

WEATHER FORECAST

Nebraska: Mostly cloudy and somewhat colder Saturday.

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THE OMAHA MORNING BEE

CITY

OMAHA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1923.

By Mail (1 Year): Daily and Sunday, \$3; Sunday, \$2.50, within the 4th zone. TWO CENTS in Omaha and Council Bluffs. Outside the 4th Zone (1 Year): Daily and Sunday, \$12; Sunday only, \$7.

COREY IS AWAITED OF SAILING

Corey Plum to Be Aired in Congress

Nebraska Delegation to Fight Confirmation of Omahan and Two Others on Farm Loan Board. Sought Farm Bloc Aid

By P. C. POWELL. Washington, Dec. 7.—The Nebraska delegation is investigating circumstances surrounding the appointment of M. L. Corey of Omaha, L. J. Pettit of Kansas and E. S. Landis of Ohio to membership on the Federal Farm Loan board at a salary of \$10,000 per year each.

The delegation has learned that these three men were appointed the day after congress convened in March. Information also has been obtained to the effect that C. E. Lobdell of Kansas, former chairman of the board, whose resignation had been turned in to the president before congress convened was active in obtaining the appointment of Corey, Landis and Pettit, who form a majority of the board.

Immediately after the appointment of these three men, the board created a new position, that of fiscal agent for the Federal Farm Loan board. The salary of the fiscal agent was fixed at \$25,000 per year. The fiscal agent appointed was C. E. Lobdell, retired chairman, who, according to information in the hands of the Nebraska delegation, was active in obtaining the appointments of Corey, Landis and Pettit.

It is known that Corey has been exceptionally anxious to line up the Nebraska delegation in favor of confirmation. Seek Aid of Farm Bloc.

He and other members of the board have called not only upon the Nebraska delegation but other senators in the farm bloc in an endeavor to get assurances of a prompt confirmation when their appointments come up in the senate.

To date, it is known that assurances have been few and far between from farm bloc members, except the Kansas delegation which at the time expressed a desire to go more deeply into the investigation being made by the Nebraska delegation.

Widow to Open Sandwich Shop. Mrs. Robert E. Wallace, widow of the late Charles Wallace, real estate man and her son, Bruce, will embark on a business venture with the establishment of a butter and sandwich shop in the room formerly occupied by the Council Bluffs Drug company, next door to the Council Bluffs Savings bank at Pearl and Broadway.

The drug company left the location when the bank planned to reconstruct its building, extending its quarters into the room occupied by the company. Now, however, the remodeling plans have been changed, and the bank will extend its safety deposit vaults in the basement toward the front of the building.

In connection with the sandwich shop, Mrs. Wallace will establish a woman's rest room for the benefit of women shoppers. Married 55 Years. Albin, Neb., Dec. 7.—Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Kelster, pioneers of Boone county, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with a 7 o'clock dinner. About 50 were present, consisting of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives. Mr. Kelster has been one of the county's substantial citizens, and at one time represented the county in the state legislature.

Bank Has New Home. Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 7.—The Bank of Barnston has moved into its new building which takes the place of the one wrecked some months ago, when bandits blew the safe with three charges of nitroglycerin. The robbers were driven off by an armed posse of citizens and succeeded in securing only \$100 in cash.

Pastor Given Leave. Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 7.—Rev. J. J. Timken, pastor of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran church, has been granted a six months' leave of absence with full pay because of ill health. Rev. H. C. Hallstead of Charter Oak, Ia., will relieve Mr. Timken.

Married in Council Bluffs. The following persons obtained marriage licenses in Council Bluffs yesterday: Clara Rose, Omaha, Neb., and Hilda Hahn, Dakin, Neb.; A. E. Hans, Omaha, Neb., and Ruth Smith, Omaha, Neb.; Carl King, Omaha, Neb., and Kate Winfield, Cheney, Neb.; Elmer Cowell, Omaha, Neb., and Rita Brown, Wayne, Neb.; Frank Stuart, Omaha, Neb., and Gladys Benson, Omaha, Neb.; Fayette Merritt, Omaha, Neb., and Vivian Hubbard, Omaha, Neb.; Floyd Cook, Aradale, Neb., and May Lambdin, Ord, Neb.

Beatrice Man, 93, Is Able to Work Daily

Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 7.—Ninety-three and perfectly able to attend to his business affairs by visiting the downtown district daily, has been the good fortune of G. B. Reynolds for more than 50 years. Mr. Reynolds operated one of the first grocery stores in Beatrice and is a brother of the late Dr. Reynolds, first mayor of Beatrice. Retiring from the grocery business, he and his family bought a farm west of the city where they resided for years. While working about the place, Mr. Reynolds was attacked by an enlarged heart and nearly gone to death, and after years of suffering recovered his health.

Wallace Urges Cut in Freight Rates on Wheat

Says in Report to Coolidge 25 Per Cent Reduction Assist Grain Growers.

Washington, Dec. 7.—A comprehensive review of the wheat situation of the country, which was described in a period of serious depression, was made by Secretary Wallace in a report submitted to President Coolidge October 27 and made public today.

"A great many farmers already have lost their farms or other property and the financial condition of others is critical," Mr. Wallace told the president. "This condition of things has resulted from the decline in wheat prices, the relatively high level maintained in the prices of other commodities and services, and also from the maladjustments which exist in the wheat industry itself."

Present low prices, Mr. Wallace said, were caused by the large world supply of wheat for which there is not an effective demand at higher price levels. He placed the world crop this year, outside of Russia, at 3,400,000,000 bushels, exceeding last year's production by 800,000,000 bushels and the previous average by 500,000,000, excluding Russia.

The solution of present agricultural difficulties depends quite as much upon the efforts of farmers themselves as upon any government action, Secretary Wallace said. There are fundamental and far-reaching adjustments in production and marketing which farmers themselves must make as a part of a long-time program. A survey of the situation indicates that well considered action in a number of directions will bring wheat farmers a substantial measure of relief. It is essential, Mr. Wallace said, that wheat farmers adopt methods which reduce production costs.

Secretary Wallace pointed out that American freight rates, which are 45 per cent and more above those of 1913, have not been adjusted to meet the decline in farm prices, whereas Canadian rates are now practically level with ours.

"To meet the emergency a reduction of at least 25 per cent in interstate rates of wheat and wheat products originating in the distressed wheat areas would be helpful," he said. The reduced rates he would consider in effect until wheat prices shall have more nearly reached a parity with the prices of other commodities or until a readjustment has been made in all full freight rates.

Uncle Sam Wins Case Against Liquor Ring

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 7.—The federal government today won 25 of the 126 cases instituted in Georgia in its campaign against what is described as a nationwide "rum ring." One of the most telling blows ever delivered against liquor law violators came today when 25 defendants appeared in federal court and pleaded guilty to various charges growing out of alleged liquor law violations. Fines aggregating more than \$100,000 were levied against those who were found guilty.

Boone County Ministers Organize Association

Albin, Neb., Dec. 7.—A meeting of the pastors of Boone county was held here for the purpose of forming a county organization. All towns in the county were represented, and an organization perfected to be styled The Boone County Ministerial association. The following officers were elected: Rev. W. A. Rominger, St. Edward, president; D. J. Poynter, Albin, vice president; Rev. C. G. Goman, Albin, secretary-treasurer.

Midland College Gym Corner Stone Is Laid

Fremont, Neb., Dec. 7.—The cornerstone of the new Midland college gymnasium building was laid here this afternoon. Dr. J. P. Krueger, president of the college, presided and the principal address was made by Rev. W. F. Fragler, head of the Nebraska Lutheran synod. The new building is being erected at a cost of approximately \$125,000.

Alby Vajrt Testifies at Seward

Girl Re-Enacts Slaying in Dramatic Manner—Court Room in Tears as Girl Relates Tale of Shame.

Large Crowd at Trial. By R. H. PETERS, Staff Correspondent of The Omaha Bee. Seward, Neb., Dec. 7.—With the shotgun that inflicted a fatal wound on Anton Lana held in her hands, Alby Vajrt, 15, dramatically re-enacted this afternoon the scene in the straw shed where Lana met his death. Seizing the gun by the stock, while Attorney Frank Bartos, taking the part of Lana, held the muzzle, she tugged frantically, saying, "That's the way it was done," in a nervous, vigorous tone that contrasted strangely with her previous almost inaudible replies.

There was not a dry eye in the crowd that packed the courtroom, when the little Bohemian girl, dressed simply and neatly in a colored gingham frock, told the court of illicit relations forced on her by Lana from the age of 12. Her father, who has been comparatively composed throughout the trial, sat with bowed head, a handkerchief pressed against his eyes, as his daughter related her shame.

Did you know you were doing anything wrong with Lana, Attorney Bartos asked, and the low hum that had previously been audible in the courtroom died away, as the eager spectators bent forward to catch the low, choking reply as the work-roughed fingers picked nervously at a tiny handkerchief held in the lap.

"No, Tony said I wasn't to be afraid and not to say anything about it. He said he would shoot me and the whole family if I told anybody," was the low, choking reply as the work-roughed fingers picked nervously at a tiny handkerchief held in the lap.

After relating the trip made by Lana to the Saturday before the family physician confirmed her fears of approaching motherhood, Alby described the struggle in the straw shed. "We went out to the shed," she said, "and mother asked Tony what he was going to do. He said he was going to shoot me. He jumped on me and held him down by the feet, then I saw his revolver in his right hand pointing toward me. I turned it around towards him. It went off two or three times, but I did not pull the trigger."

"Did you know that those shots had struck him?" Bartos asked. "No, sir, and he didn't say anything, he tried to get up and rolled and then he took a stumble toward the pole. Then I saw the shotgun in his hand, and I tried to take it away from him. He was bent over and holding the pole. I took the gun by the other end and tried to jerk it away from him and it went off."

Didn't See Mother's Blow. "Did you see your mother strike Tony with the plank?" "No," Alby said.

After she had been taken to the jail, Alby said Constable George R. Ruser with the electric chair should not tell the truth. "Did he talk to you in a loud voice?" asked Bartos. "Yes, sir, louder than a locomotive I know what I knew about it, and when I got through, he said to me, 'Well for Christ's sake, I'd like to know who did kill this man.'"

There were audible murmurs of indignation, when the girl told the jury that she had been kept in the court house from 10 Thursday night until 2 in the morning and again from 10 Thursday night until 2 in the morning and again from 10 Friday morning until 4 that afternoon, the second time without food and for the second time during the day Deputy County Attorney C. F. Barth was implicated in the endeavor to the state to secure statements from the witnesses by threat, when Alby testified that he warned her it would mean the electric chair should she refuse to reply to his questions.

Vajrt on Stand. Earlier in the day, Adolph Vajrt had declared that Barth was written and that Barth would ask questions and Ruser would force him to give the correct reply. "Did you ever say you took the gun and shot Tony Vajrt," was asked. "No, sir, that's what Barth said for me to say," he replied. The statement of the father and daughter were later refuted by state rebuttal witnesses, Walter Stolz and George Bauer, who said Barth had never been guilty of the conduct ascribed to him.

Called to the stand to testify that she had never read the constitution and did not know her legal rights, Mrs. Vajrt played the leading role in the courtroom scene, when she demonstrated to the jury how she struck Lana with a plank after he had fallen to the ground. Space was cleared inside the rail and the fragile woman, who has been frequently under a doctor's care, whirled one end of the 14-foot board plank above her head and held it fall swiftly to the floor. All three Vajrts declared that they had no knowledge of their constitutional rights and did not know that they did not have to answer the law. Bitter criticism of the state was implied by the defense, when the witnesses were asked if they had had attorneys while the state was conducting its examination. Late this afternoon, the son, Frank, 14, was put on the stand to tell what he knew about the Ruser grave. He stated that it had been dug by Lana that he might hide muskrat skins, and the defense presented as an exhibit a crate which Frank said was built by Lana to fit in the hole. Dressed in a new suit and apparently well aware of his hot appearance, Alby took the stand and replied boldly and intelligently to the questions put to him. Describing the fight had between Tony Lana and his family a week prior to the tragedy, he said that Tony had reached for his knife and not finding it had turned and struck his father in the face with the knife. At 5 tonight the state called as a part of its rebuttal Jerry Lana, brother of Anton, Joseph Zib of Crete and Louis Stickle of Milford, as well as Bauer and Stolz. Jerry denied that he had told Vajrt the Ku Klux Klan at Milford had held a meeting attended by 350 persons and that the Klan was going to get Alby Vajrt has previously testified that he had been terrorized with threats of the Klan.

Bill to Ask 50c Duty on Wheat

South Dakota Congressman to Seek Repeal of Drawback Clause Affecting Import Grain. Senate Measure Also

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Washington, Dec. 7.—Upon his return today from the state proposal meeting at Pierre, Representative William Williamson of South Dakota presented a bill calling for a tariff of 50 cents per bushel on wheat and the repeal of the drawback clause in reference to return of tariff money to millers who use not to exceed 70 per cent of import wheat with domestic wheat in milling flour.

This bill will be introduced in the house Monday. A similar bill will be introduced in the senate next week. "I am convinced that the two propositions called for in this bill will remedy the wheat situation for the present and they are supported by the sentiment in the state," Williamson said.

"As the law stands today millers of the middle west are profiting by the large over-supply of wheat due to the Canadian output coming into America and dragging down the price of wheat. The increasing tariff alone won't touch them, as under the drawback clause they are refunded the amount of tariff on the imported wheat they use, minus 1 per cent, providing they mix 30 per cent American wheat with their import wheat."

"It is evident on the face of this drawback clause that the more wheat imported and the lower the price the more the millers like it. "By increasing tariff and repealing the drawback clause the price of wheat is bound to go up and our farmers of the middle west will be given material aid."

The present tariff on wheat is 30 cents per bushel.

Lincoln Man Sued for Million

Lincoln, Dec. 7.—Two suits, asking damages approximating \$1,000,000, were filed in federal court Thursday against W. R. Ferguson of this city by Mrs. M. M. Walker and J. L. Walker of Tarrant county, Texas, owners of the Walker Grain company, Texas.

The Walkers, in the action against Ferguson, allege the defendant brought court actions against them without just cause and that claims made in the actions were false. Because of this, the plaintiffs allege, an injunction was issued and they were forced to hold property which they could have sold, thereby suffering great losses in the depreciation of value of the various properties. Elwood Grain company of St. Joseph, Mo., the plaintiffs' petition sets out.

Two Boys Admit Killing Child

Paradena, Cal., Dec. 7.—Chief of Police Charles Kelley today claimed to have gained confessions from William Forrester, 14, and Paul Daedler, 14, that they had accidentally shot and killed Arthur Martinez, 5, whose dead body was found bound with a wire to a post in a half-burned building here late yesterday, while playing "wild west." The two boys, now said to have confessed, first reported to the police that they had found the body of the Martinez youngster, who had been reported missing since Wednesday.

At first the police theory was that the Martinez lad had been murdered by a moron who had lured him into the building. Both boys are held in jail.

Four Convicts Caught

Lansing, Kan., Dec. 7.—Four of the prisoners who escaped from the state penitentiary Sunday night were captured near Oklawaha, Kan. The men taken into custody were Frank Castro, who led the escape; Thomas Plinton, James Dugan and George Dunn.

Storm in Montana

Butte, Mont., Dec. 7.—Heavy snowstorm which was general over a large part of south central Montana, crippled electric power and light service in the vicinity of Butte last night. Transmission lines between Butte and Great Falls were most seriously affected.

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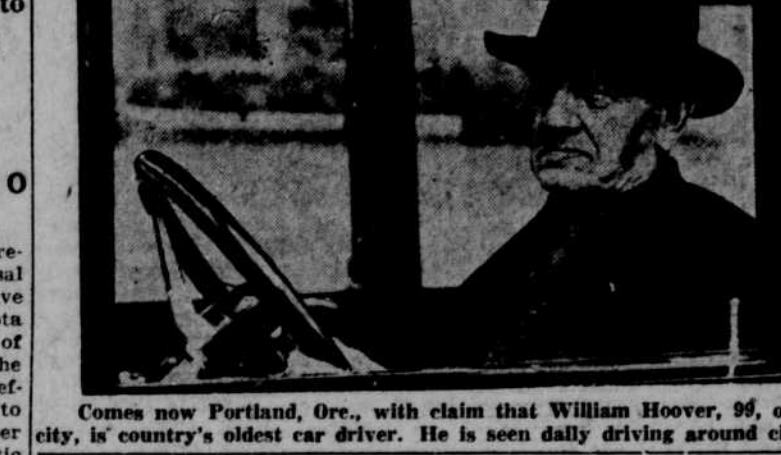
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Oldest Automobile Driver?



Comes now Portland, Ore., with claim that William Hoover, 96, of that city, is country's oldest car driver. He is seen daily driving around city.

Waited 45 Years to Admit Death

Family Refused to Accept Death Verdict at Time—Court to Settle Estate.

Falls City, Neb., Dec. 7.—Michael McDougall of Humboldt, for whom a world-wide search was instituted 45 years ago, has been officially declared dead by court order. County Judge Virgil Falloon made this ruling in order to settle the estate, upon the request of McDougall's sisters, Mrs. John Holman and Mrs. Katherine Shrader, both of Humboldt, who refused to believe their brother dead until now.

McDougall left Humboldt on horseback in 1878. Writing from Omaha a few days later, he notified his relatives that he was on his way to visit his ancestral home in Scotland. Some time later he was again heard from in Indianapolis, and then he disappeared. A search of the British Isles and America proved of no avail and a theory of foul play was accepted by most people, but McDougall's family for 45 years held steadfast to the belief that he would some day return.

Lottery Charge on Merchants

Lincoln, Dec. 7.—Following a protest by about 12 Stromsburg merchants to the state legal department today against alleged lottery schemes which business men at York are advertising "to draw people to that city," Attorney General O. S. Spillman telephoned to County Attorney Benton Perry at York and asked him to make a report on what is being done or whether he is making any move to see that the state laws are not violated.

Printed handbills, alleged to have been circulated by York merchants and announcing prizes of \$500 in cash to be given on three dates previous to Christmas to those holding certain coupons given with merchandise, were in the exhibit sent from Stromsburg. The complaint was filed in person by a group of Stromsburg citizens who called upon the governor.

Jury Being Drawn to Try Ex-Treasurer

North Platte, Neb., Dec. 7.—Eleven prospective jurors were examined by attorneys for the state and defense this afternoon in the case of Samuel M. Souder, former treasurer of Lincoln county, charged with arson, embezzlement and numerous other offenses. The trial got under way this morning after Judge Tewell overruled motions for a continuance and a change of venue.

Three of the jurors were disqualified because they said they had formed opinions as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant and later in the day the entire jury was passed by the state for cause. The state and defense will continue tomorrow to get a jury to try Souder and his deputy, Elmer Baker, who is also charged with arson.

Omaha Banker Says President Is Sound on Essential Issues

Washington, Dec. 7.—Walter W. Head, president of Omaha National bank and the American Bankers' association, spent yesterday in Washington. He heard President Coolidge deliver his first message to congress and called on the president, Secretary Mellon, Senators Howell and Norris, Congressman Sears and other officials. "I am tremendously impressed by the president's message," said Mr. Head. "It is a wonderfully comprehensive document and magnificently courageous. The president spoke his mind frankly and positively upon the essential issues before the country. I am particularly pleased by the president's unequivocal interest in the prospects of Secretary Mellon for tax reduction."

Gering Legion Post May Lose Charter

Lincoln, Dec. 7.—A petition was filed at American Legion state headquarters today asking that the charter of Gering post No. 36 of Gering, Neb., be revoked. The filing of the petition follows the alleged endorsement by the post of A. J. Mathers as a republican candidate for the nomination for governor. The petition, signed by five members of Lincoln post No. 3, cites the reported action of Gering post as being a direct violation of the legion constitution prohibiting any post taking part in partisan politics or endorsing any candidate for office, even its own members.

"I have the complaint on file at state headquarters," Adjutant Frank O'Connell said today. "Other complaints against the post have been received." Burwell Completes Sewer. Burwell, Neb., Dec. 7.—Burwell is just completing a sewer system which takes in practically all of the town and will cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000, and there is talk of building a new city hall next spring.

Self-Defense Plea Nets Freedom

Jury Returns Verdict on the Fourth Ballot After Being Out for Over Two Hours. Touching Scene in Court

V. P. Chiodo, 2591 Mason street, owner of four apartment houses and leader in Italian-American circles, was acquitted yesterday of a charge of manslaughter for the slaying of his nephew, Frank Bonacci, 23, April 14. The jury went out at 2:15 and returned a verdict of "not guilty" at 4:25 in criminal division of district court.

During the interval Chiodo sat most of the time in the courtroom and occasionally walked in the corridors. His attorney, Abel V. Shotwell and Herman Aye, waited also. So did members of his family. Verdict Relief to Women. The jury filed into the box. The large crowd in the courtroom was silent. Leona Mergen, Chiodo's secretary, and Jennie Bonacci, his niece, sat with their heads bowed and handkerchiefs held to their eyes.

As the words "not guilty" came from the clerk they jerked their heads upward, sighed deeply and slumped into their chairs with the feeling of relief. Chiodo remained calm. "I want to find the jurors and thank them," he told Mr. Shotwell after the surging crowd that shook hands with him had thinned out. In the hall he shook hands with the jurors.

His relatives rufed forward and kissed him after the judge had pronounced him discharged. Pleads Self-Defense. Chiodo was arrested the night of April 14 after he had shot his nephew, during an altercation at the entrance of Florentine apartments where the Bonacci family lives.

Chiodo was arrested the night of April 14 after he had shot his nephew, during an altercation at the entrance of Florentine apartments where the Bonacci family lives. Self-defense was the plea of Chiodo. The trial began Monday morning. Taking of evidence ended late Thursday afternoon. The jury took four ballots, jurors said. The first stood 3 to 3 for acquittal; second and third, 11 to 1 for acquittal; and the fourth was unanimous.

Congress Quits Until Monday

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 7.—President Coolidge's first annual message to congress has served to clear the atmosphere at the capitol so far as the administration's legislative program is concerned. The president and congress appear to be as one on the desirability of tax reduction, but the administration's program as embodied in a preliminary draft bill sent to the house yesterday by Secretary Mellon differs in material aspects from the proposals in this direction announced recently by the republican insurgents in the house.

Congress was in recess today until next Monday, out of respect to the memory of President Harding. Democrats in the house were called in a party caucus to select their members of the ways and means committee. The caucus will make assignments of democrats to other committees.

Deputy Attorney General Aids County Prosecutor

Sidney, Neb., Dec. 7.—District court is being held at Sidney with Judge George Gillan of Lexington presiding. The docket is unusually heavy and more than the customary number of criminal cases. Deputy Attorney General Bayne of Lincoln is in attendance and assisting in the prosecution of one case.

Merchants Victimized.

Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 7.—Visiting a number of stores in Beatrice, a man and woman, working under the guise of farmers, victimized a number of merchants here in sums ranging from \$10 to \$50. Imiting a small amount of goods and tendering worthless checks in return. Victim of Grid Hurt Dies. Chicago, Dec. 7.—Arthur Van Dam, a soldier at Fort Sheridan, is dead from injuries received in a football game a month ago.

The Weather

For 24 hours ending 1 p. m., December 7, 1923. Temperature: Highest, 56; lowest, 24; mean, 44; normal, 39. Total evaporation January 1, 2.47. Relative Humidity, Percentage: 7 a. m., 72; 8 a. m., 70; 9 a. m., 68; 10 a. m., 66; 11 a. m., 64; 12 m., 62; 1 p. m., 60; 2 p. m., 58; 3 p. m., 56; 4 p. m., 54; 5 p. m., 52; 6 p. m., 50; 7 p. m., 48; 8 p. m., 46; 9 p. m., 44; 10 p. m., 42; 11 p. m., 40; 12 noon, 38. Total Precipitation, Inches and Hundredths: 11 a. m., 0.01; 12 noon, 0.02; 1 p. m., 0.03; 2 p. m., 0.04; 3 p. m., 0.05; 4 p. m., 0.06; 5 p. m., 0.07; 6 p. m., 0.08; 7 p. m., 0.09; 8 p. m., 0.10; 9 p. m., 0.11; 10 p. m., 0.12; 11 p. m., 0.13; 12 noon, 0.14.