

THE PLATTSMOUTH WEEKLY JOURNAL.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

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PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1895.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.
IF PAID IN ADVANCE.

THE STATE SAYS NAY.

Prosecution Refuses to Nolle the Griswold Murder Case.

SOME COMPARATIVE FIGURES.

What Electric Light Systems Cost Other Cities and Plattsmouth People Can Judge Thereby—Hoffman Coming Home.

Sandy Griswold, defendant in one of the criminal prosecutions commenced by the state growing out of the Robbins-Lindsay prize fight in this city last August, in which the former was killed, was in town Thursday. Griswold and his counsel, Matt Gering, sought out County Attorney Polk and made proposals looking to the nolle of the charge of murder filed against Griswold in case the defendant would plead guilty to the charge of refereeing a prize fight. The county attorney refused to consider the proposition. The trial of Lindsay as principal in the murder is fixed to occur in district court on Feb. 25th. If the prisoner is held by the jury for manslaughter, the question of accepting Griswold's proposal may be considered, as there is nothing under the law which permits a prisoner to be held as an accessory to manslaughter. If Lindsay is found guilty of murder, the state will doubtless insist on prosecuting Griswold on the same charge, if sufficient evidence is obtainable to substantiate such a proceeding. In the meantime Griswold must patiently wait.

As to Electric Lights.

The Lincoln News publishes the list recently printed in Public Opinion and read to the board of trade in reference to the cost of electric lights in various cities in the country. It further says: In addition to the above the News has private advices from the clerks of the following cities where private corporations operate the plants, showing the cost of lighting: New Orleans, \$127.50; Minneapolis, \$125; Saginaw, Mich., \$105; Indianapolis, \$95; Adrian, Mich., \$95; Terre Haute, Ind., \$70; La Fayette, Ind., \$75; Keokuk, Ia., \$68; Sedalia, Mo., \$67.20.

In Ypsilanti, Mich., the city owns the plant and the lights cost the city but \$34.67 per annum. The city clerk of Adrian writes: "We advise you by all means to own your own electric plant. We have three Jenny dynamos of thirty lights each, 2,000 candle power to each light, five towers, with four lights on each tower, and sixty-eight swinging lamps. You can install a plant like ours for from \$15,000 to \$18,000."

In Topeka, Kan., appears to be located a plant that is not quite so economical to the city, for the lights under its operation cost the city, running all dark nights, about \$93 per lamp in 1892, and the city clerk writes that they are costing about the same now.

The city clerk of Hannibal, Mo., writes: "We had first seventy-five arc lights that cost to run the first year \$50 each. We have added an incandescent plant and the revenue from it now just about pays all running expenses."

The city clerk of Aurora, Ill., writes: "Own and operate your own electric light plant by all means without fail." In Aurora the city owns its own plant and has 162 street lamps that burn an average of seven and a quarter hours per day during the year at a cost of \$58.44 per year per lamp. The plant cost \$41,000.

Carl Hoffman Is Home.

A telegram from Grand Island, dated Friday says: "A touching scene occurred this evening at the Union Pacific depot upon the return of Carl Hoffman, survivor of the Elbe disaster, who with his wife and son left here in October for a pleasure trip to Europe, but whose wife and boy were lost in the late disaster. Relatives who had been advised of his return kept the matter very quiet and only a few of them were at the depot when Hoffman stepped off the train. Mr. Timpke, his aged father-in-law, was first to greet him. The two men temporarily gave away to grief, clasped each others arms. Not a word was spoken until noticing that attention was being attracted to the sorrowful group they hurried away and went to the farm of Mr. Timpke. Hoffman's relatives will see that before doing one other thing he is given an opportunity to rest."

The "Plan Sifter" flour is the popular brand. Ask for it from your grocer.

The Age of Consent.

Lincoln News.

A determined effort that promises to be successful is being made to pass Benedict's bill raising the age of consent from fifteen to eighteen years. One of the most powerful petitions comes from Omaha, the product of Mrs. Ella W. Peattie, and is as follows:

"The women of the department of applied economics of the woman's club of Omaha urge upon you, their representatives, the justice of raising the age at which girls may legally sell their virtue. As you are well aware, the age at which a man is punishable for the offense of rape is eighteen. Is man so much duller of intellect that he is to have three years the advantage of woman in this regard? Or, considered from another point of view, is it just that a woman should be deemed incapable of caring for her property till she has reached the age of eighteen and yet be thought competent to care for her soul and her body at the age of fifteen?"

"It is said that the one fixed objection to raising the age of consent for woman is that the unscrupulous may prey upon men and that blackmail may be of more frequent occurrence than now. But it does not seem likely that men will need to be protected from the injustice or trickery of girls of eighteen years of age. This argument appears to have for its end a desire to protect men from the consequences of their vices. The legislature of Nebraska cannot wish to go upon record as furnishing a means of escape for guilty men or for offering to their sex the sort of protection that should be accorded only to the half-witted. It is no compliment to the intelligence of men to frame laws upon the supposition that they are not more intelligent at fifteen years of age than women at fifteen."

"The records of the daily papers, the knowledge shared by all thinking men and women of the ruin, misery and corruption that spring from the unpunished betrayal of young girls offer stern and tragic arguments, to which, in mercy and justice, responsible legislators cannot be oblivious. The houses of prostitution are recruited from the ranks of these young girls. The homes of refuge are filled with them. It is safe to say that nine-tenths of the women whose lives are wrecked are tempted to their downfall before they reach the age of eighteen. As the representative of a commonwealth which we all love and desire to elevate, we beg you, our representatives, to consider this plea."

How Lincoln Lost It.

The Lincoln News says: "It transpires that Lincoln lost the reunion to Hastings by the merest flunk. It appears that the first vote was by ballot, in which it was announced that Lincoln had won. It was discovered that a number of fraudulent votes had been cast, and Hastings demanded a new ballot. It was ordered taken standing, and as it was then about one o'clock in the morning and many of Lincoln's delegates had gone to the hotels and declined to be rounded up again, the final vote gave it to Hastings by 35 votes. Lincoln was handicapped by the fact that she had but a few workers present and her delegates were tied up in the commander fight to her disadvantage. The delegates elected to the national encampment are: T. J. Majors, delegate-at-large; J. H. Wescott, of Lincoln; O. F. Horne, of Syracuse; J. D. Woods, of Lincoln; H. E. Pond, of Red Cloud; J. R. Heine, of Fremont; Dr. S. K. Spaulding, of Omaha; Dr. Pillsbury, of Fullerton; J. K. Paxton, of Hays Center."

Common courtesy dictated that Church Howe, ex-department commander, should have been named as delegate-at-large, but Tom Majors had to have a "vindication" and that ended the matter.

Representative Robertson of Holt county has introduced a bill providing that "each county shall be entitled to that number of students in the State university that will bear the same ratio to the total number, that can be accommodated by the university, that the total assessed valuation of the county be as to the total assessed valuation of the state of Nebraska." Any county that sends more students than it is entitled to shall pay to the state an amount equal per student for each and every student in excess of the number to which aid the county is entitled.

The city schools this afternoon indulged in exercises appropriate to the celebration of Washington's birthday, and were dismissed at an early hour.

ONE THING AND ANOTHER.

The will of the missing Ida R. Notson was filed in the Douglas county court Friday by her stepmother, Mrs. Cook. The will was executed March, 1893. The proceeds of two life insurance policies, aggregating \$3,000, are bequeathed to her two children. John Rush is named as executor. There will be a fight over the will, as it will be necessary to prove positively that Mrs. Notson, her two children and her father are dead, before the policies will be paid.

Mrs. M. E. Bradford, mother of Mrs. Frank Kauble, within a few days of eighty years of age, died at about 5:30 o'clock Sunday morning. Mrs. Bradford was born in Maine, where she married. With her husband she immigrated to the territory of Nebraska in 1859, settling at Nebraska City. Mr. Bradford died some twelve years ago. For the past four years Grandmother Bradford has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Kauble. She had been in failing health for some time, but was better up till Saturday. At five o'clock Sunday morning her daughter waited on her and found her feeling comfortable. A little before six she again arose and went to her bed, to find that the vital spark had just fled, and her body was still warm. The funeral occurred at 2:30 o'clock Monday, Rev. Van Fleet officiating.

Fremont's tax rate is higher than that of Plattsmouth, but fortunately they have some \$18,000 in the treasury and the council has evidenced its intention of investing the funds in an electric light plant and thus will take the question of city lighting out of the hands of a private corporation. Plattsmouth deserves to make the same move. The local light company will sell and the council's first attention should be directed toward raising the funds required to make the purchase. A new lighting contract should be an after consideration.

The stories that get into the eastern newspapers about the destitution in Nebraska would be very amusing if they were not so serious. Picking up a Columbiana county, Ohio, paper recently, we notice that it publishes the substance of a letter from a man named Edward C. Long, said to live at Rogan, Nebraska, who unfolds a tale of woe that fills one with horror. Hear him: "There are families in this county that have not had a bite of anything from three to five weeks except bran, which they mix with warm water, if anything possible can be obtained to produce a flame; if nothing, then with cold water, into a sort of mush. And for meat they sometimes straggle onto the carcass of some poor, unfortunate broncho that has died or is kicking its last. This they devour with avidity," and much more of the same sort. "There are 7,500 souls entirely destitute, and unless succor comes to them within the next few weeks," the writer goes on to say, "in the way of food, fuel and clothing, fully two-thirds of these will succumb." And again, writing about the scrambling after food or fuel when a little has been furnished, he says: "Quite a number of persons have been injured, and a few killed, during the rush after eatables." For the sake of the truth, and to put these Ohio people right, we will say that this picture, to say the least, is greatly over-drawn. No doubt there has been some suffering in the drought-stricken belt of the western part of the state, and but for timely aid there would have been much more, but there has not been any occasion for such horrid stories as this man Long has sent out, and we can not account for that over-drawn picture unless it be the hope of securing aid that was not needed. The wants of these sufferers have very largely been supplied.

The Papillion Times says: For several weeks past considerable comment has been occasioned by the large cracks in the earth in this vicinity, but the cause is accredited to the fact of the extreme dryness of the ground and the sudden changes in the temperature from mild to extreme cold and frosty weather. On the old Guthardt farm, northeast of Papillion, there is an opening several yards long and over a foot wide at its widest place, and the story is told that a twenty foot pole has been let down into the opening without striking bottom. A large porker stepped into the opening and it required considerable strength and trouble to extricate it. A horse also became fastened in the same place and came near losing a leg.

CASE OF HARRY HILL.

Interference Of the Governor Is Hardly Probable.

ALMOST A CONFLAGRATION.

A Blaze In the Cellar of McCourt's Grocery But Prompt Action by the Fire Companies Extinguishes It—Other Jottings.

This was the day purporting to have been fixed by Gov. Holcomb to show cause why the death penalty in the case of Murderer Harry Hill should not be inflicted on Friday of next week in accordance with the decrees of the various courts in which the prisoner's cause was considered. County Attorney Polk forwarded a request to the governor several days ago that if the question of commutation was to be considered, he would like to be heard on behalf of the county. So far nothing has been heard in response, and from that it is concluded the governor is disposed to allow the sentence to be carried out. The governor was, until lately, a district judge and being thereby acquainted with the usual practice, his first move in the matter would be to seek the opinions of the members of the supreme court and the trial judge. No such move has been made, and it is quite safe to argue that Hill's case will be let severely alone.

In the meantime Sheriff Eikenbary is making his arrangements for the execution. The construction of the scaffold will be commenced next Monday morning, and on that same day a guard will be continually placed with in Hill's cell, to prevent any possible attempt which the prisoner might make to take his life.

Almost a Conflagration.

About 10:30 o'clock Friday night the fire alarm was sounded, bringing out two of the hose companies in a trice. Smoke was seen issuing from the front basement at McCourt's grocery store, in Union block, adjoining the Methodist church on Sixth street. No flame could be seen but a dense volume of smoke came out through crevices and a broken window glass. The firemen soon had the hose laid and two streams pouring through the front basement windows, but it was so smoky below it was a full half hour before the fire was fully located. Meantime the cellar was deluged with water. Finally a hose was laid into the store and through a hole in the floor, and the fire was soon quenched. It was the lowest blaze ever seen. The brick walls of the cellar kept the fire from communicating with the floor above. Beyond the damage from a flood in the cellar and some upstairs, the damage will be slight, and is amply covered by insurance.

The explosion of an oil stove in a back room in the cellar is supposed to have caused the fire. The North British, Springfield and Firemen's Friend are the companies interested—represented by Thos. Pollock.

Had the fire gotten under good headway the whole of Union block and the Methodist church might have gone. To the splendid pressure from the water mains may be attributed the putting out of the fire without great damage.

The recent cold weather has caused several of the hydrants on Main street to freeze up tight—notably the Riley hotel and at the Sherwood block corners.

"Q" Train Robber Confesses.

Charles Bateman, the ex-Wabash brakeman who was arrested on suspicion of having been one of the "Q" robbers near Ottumwa, on the night of January 12, confessed to the robbery and his attorney entered a plea of guilty in the district court in that town Wednesday morning. He was at once sentenced to five years in the penitentiary at Fort Madison and was taken there this week. Bateman implicates Ely, who, he claims, instigated and planned the whole affair, and the detectives believe Bateman was only a tool in the hands of Ely.

In his confession to the grand jury he declared he had recovered only \$111, and Ely took the rest, but in an interview he significantly asserted that when he finished his sentence at Fort Madison he would sleep on a feather bed all right. He disclaims any knowledge of Ely's whereabouts and says that Ely will never be taken alive. Officers believe that they will locate Ely soon.

AROUND THE COURT ROOMS.

DISTRICT COURT.

In the Carroll-Ritchey damage suit tried Friday in district court, the jury found for the defendant, after a session of four or five hours. In the three jury trials had at the present term of court, all have resulted favorably to the defendants.

The suit of Julius Langhorst vs. Wm. Coon was occupying the attention of a jury in district court Monday. Langhorst claims a judgment for \$400 as commission earned by negotiating a sale for Coon's farm. In the trial of the suit in county court the defendant won. Jury found for defendant.

The suit of the Plattsmouth Street Railway vs. S. D. Mercer of Omaha was grinding away in district court today before a jury. Some \$5,000 is involved it being the object of the plaintiff to compel defendant to pay up his subscription on stock as did all the other stockholders. The same suit was tried at the September term of court, but the jury disagreed.

COUNTY COURT.

The office of County Judge Ramsey was the scene of a double wedding Wednesday in which the judge officiated. Mr. Jos. M. Philpot and Miss Clara D. Reed, and Mr. Calvin U. Amick and Nettie Doty were the contracting parties. All are residents of the vicinity of Weeping Water.

COURT ROOM NOTES.

About three-fourths of the voting population of Liberty precinct was to be found in attendance at county court Monday. The damage suit of Rowe vs. the Union bank, the same being a trial before a jury, was the drawing card.

County Superintendent Farley was examining the following applicants for teacher's certificates at his office in the court house Saturday: Anna C. Lewis, Rock Bluffs; Ethel Perry, Myrand; Aaron Bahr, Eagle; S. S. Cooley, Eagle; Rosie Jackman, Cedar Creek; Grace Gerking, Union.

Sheriff Eikenbary is having printed a limited number of admission tickets to the hanging of Harry Hill on March 1st, at the county jail in this city. The most recent calculation is that there will be about five hundred applications to every ticket issued. Visiting sheriffs and a limited number of newspaper representatives will have the preference.

Killed by the Cars.

Jacob Kobes, a wealthy farmer living in Saline county was instantly killed Tuesday morning by Burlington train No. 92, near the town of Wilber.

Kobes was driving along a road running parallel to the track. A sudden turn leads across the track and he reached that spot and attempted to cross just as the train reached the same spot. The engine cut the horses loose from the buggy, smashed the vehicle and threw Kobes high in the air. When the trainmen reached him he was dead, though he was not mangled at all. The buggy had a top with the curtains up and Kobes probably did not see the train. The trainmen say that the smoke of the engine obscured their view of the buggy and they supposed he had stopped.

The body was taken to Wilber, where an inquest was held. The verdict of accidental death was returned.

James Priddee, the ball grounds keeper of Pittsburg, Pa., has turned up at St. Louis ragged, hungry and footsore, to learn for the first time that there is a fortune of \$50,000 in Scotland awaiting his pleasure. He tells a remarkable story of his sufferings. When he left Pittsburg several weeks ago he went to Cincinnati and took passage on the steamer Missouri, intending to go to Memphis. The boat was sunk and Priddee was one of the unaccounted for. He became unconscious and when reason returned last week he found himself in a small Kentucky hamlet, robbed of money and clothing and cared for by poor rivermen. Begging what clothing he could he started for St. Louis on foot, riding when chance offered. The blizzard made travel slow and his sufferings from cold and hunger were terrible.

A farmer read in an agricultural journal: "A side window in a stable makes a horse's eye weak on that side; a window in front hurts his eyes by the glare; a window behind makes him squint-eyed; a window on a diagonal makes him shy when he travels and a stable without windows makes him blind." The farmer has written to the editor of the agricultural paper asking what effect a window without a stable would have on his horse's eyes.

DAYLIGHT BURGLARS.

They Rob the Money Drawer Of a Murdock Saloon.

THE SALOON MAN GIVES CHASE.

He Mounts a Horse and Overhauls the Thieves In a Corn Field Two Miles From Town—Various Other Notes and Jottings.

A. W. Campbell, the Murdock saloon-keeper and ex-sheriff of Sarpy county, came to town Monday in charge of two strangers who burglarized his saloon Sunday. An entrance was effected at about five o'clock in the afternoon and the thieves secured cash to the amount of \$7. They were seen making their way out of the rear door of the saloon, and Mr. Campbell, upon being informed, hastily mounted a horse and after a chase of a mile and a half overtook the robbers, made them return his money and then forced them to accompany him back to Murdock. They are now occupying a cell in the county jail on Pearl street. Both are well dressed and give their names as W. F. Sims and Frank Thompson.

The fact that the burglary was committed in daylight and that the stolen property was less than \$35, makes it impossible to give the prisoners a sentence to the penitentiary. Skeleton keys, files and other burglar's utensils were found on their clothing, and there is little doubt but what both are accomplished crooks, but the worst that can be accorded them in the way of punishment is a jail sentence for petit larceny.

W. F. Sims and Frank Thompson, the two crooks who burglarized Lee & Campbell's saloon in Murdock on Sunday last, were taken before Judge Chapman Tuesday and fined \$10 and costs and further sentenced to board with Jailer Denson for thirty days. Neither man has money and it will be some forty-five days before they again will breathe free air.

A Disreputable Neighborhood.

The squatter's shanty of Fred Lass, on the disputed land east of Tekamah, Burt county, the cause and scene of Robert Phillips' murder, was burned Friday night. It is thought to be the work of the gang that committed the murder. Young Lass has not remained in the cabin since the murder, and through fear of threats made has remained on guard at his father's home at night since. The gang infesting the accretion land is said to have organized in secret to keep all others off. Lass was in Tekamah yesterday, and took the train for Iowa to endeavor to have Iowa authorities take up and prosecute the murderers of Phillips. When asked about the murder and the threats made against his life he said he, and not Phillips, was the man they were after.

Among the Sick.

John Hohlschuh, of the precinct, is kept at home by illness.

"Dad" Purdy, much to the surprise of his friends, was down town Monday.

F. J. Morgan has recovered sufficiently from the grip to come down town again.

Mrs. C. W. Sherman is able to sit up a part of each day. She wishes to acknowledge the kindness of many friends.

Thomas Woodson, the son of J. M. Woodson, of the Cottage house, commonly called "Babe," is down with pneumonia.

Hally Johnson is a very sick boy—so sick that it is doubtful even if the buoyancy and warm blood of youth will save him. Typhoid fever has him in its grip.

Since the report has gained currency that a young lawyer was to be married soon, Messrs. Spurlock, Grimes and Wiles are kept busy explaining that it is the other fellow, but from some testimony of Sheriff Eikenbary, George Spurlock is thought to be the guilty party.—Tuesday evening's News. And why not John Davies, Matt Gering, Allen Jacob Beeson or County Attorney Polk? All four are down on the list of eligibles and one is even spoken for. Col. Polk should remember that lawyers dislike to be slighted.

Judge Holmes of Des Moines has decided that a law has become valid by reason of the lapse of time, although it was unconstitutional when passed. This is a new kink in legal rulings.