

# HE GOES TO HIS DEATH

GOTTLIEB NEIGENFIND DONS THE BLACK CAP AND MAINTAINS STOICISM TO THE LAST

## GALLOWES HAS NO TERROR

Jokes About The Hereafter. Says He Did Not Know What Being Born Again Meant

## HAS BEEN A GOOD PRISONER

Was Always Cheerful, Telling Stories of All Kinds And Cracking Jokes Till His Last Day

Lincoln, Neb., March 13.—Gottlieb Neigenfind dropped through the jaws of the scaffold yesterday into the yawning jaws of death. He died like a man or a brute, which may be much the same, and expressed no more than half-hearted repentance for the double murder which he committed on the little farm in Pierce county. Five or ten minutes before 1 o'clock he stood alive, grim and stolid on the gibbet, casting furtive glances at the horror-stricken spectators grouped around him. A few moments later he was cut down a gruesome corpse with the smell of the tomb upon him.

### Glimpse of Death

At the signal a black masked figure shot noisily through the trap, brought up with a jerk and remained motionless. Not a muscle of the sufferer moved after the drop except those of the bloodless fingers which closed as feebly as if clutching the air. The body turned half round and was still. The long pointed black cap covered the mangled neck and head which a moment before was set squarely on two broad shoulders.

The point of the cap rested jauntily on one side, the head was twisted by the fatal knot until it turned upward at an unnatural angle like that of a deformed dwarf making a sickly grimace for the pleasure of a company. The cap added to the clownish posture and covered what one might imagine to be the grin of a murderer who thought he had cheated death. Mucus from the nose slowly seeped through the black mask and formed a spot on the cloth. Some thought it was blood, but the spectators were spared the look which the man last assumed when the gloomy light from the sky was shut out and he stood on the terrible abyss. In this way justice was appeased, the verdict of the court and jury was carried out and a criminal was removed from the earth. With brute force he destroyed two lives and with brute force his own was taken.

### A Stormy Life

An ignorant young farmer, Neigenfind spent most of the twenty-nine years of his life at hard labor. He married Mrs. Peters, a young widow with four children, the daughter of Albert Breyer. The father-in-law was harsh, the young man had much of the animal about him and he resented the manner in which the old man ordered him about. He thought he was treated as a slave. The last quarrel in the family resulted in the old man coming to the farm and taking his daughter home with him, together with all her belongings. For fourteen months Neigenfind went from place to place like a wanderer who felt that the brand was upon him. He brooded over the matter and finally returned to the scene, made efforts to see his seven-months-old child, which he had never seen, was repulsed harshly by the old man, and returned finally with murder in his heart. He declared he was attacked by his father-in-law, a pitchfork being the weapon used. When driven into a corner he shot to kill. Then in a frenzy he shot his wife. With tenderness in his heart he emptied every shot in his revolver into her body. A stray bullet struck his mother-in-law, inflicting a slight wound.

The murderer slept quietly that night at the house of a neighbor. It occurred to him to flee but he was soon close pressed by a posse of armed men. He exchanged shots with his pursuers but was captured after having been wounded a dozen times. He had thought to put a bullet through his own brain, but found that he had used all his cartridges. This in brief is the story of his crime.

### His Last Day

Neigenfind's day without a morrow was not without incident. He received some flowers, the death warrant was read to him, he had a short conference with his minister, Rev. George Allenbach, who was invited by Chaplain G. W. Martin to administer to the spiritual wants of the condemned man. This was deemed fitting because the prisoner and the minister both speak German and the former was at one time a communicant of the German Lutheran church. The minister arrived at the prison

at 11 o'clock. He went direct to the little dark cell under the hospital where Neigenfind has been in solitary confinement for several months.

Usher George Van Auken unlocked the iron door and the minister stepped in and shook hands with the prisoner. They both sat on the bunk there being hardly room for two in the cell. A tall candle on a tiny table, a small pile of books, including a Bible and some pamphlets and other books, nestled in a corner as if they had been somewhat neglected by their owner and yet were loath to part with him. The prisoner smiled in an uneasy manner. He looked pale and acted unnatural, said things awkwardly and sometimes forced a laugh. After a short conversation the prisoner reached to a table and handed the minister a new whisk broom of elegant workmanship. This poor little gift he forced upon the minister who fumbled about his coat to find a pocket large enough to hold it. All the while death was the subject of their thoughts and words.

### Ladies Offer Flowers

Next came two Salvation army women, Ensign Swanson and Lieutenant Long. They handed him a small bunch of white chrysanthemums and carnations.

"Good bye, God bless you," cried the ensign.

"Good bye," he replied as he took the flowers.

"We'll meet in heaven," said the ensign.

"Yes," came the answer.

The other lady shrank back when asked if she had anything to say and passed on with her companion.

"He has been a good prisoner," said Guard Burke, "and is always cheerful, telling stories of all kinds and cracking jokes. Sometimes we give him an hour or two to take exercise in the yard. Sometimes he goes to the deputy warden's office and talks to who ever is present."

"He usually tells his dreams to his guards, but last night he slept more sound than usual. He went to bed at 10, an hour later than usual, and was not awakened by the whistle which blows at 5:30. We had to wake him this morning."

The other day the prisoner and Burke talked of religious matters. The murderer said he did not know what being born again meant. He did not know how that could be. The guard told him he did not know much about it, but explained that it meant a new spiritual birth.

"John, you come to the telephone Saturday," said the prisoner, "and I will tell you about the other world."

This was given as a sample of his joking remarks.

At 9:45 the death warrant signed by Judge Boyd of the district court was read to the prisoner. He took it to mean that they had come to put him to death. He was told that he would not be called for yet awhile.

There was something said about lack of time to give him his dinner before he was hung. Later he was given a meal and at his request he was brought boiled beef and horse-radish with side dishes. He had been in the habit of drinking beer, but was never intemperate and on this his last day refused intoxicating liquor.

As his hands were bound tightly behind his back he cast furtive glances down upon those about him. The color of his face was not perceptibly changed and his coolness was fearful to behold.

He drew himself up straight as the straps were being adjusted, watched the guard place a strap about his feet and looked to see how it was done. The black cap was pulled over his face. This shut out all expression, leaving nothing in sight but a muscular figure clad in black.

The voice of the minister rang out, the words in German being "O Jesus, thou the Lamb of God for sinners slain."

"Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us."

"Give us thy peace, O Jesus," and at his signal the drop fell.

## DIE IN OIL FIRE

TANK EXPLODES AND ENVELOPES MANY SIGHTSEERS.

## SCORE OR MORE KILLED

BLAZING STUFF IS THROWN OVER THE VICTIMS

## PRESENTS AWFUL SIGHT

Try to Escape, But Fall Dead in Their Tracks—Twenty-two Dead and Probably Forty-five Injured.

Olean, N. Y., March 11.—A report from the scene of disaster at 2 o'clock Tuesday morning says twenty-two bodies have been taken from the wreckage. Some of them are burned beyond recognition—only trunks and skulls remaining. The last estimate of the casualties places the number of dead at twenty-two, and the injured at forty-five. Some of the injured will die.

Olean, N. Y., March 11.—A score or more people were killed and a large number were injured by an explosion of oil near here Monday night. A freight train on the Erie, made up principally of oil tank cars, filled with oil, broke in two near this city at 9 o'clock. Two sections of the train came together with a crash and one of the oil tanks was demolished. Fire broke out almost instantly and the sky was lighted up for miles.

A large crowd of people left this city for the scene of the fire. While they were lined up along the tracks a terrific explosion occurred. The flames communicated quickly with the other tank cars and a second and third explosion followed each other in rapid succession. Sheets of flame shot out in all directions. Scores of persons were caught within the zone of the fire and enveloped in flames. Men and boys ran screaming down the tracks with their clothing a mass of flames. Others fell where they stood, overcome by the awful heat. Just how many were killed is not known, as many of the bodies were incinerated.

Sydney Fish, a prominent business man, returned from the scene of the fire at midnight. He said:

"I was attracted to the scene of the fire between 9:30 and 10 o'clock. When I was within a quarter of a mile of the wrecked train there was a terrific explosion. Flames shot upwards and upwards for a great distance. I saw several persons who started to run away drop on the railway tracks and they never moved again. Others who had been standing close to the wreckage were hurled through the air for hundreds of feet. The scene was awful. Half a dozen young boys ran down the tracks with their clothing on fire. They resembled human torches. I could hear their agonized screams distinctly from where I stood. They ran some distance down the track and then threw themselves to the ground, grovelling in the ditches in their frantic efforts to extinguish the flames. Then they lay still, some of them unconscious, others dead. I do not know how many were killed, but I counted twenty bodies before I came away."

Word was sent at once to Olean police headquarters by telephone. Every doctor and ambulance in the city was summoned. Grocery wagons and carriages of all kinds were pressed into service and everything possible was done to bring the injured without delay to the hospitals for treatment. At midnight the first of the injured arrived at the hospital. They were four young boys. Their injuries were frightful. Great patches of flesh were burned off and hung in shreds from their bodies.

It will be difficult to ascertain the names of a great many of the dead tonight, as their bodies were burned to ashes in the intense heat. A canvass is being made of the city as rapidly as possible to find out the names of those missing. There is great excitement in the city and the streets are thronged with people.

Large crowds gathered at the hospital and the faces of the injured were anxiously scanned as they were borne into the building on stretchers. Heart-rending scenes were witnessed when one of the poor, blistered bodies was recognized by a father or a mother or brother and it was with difficulty that persons were restrained from invading the operating room. The number of dead is known to be at least eighteen, and some estimates place it as high as twenty-five. Over two score were more or less seriously injured. Some of them will die. It is out of the question to identify any of the bodies recovered.

### Bank Cashier is Missing.

Eureka, Kas., March 11.—W. P. Dickerson, cashier of the defunct Toronto state bank, which was taken charge of by the state bank examiner on January 24, with liabilities aggregating \$40,000 is missing. Dickerson, who was arrested a month ago, charged with falsifying his statements as to the bank's condition, was to have had a preliminary hearing today. He is out on \$2,000 bond, which he raised.

## DISCOVERY OF SELF MURDER

Young Man at Stanton Takes His Own Life Body Left For Many Days.

Stanton, Neb., March 10.—John Groeshinzer, a young unmarried man about thirty-five years of age, committed suicide supposedly last Tuesday. He took a small rope, tied it about a spike driven in the wall, tied it about his neck and simply knelt down bearing his weight upon the rope. His feet were on the floor when the body was discovered on Friday and his bent knees almost touching. He had apparently made no struggle as his cap was on his head and his clothing was not at all disarranged. He was an industrious young man and no case was known for the act. The coroner's jury completed their investigations Saturday forenoon and returned a verdict in conformity with the foregoing statement.

### Was Late to Church

Valley, Neb., March 10.—Miss Kat Whitmore, daughter of W. G. Whitmore of this place, on Sunday established a reputation for pluck and nerve that entitles her to be placed alongside of western heroines who in time of emergency prove themselves able to come out of a perilous position as handsly as one of the sterner sex. Her reputation was gained in handling a team of runaway horses.

Miss Whitmore lives with her parents about a mile west of here, and on Sunday morning she started for town driving a team of spirited horses. She intended getting two young lady acquaintances and taking them to Fremont to attend church. As she was about to stop in front of a house for one of her friends the horses became frightened at something and started out at a headlong gallop on the road to Waterloo.

The team was too strong for Miss Whitmore to stop, and she was unable to check their speed in any degree. She did not lose her presence of mind, however, but kept the reins in the middle of the road several men saw the team start up and three or four of them jumped into horses and started after the swiftly disappearing rig. Telephone messages were sent out to farmers along the road notifying them of the runaway, and a moment or two later they saw Miss Whitmore and the team by past. The men on horseback were unable to catch up with her.

The dispatcher's orders transmitted over the telephone resulted, however, in giving her a clear right of way and for three miles the horses carried her head a furious pace. Having expended so much of their energy, they became more docile and she finally succeeded in stopping them. She turned them about, drove back to Valley, got her friends and went on to Fremont with the same team, but too late to attend church.

### Found Dead in His Cabin.

Lead, S. D., March 10.—The body of John H. McKinley was found on the bunk of his cabin, near the Union hotel in Whitetail gulch, three miles above Lead, a bullet hole in the temple. He had killed himself several hours previously for the body was cold and rigid. On the bed was a Colt's revolver of 44 calibre, with which he had inflicted the fatal wound. In the walls of the cabin were several bullet holes and several lights had been broken out of the windows by bullets, indicating that he had passed several hours practicing with the weapon before turning it on himself. McKinley had not been seen for over a day and neighbors supposed he had gone away on a visit. Up to a short time ago he was employed as hoisting engineer by the Horseshoe Mining company. He was thirty-five years old, and left two sisters in this part of South Dakota, one, Miss Mary McKinley, teaching school at Nemo, and the other, Mrs. James Summerfield, at Central City. An inquest was held over the remains by the coroner, the theory of suicide being thoroughly established and the act attributed to despondency.

### Dashes Down the Incline.

Fall River, Mass., March 10.—A snow plow which was being transferred from one section of the Old Colony street railway to another became unmanageable at the top of a steep hill, in this city today, and, flashing down the incline, crashed into two cars loaded with passengers. Both the passenger cars were almost completely demolished and five persons sustained bruises and flesh wounds enough to necessitate their being carried to a hospital. A dozen others were bruised and cut by glass or splinters. The accident was caused by the breaking of a brake block on the snow plow.

### Brick-Makers on a Strike.

St. Louis, Mo., March 10.—Pursuant to the action taken yesterday between three and four thousand union men of the allied brick-making trades struck today to enforce demands for a recognition of their union, for an eight hour day and a percent increase in wages. It is predicted by labor leaders that before the end of the week double that number of men in various building trades depending on the brick makers will go out in sympathy, should the strike remain unsettled.

## LIFE THREATENED

KENTER PLAYED BOLD GAME TO GET A CHECK

## DREW KNIFE ON DOCTOR

HUMBOLDT FARMER FORCED HIM TO WRITE A CHECK.

## CREDITORS HOLD SACK

Censor Locate Property Pledged on Loan Security—Creditors Hold Sack For From \$100 to \$500

Humboldt, Neb., March 9.—Considerable excitement was caused in this city Saturday afternoon among the crowd of customers in the First National bank when as a farmer stepped up to the teller's window and handed in a check for one hundred dollars, the maker of the note who had accompanied him into the building, called to the cashier not to pay the check for the reason that it had been obtained under duress, stating that the holder of the paper had threatened to take his life if the check were not forthcoming and had enforced his demands with a wicked looking knife. The man accused of the offense was at once taken in charge by the officers of the city on a charge of drunkenness, and locked up until a definite plan of prosecution, has been arranged. The story as told by Dr. J. L. Gandy, the well known physician and land owner, who gave the note, is quite blood-curdling and is about as follows: For the past season one of the doctor's farms near this city has been leased by Fred Kenter, a middle aged farmer, and the doctor not being thoroughly satisfied with him as a tenant had arranged to have the place occupied by another party for the coming season. To this end he notified Kenter several months ago to look elsewhere for a farm, but this the latter failed to do, and when the first of March came was still in possession of the Gandy farm. After vainly endeavoring to persuade the farmer to vacate Gandy sought the aid of a local firm of attorneys and after much delay Kenter agreed to vacate for the sum of \$50, and to this the owner agreed, the money to be paid after possession had been given. Things seemed to be all satisfactory until this afternoon when the farmer having vacated came into town for his money. This was paid by the attorneys and a receipt given, the farmer departing apparently satisfied with his bargain. Later, however, in filled up on liquor, he dropped into the office of the doctor and finding him alone, demanded one hundred dollars more, stating that he had been caused considerable trouble, and the doctor being a man of wealth, could easily afford to spare the amount. The latter attempted to protest that the proceedings were unusual when the farmer drew a dangerous-looking knife and punctuating his remarks with profanity remarked that he meant business, and if the doctor did not sit down and at once write him out a check he would cut his throat. Seeing that the man was half crazy and doubtless meant every word he said, the threatened man thought it best to adopt conciliatory measures and drew up and signed the check as directed, handing it over to the farmer, intending to stop payment by telephone.

Kenter, however, feared something to this kind, and taking Gandy by the arm gave him to understand that he was to accompany him to the bank and see that the check was paid. Arriving at the bank door the doctor again attempted to clude the vigilant captor and notify the bank president but the farmer balked his design by muttering to him that he had better stay outside the railing. However, there being several other parties in the room Gandy made the facts known as stated above and not only saved his coin but escaped injury as well. Kenter when drinking is generally recognized as a dangerous character, and it is claimed the above assault was the second one for yesterday. Earlier in the day he was accompanied to the residence of his mother (recently deceased) by Edward Sammelson, son of the president of the First National bank, both going for the purpose of taking an inventory of the personal property of the deceased, the same being required by the probate court. While the work was going on Kenter asked young Sammelson to take a drink of whiskey with him, and upon the latter declining, flew into a rage, declaring that he would kill him then and there.

Hutchinson, Kas., March 9.—Len Lewis shot and killed Baum Hatch, a negro, during a drunken row because Hatch had assumed the role of protector to Lewis' wife. Mrs. Emaline Hatch, wife of the dead man in a spirit of revenge, later set fire to a wagon belonging to Lewis, in which John Powers, another drunken reveler, was sleeping. Powers was fatally burned before he awoke from his stupor.

Killed in a Drunken Row.

## THE LAW MAKERS

Governor Mickey Interposes His Veto and Proposes a Substitute Bill—Read First Time

## STUEFFER TO BE INVESTIGATED

Work on the Revenue Bill Progressing With Deliberation—Proceedings in Both Houses.

Governor Mickey vetoed S. F. 29 providing for the payment of fees to the commissioner of public lands and buildings. Governor Mickey stated his objections to the bill to be that the measure was unconstitutional in that it provided for the payment of fees to the commissioner, while the constitution provides for payment of all fees to the state treasurer. He expressed his approval of the intent of the bill and submitted the draft of a bill identical except the provision for payment of fees.

Warner of Dakota moved that S. F. 304, recommended by the governor, be read a first time. This was done. Mrs. Louise Bowser will not get the \$2,000 asked of the state for the erection of a sod house at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. The senate indefinitely postponed the bill this afternoon.

SENATE ROUTINE.

H. R. 119, providing for the reports of teachers and county superintendents, was passed.

H. R. 167, a joint resolution memorializing congress to pass a bill for the election of United States senators by popular vote, was passed.

Committees reported as follows: S. Fs 100-101, providing for a grand jury system, was recommended for indefinite postponement. The report was concurred in and the bill was placed on general file.

S. F. 146, providing for the erection of grain elevators and warehouses, was placed on general file.

S. F. 240, defining cultivated lands, placed on general file.

S. F. 232, indefinitely postponed. The senate went into committee of the whole with Brown of Keya Paha in the chair. The committee made the following report:

S. F. 191, appropriating \$2,000 to Mrs. Louise Bowser with which to pay part of the expense of the erection of a sod house at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, indefinitely postponed.

S. F. 58, an act defining the boundaries of the state in certain cases, ordered engrossed.

S. F. 116, an act to provide for the establishment of a public road to and from lands surrounded or shut out from a road, ordered engrossed.

S. F. 147, an act for opening and maintaining roads to bridges across streams separating two counties, amended and ordered engrossed.

IN THE HOUSE.

Nelson of Douglas renewed his motion to have a committee appointed to act on the Sears statement looking to an investigation of ex-State Treasurer Steuffer's method of handling school bonds, and Speaker Mockett named these members: Warner of Lancaster, Meradith of York, Mangold of Douglas, Davis of Buffalo, Fishback of Clay.

At the request of Kennedy of Douglas the house went into committee of the whole to consider, first, H. R. 271 by Riggs of Douglas, providing a reduction in the number of South Omaha School board members from nine to five. The committee recommended the bill for passage.

The house met in afternoon session at 1:30 instead of 2 o'clock. It took up H. R. 344, the revenue bill, in committee of the whole. The first provision of the bill considered was that fixing the time of assessment. The original bill named February 1 and the standing house revenue committee proposed to change this to April 1. Thompson of Merrick ordered an amendment to fix March 1 as the time. After a spirited debate the committee amendment for April 1 carried by an overwhelming vote.

An amendment by Nelson of Douglas was adopted making taxes on real property a first lien from and including the first day of October of the year in which they are levied until the same are paid.

A committee amendment was adopted making section 29 read: "Personal property, except such as is required in this chapter to be levied and assessed otherwise, shall be listed and assessed in the county, precinct, township, city, village and school district where the owner resides, except that property having a local situs like lumber yards, grain elevators, etc., shall be assessed at the places of situs," etc.

A communication was read from the governor submitting a bill giving the secretary of state perpetual right to sign paving petitions, the general purpose of the bill being to validate the paving of streets surrounding the capitol building, for which the appropriation bill sets out \$10,000 to defray the state's portion of this expense.

The prime object of this bill is to provide for the repaving of the streets on the east and south sides of the capitol grounds, Sixteenth street between H. and K streets and H street between Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets.

The afternoon session adjourned at 5 o'clock, the order being given session to begin at 7:30.