NEBRASKA NEWS.

Shen Springer, thirty-seven years a resident of Douglas county, and for thirty-four years in one precinct, died

Morgan Rice, a young man formerly residing at Dixon, but now of Wakefield, attempted suicide by taking a dose of poison.

Tom Smith, foreman of the Laverty cattle ranch, four miles northeast of Ashland, was accidentally thrown into a feed grinder and had his left leg

terribly mangled. Exeter proposes having an oldfashioned Fourth of July celebration, with as good an orator as can bo found in the west.

While breaking a colt Jesse Foster, residing ten miles north of 3idney, aged 27 years, was violently thrown to the ground and sustained injuries which will undoubtedly prove fatal. His spine was dislocated and an arm broken.

At the last regular session of the Plattsmouth city council the most Important business transacted was the passing by a unanimous vote an ordi nance providing that all telephone wires on Main street be carried in cables under the ground.

Eighteen years ago Sunday the little village of Wymore was incorporated. At that time there was little more than the name to indicate that a town was located there. The town has slowly but steadily and healthfully grown, until it now has as progressive a city of 4,000 people as can be found in the west.

Nemaha county has at last for ever settled the long-talked of and repeatedly voted on question of a court house. By a majority vote of about 800 the citizens of the county voted bonds, according to the proposition of the county commissioners, to the amount of \$40,000, 4% per cent, running five years, with option to pay the principal in two, three, four or five years.

Much comment has been occasioned by the recent newspaper dispatches to the effect that the entire winter wheat crop was a failure in Platte county. Diligent inquiries of reliable farmers show that while there is an absolute failure in certain localities not to exceed 45 per cent of the winter wheat crop of Platte county will be lost unless further disaster should come to it.

A reception and banquet was given the boys of company H, Third Nebras ka, at Stromsburg. A musical and literary program was rendered at the opera house. The banquet was served in the spacious dining room of the Park hotel. A number of the boys had not arrived home, but about six ty of the bronzed young soldiers sat around the tables and went through an elaborate bill of fare.

The three-year-old daughter of S. Carson, living at Eden, was instactly reissue, 10,685; restoration and rekilled by being stepped upon by a newal, 1,556; accrued pensions, 8,661; heavy horse. The horses had been duplicates, 2,902. turned loose in a lane leading from the highway to the barnyard to feed upon the grass. Towards night the boys went to drive them up to feed them grain. In a foolieking mood one of the horses stepped upon the little girl with results already given-

John Singer, who lives south of Webster City, died last week. He was wrestling in a spirit of fun with his brother and was thrown to the ground in such a way that his ankle was so wrenched that it produced lockjaw. The actions of the injured man were something terrible. would throw his head back and finally in great misery, with a convulvive movement, every muscle and bone set.

A trip of about four hundred miles overland through Nebraska, says a Creighton dispatch, revealed the fact that winter wheat is almost an abso lute failure. Nearly every field sown to wheat last fall is being plowed up and planted to corn. A very few pieces are still standing, but look as though they would hardly yield the amount of seed sown to the acre. Other crops are looking very prosperous, corn mostly planted and some fields coming up.

The Commercial club of Tekamah has in form a definite proposition to make the proposed Sioux City & Omaha railroad, in consideration of their touchings with that city with their proposed air line between the cities named. It is proposed to vote \$10,000 4 per cent bonds to be delivered to the company providing the road is built and in operation within two years and providing it has no connection whatever with the C., St. P., M. & O., the railroad at present operating in Burt county, or with the Chicago & Northwestern system.

Sheriff Simmering of Adams county and an officer from Webster county have succeeded in unearthing a rob bers' roost near Rosemont and recovered about \$1,200 worth of stolen goods. The officers placed Bill Leach, a Rosemont merchant, under arrest, as they have strong evidence which implicates him with the gang. It is thought he is one of the head men of the organization and that he simply ran the store to dispose of the stolen goods. During the last year merchants at Trumbull, Glenville, Bromfield, Ayr, Funk, Aurora and other towns have had their stores robbed, but the thieves have always

Morgan Rice of Wakefield committed suicide by drinking concentrated lye He had been in ill health some time and was despondent. Deceased was aged about 35 years and unmarried.

A well developed case of smallpox was discovered in the Union Pacific yards at Columbus. A man about 22 years of age was found in a poultry car suffering with the dread disease. Permission was obtained from the railroad company to use a vacant section house about a mile east of town, where the patient was taken, and also a couple who were found with him. The strictest quarantine has been established and the premises guarded by two special officers.

Seeks Information.

COMMISSIONER EVANS RESPONDS.

Work of the Department Explained in All Its Details-Employes Under Civil Sorvice Rules-Modus Operandi of Obtaining Pensions-Fees of Attorneys and Rating for Disabilities.

Senator M. L. Hayward has received a lengthy communication from Commissioner H. Clay Evans of the pension bureau at Washington concern lg the work of the pension department, the people employed there and the manner in which the pension claims are handled. The commissioner explains in detail the work of the department and gives much information of value to Grand Army men. The Nebraska department of the Grand Army of the Republic will have the letter published in the official organ and distributed among all the old soldiers in the state. Commissioner Evans tells first of the people employed in the bureau.

There are 1,741 employes in the department of which 566 are ex-union soldiers, and of this number 452 are drawing pensions in addition to the salaries. The board of review as now organized is comprised of one chief, two assistant chiefs, five chiefs sections and 110 reviewers. Inc chief of the board is Colonel F. D. Stephenson, who served during the entire war of the rebellion as captain in the Forty-eighth Illinois and later as colonel in the One Hundred and Fifty-second Illinois infantry. He was severely wounded and is a pensioner for that reason. Of the 110 reviewers seventy are ex-union soldiers. A large proportion of the men employed on the board of review have been connected with the pension department in different capacities for from twenty to thirty-five years.

The medical division, whose work is to settle all medical questions, especially rates of pension, consists of a medical referee, an assistant medical referee, two qualified surgeons, two principal examiners and fortythree medical examiners. The board of review in connection with the medical division is charged with the adjudication and settlement of all claims and their action is generally final on all questions involved. The commissioner does not see one in a hundred of the claims that receive the attention of the legal and medical

During the first nine months of the present fiscal year 61,000 pension cer tificates have been issued, divided as follows: Original under the general law, 4.594; original under the act of 1890, 22,227; increase and reissue, 9,-747; restoration and renewal, 1,157; under the act of 1890, increase and

All of the employes of the pension department are under the protection of the civil service law. A majority of them are known to be republicans. There are about 334 employes who are known to be democrats.

Commissioner Evans adds the following additional information bearing upon the subject of Senator Hayward's letter of inquiry. "You are no doubt aware of the fact

that order No. 164, which was promulgated October 15, 1890, was substantially revoked by Assistant Secretary Bussey on January 7, 1893, in very positive terms. Under this order all disabilities under the act of 1890 were rated the same as those of service origin. Your attention is also invited to the act of 1890 with reference to claims of widows, which grants pensions only to those 'who are without other means of support than their manual labor. In cases of invalid claimants it is held by the department that disabilities under the act of 1890 are placed by that act upon a different basis for rating than those under the general law. Under the general law disabilities are pensionable without regard to capacity to earn support and are graded without reference to this condition, while disabilities under the act of 1890 are only pensionable when incapacity to labor joins with incapacity to earn a support, and the grades of rating are dependent upon these two conditions. The bureau has been extensively criticized for adhering to this rule, but as my func-

powerless to grant relief in cases that do not come within the rule. "It is very evident that upon a careful examination of the act of June 27, 1890, that it creates conditions which are not applicable to claims under the general law and that very much of the misapprehension and dissatisfaction with the operations of this bureau arise from a want of understanding as to those condi-

tions are confined strictly to the exe-

cution of the law as I find it I am

"Thus, a soldier is entitled under the general law to \$17 per month for the loss of an eye, but under the act of June 27, 1890, he receives only \$6 per month, as it does not incapac tate him from earning subsistence by

manual labor. "So in a case of deafness. A sol lier who is suffering from a degree of deafness entitling him under the general law to \$10 or \$15 per month, has no pensionable status under the act of 1890, as the slight degree of deafness in question does not incapacitate him from earning a support by manual labor. A widow is pensioned under the general law regardless of her possessions, while under the act of 1890 the employment of an income in excess of the amount she would receive as pen sion is a bar to pension under the act. Now, when these different conditions arise in the same neighborhood people seldom stop to inquire as to the law under which application is made and when a claim is allowed under the general law at a high rate for a degree of deafness which does not en-

title to a rating under the new law,

granted a pension under the general law, while a claimant not nearly so Nebraska's Junior Senator well of is denied a pension under the new law, because she is not without other means of support than her dally labor, it seems to the public to be an unjust discrimination on the part of this bureau. Yet the law creates these corditions and it is not within our power to do otherwise than executthe law as construed by the department, but in nearly all these cases the pension office gets the blame when it atempts to carry out the law as it exists.

"The disability which entitles to the maximum pension (\$12 per month) under the new law is substantially the same as would entitle to a pencion of \$30 per month under the old law. Yet we find that under the old law only 51,691 soldiers are pensioned at \$30 per month, while under the new law 163,867 are drawing the maximum rate of \$12 per month. Under the old law only 47,657 soldiers receive \$12 per month. As an index to the growth of the work of the bureau it may be stated that during the fiscal year 1896 there were 2,162,581 pieces of mail received and sent. For the year 1897 there were 5,056,789 and for the year 1898 there were 6,566,967, being more than 300 per cent over the year

"During President Grant's first term from 1869 to 1872, there were allowed in all 71,462 claims, and during his second term there were allowed 47, 359 claims, and during President Hayes' term, from 1877 to 1889, 39, 945 claims were allowed. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, 52, 684 original claims were allowed. It will be seen that the number of allowances for the year 1898 was great. er than the number of allowances for the entire four years of President Grant's second term and the entire administration of President Hayes.

"The commissioner, both deputy commissioners, the medical referee, chief of the board of review and nine of the chiefs of division and most of the other clerks who fill the important places in the bureau are all ex-union soldiers, and as you well know the entire organization of the bureau is controlled by men who served the 'soldiers bureau' and in all matters pertaining to the organization of the different divisions, in appointments and promotions, the ex-union soldier always has the preference. The different commanders of the department of the Grand Army of the Republic have all commended the pension bureau for its faithful observance of the statute which gives preference to the soldiers of the rebellion."

In another letter received by Senator Hayward the commissioner of pensions has the following to say concerning the fee charged by attorneys for securing pensions.

"Under what is known as the general law the attorney gets a fee of \$25. Under the act of 1890 his fee is only \$10. It has got to be quite a custom with attorneys to file a claim under the act of 1890, get the pension allow ed under that law and then file a claim under the general laws, so they will get two fees. I had a case, for instance, the other day reinstation a man who enlisted in the war with Spain. He was drawing a pension under the act of 1890 at \$10-he had formerly drawn a pension for slight disability under the general law at \$6 -he fell into the hands of an attorney and made application for reinstatement under the general law and then filed a claim for disability incurred in the war with Spain, which was the same as he was pensioned for under the act of 1890. This would have given the attorney two fees, but it would not have given the man the \$10 pension that he was drawing when he

Smothered in a Badger Hole, Greeley Center dispatch: Yester day evening between 4 and 6 o'clock John Gannon, the 17-year-old son of Thomas Gannon, residing near this town, went out into the field about a quarter of a mile from the house to dig out a badger that was supposed to be in his hole, taking with him two large dogs.

After 6 o'clock his two brothers went after the cows and passed near the place where Gannon had gone to get the badger and saw the bogs ligging and scratching the earth. Reach ing the spot they found their brother lying on his face, dead. He had dug the hole larger than it was and then entered it with his head and part of his body, when the earth caved in and smothered him. His faithful dogs did not leave him, but scratched the dirt from off his body and head and had it completely removed when found

by his brothers, but life was extinct, Gannon was a promising young man and would have graduated at the Gree ly high school next year.

Dillon Doing Well.

Information was received at the governor's office the other day from the War department concerning the condition of Captain Thomas S. Dillon of South Omaha, now at Manila with the First Montana volunteers, who is reported to have almost recovered from a wound received in one of the recent battles with the lasurgents. No definite information was received by the Nebraska military authorities as to the manner in which the man was wounded, but relatives in South Omaha requested the War department, through the governor's office, to ascertain his present condition. General Otis cabled that Dillon was doing well.

Elliott Brown Dead. Elliot C. Brown, manager of the National Sheep and Cattle company, one of the best known stockmen of Nebraska and Wyoming, was drowned in Indian creek near Harrison, Neb., while attempting to ford it on horse-Mr. Brown was one of tae back. Tyoming Rough Riders under Coi onel Grigsby, and distinguished himself in the Mississippi wreck 'ast summer, when he saved many lives.

eighty eacres of its land adjoining Oxford on the north and at once put the same on the market.

CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN PENSION BUREAU WORK it necessarily results in criticism of the commissioner. And when a willow who is in affluent circumstances in the commissioner. The News Briefly Told.

Saturday. Ex-Congressman Francis Smith Edwards, aged 82, died at his home, Dunkirk, N. Y., yesterday.

Three companies of the signal corps encamped at Savannah, Ga., were mustered out of service.

The American section of theosophists win begin their thirteenth annual convention today at Chicago. William Thompson, a Lynn, Mass., hotelkeeper, has filed a petition in

bankruptcy Liabilities, \$97,400; assets, The Cubans are dissatisfied with the present system of making laws, contending that Senors Capote and La-

nuza have too much influence. Wealthy Cubans will send a delegation to Washington to seek a modification of the mortgage decree extending time of payment.

Major Ladd, treasurer of the customs funds at Havana, intends to begin a new system of disbursements by check, as in the United States, David J. Field, the retired St. Louis

capitalist, who on Thursday last shot and killed his negro man servant, was exonerated by the coroner's jury and discharged. Bids were opened at the navy department Saturday for 100,000 six-

pound steel shells, 12,000 three-pound and 20,000 one-pound. Awards have not yet been made. Instead of the usual annual convention in July, the executive committee of the window glass association has decided that the wage committee shall

meet in July to formulate a wage Today a horseless carriage containing the inventor, Alex Winton, and a companion will leave Cleveland for New York, a distance of 800 miles. The trip is expected to be made in

Efforts are being made in Boston to form a combine among the confectioners, including all the prominent concerns east of St. Louis. Several firms have given options which expire July 1 on their plants.

Senor Domingo Mendez Capote, secretary of the government in Havana, will report to General Brooke recommending general suffrage in Cuba, with certain limitations, finding educational or property test unnecessary.

The deadlock over railroad tashtion continues in the Michigan legis-The senate contends for an annual increase of \$32,000 ad the house for a \$500,000 increase. Governor Pingree thinks the senate will be forced to come to the house terms.

Monday.

The big troop transports on the Pacific coast are being rapidly fitted with refrigerators.

Colonel Alfred E. Bates has reported for duty as assistant paymaster general. It is probable that Colonel Alfred

E. Bates will succeed Paymaster General Carey July 10, when Carey retires. Dresident and Mrs McKinley enter tained Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair McKel-

way of the Brooklyn Eagle at dinner Word was received at Buffalo of the death of Mlle, Rhea, the well known actress, in Montmorenci, France, The

communication came in the shape of a large black bordered envelope con taining an announcement of her fu-Director of Posts Vaille at Manila

has notified the postoffice department that he has established the rai!way post service between Manila and Malolos, the former Filipino capital. This is the initial move in the direction of building up a railway mail service in the Philippines. The comptroller of the currency has

declared dividends in favor of the creditors of insolvent national banks as follows: Fifteen per cent, the First National Bank of Larimore, "N. D.; 10 per cent, the First National bank of Emporia, Kas.; 10 per cent, the National Bank of Kansas City, Mo.

Specials to the Cincinnati Enquirer announce the acceptance by Colonel W. J. Bryan to lecture ad speak at the following cities in Indiana: arre Haute, Monday, May 29, to lecture on imperialism, under the auspices of the Jacksonian club; at Evansville, Tuesday, May 30, to address a big democratic rally.

The grain shovelers' Strike at Buffalo has been settled. The agreement signed late last night by a sub-com mittee representing the strikers, of which President Keefe of the Longshoremen's association was a member and Contractor Conners, has been ap proved by the full committee of tae Grain Shovelers' union. The strike is to be declared off and the men will return to work Wednesday morning.

The Baptist annual meeting will be held at San Francisco today, and will celebrate the semi-centennial of missionary work in California.

Charles F. Brush, the inventor of the arc electric light, has been voted the Runford medal by the American Academy of Art and Sciences. The Cumberland Presbyterians, in

session at Denver, have appointed a committee to raise \$1,000,000 church educational institutions. Secretary Alger has given authority

to the West Point military academy to permit the resumption of football games between that institution and the The navy department has cabled an inquiry to Admiral Dewey regarding

the itinerary of the homeward cruise of the Olympia. The Olympia will not leave Hong Kong much before June, spending a part of the time in dry dock getting in shape for her 14,000 mile trip. L. P. Mitchell, deputy comptroller of

the treasury, has decided that retired naval officers cannot be appointed and paid as expert aid in the preparation of designs for new ships, etc., under the concluding paragraph of section 3 of the naval act of March 3, 1897, holding that a retired officer is not a civilian within the meaning of the act.

Wednesday. Admiral Schley was entertained by the people of Council Bluffs. Thousands of people met him at the public reception held in the Grand hotel.

William H. Seitz, a real estate broker of New York, filed a petition in bankruptey ye orday. His liabititles were \$128,250 and there were no

W. H. Collins was shot in the back and instantly killed about nine miles west of West Plains, Mo., by some unknown person. J. Fox, whom Collis shot last year, is suspected.

William J. Bryan spent a day at Quincy, Ill., as the guest of the county democracy. He addressed an audience of 10,000 people. Mr. Brvan was met by Congressmen Dockery and Lloyd, of Missouri, and Williams, of Illinois.

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The United States transport Solace is reported to have arrived at Honolulu May 15. She has on board a large number of soldiers and satlors whose time of service has expired, and many invalided and incapacitated men. Among her passengers is General King and Majors Purdy and Nickerson-

An official application has been received in Washington from Commander G. C. Reiter, recently ordered to command the Puget Sound naval station, to be placed on the list of applicants for voluntary retirement Four captains, three commanders and four lieutenant-commanders have now applied for retirement, making, with casualties which occurred during the year, all the vacancies required by law.

The Cumberland Presbyterian general assembly in session at Denver, postponed action on the resolution protesting against the seating of B. H. Roberts, of Utah, as a member of congress until Wednesday. This action was taken at the request of Stat ed Clerk William R. Campbell, of the Utah presbytery, who telegraphed to Moderator Halsell that a communica tion had been mailed which it was desired to have the assembly consider.

Thursday. The National Association of Wagon Manufacturers has decided to raise

Twenty thousand people gathered at Pittsfield, Ill., to listen to William Bryan. One hundred guns were fired at sunrise in honor of the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, who came on the early train from Hannibal.

Representative Gillette of Massachusetts has invited President Mc-Kinley to visit Springfield, Mass, while atending graduating exercises at Mount Holyoke, Mass., from which he president's niece graduates.

The president has given ordera to carry out the recommendation of Generals Otis and Lawton making Colonel Summers of the Second Oregon a brevet brigadier general of volunteers; also making Captain Case of the engineer battalion a major by

The Russian minister at Pekin, M. de Glers, has notified the Tsung Li Yamen that Russia is unable to accept the Chinese refusal of a railroad concession and that she will send engineers forthwith to survey a line to connect the Russion Manchurian catlroad with Pekin.

The Madrid Reforma declares that the minister of Villaverde, who is sup-Senor ported by the entire cabinet maintains the royal order, instructing the Bank of Spain to suspend indefinitely the quarterly drawing of the redeemable 4 per cent bonded debt.

Reports received at Eldorado, Kan., state that cattle perished by the hun dreds as the result of an unusual downpour of rain with which that section was visited. In one pasture Lehr & Leonard lost 510 head of cattle. The animals were in poor condition, having just been shipped in from the west.

The rapid increase of Japanese immigration into Hawaii has attracted the Serious atention of the authorities in Washington of late and sev eral official inquiries have been set on foot to learn the extent of the invasion and how it can be checked. The reports received by the immigration authorities are in line with press dispatches stating that the influx is steadily increasing.

Secretary Alger has telegranned General Otis to learn the wishes of Washington volunteers on the advisability of returning by way of Puget sound, thus landing them directly at their homes instead of at San Fran cisco, where the general camp of returning volunteers is located.

Acting Secretary Cortelyou called upon Assistant Secretary Vanderlip, chairman of the Dewey home fund, and placed in his hands a check from the president, constituting Mr. Mc-Kinley's contribution to the fund. In doing so, Mr. Cortelyou conveyed to Mr. Vanderlip the expression of the president's interest in the undertaking and his pleasure in contributing to this testimonial to Admiral Dewey.

Three white farmers, James Humphreys and his two sons, were lynched near the village of Aley, in Henderson county, Texas, a remote neighborhood devoid of telegraph, telephone or railroad connections and about seventyfive miles southwest of Dallas.

Adjutant General Corbin today gave out for publication the report of Colonel Frederick Funston of the Twentieth Kansas regiment, which was an appendix to the report of Major General MacArthur. The report deals with the operations of the Kansas regiment from the beginning of the outbreak, February 5, until February

"Buffale," said a man from that city recently, "is going to have the finest railway station in the United States, and probably the most magnificent in the world. Architecturally, it will be a delight and an ornament to the town, is great tower of the cathedral style rising to the altitudeof 300 feet. It is to cost \$6,000,000, but it will exceed in size and beauty the Union depot at St. Louis, on which was expended \$6,500,-000, and it will make Chicago's \$2,-000,000 station look cheap.

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