

THE CHIEF

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TELEPHONE SEVEN - TWO

Don't forget that one week from next Tuesday is election day.

It is said that the attorneys for Frank Barker are making a hard fight for the passage of the anti-capital punishment bill in the hope of saving his neck.

Horrors! It has just been discovered that cascarrats are poisonous. A child died at Plattsmouth this week after having eaten fifteen of them, an analysis showing that the cascarrats contain quite a percentage of strychnine.

Is there anyone who is gullible enough to believe that the railroads would be as liberal as they are in handing out passes to legislators, lawyers and politicians did they not expect and receive valuable services in return?

General Kuropatkin has shown himself to be a greater man than his enemies in Russian official circles. Having been deposed from the command of the army in Manchuria, being superseded by Linevitch, he has been appointed to command the latter's old corps, the first army, and has accepted the same with thanks. It is generally conceded that Kuropatkin is the best soldier and strategist in the Russian army, despite his many defeats.

The bill designed to do away with elections in odd years has been reported to the house and will be acted upon today. We hope to see it pass, as it will greatly reduce the expense of elections and otherwise be of great benefit to the taxpayers, and office holders themselves. The bill provides for four-year terms for county offices and would do away with the strife and turmoil incident to officers seeking a second nomination.

The city election comes a week from next Tuesday, and there promises to be a lively contest for the offices. It is understood the ticket nominated at the mass meeting Saturday night will stand on an anti-municipal electric light plant platform. The majority of the present city administration is in favor of municipal ownership, and there is little doubt that the ticket nominated at the Republican convention last week, which makes but one change in the city council, will be elected by a good majority.

The bill providing that the governor shall fix the date for the execution of the death sentence upon persons convicted of murder passed the senate on Tuesday. Should the bill become a law it will practically do away with capital punishment in Nebraska, as it has in Kansas. Since the Kansas legislature passed a similar law several years ago, no governor has ever set a date for a hanging, and the death sentence in that state virtually means life imprisonment, unless a governor can be found who does not fear to take the responsibility.

In order to get the sentiment of the citizens on the electric light question a mass meeting should be called for some time next week, in line with the resolution adopted at the city Republican convention. It is only just and fair to both the citizens and the candidates for office that each should know what to expect. If the majority

of the taxpayers favor the issuing of bonds for the purpose of building and maintaining an electric lighting plant by the city, they should know what candidates to support. A mass meeting, to be addressed by the candidates and by the leading taxpayers of the city, would come nearer revealing the real sentiments of the people in the matter than other method. This should be done before the city election is held, so that no one will have cause for complaint when the question comes up for consideration before the city council.

There is no parallel whatever between the railway transportation issued to newspaper men and that given to legislators, lawyers and politicians. The newspaper man gets his transportation in exchange for advertising excursions, low rates, etc. But what do the legislators, lawyers and politicians give in exchange for their passes? Something which costs them nothing, and is not theirs to give—the rights of the producers and shippers among the common classes to have something to say about what freight rates shall be. The legislators, as a rule, are pledged to protect these rights, yet they willfully surrender them to the railroads for the privilege of riding free of cost over the railroad lines. It would be a godsend to the great majority of people were the pass system abolished. The railroads could carry passengers at one-half the rates now charged if they could get rid of the pass barnacle.

NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

Young Man Is Accidentally Killed.
Norfolk, Neb., March 21.—The accidental discharge of a gun at Oakdale killed Frank Overshow, aged twenty-three.

Cattle Thieves Are Sentenced.
Sidney, Neb., March 21.—Herbert Anderson and Kirk Duncan were convicted of cattle stealing and were sentenced to the penitentiary for three years. The conviction of the cattle thieves in this county is the first for a number of years and the people feel that a new era has dawned upon them, the stock business being one of the principal industries of the county.

Calves Die From Strange Disease.
Nebraska City, Neb., March 21.—Sam Overton has lost a number of calves during the past few days from a disease which resembles hydrophobia. The animals die a few hours after the disease becomes noticeable. A short time before they die they become crazed and run into fences or anything which happens to be in their path. Mr. Overton cannot explain the cause or origin of the disease.

Trains Collide at Crossing.
Bentrice, Neb., March 21.—Burlington passenger train No. 18 and an extra Rock Island freight collided at the crossing of the two roads near here. The two engines were demolished and the track torn up for forty feet. Engineer Hickey and Fireman Pearman of the freight were severely, but probably not fatally, injured. The passengers escaped with a bad shaking up. Both lines were blocked two hours.

Nebraska Senate Passes Cady Bill.
Lincoln, March 22.—The senate, by a vote of 24 to 4, passed the Cady bill providing for the creation of a state railroad commission, composed of the state auditor, treasurer and land commissioner. The senate reconsidered the vote of last week which defeated the anti-capital punishment bill, and passed the measure. It imposes upon the governor the duty of naming dates for executions. It is patterned after the Kansas law and aims to do away with capital punishment.

Stiles for Head Consul.
Omaha, March 16.—About 175 delegates were in attendance at the morning meeting of the head camp jurisdiction A. The entire forenoon was devoted to the election of officers for the ensuing two years, which resulted as follows: Earle R. Stiles of Omaha, head consul; J. W. Lecrone of Kenard, Neb., adviser; J. D. F. Dudley of Arkansas City, Kan., banker; N. H. Wolf of Topeka, Kan., clerk; H. M. Cole of Crete, Neb., escort; J. L. Houchin of Omaha, Neb., watchman; C. G. Prischman of Crete, Neb., escort.

MANIAC STEALS TROLLEY CAR.
Grasps Live Wire in Contest With Imaginary Enemy at Omaha.

Omaha, March 17.—A maniac, a motor car, and a live trolley wire were the principals in a drama here. The madman, who had been hanging around the new car barn, suddenly

became violent, and, boarding an empty car, turned on the motor power. The car started down the street a short distance, ran on the "Y," and off the end of the track in the soft mud. The car barn employes captured the man after a fight, in which several of them received severe bruises. Breaking from them with a shriek, he rushed back to the barn, climbed to the top of one of the cars, and grappled with an imaginary enemy. Suddenly, with a hoarse cry, he grabbed the trolley pole with one hand, and, reaching up, laid hold of the live wire. The shock rendered him unconscious for a few minutes. He soon rallied and was starting out again, when he was overpowered and taken to the police station. He gave his name as Ed Mallett and his home as Vincennes, Ind. He is the son of a French pioneer and is a wanderer.

FARMERS GREET CORN SPECIAL.
No Stop Scheduled for One Place, but Crowd Forces One.

Kearney, Neb., March 20.—The Union Pacific corn education special closed a three days' tour of Nebraska at Kearney. The enthusiasm and interest manifested during the entire trip has been much greater than had been anticipated, even by the railroad officials. Fifteen counties were visited. The crowds at the fifty odd towns have at all times fully occupied the seating capacity arranged for them, and in many instances have been of such proportions as to require the management to arrange overflow meetings. The eagerness of Nebraska farmers to hear the lectures was evidenced at one point, Elba, at which no stop had been scheduled. When the train reached that point nearly 500 farmers were gathered at the depot, having anticipated the arrival of the "education special." The special was a trifle behind time, and, in order to not disappoint those whom it was known were waiting at other points, the management felt that it could not make an exception in this case and Conductor Kiger was instructed to start the train as soon as he had registered. Just as the special was pulling out of the little town a sturdy farmer pulled the bell cord and the train was "held up" until Professor Bruner and Pugsley had delivered a fifteen-minute address. At other towns equal interest was shown by the farmers who were gathered during the trip. About 1,000 miles were covered and over 6,000 farmers were benefited.

Another Court-Martial to Try Captain on Further Serious Charges.

Fort Niobrara, Neb., March 21.—The general court-martial of Captain George W. Kirkman, Twenty-fifth United States Infantry, will begin this afternoon. This will be the second court-martial for Captain Kirkman within a month. His first trial was for "conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman," the specifications including a number of scandalous practices covering a period of one or more years. This has been suspended pending the arrival of certain testimony from the Philippines to confirm the theory of the defense that the captain is insane, the suspension continuing to May 10. In the meanwhile other matters have developed in the career of Captain Kirkman that demand a speedy trial, especially in view of the fact that the captain, failing in an attempt at suicide, had tendered his resignation from the army.

The last charges against Captain Kirkman reiterate that of "conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman" and added thereto are the charges of "scandalous conduct" and "breach of arrest" with a host of specifications reciting the career of the dashing captain during the last year or two, and particularly bearing upon the suicide of Mrs. Chandler in Omaha a few weeks ago.

Magoon for Governor of Canal Zone.

Washington, March 21.—In all probability Judge Charles E. Magoon of Nebraska, law officer of the Panama commission, will be made governor minister of the canal zone. President Roosevelt, realizing that American people will hold his administration responsible for prosecution of work, is determined to reorganize the Panama commission and to appoint men to vacancies who will live in Panama and not draw fat salaries and live in Washington. The president wants Magoon to go, and is only waiting to decide upon another man as one of the commission before he makes public the composition of the new commission.

Thompson Will Go to Mexico.

Washington, March 20.—"I am satisfied that D. E. Thompson will be the next ambassador to Mexico," said Senator Burkett just as he was about to leave for Nebraska. "I had a talk with the president about a number of matters and incident to that conversation I asked the president if there was any foundation for the story that Assistant Secretary Loomis of the state department would succeed M. E. Conger at the Mexican capital. The president replied in so many words that Thompson would succeed Conger in September.

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TIME TABLE.
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CHICAGO
ST. JOE
KANSAS CITY
ST. LOUIS east and south.

DENVER
HELENA
BUTTE
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
SAN FRANCISCO
and all points west.

TRAINS LEAVE AS FOLLOWS:
No. 13. Passenger daily for Oberlin and St. Francis branches, Oxford, McCook, Denver and all points west. 7:05 a.m.
No. 14. Passenger daily for St. Joe, Kansas City, Atchison, St. Louis, Lincoln via Wymore and all points east and south 2:10 a.m.
No. 15. Passenger, daily, Denver, all points in Colorado, Utah and California. 8:05 p.m.
No. 16. Passenger, daily for St. Joe, Kansas City, Atchison, St. Louis and all points east and south. 10:35 a.m.
No. 17. Accommodation. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Hastings, Grand Island, Black Hills and all points in the northwest. 1:30 p.m.
Sleeping, dining, and reclining chair cars (seats free) on through trains. Tickets sold and baggage checked to any point in the United States or Canada.
For information, time tables, maps or tickets call on or address A. Conover, Agent, Red Cloud, Neb., or L. W. Wakeley, General Passenger Agent, Omaha, Nebraska.

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