

CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN

D. M. AMMERY, Publisher.

BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA.

NEBRASKA NEWS.

An 18-year-old son of C. C. Doesch, a farmer living west of West Point, was kicked by a horse, which completely shattered his nose and tore off part of his lip and flesh around his nose.

Major Forrest H. Hathaway, quartermaster U. S. A., has been relieved from duty at Philadelphia and ordered to Omaha to relieve Captain John Baxter, Jr., assistant quartermaster, who has been ordered to Manila for duty.

A boy at Pleasant Hill has been suffering from an attack of appendicitis caused by eating unground wheat. He has been in the habit of carrying wheat in his pockets and eating large quantities. It was at first thought that a surgical operation was necessary, but it was delayed and it is now thought he will recover.

Horse stealing has become a common practice here, says a Falls City dispatch. Last night, between midnight and morning the barn of Henry Shaw, living in the north part of town, was broken into and his chestnut sorrel driving horse, harness and new buggy taken. The thief started west and as yet has not been heard from. One hundred dollars is offered for his capture. This makes the fifth horse that has been stolen from Falls City in the last two months.

The house of William Hwald, south of Osmond, was struck by lightning, badly injuring a son who was occupying a room upstairs. The bolt came down the chimney and into the cellar where a terrific explosion occurred, tearing out several joists and one sill, also badly splintering the floor in the room occupied by Mr. Howell and his wife. At the farm of Nelson Rasmussen, northwest of town, his barn was struck by lightning and a valuable horse killed. A. J. Kladek of the same neighborhood lost four 2-year-old steers in the same manner.

The residents of Merrick county are feeding one-third more cattle than ever before in the history of the county and it is said that the largest feeder in the world is located at that place. One Central City man has had in his feed yards 14,000 head of cattle during the past year and it is figured that it was necessary for him to use \$750,000 to purchase stock and feed and carry on his operations for the one year. This immense business is no experiment with him, as he has carried on the feeding operations on an equally large scale for several years.

Wymore is making big preparations for the Southeastern Nebraska and Interstate reunion, which is to be held there August 21-26. A large force of men have been put to work getting the park in fine condition and everything is moving in a manner which indicates that the reunion this year will eclipse all previous efforts. More than \$1,000 has been expended in entertaining visitors, and this, with the large amount which will be realized from privileges will be used in securing prominent speakers, good bands and other amusements.

The Corn Belt, the Burlington publication which is usually accurate on crop reports, has this to say about the present conditions along the Burlington lines. "As to winter wheat, not only in Nebraska, but almost everywhere, the winter was a very unfavorable one for this crop. In Nebraska reports seem even more favorable than in Kansas and Missouri, and far more so than in Illinois and Indiana. But in Nebraska the crop is starting slowly, and has been damaged considerably by the cold weather early in the fall and the severe winter and spring. The estimates of the condition vary widely, ranging from about all to only about 20 per cent killed. However, most reporters estimate the damage to be between 50 and 75 per cent."

A compromise was effected between the contending parties in district court at Tecumseh in the case of the trustees of St. Andrew's Catholic church against the Reverend Frederick Sperlein for trespassing and malicious destruction of property. The case was up for trial, but at the suggestion of the court the agreement was entered into. According to its tenor that faction of the church in sympathy with the trustees agree to accept any priest as pastor of the parish except Father Sperlein, but the priest sent to the parish must recognize Messrs. Shaughnessy and Murphy (the old board of trustees) as the legal trustees of the church until the case now pending in the supreme court for possession of the property is settled at last.

The authorities of the state university are incensed at the conduct of several students who caused to be printed and posted in conspicuous places about the city posters advertising "the finest troupe of trained calves ever seen in the west." The posters having direct reference to an exhibition drill given by the fair students of the university in the armory. The posters read thus: "Grand attraction. Great stock exhibition, University arsenal, Saturday evening. The finest troupe of trained calves ever seen in the west will be on exhibition at that time and place. Calves of all sizes and ages will go through the most wonderful and startling performances known to the age. Prize calves from every county and city in the state will be there; also a few choice ones from surrounding states. Everyone come. Admission free with ticket. Good music."

The Congregationalists of Norfolk are planning to build an addition to their church. This has been made necessary owing to the growing population of the city and increase in church attendance.

An inmate of the Soldier's Home at Grand Island met a violent death by falling down a flight of stairs. Edward Albright, the deceased, had been accustomed occasionally to go down in the night and take a walk for a little fresh air. From other inmates it is learned that he went out at 2 o'clock on this occasion. Nothing more was thought of the matter until his corpse was discovered at the foot of the stairs.

MATTERS OF IRRIGATION

Biennial Report of State Engineer J. M. Wilson.

THE WATERS OF WESTERN RIVERS.

A Tabulated Statement Showing Claims Adjudicated—Protection of Forests Important in Connection With Irrigation—What Nebraska Has Done the Past Two Years.

Secretary J. M. Wilson of the state board of irrigation has put forth the second biennial report from his office. The volume contains 235 pages and several interesting maps. The tabulated statements show claims adjudicated in the various divisions and water sheds, stream measurements and tables of gaging of the various rivers for each year since 1896. Full instructions are given to those who desire to take advantage of the state irrigation law. Some of the problems of interest to people of the state, and especially those who desire to irrigate are discussed by Secretary Wilson. He takes up the protection of forests at the source of rivers, the relation of the free range problem to irrigation, interstate rivers, the conservation and use of waters of the western rivers, the use of water, and other topics. The report contains a drainage map showing the natural drainage of the state and the various water divisions. The other maps, ten in number, show irrigation works in various countries along the streams that are used for irrigating land. The tables showing adjudication of claims for water taken from the various streams are preceded by remarks upon the streams in question. In dealing with the Platte river adjudication Secretary Wilson says:

In the spring of 1898, the work was begun on the unadjudicated claims on the Platte and its tributaries. These claims were scattered on both sides of the Platte river and its north and south branches from the east line of Kearney county westward to the Colorado line on the South Platte and the east line of Scotts Bluff county on the North Platte. The surveys were completed early in July. With the exception of three cases in which there has been some delay in securing the necessary evidence, these claims have all been adjudicated.

"The wide and fertile valley through which this stream flows offers an inviting field for the canal builder and irrigator. The river after it enters the state has a regular fall of from six to nine feet to the mile, and the valley drops at about the same rate. The broad smooth slopes present few obstacles to construction and maintenance. The cost of preparing the surface for the easy distribution of the water is here at a minimum. The ditch builder has been prompt to realize his opportunities and from the west line of Hall and Adams counties to the state line the valley is everywhere interested with ditches. The maps give some idea of the extent to which these developments have been carried.

"In the amount of water discharged, the extent of the works constructed, and the acreage under irrigation, the North Platte and Platte rank first in importance among the rivers of the state. The maximum discharge, as will be seen by reference to the gaging tables, occurs in May and June and the first half of July. In the later summer, the volume is considerably reduced by the many ditches taking water, as well as by the diminished flow from the mountains. The river bed is wide and sandy. At low stages when the water is confined to narrow channels, much of the sandy surface is exposed to air and sun and the evaporation and loss from sinking in the sand is enormous. One or two hundred feet will at such times often disappear within a few miles. At what point the loss becomes so great that the attempt to get water to the claimants on the lower part of the stream should be abandoned is a problem involving consequences to the appropriators.

"The necessity of using all reasonable means to protect the prior appropriator is keenly felt, while the demand that the water shall not be wasted is equally imperative. It is believed that a system of bulletins giving reports of the condition of the stream at points above, from day to day, when the volume is falling, would save much water which now goes to waste. The busy farmer, with a crop not yet suffering, seeing plenty in the stream, expects to find it equally abundant a few days later when he will be ready to irrigate. If warned that a scarcity was imminent, he would lose no time in applying the water, which he now allows to waste. An arrangement of crops that would make use of the water earlier in the season, while it is abundant, would do much to relieve the difficulty."

A matter having important bearing on the practice of irrigation in Nebraska is the protection of the forests on the mountain slopes to the west. The timber value of these forests areas is great, but their chief utility is in the holding back of the moisture from the rains and snows. On these timbered slopes the snows protected from the sun discharge their waters gradually into the streams, thus maintaining the flow into the later summer. The forest is nature's reservoir. When the forests have been removed, especially when they have been destroyed by fire, the snows are soon melted and are discharged at once into the streams. The result is we have floods in May and June with dry channels in the later summer when water is needed. The usefulness of the streams heading in these mountain regions for irrigation purposes has already been greatly impaired, and unless effective protection is provided against the ravages of ax and fire, this deterioration will go on. Nebraska's interest in the matter is a vital one and the need of action urgent.

Notwithstanding that the past two years have been unprecedented in the history of Nebraska in the seasonal distribution of water for the crops, irrigation interests are steadily gaining ground. Even in these years of bountiful harvests a careful comparison of the crops in the same district and under the same cultivation shows a difference of from 30 to 50 per cent in favor of the irrigated fields. New converts are being made every day, as the increasing number of filings in the office of the state board of irrigation shows. This increased interest is not confined to the western part of the state. One of the most promising and successful irrigation plants in the state is located in the heart of one of the finest farming districts in central Nebraska, where a total failure of crops has never been known. The success of this enterprise is attracting the attention of good farmers and is slowly breaking down the opposition growing out of the lack of information as to the benefits to be derived from, and the cost and trouble of irrigation. Farmers are finding that the price of irrigation is a cheap insurance against the effect of prolonged drought. One who has seen his crop or his neighbor's saved from destruction, or the yield doubled by timely irrigation, needs no further argument to convince him of its value.

Troops Soon to Return.
It is quite evident that the War department desire to relieve the First regiment of Nebraska volunteers from duty as soon as possible, if indeed, their return to the country has not already been ordered by General Otis, at Manila. From information received by the military authorities from Washington concerning the discharge of the regiment it is understood that orders for the return of the troops have already been issued. Governor Poynter received a reply to his letter of April 13 concerning the probable date of the sailing of the First Nebraska, in which Adjutant General Corbin stated that the movement of troops from Manila would commence about May 5 or as soon thereafter as the transports arrived. This letter was dated April 6 and as the date given for the probable sailing of the troops was a day before this, it is quite evident that orders have already been issued. The letter received by Governor Poynter reads as follows:

Hon. W. A. Poynter, Governor of Nebraska, Lincoln: Dear Sir—Your letter of April 13 last to the president, in which you say that constant inquiries are being made at your office by friends and relatives as to the probable date of the sailing of the First Nebraska volunteer infantry from Manila, has been referred to this department, and in reply the acting secretary of war desires me to say that while it is impracticable at this time to indicate the exact date of the sailing of the First Nebraska it is probable that the movement having in view the return of the volunteer troops in the Philippine islands will commence about May 5. This, however, is largely dependent upon the arrival of the transports now on their way. The First Nebraska was among the first regiments to go to Manila and unless something unforeseen happens it will be among the first to return. Further than this I am unable to say at this time, but as soon as the department has been advised of the sailing of the transports having the regiment on board you will be notified by wire. Very respectfully,
H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General.

Condition of the Crops.
The past week, says the latest crop bulletin, has been warm and wet, with an abundance of sunshine in most of the eastern counties—conditions exceedingly favorable for the growth of vegetation. In the western counties the conditions were less favorable; the first days of the week were cold, with high wind, and the rainfall for the week was considerable less than normal.

The average daily temperature excess has varied from about 7 degrees in the eastern part of the state to less than a degree in the western. The rainfall has been above normal in most of the eastern and a portion of the southwestern counties and decidedly below normal in the western and northwestern counties. The rainfall exceeded three inches in several small areas in the northeastern part of the state.

Rapid progress has been made with farm work during the past week; even in the localities of heaviest rainfall work has been retarded but little. About one-half the corn is planted in southern counties, and planting is just commencing in the northern. Small grain has improved in condition in all parts of the state, although more rain where the showers of the past week would be beneficial in some localities were light.

Cherry, plum and apple trees are in bloom and the present indication are for a good crop.

Butter County Boy Suicides.
David City dispatch: This morning at 4 a. m., George Meyster a young man twenty years old, residing at Garrison, took a shotgun and blew his brains out. No reason can be assigned for the act, as he appeared perfectly well and planted corn all day yesterday. The coroner has been summoned. Yesterday afternoon, while plowing on the farm of Thomas Fox, Anton Krechnavey attempted to commit suicide by taking a knife and cutting his throat. He cut from under the ear on either side to the center of his throat and then cut his wrists badly and to finish the job thrust the knife into his side and then lay down in the furrow behind the plow to die, but did not. Finding his attempt a failure he got up and went to the house, where his condition was learned. Mike Fox took him in a buggy and brought him to town. Dr. Lester dressed his wounds and he will recover. The doctor says the only thing that saved him was his dull knife. He is held in jail pending the action of the insanity board.

One Hundred Thousand an Hour.
BUDA PEST, May 15.—M. Pultner, director general of the electricity company, read a paper on a new system of rapid telegraphy invented by Pollak and Virag, by which it is claimed 100,000 words can be transmitted within an hour. Experiments showed that even that number of words did not limit the transmission. Telegrams, however, must be previously perforated on slips of paper in the Morse alphabet.

To Defy Tammany.
NEW YORK, May 15.—Acting under orders from the national democratic committee, it is said, 100 Chicago platform democrats met tonight in this city and took steps to at once thoroughly organize the city and later the state of New York to defy Tammany hall. A committee of twenty was appointed to at once arrange the five boroughs to systematically work them. James R. Brown presided at the meeting, and after the meeting said that a contesting delegation of Bryan and Chicago platform men will be sent from this state to the next national convention.

FAVOR OF CONFERENCE

Members of Commission Willing to Grant Requests.

THE FILIPINOS SEEK TO PARLEY.

Proposal is Probably Prompted by Native Congress at San Isidor—Ten Men Surprise and Put to Route Force of Two Hundred Insurgents—Matters at Manila Continue Quiet.

MANILA, May 15.—The civilian members of the United States Philippine commission are favorable to the meeting with a Filipino commission, which was suggested yesterday on behalf of Aguinaldo by Lieutenant Roys of the staff of General Gregorio Del Pilar, who came to General Lawton under a flag of truce, bearing the proposal. It is thought by the American commissioners that the idea may have resulted from a recent meeting of the so-called Filipino congress at San Isidor. The local Filipino commission, which is in close communication with the leaders of the rebellion, is doing its utmost to secure peace.

Ten members of Major General Lawton's band of scouts, under W. M. Young, the old Indian fighter, entered the town of San Miguel, about fifteen miles north of Noregaray, not aware of what place it was. They found 200 Filipinos there, but the rebels, taking the scouts for the advance of General Lawton's army, fled after firing a few shots. Young and another scout were wounded and have been brought to Manila.

The Ninth infantry and a mountain battery of six guns have been sent to the front. The uniform quiet now prevailing in Manila has led the authorities to relax the rule under which the city streets were cleared from 7 to 8:30 p. m. and there is in consequence the largest and most brilliant assembly of pedestrians and people in carriages at the concerts on the Luenta that has been known here since the Spaniards left.

Prof. Schurmann, president of the United States Philippine commission, gave a farewell luncheon today to Admiral Dewey, at which Prof. Dean C. Worcester and Colonel Charles Denby of the commission, with General MacArthur, Mrs. Lawton and others, were present. The health of the admiral was drunk with the utmost cordiality.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The following dispatch from Major General Otis, giving the status of the military situation as it now exists in the operations against the insurgents, was received at the war department today:

"MANILA, May 14.—Adjutant General, Washington: Situation as follows: Lawton from Balinag has taken Ide Fonso and San Fernando north, with slight loss and driving considerable force of enemy; gunboats and canoes will accompany 1,500 men under Kobbe up Rio Grande river from Calumpit, departing May 16; MacArthur remains at San Fernando, covering country. * * * Yesterday a messenger from Aguinaldo expressing a wish to send commission to Manila for conference with United States commission to arrange terms of peace; directions given to pass body of representative insurgents to Manila should it present itself. "OTIS."

Strain Too Great for Irving.
LONDON, May 15.—Sir Henry Irving, whose recent work in the title role of Sardou's famous drama, "Robespierre," at the Lyceum theater has been exceedingly trying, was taken seriously ill Sunday morning with an affection of the throat. Dr. Farrar, a specialist, was immediately summoned and as the result of his advice it is announced this evening that Sir Henry's part during the present week will be taken by his son, Lawrence. Lawrence Irving is Sir Henry's understudy in several notable roles.

The announcement of the illness brought a large number of professional callers this evening to Sir Henry Irving's residence in Grafton street, but his medical adviser has forbidden him to receive any one at present.

It is hoped that with complete rest he will be restored to his usual health by the end of the week.

Nebraskan Attempts Suicide.
CHICAGO, May 15.—John E. Degette of Nebraska City, Neb., attempted to commit suicide this morning about 10:30 o'clock by shooting himself at the Victoria hotel, in the presence of his bride of a little less than two months. It is said that the young couple had a quarrel over a birth-day present which Degette was going to give his bride and coming to the conclusion that she did not love him, he decided to do away with himself. Degette was left \$150,000 by his father, a banker of Nebraska City, two years ago.

Ex-Governor Drake Ill.
CHICAGO, Ill., May 15.—Word was received here that ex-Governor F. M. Drake of Iowa is critically ill at his home in Centerville, Ia. Mr. Drake has been in ill health a number of years but when he retired from the presidency of the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa railroad at the time of the sale of the road about a year ago, his friends hoped he would regain his strength. He was taken seriously ill two weeks ago and since that time has been very low.

Revolution in the Oil Trade.
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 15.—It is reported that the British steamship Robert Dickinson, which arrived here yesterday from Shields, in ballast, will load a cargo of bulk oil at this port for Calcutta, and will afterward engage in the oil trade. The Dickinson will be the first tank steamship to load oil for the far east, and if the report of the intention of her owners is true, it indicates a revolution in the oil shipments and marks the end of sailing ships in the eastern oil trade.

BLAME SANGUILLY.

Cubans Say He Is at the Bottom of Unfavorable Reports.

HAVANA, May 15.—General Gomez has sent a message to Governor General Brooke that he will do himself the pleasure of calling at headquarters tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock for a further conference regarding the payment of the Cuban troops. The appointment for the interview is the result of a direct inquiry as to what General Gomez intended to do in view of the resignation and non-appearance of all the Cuban officers nominated by him to represent the several corps in the distribution of the \$3,000,000. General Brooke is determined to disregard for the present the reports that reach him from various sources as to the alleged intention of Gomez to withdraw his co-operation and thus to throw into confusion the carefully matured plans for distributing the fund.

He believes that the personal interview tomorrow ought to adjust the temporary perplexity. He is unwilling to consider Gomez as insincere or as acting in bad faith, but the governor general still retains the discretion reposed in him by President McKinley to abandon the effort to disband the late insurgents with the gratuity and to send back the entire amount to the United States.

The Cuban general, Rafael Rodriguez, speaking for Gomez today, said that the reports of a difference with General Brooke were absolutely untrue. The attitude of Gomez, he declared, had undergone no change and the principal generals of the Cuban army, as well as the rank and file, continued to support Gomez as they always had.

He flatly denied that there had been any meeting of Cuban officers at which Gomez had been present or held with his approval where a decision had been reached not to surrender the arms, and he explained that all the talk about a revolt in the army against the surrendering of the arms was the work of members of the former military assembly, "a group of malcontents behind Manuel Sanguilly, who can give no trouble and are not worth consideration."

In explaining the withdrawal of the Cuban generals who were appointed to serve with the Americans in distributing the \$3,000,000 General Rodriguez said that Rojas generally withdrew owing to the anti-Gomez influence; Nodarse because General Brooke had not appointed him civil governor of Havana, and Montegudo because he was busy in the province of Santa Clara, giving Major Wilson the benefit of his co-operation there. Rodriguez expressed himself as confident that other officers of equal prominence and authority would be found to act with the Americans. As early as March 22, Gomez agreed that the arms should be stored in the military custody of the United States. This plan was clearly understood by the Cubans. Nevertheless the politicians and some of the more restless Cuban officers are today talking in a warlike strain, spreading exciting stories about "taking to the woods" and fighting the Americans, and attributing to Gomez things he never said.

Year of Jubilee Deceesed.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The papal bull issued in Rome within the last few days decreeing that the year 1900 shall be a jubilee throughout the church is expected here shortly and will be announced in all churches throughout the country.

The issuance of a bull on the subject gives it the special solemnity. It has been the custom to hold jubilees of the church every twenty-five years, and at one time these were the occasion for the gathering of vast concourses at Rome to receive the special dispensations and indulgences allowed during jubilee years. It is expected, however, by the highest church authorities here that the jubilee next year will be quite generally celebrated throughout the world, thus giving it a more universal aspect instead of being centered at Rome, though doubtless it will lead to many pilgrimages to Rome and the gathering there of distinguished churchmen.

The jubilee next year is considered more important than that held every twenty-five years, as it ushers in a new century and comes at a time when Pope Leo is old and very feeble, his 90th year having been completed in March.

To Preserve Friendships.
SAVANNAH, Ga., May 15.—The officers of the Thirty-first Michigan regiment, which is to be mustered out of the service next Wednesday, were dined tonight by the officers of the First Georgia, who were mustered out last fall. During the time the First Georgia was in the service it was brigaded with the Thirty-first Michigan and a fast friendship sprang up between the two commands. The entertainment tonight was given as a last token of the hospitality of the Georgians and a mark of their love and esteem for the men from Michigan. Before the Michigan regiment gets away the officers expect to present a loving cup to the officers of the First Georgia.

A southern man who recently turned home after a visit to Boston said to a neighbor: "You know these here round, white beans?" The other admitted that he did. "We feed 'em to hoeses down our way." "Yes," "Well, sir, up in Boston they take them beans, boil 'em for three or four hours, slap a little sow belly an' some molasses and other truck in with 'em and what do you suppose they do with 'em?" "Gosh, I do no." "Well, sir," said the first speaker, sentimentally, "I'm d-d if they don't eat 'em!"

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