EXPLOSION OF LAMP

Starts a $4,000 Fire at Plainview, Neb.

FOUR STORE ROOMS ARE CONSUMED

Colorado Midland Collision on a Trestle —Accident on the Illinois Central— Two Italians Cremated in a Coal Mine—Fremont Dark.

The explosion of a lamp in Frank Hulbert's cellar at Plainview, Neb., burned down a block of four store rooms belonging, respectively to R. J. Sewell, bakery and restaurant; Frank Hulbert, general merchandise; A. P. Strube, restaurant and confectionery; C. H. Folsom, general merchandise. The contents of the buildings were mostly saved. All buildings were insured except R. J. Jewell's. The less is about $4,000.

NEGRO'S NARROW ESCAPE

Angry Mob Want to Avenge Policeman's Death.

Policeman Mark Allen of Chester, Pa., was shot and instantly killed by Albert West, a negro, whom he had arrested for quarreling on the street with a colored woman.

West escaped, but was captured hiding in a stable at Darby, Pa. When the officers arrived with the prisoner a crowd of 2,000 persons met them with the cries of "Lynch him!" "Kill him." When West was brought out on the platform of the car there was a rush and a number of persons struck him with umbrellas and canes, while an effort was made to get him away from the policemen. The negro was hustled into the city hall, and the crowd, seeing that it was impossible to reach him in the narrow corridor, ran around to the court yard in the rear of the building. The big gate was barred, but a hundred shoulders were placed against it and it was torn down and the mob rushed in with yells of "Lynch him."

The city jail stands in this court yard and fearing that a rush would be made in that direction. Chief Leary placed a platoon of police in the driveway, and the officers with drawn revolvers, faced the crowd, which sullenly retired. A plot was made for a second onslaught, and it was necessary to place the leaders in custody, temporarily, to quiet the crowd.

ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING

Right of Possession Will Be Tested in Habeas Corpus Suit.

What for a time promised to be a very sensational case happened when J. S. Ewart of Kearney with another man took little Ruth Ewart away from her grandmother in Omaha. The girl was with Mrs. with Mrs. E. L. Dodder and her daughter, Mrs. Smith, when as they alighted from a street car a man heavily bundled up at the curb, seized the child, handed it to another man who pushed it in a cab standing near and then both jumped in and drove away on the gallop For a time no trace whatever was found of the girl though many bystanders saw the whole act and one man ran eight blocks in pursuit only to be distanced. Notices were wired in all directions with good descriptions of the men and in an hour Detective Wier located them in Council Bluffs at the Grand hotel. One was J. S. Ewart, father of the girl, a wealthy grain man of Kearney, owning a series of elevators along the Union Pacific road. The man with him is employed in the office of a local attorney.

After explanations, it was agreed to bring the girl back to Omaha where the right of possession will be tested in a habeas corpus suit to be tried before Judge Baxter at an early date.

Opposes Amnesty.

Rudyard Kipling who arrived at Capetown January 8, in a letter to a friend in England, again protests emphatically against any amnesty being granted the rebels, which he fears from the attitude of the home people may be done. Mr. Kipling declares it is a question of life or death for the colony.

"The British minister had an interview with Dr. von Lynden, the Dutch minister of foreign affairs, last Saturday," wires the Brussels correspondent of the London Morning Post, "and intimated that Great Britian would never negotiate with Mr. Kruger or Dr. Leyds."

Diamonds Recovered.

The diamonds stolen from the two iron-bound trunks at Glendive, Mont., belonging to C. B. Clawsen, traveling representative of a Minneapolis wholesale jewelry firm, were recovered at Terry, where they had been cached. The robbery, which occurred on January, 16, was a bold one, the trunks being taken from the Northern Pacific baggage room, broken open and the diamonds abstracted. Jerry McCarty, who was arrested on suspicion, is said to have made a full confession to the sheriff and to have given directions for the finding of the missing jewels.

Suicide Identified.

The identity of a middle-aged, richly-dressed woman who committed suicide in Stockton, Cal., has been established by friends. She was Mrs. Hammond Moore of New York city, the widow of Colonel Hammond Moore, an officer of the Confederate army, who settled in New York shortly after the civil war. She came to San Francisco from Guatemala last May in the course of a tour around the world, which she begun three years ago, and which had just been concluded.

STORY OF HARDSHIP

Major Waller and His Marines March Across Samar.

General Chaffee has cabled to the war department a report of the march of Major Waller and his marines across Samar. It is the first full account of the march and tells a tale of terrible suffering and hardship:

"The war department is advised of the trip of Major Waller, four officers and fifty men of the marine corps, thirty-six native bearers, with four days' rations, who started the last week of December from Lanang, on the east cost of Samar, to cross the island to Bassey, about thirty-five miles, on the map. A trail at one time existed, but it was found in places only. Lieutenant Lyles of the Twelfth infantry accompanied the command. Incessant rains from the start, swollen streams and other natural obstacles made progress extremely slow. When the rations were consumed the men exhausted rapidly, dropping on the way.

"Major Waller, separated from Captain Porter, Lieutenant R. P. Williams and the major part of the men, proceeding toward Bassey, where he arrived January 9 with two officers and thirteen men; also Lieut. Lyles. He returned to the mountains next day with relief, but returned to Bassey about ten days later unsuccessful. Porter was to build rafts, but timber would not float.

"The second day after separating from Mr. Waller, Porter moved toward Lanang and arrived January 11 with two men, all exhausted physically and and mentally. Lieut. R. P. Williams and over thirty men were left in the mountains in a similar condition with native bearers. A relief expedition under Lieut. Kenneth P. Williams, First infantry, was delayed in starting two days by a storm raging and torrent river. They started the 13th, reached the marines the 18th, saving Lieut. Williams and all except ten men not found, who are no doubt dead from starvation, namely: Privates Fangule, E. Foaler, G. M. Britt, T. Wards, Brown, F. F. Murry, T. Buffet, Baley, Baroni and Connell. R. Kettle, died in the hospital at Taoloban January 23.

COLLISION ON A TRESTLE

Flagman Neglects His Duty and is Instantly Killed.

A Colorado Midland passenger train westbound for Salt Lake and San Francisco, had a narrow escape from instant destruction two miles west of Buena Vista, Colo. The locomotive dashed into a freight train standing on a trestle sixty-five feet high hurling the caboose into the creek bottom and instantly killing Owen McCarthy, rear brakeman of the freight train.

Engineer Peck and his fireman were prevented from jumping by the high trestle and remained on their engine, expecting to be dashed to death. The engine left the rails, but miraculously remained on the trestle, almost balanced on its edge, not only saving their lives, but the passengers as well.

Owen McCarthy, the only man to lose his life, received orders to flag the coming passenger train, but tarried in the caboose, warming himself, as the morning was extremely cold. He had just started to flag the train when he saw the headlight of the locomotive rounding the curve not 100 feet distant. He retreated toward the caboose but was caught and knocked into the creek, being shockingly mangled.

Coal Mine On Fire.

A fire at the Cooke & White coal mine at Madrid, N. M., operated by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, caused the death of two Italians, one named Bruto and the other unknown, and threatens damage to the property. At last accounts the fire had burned to within thirty feet of a room filled with gas, and should this point be reached an explosion would follow that would cause great wreck to the property. All openings leading to the mine have been closed, the fans stopped and all available water turned into the mine, which it is expected will be flooded in three or four days.

Shoots His Assailant.

R. B. Blankenship, a wealthy merchant of Delmore, W. Va., a small lumstation, shot and killed Robert Browning, a lumber dealer. Blankenship's plea is self-defense, as he claims that Browning had already fired one shot at him. The shooting occurred in the private office of Blankenship, when a dispute arose during the settlement of an account.

Burned To Death.

In a fire near Wise Postoffice in Mon. ongahela county, W. Va., Blanche, the infant child of Thompson Glover, was burned to death, two other children were pehaps fatally burned and Mr. and Mrs. Glover were seriously injured while trying to escape from their house.

Goes Through Trestle.

Two dead and three badly injured is the result of a train going through a trestle on the Gauley railroad near Berry's Siding, W. Va. The engine and several cars of the freight train crashed through the trestle to the ground several feet below.

Fremont in Darkness.

Fremont, Neb., is minus a large portion of its electric lights for the time being, the armature at the municipal power station having burned out. Only the incandescent lamps of the city are affected, as the electricity for the arc lights is generated by another dynamo

Seven bandits entered the Pecos Mercantile company's store at Fort Sumner, N. M., shot Beaubien dead, beat Francisco Zarnora senseless, stole $600 worth of goods, robbed the postoffice and escaped.

NINE FIREMEN KILLED

Buried Beneath Falling Wall While Fighting Fire

COMPANIONS UNABLE TO RESCUE THEM

Ohio River Towboat's Boiler Explodes— Five Men Severely Burned—An Ottawa, Kan., Man Swindles Wholesale Houses—Other News.

At least nine men were killed and as many more injured at a fire which broke out in the five-story stone building at St. Louis, occupied by the American Tent and Awning company. The building suddenly collapsed, and although the dozen men who were caught in the crash had not been reached by the hard-working companions, it is almost absolutely certain that they have succumbed.

The building in which the fire originated was located in the old business section of the city, and was about fifteen years old. The blaze, which proved a hard one for the department to master, was practically under control when suddenly. Without warning, the building collapsed, and came down in a heap with a noise that could be heard for blocks. Three pipemen at work on the second floor had difficulty in managing a line of hose, and Assistant Chief Thierry was on his way with three of his men to lend them aid when the building collapsed. The men went down with tons of twisted iron, brick, stone and wooden columns enveloping them. Chief Swingley, who was in front of the building directing his men, had a miraculous escape from death.

IN THE HOCPITAL

General Funston Oliged to Undergo Another Operation.

General Funston was again subjected to the surgeon's knife. The operation was performed at Scarrit's hospital, Kansas City, under the direction of Dr. F. F. Robinson.

After General Funston arrived from the West and had had a consultation with Dr. Robinson, it was stated that another operation would not be necessary. Within a day or so, however, the wound of the original operation for appendicitis had not healed as the physician believed it should and the second operation was decided upon.

Before the operation was performed Dr. Robinson stated it would prove a minor affair. Later he stated that the general had undergone the ordeal in a satisfactory manner, and that he believed the outcome would be what had been desired. It would be necessary, however, for the patient to remain at the hospital for probably two weeks.

GIFT FOR MISS ROOSEVELT

Kaiser to Present Her With Magnificent Jewel Case.

The kaiser's gift to Miss Alice Roosevilt, in conection with the visit to America of Admiral Prince Henry, is to be a jewel case, richly studded with diamonds. In the center of the lid is a portrait of the kaiser, with the imperial monogram in diamonds.

The internal fittings and decorations of the kaiser's American yacht are being made by a London firm of decorators, and the chief artist has interviewed the kaiser who said laughingly: "I shall send a torpedo boat for my yacht some day before June 18, so you'll have to get it finished by then, as I want it to take part in the Kiel regatta."

Student Suicides.

Miss Agnes Inglis, of Detroit, twenty-three years old and a sophomore student in the medical department of the University of Michigan, committed suicide at Ann Arbor. She was the daughter of Dr. David Inglis, a prominent physician of Detroit.

No motive for the deed has been discovered, but it is known that Miss Ingliss was subject to attacks of great mental depression. At such times she has often theatened to take her life. This was probably the cause although she left an examination in cheerful spirits. After examination she went down town, returned to her room and shot herself near the heart. She then opened her door, walked out into the hall and fell in a swoon. She died half an hour later without recovering consciousness.

Accused of Swindling Wholesalers.

N. D. Parker, a young man who lives at Ottawa, Kan., has been held for the federal grand jury on a charge of fraudulent use of the mails by obtaining goods under false pretenses. It is said he obtained $50,000 worth of goods of all descriptions from prominent firms in Chicago, St. Joseph and Kansas City. He is alleged to have ordered goods in the name of the Ottawa Brokerage company, and to have sold the goods to retailers near his home.

A startling tragedy, caused by love and jealously, occurred at Havana, Ill. Mrs. Robinson McCool shot her lover, Joseph Lewis, and her ten-year-old daughter, and then turned the revolver upon herself, dying immediately. She left a letter confessing her love for Lewis and requesting that the three bodies be taken to Peoria for burial, where she had a burial lot, and that her property, after paying funeral expenses, be given her brother Richard, saying that he was the only one who had ever been kind to her. She had some insurance.

URGENT DEFICIENCY BILL

Appropriation Called For Amounts to Twenty Millions.

The net increase of appropriations recommended by the senate committee on the urgency deficiency bill is $3,163,150, bringing its total up to $20,339,620. The principal items of increase are the following:

Payment to Mexico on account of the La Abra and Well claims, $112;572; payment of rebate on tobacco, $100,000; reimbursement of Philippine insular fund for gunboats turned over to the navy, $208,819; purchase of coal for the navy, $800,000; equipment of naval vessels, $450,000; refunding to states money expended in raising volunteers in the civil war—Maine, $131,515, Pennsylvania, $689,146: New Hampshire, $108,372, and Rhode Island, $124,617.

The appropriation of $500,000 for the shelter of troops in the Philippine islands is retained, but the wording of the provision is changed to read as follows: "For the establishment in the vicinity of Manila, P. I., of a military post, including the construction of barracks, quarters for officers, storehouses, hospitals and other buildings, as well as water supply, lighting, sewerage and drainage necessary for the accommodation of a garrison of two full regiments of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry and two batteries of artillery, to be available until expended."

The committee also struck out the house provision limiting the number of land offices in Alaska to one, and reduced the appropriation made by the house bill for experimental rural free delivery service from $491,040 to $217,300.

Provision is made for the payment of a year's salary each to the widows of the late Senators Kyle and Sewell and $6,415 is appropriated to pay the expenses of senators who attended the funeral of President McKinley.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION

Liability of Stockholders in Capital National Bank Failure.

In the United States supreme court Justice Brown delivered an opinion in the case of McDonald vs. Thompson. The case involves the liability of Thompson as a stockholder of the failed Capital National bank of Lincoln, Neb., and indirectly the point as to the applicability of the statute of limitation as to time in the matter of contracts, this statute prescribing five years in cases in which the contrat is in writing and four years in cases when it is not in writing. In this instance suit was instituted more than four years and less than five years after the cause of action arose. The court held that there was no contract in writing in this case, except a contract to pay for the stock, but the conclusion was that this was not a contract within the meaning of the statute. Hence the decision was in Thompson's favor.

White Men Terrorize Negroes.

Almost a reign of terror exists in the vicinity of the Millstone mine of the Cumberland Coal company, sixteen miles above Crossville, in Fenless, county, Tennessee. Some dissatisfied miners and other men recently posted a notice signed with a skull and cross bones, and in red ink, warning the negroes, a few of whom are employed about the mines and at the company store, to leave at once.

The negroes did not leave, and the mob has twice fired into their cabins. The last time the negroes returned the fire and the mob retreated. The mob attacked the company's commisary, but William Nixon, son of Manager Nixon, at the head of a number of white employes, charged the mob with rifles, and a pitched battle ensued, the mob retreating to the woods. The situation has been reported to Adtutant General Branon.

Explosion of Towboat Boiler.

Just as the Pittsburg harbor towboat J. W. Ailes had passed through Lock No. 2 her boilers exploded, throwing her crew of fourteen in all directions. Three of the crew are known to be fatally hurt and only five others have been accounted.

The boat was towing six loaded flats toward Pittsburg and just after getting out of the lock the explosion happened and in a very short time the Ailes was burned to the water's edge. The report of the explosion was heard for miles and soon after rescuing parties were searching for the injured.

Herb Doctor Killed.

At Glenjean, Fayette county, West Virginia, a mob went to the home of T. Williams, a colored herb doctor, called him to the door and shot him to death. He returned the fire, and Mose Adams, colored, was found a short distance away, shot through the stomach. Williams was a recent arrival from Tennessee and the negroes believed he was a conjuror.

Four Spectators Killed.

Four persons were killed and one was probably fatally injured as the result of an explosion of gasoline in the bakery of George Carver of Boyertown, Pa. At the time of the explosion a large crowd of spectators were watching the fire and many of them were caught under the falling wall.

Escape With the Ransom.

The Sofia correspondent of the London Times reports that during the negotiations with the brigands for the lease of Miss Stone, the captive missionary, the house in which the American party was lodged burned down, but that the inmates escaped with the ransom money.

Passenger and Freight Collide.

An Illinois Central passenger train at Alworth about six miles west of Rockford, Ill., killing one man and injuring two others, all trainmen.

UNIQUE VOLUME GIVEN CONGRESS

Author Spent Twenty Years of His Life Writing It.

A wonderful manuscript book on archeology has just been presented to the library of congress by Thomas Wilson, LL. D., of Washington. The author of the work in question, Mr. S. H. Binkley, a farmer of Montgomery county, Ohio, died in 1900, at the age of 94 years.

Mr. Binkley employed his spare time for the last twenty years of his life in writing this book, or rather printing it with pen and ink, and illustrating it with drawings in black and white and color, which have the fineness of engravings and lithographs.

The objects described and illustrated are the common utensils of the aboriginal inhabitants of this country, and embrace arrow and spear heads of bone and stone, domestic belongings of various kinds, working implements, carvings, etc.

Professor W. K. Moorehead of New York, who, through a mere accident, became possessed of the unique volume, thus speaks of the author according to the few facts which he has been enabled to gather concerning him:

"S. H. Binkley was a gentleman farmer of the old school. Whether he was a college graduate or not I am unable to say, but my impression is that he educated himself. He possessed a fine farm in the Miami Bottoms, south of Dayton, in Montgomery county, Ohio. There were walls, circles, etc., of prehistoric remains upon his property and the presence of these turned his attention to archeological matters.

"Mr. Binkley began to collect Indian relics, and up to 1889 had gathered from his immediate neighborhood a very comprehensive exhibit of more than 10,000 specimens. He also wrote scientific and popular articles for several magazines and newspapers.

"Mr. Binkley conceived the idea of a hand-printed book, with illustrations drawn by himself, in which he would describe his collection. He began this work about 1870, and continued it up to a year before his death, in 1900. It may be seen by an examination of his books that Binkley's observations are all reasonable up to within a few pages of the end of the volume.

"He wrote but a few pages each year (in the winter), and spent hours upon the drawings and printing of words. After he had passed his 90th year (he died at the age of 94) his mind became clouded, and he saw in many of the stones faces of apes, etc.

"This book is remarkable in that it shows a vast amount of painstaking labor, the discerning eye of a competent collector, and the pleasurable occupation of a gentleman farmer who cared more for these matters than he did for his estate. It is one of the rare examples of patience and 'take your time' in this bustling world of feverish American life.

"After Mr. Binkley's death his relatives, who had no appreciation of his hobby, sold and scattered his large collection."

"From saving comes having," but not as quickly as it comes from grabbing at everything in sight.

Some Odd Superstitions of Farmers

OLD IDEAS FIRMLY BELIEVED IN BY PROSAIC AGRICULTURISTS.

"Superstition is more prevalent among the American people than is generally supposed," said a book agent, "and even the hard-headed intelligent farmers are, to a certain extent, afflicted with it.

"I remember asking a farmer sixty years old, a man of more than ordinary intelligence, the owner of 1,000 acres of fine land, well stocked, and who had several thousand dollars in bonds and other securities, why he did not build himself a better house. The one he lived in was old, small and dilapidated, a relic of the days when he was poor.

"'Afraid to,' was the reply.

"'Afraid of what?' I asked.

"'Well, you see, I have always heard that when an old man builds a new house he never lives long to use it.'

"I laughed, but he was perfectly serious, and I found that in that neighborhood the superstition was generally believed in.

'Another saying was common in the same locality. 'The man who plants a tree generally lives to enjoy its fruits.' The belief in these sayings was shown by the number of poor farmhouses and the number of fine orchards in that neighborhood.

"'Seed corn shelled at night generally grows best,' is another saying frequently used in the corn belt. A farmer's son suggested that it was invented by the old men as an excuse for making the boys work at night.

"'Things planted during the dark of the moon produce the best roots,' is so generally accepted as true that vegetables, like potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots and onions are planted during the light of the moon by few people. Many scientific farmers believe in this superstition.

"'The farmer who refuses water to a traveler's horse will see his own live stock suffer from thirst before the end of the year' is a belief so common in some localities as to insure courteous treatment to all travelers.

"Some farmers will wring the neck of a hen if she crows. They say a crowing hen brings bad luck to the farm, and, as I heard one old farmer remark, 'sets the wimmen folks a bad example.'

"'Borrowed eggs always hatch' is a saying probably invented by some stingy man as an excuse for borrowing, but it is so generally believed in some neighborhoods that a regular system of borrowing and lending is carried on.

"These and hundreds of other superstitions are so generally believed in that they govern the customs of communities to a surprising extent."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

D. O. Mills of New York recently presented to the Lick observatory in California, a large reflecting telescope, which will be sent to Chili to determine the velocities of the stars in the southern hemisphere.

Desks Bought as Souvenirs

Old Furnishings of the House of Representatives Disposed of.

A scramble is being made by members of congress to possess the discarded desks which furnished the house for so many years prior to the mahogany elegance of the fifty-seventh congress. What are left of these desks are stored in the basement under the rotunda of the capitol, and daily they are hunted through by some representative who realizes that here is an opportunity to perpetuate his glory as a national legislator, and establish an heirloom in his family to be used by his children as an incentive to oratory and statesmanship.

At the last session, when the house decided to refurnish, a resolution was passed that members who desired to purchase their old desks should be allowed to do so after a price had been established by an auction of a few of them. Chief Clerk William J. Browning of the house was charged with carrying out the resolution, and Mr. Browning is finding his task one which needs not only commercial instinct, but the skill of a diplomat.

In order to ascertain the wish of members in this regard Mr. Browning sent notices to each of the members of the fifty-sixth congress asking them to communicate their desires to him in writing on this matter. A few responded, but the indications were up to a short time ago, that the desks were to be a drug on the market.

Just before the present congress assembled, about seventy-five of the desks were sent to an auction-room one Saturday to be sold for the purpose of establishing a price. Fifty of these desks now adorn a study-room in a young ladies' seminary, while twenty-five were bought by souvenir hunters. It is evident that the auctioneer missed his cue in not impressing the prospective purchasers with the fact that many great men had formulated the nation's policies behind these same desks, for he only received prices ranging from $1.10 to $1.75 for each desk. Clerk Browning holds that the average price was $1.50.

The Burglar's Mistake.

"Look here," said the burglar, as the man raised himself to a sitting posture in the bed, "what do you mean by living in a room that invites visitors and yet affords them no reward? Haven't you got any money hid out somewhere?" "No," replied the man; "but I'm expecting some. I have sent two poems to the Scrawl, four sketches to the Scribe, and six——" "Say—are you a writer?" "I should say so! Just let me read you my——" The burglar raised a warning hand. "No," he said, "my time's limited. I've got three more houses on my list, and if they pan out as bad as this one, I won't have any breakfast. I'll read your stuff when it's printed. I take all the magazines. By the by——" He paused, looked at his watch, and asked: "Any more literary houses in this district?" "None." "All right—I'm off. Good night!" "Same to you. Please close the window after you."—Atlanta Constitution.