

# NO SHOT IN BEE'S FAMILY ROW

## Bryan Puts Road Blame on U.S. Board

### But Even if Federal Government Paid Up, Funds Would Still Be Short, Governor Declares.

## Special Session if Begged

By R. H. PETERS.  
Staff Correspondent of The Omaha Bee.  
Lincoln, Dec. 27.—Senator George Wilkinson, secretary of a senate committee that is investigating state road projects and claims, today wired "Thomas H. Macdonald, chief of the federal bureau of roads, asking him to explain why vouchers filed by the state are being held up by the federal engineer, M. C. Wonders of Omaha." "Some of these vouchers have been pending for more than four months and no action taken," Wilkinson's message reads, "and a large amount of money is due the state from the federal government." "We would like an explanation as to why these claims have not been taken care of before this time. The state highway department has placed the blame on the federal government for delaying payments on such vouchers, and by reason thereof contractors are denied pay for their services."

## Bryan Gives Out Figures.

Wilkins met today with the other two members of the committee, Senators Banning and Robbins. The investigation is practically completed and the results will be made public within a short time.

## Road Figures Given Out by The Omaha Bee Are Official.

In the Omaha Sunday Bee of December 23 a dispatch from Washington, D. C., was published in which it was stated that in spite of the delay of the state administration at Lincoln, \$365,000 was available in the federal treasury to pay for roads constructed under federal aid in Nebraska during the last administration. This special telegram was sent by P. C. Powell, Washington correspondent of The Omaha Bee. The figures are checked over by the federal road office and approved before publication. Mr. Powell was formerly in charge of the Lincoln bureau of The Omaha Bee, and hence is thoroughly familiar with both ends of the matter.

The governor, who had armed himself with figures prepared by his finance department—figures that taxpayers have vainly tried to get some time—declared that the Washington dispatch was a "misstatement which conveys to the public things that are not so."

His figures showed the amount now claimed against the federal government totals approximately \$266,000, but despite this amount which can be used to pay claims the governor maintains that there will be a \$400,000 deficit and reiterates his willingness to call an extra session should he be petitioned by two-thirds of the members of the last legislature. "I asked how there could be such a deficit when claims now held by the auditor's department do not total \$200,000 the governor stated that claims were constantly coming in and that they would eventually amount to a figure that would prove his \$400,000 estimate correct."

## Denies He is at Fault.

The governor's statement follows: "An article appeared in The Omaha Bee of December 23, accompanied by editorial comment in which the claim was made that the federal government had given out the impression at Washington that there was \$362,000 in the federal treasury available to pay road contracts in Nebraska for work that has been approved by the federal engineers."

## Shelton Pioneer Resident Expires

Shelton, Neb., Dec. 27.—Mrs. Flora M. Thatcher, 71, died at her home following an illness of several months. She came to this state from Ohio with the soldiers' free homestead colony more than 50 years ago. Her husband, Timothy D. Thatcher, homesteaded land four miles northwest of here where the family lived until failing health forced him to retire. They moved to town in 1855 and Mr. Thatcher's death occurred in April, 1902. Mrs. Thatcher is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Angie M. Buell of Bayard, Mrs. E. N. Stubbelfeld, and Miss Hazel Thatcher of Shelton; two sisters, Mrs. W. T. Judson of Greeley, Colo., and Mrs. J. A. Bachtell of Litchfield, O. Mrs. Thatcher was a member of the Presbyterian church and the Pythian Sisterhood. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon with burial in the state cemetery.

## Dirigible Dixmude Is Sighted

### Airship Is Reported Traveling in Southeasterly Direction Over Algeria.

## Seen Wednesday Night

By Universal Service.  
London, Dec. 27.—A Central News dispatch from Paris at 11 states it is officially announced that the Dixmude, missing French dirigible, was sighted at 8 Wednesday night over southern Algeria. Paris, Dec. 17.—A wireless dispatch from Medinin, in Tunis, a short distance south of the Gulf of Gabes, has been seen at Cairo, states the big dirigible was seen last night (Wednesday) about 8 in southern Algeria. At that time the Dixmude was traveling in a northeasterly direction towards the Hoggar Plateau, 125 miles south of In Salah. The news tonight was confirmed by a telegram from the administration of southern Algeria, which was forwarded to Paris from Tunis. "It will be seen that the delay is due to federal government offices. State Engineer Cochran tells me that the delay is caused by a shortage of help in Welton's office, and the federal government has been apologizing since last spring because of their lack of help and their inability to get these claims through faster."

## No Delay by U.S. on Highway Bills, Engineer Asserts

### Contractors Unpaid for Work, Believe Funds Wait in Washington for State Vouchers.

The federal government is paying out money as fast as vouchers are received and checked for completed and approved construction projects in Nebraska under the federal aid plan, according to James C. Wonders, district engineer, United States bureau of public roads. "The only objection sends these vouchers to us as soon as it gets them," he said. "So far there are about \$80,000 worth in our hands. During the holiday season the people at the other end have been overworked but we expect to put the entire force on Nebraska business in the near future and get this amount off our hands."

## Famous Liquor List Again in Limelight

Washington, Dec. 27.—Wasington's now famous liquor purveyors list, bobbing about for a week, is gradually disappearing and is being described in some quarters as "a list of names that made it too hot to handle" and in others as "non-existent, got back into the limelight again today." It was ascertained a duplicate of the warrant for the raid on the liquor store involved contained on the reverse side hereof and seized: 1. List containing names and several bills paid. The signature was that of an agent of the treasury's special intelligence unit.

## Lindsay Pioneer Buried

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 27.—Mrs. Don (Grandma) Holloman, 90, was buried Wednesday in the Catholic cemetery. Mrs. Holloman had resided in Platt county 52 years. A few weeks prior to her death, she was able to walk around despite her advanced years. She is survived by two grandchildren, Viola and Dennis.

## Funeral of Valentine Girl, Tram Victim, to Be Sunday

Funeral services for Miss Ruth Bachelor of Valentine, Neb., killed Christmas eve while singing Christmas carols near the home of a school chum in Maine, with whom she was spending the holidays, will be held at Valentine, Neb., Sunday afternoon at 2. Miss Bachelor's death resulted from injuries received when she was struck by a street car.

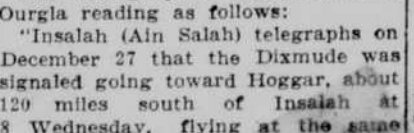
## Spelling Bees for All Grades in Geneva

### Geneva, Neb., Dec. 27.—Few schools in Nebraska are offering a spelling course to their entire student body. In Geneva 20-minute periods twice a week are devoted to spelling in grades and high school.

## Fricke Is Freed of Embezzlement at Plattsmouth

Plattsmouth, Neb., Dec. 27.—Carl G. Fricke, secretary of the defunct Livingston Loan and Building association, was acquitted of embezzlement at 4 o'clock this afternoon after the jury had deliberated four hours. Fricke's trial was the longest drawn-out of any of the indictment cases tried so far in district court this term, taking three and a half days before it went to the jurors. It began Friday, adjourned Saturday evening for the holidays and was resumed Wednesday morning. Both sides rested their case last night and this forenoon was spent in final arguments to the jury. Fricke was overjoyed at the verdict, making a display of emotion in the courtroom. His wife and three children were with him. Alex Rose, Omaha, Fricke's chief counsel, made the final plea to the jury for the defendant. The embezzlement charge against Fricke originally contained four counts, but at the beginning of the case the state, on its own motion, dropped three of them. "Another indictment against Fricke, charging falsification of books on five counts, as introduced to come during the January term of court. Following the break of the Livingston Loan and Building association in the spring of 1921, Fricke turned over all property and relatives put up money covering over one-half of the alleged existing shortages, which amounted to \$70,000. Fricke then was given a clean bill by the association officers, but later was indicted by the grand jury. He became engaged in the lumber and coal business at Nelso, Neb. Sentences on those who have already been convicted under indictment charges will be imposed next week by Judge John B. Roper of Pawnee City on Julia Kaufman and Alvin Jones. It is expected Judge Begley will pass sentence at the same time on William Grebe."

## Marion Is Home Spending the Christmas Vacation With Her Parents



## Short in Funds, Salesman Suicide

Fremont, Neb., Dec. 27.—The body of R. B. Fields, 43, Fremont salesman and member of a prominent family, who committed suicide at Los Angeles Christmas day, is due to arrive in Fremont Monday. B. E. Fields, father of the dead man, said this afternoon that the family has sent out several inquiries to the officials at Los Angeles and that the full details are momentarily expected. Thus far the wife and parents of the suicide victim have received nothing further than the mere announcement of his death. It is probable that no report will reach the family in Fremont until the inquest is held and a verdict reached. Reports from Los Angeles stated that Fields took his own life by gas following financial difficulties in which he is alleged to have been short in funds belonging to the Imperial Cotton Mills of Los Angeles. According to neighbors, his act followed a gay Christmas party in the apartment on Christmas eve. Photographs of his wife and daughter, Laura, were found in the room with the body. Gas was pouring from an unlighted gas heater. Detectives investigating the case found a telegram to Fields from the Imperial Cotton Mills company of Los Angeles, by which company he was employed, telling him that he was short several hundred dollars in his accounts and that he would be given until yesterday to make the amount good. Fields is the son of B. E. Fields, for many years owner of a large nursery in Fremont. The son was associated with the father in the business until it failed several years ago. Mrs. Laura Fields, the widow, said this morning at her home that she had not been notified of the details of her husband's death and could imagine no motive. She expected to receive further word today. Fields was born in Marshalltown, Ia. He was married in Fremont in 1901 to Laura Nicodemus, daughter of a prominent family. The body will be returned to Fremont this week for burial.

## The Day in Washington

President Coolidge was invited to intervene in the controversy within the Ku Klux Klan. The house ways and means committee suspended consideration of the treasury tax bill for one week. Secretary Weeks was represented as opposing speculative enterprises by army officers, which would be "improper" in view of the means of the officers. Representative Newton of Minnesota wrote federal and district officials for information on the scandal resulting from the recent raid on bootleggers in Washington. Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, leader of the republican insurgent group, will be back at his desk January 3, when congress reconvenes, his office announced. Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young, chosen as American experts to help balance the budget of Germany, conferred with President Coolidge and Secretary Hughes. An enlisted strength of 86,000 men for the navy next year was indicated as the probable decision of a house subcommittee which has the subject under consideration. Rear Admiral Moffett, chief of naval aviation, in his annual report, said the condition of the naval reserves, so far as concerned the air forces, was "deplorable." The senate public lands committee voted to "compel" Henry F. Sinclair to give evidence which he had declined to divulge in connection with the investigation of naval oil leases. Edward P. Farley asked the president to withdraw his nomination for commissioner of the shipping board from the senate and said he would resign as chairman of the board. The American minister to Honduras was instructed to inform the responsible government officials there that the United States regards with disfavor any attempt of a government to perpetrate itself in power except by accepted constitutional processes.

## Married in Council Bluffs

The following persons obtained marriage licenses in Council Bluffs Tuesday: Albert Knapp, Norfolk, Neb., and Marie Louise, Norfolk, Neb.; Leonard Lewis, Grand Island, Neb., and Lois Louise, Grand Island, Neb.; Melvin Henderson, Loop City, Neb., and Fay Zigler, Loop City, Neb.; Louis Gust, Mitchell, S. D., and Mrs. M. L. Carson, Ia.; Clarence Danerich, Maxwell, Neb., and Phyllis Betty, Silver Creek, Neb.; Herbert McGraw, Metzger, Ia., and Anna Richardson, Metzger, Ia.; George Knapp, Norfolk, Neb., and Marie Louise, Norfolk, Neb.; Emil Matheson, Gordon, Neb., and Louise Richenthal, Gordon, Neb.; Jessa Richard, Norfolk, Neb., and Clara Hulse, Norfolk, Neb.; Arthur Hector, Omaha, Neb., and Bogona Olson, Omaha, Neb.; Fred Fleming, Oklahoma, Ia., and Treva May, St. Paul, Ia.; Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia., and Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia.; Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia., and Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia.; Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia., and Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia.; Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia., and Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia.

## Farmer Uses Ax on Self, Then Drowns

Allison, Neb., Dec. 27.—Desperate after mutilating himself with an ax, Jacob M. Pockardt, 35, ended his life Christmas morning by drowning in a water tank on his farm seven miles west of Allison. Search was begun for Pockardt, who has been in ill health and had shown signs of an unbalanced mind, after he had failed to return to the house upon completing chores. The body was found in the tank with the head and face bruised and dead. Further search revealed an ax near by, splattered with blood. Pockardt, who was well-to-do and prominent, was an early settler in Boone county. He owned a half-section of land and is survived by four children.

## Pleas for Mother End in Tragedy

### John Micheltree Fires on Wife Then Sends Bullet in Own Head—He May Die.

## Had Quarreled All Day

A pathetic appeal to a mother to come home, sent from five children who had spent the greater part of Christmas day crying because she was not with them, resulted in a probable murder and suicide at Council Bluffs yesterday afternoon shortly after 4. Mrs. Celia Micheltree, 35, is the mother for whom the children had cried. She separated from her husband, John Micheltree, about six weeks ago and didn't return until yesterday. When she refused to stay, he shot her, the bullet lodging below the left temple, and then turned the gun on himself. The bullet entered his head on the right side about three inches back of the ear and emerged on the left side about three inches above the ear. Both were removed to Mercy hospital. Dr. M. E. O'Keefe last night announced Mrs. Micheltree's chance for recovery is only fair while her husband is expected to die momentarily. Wrangling Precedes Shooting. According to the story told by Adie Garner, who has been living at the home and keeping house for the husband since Mrs. Micheltree left, the latter returned to her home after receiving a note, said to have been written by the family doctor who was at the home Christmas day attending Helen, 11-year-old daughter, who has been ill for several days. She returned home this morning and, according to the housekeeper's story, argued with her husband all day. All five of the children were at home when she returned. They are Delbert, 13; Helen, 11; Evelyn, 10; Charles, 8; and Teddy, 6. All except Delbert witnessed the shooting. After arguing with her husband, Mrs. Micheltree announced she was through with him and left the house. She returned again after considerable coaxing, but a short time later made her final decision. Then, according to the housekeeper, Micheltree opened fire. Wounded, Leaves Home. After being shot, Mrs. Micheltree walked out of the house. On her way out of the house she went to the bed where Helen was lying ill, took the child in her arms and carried her outdoors in her nightgown. She also took Charlie and Teddy with her and left the home in a small sedan, the driver of which has not been identified. A short time later she was admitted to Mercy hospital, and the three children returned to the home. Mrs. Micheltree, who since leaving her husband has been working at the Brandeis store cafeteria, filed a petition for divorce December 15. She charged cruelty and infidelity. She and Micheltree were married in New Sharon, Ia., June 11, 1910. Mr. Micheltree has another son, Lavelle, 21, by a former marriage. He is living at New Sharon. Micheltree is a salesman for the Council Bluffs Remy company. The home is at 812 South Seventeenth street. He is 48.

## Pair Sold Liquor to Redmen, Verdict

### Sioux City Men Get 6-Month Jail Terms in Court Here.

## Guard of Lincoln Buried at Norfolk

Norfolk, Neb., Dec. 27.—Funeral services were held this afternoon in Embrick cemetery for South H. Grant, Madison county pioneer, civil war veteran and oldest Mason of the Norfolk Blue Lodge. Mr. Grant was one of the soldiers called into Washington as a guard on the first President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Funeral services were conducted by Mosine Lodge No. 25 of Norfolk in the little church which Mr. Grant built years ago. Burial was made beside the wife who died 28 years ago.

## The Weather

For 24 hours ending 7 p. m. December 27: Temperature—Highest, 21; lowest, 27; mean, 21; normal, 24; total excess since January 1, 124. Precipitation, inches and hundredths—Total, 1.67. Hourly Temperatures: 2 a. m., 27; 3 a. m., 27; 4 a. m., 27; 5 a. m., 27; 6 a. m., 27; 7 a. m., 27; 8 a. m., 27; 9 a. m., 27; 10 a. m., 27; 11 a. m., 27; 12 noon, 27; 1 p. m., 27; 2 p. m., 27; 3 p. m., 27; 4 p. m., 27; 5 p. m., 27; 6 p. m., 27; 7 p. m., 27; 8 p. m., 27; 9 p. m., 27; 10 p. m., 27; 11 p. m., 27; 12 noon, 27.

## Omaha Marriage Licenses

Louis Huger, Washington, Neb., and Marie Louise, Norfolk, Neb.; Leonard Lewis, Grand Island, Neb., and Lois Louise, Grand Island, Neb.; Melvin Henderson, Loop City, Neb., and Fay Zigler, Loop City, Neb.; Louis Gust, Mitchell, S. D., and Mrs. M. L. Carson, Ia.; Clarence Danerich, Maxwell, Neb., and Phyllis Betty, Silver Creek, Neb.; Herbert McGraw, Metzger, Ia., and Anna Richardson, Metzger, Ia.; George Knapp, Norfolk, Neb., and Marie Louise, Norfolk, Neb.; Emil Matheson, Gordon, Neb., and Louise Richenthal, Gordon, Neb.; Jessa Richard, Norfolk, Neb., and Clara Hulse, Norfolk, Neb.; Arthur Hector, Omaha, Neb., and Bogona Olson, Omaha, Neb.; Fred Fleming, Oklahoma, Ia., and Treva May, St. Paul, Ia.; Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia., and Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia.; Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia., and Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia.; Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia., and Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia.; Feta Wilson, Paris, Ia., and Albert Knapp, Paris, Ia.