

ABOUT NEBRASKA.

Proclamation by the Governor. TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA:—The President of the United States has designated Thursday, the 30th day of the present month, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God for his countless blessings bestowed upon the people of the American republic during the first century of its existence.

The 30th day of April will be forever memorable, for it is the rounding out of the first century of the nation has lived. It commemorates the year, the day and the hour when George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States.

The people of Nebraska have special cause for gratitude to our heavenly father for the rich blessings he has conferred upon us. Starting from the day of small things, Nebraska, then a feeble territory, has grown to be a great commonwealth, a proud member of the American union.

I respectfully but earnestly invite the people of all creeds and faiths, Christians and Hebrews, Protestants and Catholics, native and foreign, white and colored, to assemble in their accustomed places of public worship and offer up their adoration and songs of praise to His holy name, and invoke His blessings upon this people and nation during the coming century.

At high noon let the bells again peal out joyous sounds, reminding all that the first century has ended and another has begun.

We believe in the supreme ruler of the universe, and that his guiding hand has led us as a nation. It is, therefore, becoming in us to manifest to the world our full recognition of this conviction.

Let the day be given to God, to country, and to public praise and rejoicing, and let all join in the glad acclaim of "Glory to God and the Highest" for the triumph in this land of freedom, righteousness and peace.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused to be affixed the great seal of the state of Nebraska.

JOHN M. THAYER, By the Governor: G. L. Laws, Secretary of State.

GENERAL STATE NOTES.

—The Methodist people of Sidney have commenced the erection of a parsonage for their pastor.

—Grant is to have a \$12,000 hotel, to be built by an eastern man.

—Johnnie Maloney, of Omaha, a 7-year-old lad, was run over by the cars the other day, his body being cut in twain.

—J. C. McBride has been appointed a member of the fish commission by Gov. Thayer and will enter upon his duties at once.

—The Niobrara Pioneer says that a large number of emigrants will camp at that town and rent farms during the season, so as to be ready for the opening of the Sioux reservation.

—Pat Shiel was convicted at Fairbury of murder in the second degree for the killing of Samuel Atkinson last October. The jury balloted three times and were out but a few minutes.

—A man answering the description of William Shiner, a horse thief, from McArthur Junction, O., was arrested at Clark's last week.

—Since the public whipping of tramps at Fairbury, but few of them have put in an appearance.

—Admirers of Buffalo Bill at North Platte presented him with a silver bit on the eve of his departure for Europe.

—R. D. Lawrence, a farmer who is charged with selling mortgaged stock and had been in hiding for several days past, came in at Syracuse last week and gave himself up. He went before Justice Stanbro and was admitted to bail in the sum of \$500 for which his friends became security.

—Captain Payne has been designated by Commander Davis, of the Nebraska G. A. R., as advance agent for the Nebraska delegation to the national encampment at Milwaukee, with instructions to proceed at once to that city and secure commodious quarters for the boys during the encampment.

—The new county of Thurston contains 418 square miles.

—Inspector Turbull's report shows that there were 249 licensed saloons in Omaha April 1.

—Dobbs & Everett, attorneys, have brought suit in the district court of Gage county against the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy for \$5,000 damages, occasioned by the death of James Persinger, an employe of the company, who was killed by falling from a high trestle at Omaha, December 10, last, while in the discharge of his duties as a workman.

—Gresham citizens have decided to build a \$2,500 school house, work to commence at once.

—The dwelling house of Frank Crashtil in the northern part of Schuyler was totally destroyed by fire last week. Crashtil and his wife were away, leaving a young son at home alone. He obtained some matches and set the house on fire. A small portion of the household furniture was saved.

—The Methodist people at Rushville gave their pastor a birthday dinner, the main object of which was to raise money to purchase a carriage horse for him. Proceeds nearly \$100.

—The citizens of Sheridan county are asked to contribute \$300 for expenses of a county exhibit at the state fair, consisting of one carload of the products and resources of Sheridan county.

—A Lincoln dispatch says that the equine epidemic in that city, called by some the epizootic, shows no signs of letting up yet. Up to the present time no deaths have occurred, but many of the street car horses have been laid off. In the stable of the Lincoln street railway company eighteen horses are down with the disease.

—Patrick Egan, the newly appointed minister to Chili, will soon leave for his post of duty. His family will remain in Lincoln.

—The Union Pacific company discharged fifty-four of their shop employes at North Platte yesterday because of lack of work.

—Governor Thayer and his state visiting board went to Grand Island last week to continue the investigation of the charges against Commandant Hammond, of the soldiers' and sailors' home.

—George Johnston, of Grand Island, raised a check from six to sixty dollars and got the money at the bank, but a few hours afterward was nabbed and now bids fair to spend a term in the pen.

—Miss Beecher, on trial at Omaha for the murder of Henry W. King some months ago, was acquitted, the jury being out but ten minutes.

—Rev. Campbell has resigned as the pastor of the M. E. church of Milford, going to Indianapolis to accept a lucrative position with a publishing house.

—The net receipts for the South Omaha postoffice for the year ended March 31, were \$12,881.00.

—Fremont has authorized the issuance of \$35,000 in bonds for a new high school building by a big majority.

—Three men have been sent out on the road in the interests of the West Lincoln packers. They are after the hogs of the south Platte county and are bound to have them.

—The county commissioners of Lancaster county expect to have the new court house ready for the carpets by September.

—The real estate of the Hebron school district, says the Journal, has been sold. The building of the \$30,000 school house rendered the company unnecessary.

—The Herald says there is but one patriot in Junista who does not want the postoffice.

—A lodge of the Knights of Pythias has been organized at Fullerton.

—Filings of entries are coming in rapidly at the Sidney land office and the officials have their hands full.

—Knut Nelson, a well-known citizen of Omaha, fell into a cistern and was drowned last week. He was 57 years old and quite wealthy.

—Gov. Thayer has issued his proclamation organizing Hooker county.

—A Knights of Pythias lodge has been organized at St. Paul with twenty charter members.

—The Edgar Building and Loan association of Edgar, Clay county, has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state. The capital is \$500,000.

—Henry Englemann, of Douglas, arrested for defrauding a Chicago firm of \$1,000 worth of goods, settled the matter at Nebraska City by a compromise, paying \$300.

—A Stella dispatch says the town was much excited the other day by a report that the proprietor of the Florence hotel discovered one of the servant girls in the sleeping room of a prominent business man of the village, the latter's wife being on a visit in a neighboring state. Lively times are looked for upon her return.

—Work on the new Christian university is progressing rapidly and the educational board of that church intend to have the institution in running order by next fall.

—Gen. Edward Hatch, commandant at Fort Robinson, died on the 11th from injuries received by him by being thrown from a vehicle while out riding.

Besides the compound fracture of the left leg, the general received internal injuries which, however, it was thought, were not of a necessarily fatal nature, and every confidence was felt by both himself and his physician in ultimate recovery. He grew suddenly worse, however, and expired very unexpectedly.

—In the district court at Fairbury Patrick H. Shiel, the Dakin murderer, was sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years. The jury returned a verdict against Shiel of murder in the second degree. Joseph Smith was sent to the penitentiary for six months for selling mortgaged property.

—Mrs. John Lawson, the wife of a farmer living near Riverton, died at the Lincoln insane hospital last week. Two weeks ago she was frightened out of her reason by a prairie fire, and was only brought to the institution the day she died.

—Trowels are flying fast on the walls of the new Christian university at Bethany Heights, east of Lincoln three or four miles, properly one of the suburban streets. The contractors expect to have the building well nigh completed before cold weather.

—There is now in process of organization in Beatrice a club of representative citizens, the object of which will be to advance the commercial and social interests of the city in a representative sense; also to aid the board of trade in its special province in the matter of entertaining visitors of prominence.

—Get ready for Arbor Day and on that occasion plant trees early and late.

—While carelessly handling a revolver, fourteen-year-old John Ellis, of Beatrice, shot himself in the leg, making a very painful wound.

—The farm of the feeble-minded in institute expect to supply the Beatrice market with garden truck, besides raising all that can be used at the school.

—As provided by the legislature, the new Nebraska hall of the state university will be furnished at a cost of \$4,000, and a steam heating plant will be put in and a boiler house erected at a cost of \$27,000. The athletic club will also be provided with suitable accommodations. The professors are quite hopeful over the outlook. They say the matters can be squeezed along until the next legislature when, it is claimed, there will be a reaction and the university will be put upon a sound basis.

—The Grand Island Times says Mr. George Thummel returned from Chicago where he had been to examine the memorial window for the new Episcopal church. It will cost \$1,200.

—The day for the opening of bids for grading and building the two lines of the Union Pacific road, the Cheyenne Northern and the Carbon lines, were opened in Omaha a day or two ago. About twenty bidders were present, but when the hour came for examining the bids it was announced that they would not be opened, as the project had been indefinitely postponed.

—At the recent meeting of the directory of the First Baptist church of Beatrice Rev. T. S. Leonard, of Hastings, Minn., was called to the pastorate of that church and has accepted the call. He has preached twice at the church and at once won the highest encomiums of the congregation as a clear, forcible and able speaker. He comes to Beatrice highly recommended as one of the leading ministers of the Baptist denomination of Minnesota.

TENDERFEET MUST ABIDE THEIR TIME.

Veteran Boomers Feel that They are Entitled to First Chance.

A telegram from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, says: The determination of the Oklahoma boomers seems to grow greater as the time draws near for opening the coveted lands to settlement, and the United States troops are kept busy patrolling the country and ejecting impatient squatters who are unwilling to wait for the opening day, April 22. Men are rushing in here with the same avidity that they rush into the booming mining camp, and everybody seems afraid that somebody else will get hold of a better quarter-section than he will be able to get if he waits. They are kept moving on, however, and are not permitted to pitch their tents and camp. But the opposition only seems to increase their anxiety, and serious trouble is apprehended in consequence.

Thousands of homesteaders are camping along the line in Kansas, ready to rush into Oklahoma at daylight on the 23d, and unless there is a large force of United States troops and deputy marshals at hand to preserve order the fight for spoils may become a serious matter. Many veteran boomers who have been hungering for Oklahoma for the past five years, and braved the hardships of Captain Payne's campaign, feel that they are entitled to first choice of lands, and many assert that they will have the land formerly located, at all hazards. They have selected and watched their claims for years, and now, fearing that the new comers may get the best of them, they have become desperate. They hold their meetings in the various camps and seem to have decided on a plan of action, but just what course they intend to pursue is not known outside of their gang. It has been rumored here that these men have banded together and intend burning the bridges and trestles on the Santa Fe railroad on the night before the opening day, in order to obstruct the influx of homesteaders, until they can make perfect their claim to the land they desire.

A notice to this effect was sent by unknown parties to the Santa Fe agent, and a force of detectives are said to have been brought here by the railroad, and to hold themselves in readiness to prevent damage to the company's property, and every possible precaution is being taken. But the boomers say they do not propose to jeopardize their chances by allowing a flood of tenderfoots to drop in on the land they have selected. They look upon these lands as their rights which they say they will forcibly maintain.

There are already about twice as many people on the borders as can be accommodated with homesteads in Oklahoma, and more are arriving every day. They are living in tents, dug-outs, wagons and every kind of shelter, and some are camping out in the open air. Many of these people represent colonies from Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and various other states. These colonies are said to number from twenty to 500 persons each, and it looks like all the world wants to settle in Oklahoma. The Santa Fe road is preparing for an opening day rush, and every available car on its entire system is to be put in readiness for use on the 23d. Many who can afford it are engaging private cars for their colonies and are putting up a handsome bonus for the purpose of binding the contract.

The Late Disaster at Samoa.

Chicago dispatch: B. W. Wells of this city, whose son, a naval cadet, was on board one of the wrecked men-of-war at Apia, Samoa, and who was among the saved, has received a communication from the navy department under date of the 9th inst., in which he is informed that up to date the department has received no news from Admiral Kimberly since his dispatch announcing the disaster at Apia. It was thought a vessel could be chartered at Auckland for the transportation of the officers and men to San Francisco, but since Lieutenant Wilson, Kimberly's representative at that place, had gone to Sydney, it is possible that a suitable vessel could not be obtained at Auckland. It is therefore impossible to tell when they may be expected to arrive at San Francisco. The naval cadets of the class of 1897, who were upon the wrecked ship, had been ordered to report for final examination at the naval academy between May 1 and 10, should they reach the United States in time to visit their homes before the expiration of the period allowed for reporting, they will be at liberty to do so.

AN EXCITING SCENE IN A COURT ROOM.

A Jury of Twelve Good Men and True Declare Miss Biechler Not Guilty.

Omaha dispatch: The trial of Elizabeth Biechler for the murder of Harry W. King, lasting seven days, ended in this city to-day by the acquittal of the defendant, the jury being out not over ten minutes. When the jury filed into the court room the clerk said: "Gentlemen, have you agreed upon a verdict?"

"We have," responded the foreman. The document was handed to the clerk, who read it aloud. It was of the formulary order for such cases provided and concluded with the words, "we find the defendant not guilty." These words were shot forth with emphasis, and in an instant, like the firing of a mine, the court room was in a confusion. The pent-up feeling of a thousand sympathizers broke forth in one long, loud scream and cheer. Men and women sprang to their feet. Handkerchiefs were waved. Hats were thrown in the air. Strong men threw themselves into each other's arms and hundreds of women shed tears of joy. Radiant countenances everywhere bespoke the feeling of satisfaction which the verdict occasioned.

Neither Judge Groff nor the officers of the court attempted to restrain the demonstration of approval. At length, however, it subsided, and Clerk Moore polled the jury, and the verdict became a solid fact. Just as the clerk began to read the finding, General Cowin extended his left arm around the shoulders of the prisoner. The latter's face was partially obscured by her handkerchief but the part disclosed was more than usually pale. When the last cheering words were read, the prisoner's head fell upon the general's shoulder, as if overcome by the announcement. The face turned ghastly pale, but the instant became suffused with a deep red glow, as if the blood of her body were seeking lodgment there. And then the tears began to fall. They fell fast and copiously. General Cowin smiled, looked happy, whispered a few words to the prisoner, shook hands and congratulated her. Judge Baldwin emulated the example of the leading counsel.

"Will you please make a formal order of dismissal?" asked the general of the court.

The judge complied with the request and Lizzie Biechler passed out of the hands of the authorities into the freedom of every day life.

The court expressed himself as pleased with the verdict. The defendant was overwhelmed with congratulations, and was again escorted to the judge's room, where she remained closeted some time with her counsel.

"This is the greatest siege that I have ever undergone," said Judge Groff, privately, after he had given his instructions to the jury, and had emerged from the seat of justice, which he has constantly occupied during the seven days' trial of Miss Biechler. "Since I have been on the judicial bench for this district I have never seen such crowds of curious people as on this occasion. They were eager and anxious to see a poor woman who had shot a man, and to hear what the attorneys would say for and against her. I am nearly worn out, and trust I will never have a similar case. The prosecution has done credit to itself, and the defense was ably conducted." After acquittal the accused held a short levee receiving the congratulations of friends. The men shook hands with her and the women kissed her. An aged colored lady fairly lifted her from the floor, and shouted, "God bless you, my child." Miss Biechler will return at once to her home in Cleveland.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

The First Document Published Under the Authority of Gov. Rusk.

Washington dispatch: The first document published under the authority of Gov. Rusk, secretary of agriculture, is bulletin No. 1, about the agricultural experiment stations of the department of agriculture. This pamphlet, advance copies of which were furnished to the press to-night, contains a great deal of information relating to the history and prospects of the agricultural experiment stations, which are now conducting scientific and practical experiments on soils, manures, tillage, crops, stock feeding, dairying, horticulture, etc., in the different states. Such institutions for scientific investigation in behalf of agriculture have been long in operation in Europe. The first one in this country was begun in Connecticut, in the chemical laboratory of the Wesleyan university, fourteen years ago. Other states followed the example and, in 1887, congress espoused the enterprise and appropriated \$15,000 per annum for each state and territory for the purpose. The enterprise has enlisted in its support the best universities and colleges and the ablest investigators of the country, as well as a great army of practical farmers, to whom it has already brought substantial benefits. All the states and one territory (Dakota) now have agricultural experiment stations. Several states have two. Louisiana has three. The total number now in operation is forty-six, or counting branch stations, 370 scientists and agriculturists and receive this year \$295,000 from the national government and about \$125,000 from the states and other sources. This is one of the most important of the government scientific enterprises, and, although so young, is the largest of the sort yet undertaken by any nation. An especially favorable feature is the cordial co-operation between the stations and the department of agriculture at Washington, which is charged by congress with the duty of supervising and aiding in their work. The office of experiment stations, acting with the association of American agricultural colleges and experiment stations, is able to accomplish much in this line. There is thus established a direct connection between the national department and the people of the country which must result in great good.

The bulletin contains an introduction by Secretary Rusk, who considers it a high tribute to the intelligence and wisdom of the people that they have so rapidly appreciated the usefulness of this calling the highest science to the aid of the arts and industries of life.

Robert Adams, jr., of Pennsylvania, who has been nominated for minister to Brazil, has written magazine articles. But he never attacks United States senators.

THE OKLAHOMA LANDS.

Some Letters of Interest to Persons Contemplating Settlement.

Washington dispatch: The commissioner general of the land office made public to-day several letters as being of general interest to persons contemplating settlement in Oklahoma. Commissioner Stockslager, in replying to a letter from O. M. Wilson, at Arkansas City, Kan., says in part:

"I have to state that the lands in question are to be disposed of to actual settlers under the homestead laws only. A party desiring to become an actual settler under the homestead laws, may initiate his claim by entry at a district land office after properly examining and selecting the land desired, in which case he is allowed six months from date of entry in which to establish his actual residence on the land; or, if he so elect, he may initiate his claim by actual settlement on the land, which must consist of some act or acts connecting himself with the particular tract claimed, said act or acts to be equivalent to announcement of such intention and from which the public generally may have notice of his claims. Therefore he is allowed three months within which to make his claim of record by entry in the district land office.

Another letter to Senator Ingalls from Commissioner Stockslager, is as follows: "I have had the honor to receive by reference from you, and herewith return a letter addressed to you by G. T. Sommers, dated Oklahoma Station, Indian Territory, on the 29th ultimo. In reply I have to state that the act of March 2, 1889, to which Sommers refers provides, as he states, that no one shall be permitted to enter or acquire any right to any of the Oklahoma lands, to be disposed of thereunder, who violates its provisions by entering upon and occupying the same prior to 12 o'clock, noon, April 22, the date fixed in the president's proclamation of March 23 for said lands to become open for settlement. The statute makes no exception to this provision. I am inclined to think, however, that when a person was already within these lands at the date of approval of the act by authority, his presence there should not be regarded as a violation of this provision of act. The primary jurisdiction to act upon application to enter rests with district land offices, and Sommers may present his application for entry to them, with proper proof of his allegation. Should they refuse to permit entry, he may appeal from this action."

Commissioner Stockslager to-day expressed the opinion that 100,000 persons would enter Oklahoma within a month after April 22. For these 100,000 people there are only about 10,000 homesteads. The inevitable result of this tremendous influx, the commissioner thought, would be a great many contests and personal conflicts. A further result, he feared, would be the spreading of this immense surplus over the adjoining Indian lands, from which it would be difficult to dislodge them without much trouble and possibly some bloodshed. If the commissioner appointed to treat with the Cherokee could complete their labors within the next few months, so that the new tract might be open to settlement before congress again meets, this might, and probably would, relieve the pressure. Otherwise he feared that matters would become complicated and equilibrium be restored with difficulty.

THE LATE PHILIP H. SHERIDAN.

Memorial Exercises by the New York Legislature.

Albany (N. Y.) dispatch: Memorial exercises were held by the legislature for the late General Phillip H. Sheridan at the academy of music to-night. Bishop McNiery opened the exercises with prayer, and then followed an address by General Wagner Swayne, orator of the evening.

General Swayne reviewed Sheridan's career from the time he enlisted as first lieutenant of infantry at Yamhill, Ore., until the war. His conduct as a soldier was brave, gallant and skillful, and promotions came rapidly. Nature had given him the qualities essential to a selfish excellence. He added to them such as to win affection and command respect. The personal ascendancy resulting, made his whole command only himself enlarged, and where he went it went with all his will and did what in their place he would have done. The impression that he was simply a reckless, impetuous soldier was a mistake. As General Pope said of him, "In all his life he did not do any important act without careful consideration beforehand. Neither in civil administration, in time of profound peace, nor in the roar and fury of battle did he ever act except on well defined lines and clearly conceived purposes. The voice of the people is, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan. It is the voice of the people, and it is enough."

At the conclusion of General Swayne's address there were calls for General Sheridan, who rose to respond. General Curtis introduced him with the remark, "The greatest living general of the world stands before you." General Sherman spoke feelingly of his associations with General Sheridan, saying that only a few of his comrades were left to mourn him. He then referred to his acquaintance with Grant and Sheridan, and of the cause for which all three fought. He declared that no stronger or better American ever lived than Sheridan, and said that his name would always be coupled with those of Washington and Grant. General Alger also made a few graceful remarks.

A Fight on the Prairie.

Denver (Col.) dispatch: A fight to-day, witnessed by 400 men, occurred this afternoon on the open prairie, twenty miles from the city, between Charlie Gleason and Patay McCartin, with skin tight gloves for the feather-weight championship of the west. The mill lasted nine rounds, in which McCartin was most brutally punished, both eyes being closed and badly cut about the mouth and nose. In the last round he was knocked senseless and remained in that condition for several minutes, and recovering cried like a baby over his defeat.

Death of a Veteran Politician.

Hon. J. Leonard Farwell, elected governor of Wisconsin for the third time in 1863, commissioner of patents in 1865, and one of those present at Lincoln's death, died at Granite City, Mo., on the 11th, at the age of 70 years.