with his typewriter. There is no doubt but that piece of literature should be embalmed and placed in the halls of fame as the most wonderful production of modern or prehistoric times. Never in the history of the game have players before been known to increase their average so rapidly after the season closed as they did

SEND IN YOUR  
FAVORITE SLOGAN.

### Don't Wait till the Last Minute, But Get Busy Right Away.

Probably nothing for a long time has caused so much comment in the city as the offer of the Commercial Club to give ten dollars in real money to the person who shall send in the best one to be used in advertising the city. A couple of the members of the commercial club who hold high and responsible positions in the club, were seen this morning hastening toward high school hill. Each one carried in his pocket a small package of salt. The rumor was that a fine slogan with beautiful plumage had been seen roosting in a tree on the hill and the aforesaid members proposed to catch it alive if possible. It is this same commendable spirit on the part of each one which will bring the desired results.

In sending in your slogan, please send them sealed in a letter. The secretary will number the letters and arrange them for the committee who will be chosen to make the award.

the past year in the Western league. It is wonderful. Harry Welch of Omaha closed the season with a batting average of about .275 or thereabouts, but since that time, during the past three months he has increased it to .372 and leads the league. Wonderful. Augustus Bonno, the macaroni artist who wielded the big club for the season of 1903 for Lincoln to the tune of less than a hundred and who quit the league last year with an average which was probably much less has been able since he quit the game to increase his batting to .267. He may have done the greater part of his hitting in the Macaroni League, but by rights his average there ought not to have been transferred to the Western because the Western is a much faster league. It was an open secret, hilariously proclaimed by all and even acknowledged by Ducky Holmes that the Lincoln aggregation was the fastest fielding bunch in the whole league, in fact the unofficial averages showed that was the proper idea all through the season, yet out comes those historical averages with the link wallowing around down at the bottom with the Pueblo tail enders. Shoveling snowballs in the winter should not be allowed to compete with batting base balls in summer.

#### Christian Scientists Elect Officers

At the annual meeting held Thursday evening at the church at the corner of South Sixth and Grand, the membership of the Christian Science church selected its readers for the coming year. J. C. Peterson was chosen First reader, and Mrs. Verner as Second reader. At the board meeting held at the reading room No. 201 Coates block, Friday evening the following officers were elected: Mrs. Edna Eaton, treasurer, Miss Mattilda Sonnichsen, clerk. The above members of the room in the Coates block will be the reading room which will be open every day, except Sunday, from 2 to 4 P. M. where Science literature can be read or purchased as desired.

#### George Vallery Here.

George Vallery, General Manager of the Colorado Midland, alighted from 15 this morning, and will be the guest of relatives here over Sunday. Mr. Vallery is just returning from Chicago where he had been on important business for his road.

## SENATOR ELMER J. BURKETT GETS LETTERS FROM HOME

### Finds That He Has Plenty of Friends in Nebraska Who Approve His Course.

#### SUPPORTERS OF ALDRICH SAY BURKETT IS AN INSURGENT

### Fought the Aldrich-Cannon Crowd When the Tariff Bill Was Up For Passage.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.--

As a result of the alleged "progressive republican" meeting held at Lincoln the first of the week, Senator Burkett is being swamped with letters and telegrams from individuals and newspaper editors in Nebraska pledging him their support. One of the editors says the fight is simply because "other people want the job." Another says, "We understand who the bunch is at Lincoln that is fighting you." And one man writes: "I was trapped into that meeting, and am for you rather than against you."

"One of the writers says: 'You have been too long before the public and we have watched your career too closely to be swept off our feet by this trumped up charge that you are not progressive'.

The telegraphic dispatches that have appeared here in local papers have aroused a good deal of interest and are attracting a good deal of attention on account of the fight that is being made against Senator Burkett. Here in Washington Burkett is looked upon as a "progressive" and an insurgent. As one of the old line senators said today: "He is one of the most pernicious and persistent insurgents that we have, for he was always fighting us all the way through. Another senator who has not been pleased with Burkett's actions said: 'If all Burkett needed out there was a certificate that he had been an insurgent' in the senate during the consideration of the tariff bill, he would have no trouble getting it from those who were here with him."

A perusal of the Congressional record shows that the Nebraska senator was probably more often a thorn in the

flesh of Aldrich crowd than any other senator on the floor. He it was who led the attack on the committee organization at the opening of the special session and scored a victory by getting the biggest shakeup in committee assignments that has ever been brought about for many years and getting an entirely new distribution of committees throughout several states of the country.

Almost at the beginning of the session Burkett entered into a spirited controversy with Aldrich as to the lack of investigation that the committee had given his bill and taunted the chairman of the finance committee with the fact that the committee had brought in no real information, that they had jumbled the bill together without suitable hearings to disclose facts enough upon which to base honest judgment.

Again in open session Senator Burkett openly accused Aldrich on the floor of the senate of juggling with figures in the Philippines tobacco schedule in order to humiliate La Follette. So it was throughout the session. Burkett was probably on the firing line as often as any other man in the senate, fighting for what he believed to be an honest interpretation of the last republican national platform.

The effort of the Lincoln meeting to get somebody to go out to Nebraska and make a speech against Burkett has fallen flat. Pinchot refused to go, as has also La Follette. Bristow said he had not had an invitation and would not go in any event. And it is known that Cummins refused such an invitation earlier in the season.

#### In Justice Court

The forcible entry and detainer case pending before Judge Archer wherein George S. Lesley is plaintiff and A. P. Barnes is defendant wherein the plaintiff seeks to obtain possession of the Wetcamp property on lower Main street, was taken up yesterday afternoon and continued for one week. The defendant made several dilatory motions, such as asking that plaintiff give security for costs, which was complied with. Then the petition was attacked because the plaintiff had sued by the initials of his given name, this was amended, then plaintiff raised the question of description of the property, and objected to the complaint because the council chamber was not excepted from the description. It was growing so late when the matters were all thrashed over that the court concluded he would take a little time to look up the last question, and the parties agreed to continue the cause until the 21st inst.

#### Mayor of Craig Hollow Builds.

The matter of enterprise in the pleasant vale of Craig Hollow, is not a dead issue, by any means. Fred Gardener, the efficient, and genial Mayor of that prosperous bailiwick, has now under construction an edifice which is a type of what marked the onward march of civilization, as it took its course westward, over the continent of the American. From nature, went Mr. Gardener with an axe, and after the trees were felled, hewed them, then with the squared timbers had built an addition to his residence, some miles northwest of this city in what is familiarly known in that neighborhood, as Craig Hollow. The work done on the place is a piece of artistic mechanism, and shows very skillful manipulation of the frontiersman's friend the hand axe in their construction.

Mr. Gardener is to be congratulated upon the fact that he is able in this day and age of high prices to controvert, the tendency to enormous expenditure for residence purpose, and get back near to nature, and make an abode for himself, independent of the trusts, and large corporations.

#### To Quiet Title.

Papers in a new case were filed today in the office of the clerk of court, entitled Bank of Cass County vs. George Sheldon and the unknown heirs and devisees of Elise Poocek, deceased, to quiet title and remove clouds upon lands situated as follows: The northeast quarter of section seventeen, township eleven, north, range thirteen east of principal meridian of Cass county. This action is not only to quiet title but also to exclude all heirs and devisees from having or claiming interest in the lands.

Merle McDonald left last Sunday for Omaha where he is taking a course in Pharmacy at the Creighton University.

THE GREAT QUESTION  
SETTLED FOR SURE

### Bright Idea of Young Man Has Solved Question: "What Is a Slogan."

The other evening a certain young man in this city went to see his best girl and was met at the door and ushered into the parlor in an unusually rapid manner. He was somewhat at a loss to know why all the hurry, but after his coat had been deposited upon the center table and his hat on the piano and he had been deposited in a luxuriant rocker, the young lady pronounced to him the following question:

"Say kid, what is a slow gun?"  
"A slow gun," answered the young man, "what are you giving me?"  
"This is no joke," replied the fair one, "for I saw it in the Daily News." The Commercial club is offering ten dollars to any one who will get them a slow gun to use this year."

The young man smiled and a twinkle came into his eyes as he replied:

"Oh, I know what you are getting at, kiddo. A slow gun is a gun which does not go off for some time after you have pulled the trigger. You see the Commercial club expects that Plattsmouth is going to grow a big lot in the next year, and that on account of this meeting which they are going to have pretty soon there will be so many people want to come here and put in factories that it will be necessary to kill them off, and as they don't want to get caught at it they can set the slow gun, pull the trigger and get out of the way before the thing goes off, and the next morning when those fellows that we don't want here are found dead there won't nobody know who killed them.

"Oh, I see," replied the girl. "I wish I had one to give the Commercial club."

"They are getting a whole lot of them in now, kiddo," said the young man, "but maybe you better send one too."

Happy that the problem had been explained to her she sat down over on the other side of the room, and turning up the light brighter, proceeded to wonder what made that young man so fast on some things and so slow on others.

Mrs. Fred Heinrich, of Havelock arrived today to be the guest of her parents Frank Janda and wife for a few days.

## PLATTSMOUTH MAN KILLED

### George Straley, meets Death While Switching Cars in Omaha.

#### WAS BADLY CRUSHED AND DIES SUDDENLY.

#### Was a Former Citizen of this City and Has Many Friends and Relatives

George Straley, for years an employee of the Burlington at this place a brother-in-law of Ben and George Brooks, of this city was almost instantly killed last night about 8:05 in the Union Pacific Yards at Omaha. The unfortunate man, at the time was engaged in "spotting" a heavy car of coal for the Omaha Paper Box Co., and was walking between the car and the company's building as the car was being backed in, when the car left the track and caught Mr. Straley between the car and the brick wall of the building, crushing him to death.

He was heard to utter but one cry for help, and so tightly was he wedged between the car and the building, that it was some time before the body could be removed, and then only after two large engines had been coupled on to the car. The deceased had resided in Omaha a number of years and leaves a wife and family of children. Ben and George Brooks, brothers-in-laws of the deceased went to Omaha on the afternoon train.

#### Purchased A Valuable Horse.

Frank Cook of Alvo, who has been a guest at the home of his Uncle C. E. Cook, departed for his home, the other day and took with him a very valuable horse purchased from Henry Hirzer and which will be taken to his farm near Alvo where he will be kept as it is the intention of Mr. Cook to improve the stock of horses which he owns, although he has some very fine driving and work teams at the present time.

W. E. Rosenerans, the real estate dealer returned from the west end of the county this morning, where he went to close up a deal.

## A Necessary "Clean Up"

You can easily understand that in a business like ours it's quite impossible to tell before hand exactly how many suits and overcoats we shall sell; if we could do it we would buy more than enough; a clothing store without any clothes in it would be a funny store.

We must have a surplus, and at this time of the year we must try to dispose of this unsold surplus by quoting special low prices on it. It's a bad policy in such a business as this to carry winter goods over till next fall; we don't do it.

All suits and overcoats up to \$15 sale price.....	\$10
Hart Schaffner & Marx suits and overcoats up to \$21 sale price....	\$14
Hart Schaffner & Marx suits and overcoats up to \$30 sale price....	\$18

This Sale Closes Next Saturday Night.

The Home of Hart Schaffner & Marx clothes  
Manhattan Shirts Stetson Hats

## Falter & Thierolf

Value Giving Clothiers.

## Prices Smashed Into Smitherenes

Our January Clearance Sale of all left over winter merchandise is a money saver for you. Suits \$7, \$9, \$12, \$15. Overcoats, \$5, \$7, \$9, \$11. Odd pants, \$1.39, \$1.99, \$2.49. Wool sox, 19c. Work shirts, 39c. Dress shirts, 69c. Reversible 4-in-hands, 19c. Boys' knee pant suits, \$1.39. Odd knee pants, 29c. Come quick if you want these bargains.

## C. E. WESCOTT'S SONS

THE HOME OF SATISFACTION