

# RAIDING THE FUNDS

## Shadows of Suspicion Hover Over the Officials

### OF THE HOSPITAL AT NORFOLK

Strong indications that the drug and fuel funds have been raided—with an appropriation of nearly \$120,000. There'll be a deficiency at end of year.

NORFOLK, Neb., Sept. 17, 1900.—Prosperous conditions are in evidence in every county of Nebraska. No one but a rank partisan would attempt to assert that such conditions are transitory or unreal. It is matter of slow growth—there is nothing artificial or uncertain about it. Within four years the farmers of Nebraska have been delivered from the bondage of debt and thousands of them boast of a surplus.

It is true that the requirements of the impending campaign have suggested the fullest exposition of facts relating to the changed conditions in every county in order that the people of one county may be apprised of the degree of prosperity in every other county, but the republican managers do not need to magnify or overstate the facts, which in most cases speak for themselves.

Emphasis may be given to one all-important fact, to-wit: that while the farmers are producing abundant crops and receiving higher prices therefor than ever before paid, at the same time the mechanics and laboring men in cities and towns are all busy, receiving higher pay for shorter working days than ever before, and that the demand for their services exceeds the supply. A careful inquiry into the status of things reveals these conditions:

1. That farmers are getting 32 and 34 cents for their corn of which there is a large surplus, whereas four years ago they got but 6 and 10 cents.

2. That stock raisers and farmers are getting \$5.50 for fat steers, whereas four years ago they got \$2.75 and \$3.50. Hogs, four years ago, \$2.77; this year, \$5.09.

3. That farmers are buying adjoining acres and are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars upon improvements. Residents of cities and towns are putting up new buildings and repairing hundreds of old ones. There is an air of thrift everywhere.

4. That country merchants are selling more goods and getting larger profits and prompter pay for goods sold than ever before in the history of the state.

5. That mechanics are everywhere busy. From towns, large and small, come reports of a demand for mechanics exceeding the supply. In Omaha more men are employed at higher wages and shorter working hours than was the case in any previous year save 1897-8, when the exposition produced a temporary demand for men. Inquiry among all classes of mechanics reveals the fact that the mean average of wage scale is higher, working hours shorter and the demand for men very active. No man who wants work need be idle.

6. That the jobbers and wholesale merchants and manufacturers of Nebraska are selling more goods at larger profits than was true of their trade in the year 1896; that of fifty firms reporting, the increased volume of business ranged from 20 to 950 per cent and that in no case was a decrease of business reported.

7. That fifty jobbing houses, farm implement houses, manufacturers, wholesale houses, etc., report a large increase in the number of men employed, in wages paid and the average increase in the number of traveling men covering Nebraska territory is nearly 50 per cent.

The paramount question is: What would any of these classes gain by a change of government at Washington?

Do you want a change?

WHAT THE MECHANICS SAY.

In Omaha the change in regard to wages paid, hours of employment and number of persons engaged is so gratifying that the classes affected will gladly do what they can to support the political party which has made possible this remarkable improvement in conditions. The following reports were obtained from officials of the various local unions:

Printing Pressmen's Union—Our scale of wages in 1896 was \$16 to \$18 per week for ten hours per day. In 1900 our scale is the same per diem for nine hours per day. In 1896 20 per cent of our members were idle all the time and 40 per cent of those employed were making but half time. In 1900 all members are employed and all are making full time. In short, we are working shorter hours and making more money than we did in 1896.

Plasterers, Bricklayers and Stonemasons' Tenders' Union—Our scale of wages in 1896 was 15 to 17 1/2 cents per hour for ten hours. In 1900 our scale is 24 cents per hour for eight hours and we have 50 per cent more men employed than in 1896.

Painters and Decorators—Our scale in 1896 was 30 cents per hour. We had no scale signed up regarding hours of employment. Our present scale is 35 cents for eight hours; time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays. In 1896 our union had about fifty members in good standing. In 1898 we had nearly 200 members. This was owing to the Trans-Mississippi exposition. Our members are all, or nearly all, employed at the present time.

Bricklayers' Union—In 1896 our scale of wages was 50 cents per hour for eight hours; time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays. Our scale for 1900 is 50 cents per hour, with no other changes. Our union has had about 160 members for the past five years. There is more work in our trade in Omaha at the

present time than we have had in the last eight years.

Carpenters' Union—Our scale of wages in 1896 in South Omaha was 25 cents per hour for ten or twelve hours. For 1900 it is 35 cents per hour for eight hours; time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays. In Omaha our scale in 1896 was 30 cents per hour for eight hours; time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays. In 1900 it is 40 cents per hour and no other changes. More than double the number are now employed in our trade than in 1897, although there are a great many carpenters idle at present. This is owing to the Trans-Mississippi exposition, which brought a great many carpenters here who have remained.

Horseshoers' Union—Our scale is the same as it was in 1896 for the same hours. We have not as many employed as we had in 1896, for the reason that there are not as many horses in use. The bike has made a great difference in our trade.

Sheet Metal Workers' Union—In 1896 our scale of wages was 33 1/2 cents, but very few men got that amount. The average wages paid were 27 1/2 cents. The number of hours is the same. Our scale at present is 38 1/2 cents per hour. There are 25 per cent more men employed in our trade now than in 1896.

Printing Press Assistants' Union—Our scale of wages in 1896 was \$8 for six hours, or \$3 per week for ten hours per day. We now get \$5.50 for nine hours per day. In 1896 we had thirty men employed; we now have forty-eight.

Machinists' Union—Our scale of wages in 1896 was from 25 to 30 cents per hour. We were working from forty to forty-eight hours per week. Our present scale is 32 cents per hour for nine hours per day, or fifty-four hours per week. All members of the union are employed, and our union was never in a more flourishing condition, and we doubt if an idle machinist can be found in Omaha today, unless he is idle from choice.

### GROWTH OF THE LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY.

The increase of stock receipts at South Omaha may be taken as a fair illustration of the change wrought in business generally during the four years the republican party has had charge of national affairs. During the seven months of 1900 ending July 31st the cattle receipts were 424,236, against 220,324 for a like period in 1896, a gain of 202,964, or nearly 100 per cent.

The hog receipts for the first seven months of this year were 1,121,171, as against 717,976 for the first seven months of 1896, a gain of 403,195.

For the period ending July 31st, 1900, there were 597,985 head of sheep received; for the same period in 1896, 161,841, a gain of 436,144 for 1900.

There has also been a gratifying increase in prices during this time. Steers, for instance, sold July 31st, 1896, at from \$2.75 to \$3.70; July 31st, 1900, they brought \$5.50; hogs sold July 31st, 1896, at \$2.77; July 31st, 1900, the price was \$5.09. The price paid for sheep July 31st, 1896, ranged from \$2 to \$5.50; July 31st, 1900, the range was from \$4 to \$5.45. In the month of July, 1896, the receipts of hogs were 97,000; in July, 1900, 179,000 (in round thousands), and the price as given above but little more than half in 1896 of that in 1900.

### THE WHOLESALE TRADE.

Information gained from a large number of the principal business men of Omaha through letters of inquiry and personal interviews, discloses the fact that, without a single exception, there has been a marked "expansion" of business in Nebraska's chief city during the four years the republican party has been in charge of national affairs. In securing this information no regard whatever was had to political affiliations, the desire being to make the exhibit a perfectly fair one in every respect. The line of inquiry covers a comparison of amount of business in 1896 with 1900; comparison of the number of employees then and now, and also of the wages paid. The replies show, with one exception, that the lowest increase in amount of business is 20 per cent, ranging from that up to 950 per cent, with a large proportion of instances where the percentage of gain was 75 per cent to 100; the increase in the number of employees ranges from 15 to 200 per cent, and the range of increase in salaries paid is from 10 per cent to 50 per cent.

The Hospital for the Insane at Norfolk contributes another important chapter to the history of mismanagement of the state institutions under the Poynter administration.

On the surface there is evidence of extravagance and recklessness in dealing with the funds, while beneath the surface there is unmistakable evidence of fraud.

Particularly is this true in connection with the purchase of drugs and coal, if not clothing and other supplies. The demands on the fuel fund have been enormous, and notwithstanding the large amount appropriated, there will be a shortage in this fund of no less than \$5,000.

EVIDENCE OF FRAUD.

The last legislature appropriated for the maintenance of this institution \$119,350, of which amount \$12,000 was for fuel and lights. Why it should require such a large amount of money for fuel and lights is a question challenging explanation, but it was appropriated, and, as previously stated, that amount, large though it is, is going to fall short of being enough by at least \$5,000.

From May 26th, 1899, to July 19th, 1900, \$10,825.20 of the appropriation was expended, leaving a balance of \$1,374. This was for fourteen months and the rate of expenditure was therefore about \$760 per month, or \$260 per month in excess of the appropriation.

There are less than 300 inmates in the hospital, yet on a basis of 300 it has cost the state more than \$35 per month for fuel and lights. That this is an unreasonable amount is quite apparent.

Upon inquiry it was discovered that Steward Rees of the hospital, who has charge of purchasing supplies of this character, is on very intimate terms with certain coal dealers. In fact, at the time he was appointed steward he was engaged in the coal business

at Norfolk, in partnership with one C. W. Braash, and it is a noticeable fact that since his appointment his former business partner has figured conspicuously in the fuel transactions of the hospital. The records in the auditor's office bear evidence, not alone of this, but of other matters equally as significant.

Since May 26th of last year to July 19th of this year the Glea Rock Coal company has drawn from the state treasury for coal sold the hospital more than \$9,700 (see vouchers B30347, B31197, B31332, B34289, B37397, B40287, B41849, B42785, B44351, B45054, B46313, B46976).

A significant fact in connection with this is that during the summer months of this year the supply purchased is about the same as during cold weather.

Another significant fact is, that while Engineer Mohler of the hospital says that between eighty and ninety tons per month are consumed, the records show that the consumption has been at the rate of more than 150 tons per month. The contract price is about \$4 per ton and if Engineer Mohler, who handles the coal, knows what he is talking about, the monthly cost, on the ninety-ton estimate, would only be \$360 per month, whereas the official records show that the monthly cost is \$760 per month, a difference of \$400 per month.

Taking the highest estimate of Engineer Mohler (ninety tons per month), and figure the cost at \$8 per ton, nearly the price of the very best hard coal on the market, and it would then amount to only \$720 per month, or still less by \$40 per month than the amount actually paid by the state the last fourteen months for soft and slack coal.

These figures are not alone significant, but are suspicious. They indicate, quite freely, that the state is being defrauded. The figures of the engineer, the man whose duties are such that he should know exactly what the monthly consumption is, stand out in bold contrast with the bills rendered—bills the state has been required to pay. The disparity is not easily accounted for, except on the ground of fraud alone.

According to Engineer Mohler, it should cost not to exceed \$360 per month. According to the records it costs \$760 per month. This is a distinction with a most significant difference, one involving nearly \$5,000 per year to the taxpayers of Nebraska.

### A DRUG DEALER'S SNAP.

Suspicious as are the figures associated with the fuel and light fund, worse abuses appear to have been practiced in connection with the drug fund.

Druggist Christoph, who has had somewhat of a monopoly of the patronage of the hospital, is said to be on very "friendly" terms with Steward Rees. The records show that it has been expensive "friendship" to the state. Not alone has Christoph had the drug fund to play on, but he has drawn money out of the "paint and oil" fund, the "general repair" fund, "carpet and curtain" fund, "board and clothing" fund, "book and stationery" fund, and the "incidental" fund.

Steward Rees was appointed to his position about one year ago. In the last year his friend Christoph has drawn from the state treasury \$1,129.04. He has drawn \$648.31 from the drug fund, \$38.50 from the general repair fund, \$204.86 from the board and clothing fund, \$14.96 from the carpet and curtain fund, \$22.85 from the book and stationery fund, \$42.23 from the incidental fund and \$157.33 from the paint and oil fund.

Vouchers B34289, B37404, B41857, B42776, B44356, B46972 and B47674 were drawn in favor of Druggist Christoph on the paint and oil fund.

Vouchers B42768, B45060 and B46305 were drawn in favor of Druggist Christoph on the general repair fund.

Voucher B36252 was drawn in favor of Druggist Christoph on the carpet and curtain fund.

Vouchers B34272, B36229, B40263, B41835, B42755, B43473, B44345, B46323 and B47634 were drawn in favor of Druggist Christoph on the board and clothing fund.

Vouchers B33386, B34283 and B36243 were drawn in favor of Druggist Christoph on the book and stationery fund.

Vouchers B40271 and B45534 were drawn in favor of Druggist Christoph on the incidental fund.

Vouchers B34282, B36235, B40268, B41851, B42782, B43478, B44353, B45055, B45524, B46315, B46975 and B47639 were drawn in favor of Druggist Christoph on the drug fund.

These are the cold facts, taken direct from the official records in the auditor's office at Lincoln.

These figures indicate that there is something else besides friendship and the intimacy existing between Steward Rees and Druggist Christoph.

Another significant feature of the matter is that while Druggist Christoph has had the contract since his friend Rees became steward he has also been supplying the "extras." An article that is not enumerated in the contract is called an "extra" and is not sold subject to contract prices.

Extras are bought at the retailer's figures. It is within the power of the steward to favor his friends in this way, by omitting many of the articles to be bought from the contract and buy them at retail prices. That this very thing has been done at Norfolk can hardly be disputed. Fully 25 per cent of the articles purchased from Druggist Christoph the last year were not included in the contract and were not bought at contract prices (see vouchers B36235, B40268, B41851, B42782, B44353, B45055, B46315 and B46975). It is known that in instances of this kind excessive prices are charged, in some instances double the amount of the actual retail price.

It is also known that Druggist Christoph does not deal directly in many of the articles with which he is credited as having delivered to the hospital. It might be a rather difficult matter for either the steward or Rees to satisfactorily explain how it happened that articles legitimately chargeable to and charged to the carpet and curtain fund and board and clothing fund were supplied by a druggist.

The legislature appropriated \$1,200

for drugs. There remains in this fund a balance of \$387, which means a deficiency at the end of the fiscal year in this fund of about \$150, in face of the fact that other funds have been made use of in instances where goods should be charged to the drug fund.

### TURNS ON THE LIGHT.

Despite the efforts of other druggists to obtain the drug contract Christoph has had it ever since Steward Rees assumed his office. One of the local dealers makes bold to charge that the bids of others are opened before the favorite puts in his bid, so that he knows just what to bid to get the contract. He claims that the bids are either opened at the hospital or at Lincoln.

One of the druggists who believes that this very thing is being done is A. H. Kleasau. Speaking of it he said:

"Being unable to secure the contract even at rock bottom figures I resolved to get it even at a loss, particularly to see if I could find out what the cause was of our not getting it. We had been quoting very low figures, yet each time the contract was awarded to Christoph. I wrote to a wholesale drug firm in Omaha, where I do my trading, telling them of what I wanted to do and asking them if they would not help me by making a reduction in the wholesale price.

"I sent them an itemized statement of what was called for in the contract and they agreed to let me have the drugs at a reduction of 5 per cent below the regular wholesale cash price.

"I then took this reduced wholesale price and I made a further reduction of 20 per cent, making a total reduction of about 25 per cent on the cash wholesale price.

"I sent in my bid at these figures, and, what do you think? Christoph bid was 70 cents lower than mine. This convinced me that there was a crooked deal somewhere, for, in the first place, on a drug bill of \$200, 60 cents is too close a difference, and, in the second place, how did it happen, after I had bid away down below the wholesale price, that Christoph should bid about 25 per cent below what the goods actually cost him at wholesale, unless my bid had been opened and he had been informed before the contract was awarded and before he put in his bid what my bid was?"

"There was fraud on the face of it, that's certain.

"I don't mean to say by this that the state is getting its drugs at a bargain. On the contrary, I think if you look up the list of goods purchased as 'extras' you will discover that on the whole the state is paying top prices."

There are somewhat startling rumors afloat, too, relative to deals in connection with the clothing contract. It is currently reported that favoritism is practiced in connection with this end of the business, and that certain persons have reaped handsome rewards at the expense of the state by reason of it. The last legislature appropriated \$40,000 for board and clothing, but even this large amount, between diversion, perversion and extravagance, will be completely wiped out before the next appropriation will be available. Most of the special funds are overdrawn, and there is every indication that the general deficiency in the funds of the institution will run up well into the thousands.

### LOOSE BUSINESS METHODS.

It is a matter of history that loose business methods have been employed here throughout the official existence of the present State Board of Public Lands and Buildings.

Repairs have been made to buildings and the bills paid out of other specific funds. A fire occurred about two years ago in one of the buildings, necessitating repairs to the extent of \$5,000. It was "repaired" at that cost without advertising or soliciting bids for either labor or material and the bills were paid out of the board and clothing fund.

In 1897 this same board let the contract for the building of a new wing to the hospital, for which \$25,000 had been appropriated, to a firm of contractors from Omaha. The contractors entered upon the performance of the work, but the disposition exhibited on their part to pocket the money allowed by the board and pay nobody resulted in numerous unpaid bills for labor and material being sent to the board, with requests that no more money be allowed the contractors until all they paid or secured the claims against them. The board made a terrible mess of the whole affair. The contractors left the work to be completed by their bondsmen and the bondsmen, owing to serious complications, requested that the board complete the job. The work was finally completed, but it was a long time before the bills were allowed and paid, and it is said that even some remain unpaid to this day. The bondsmen were ready and willing to the whole deal was so rapid, with blunders made by the board that it was difficult to determine the difference between the status of the debtor and creditor. The building was finally completed, but up to this day no one has yet come forward to exhibit it as a model of modern architecture.

CRUEL TREATMENT.

Numerous complaints are afloat concerning the practice of cruelty by employees in dealing with the inmates. Last spring an employe named Charles Rossin gave one of the inmates a severe beating and that, too, it is reported, without provocation or justification. The outrage was so flagrant that the management was compelled to discharge him.

Reports of cruelty are quite numerous, but as the inmates are of unsound mind to a greater or less extent, little or no dependence can be placed on what they say, and for this reason it is difficult to obtain satisfactory proof or disproof.

Upon the whole, so far as the management is concerned, there is no evidence of sincerity on the part of the authorized representatives of the fusionists to live up to the professed economy of their party. On the contrary, the per capita expense to the state, the pay roll, the general expense, is greater today than it ever has been.

Mexican War Veterans.

CINCINNATI, O., Sept. 14.—There were over 200 present today at the reunion of Mexican veterans. The ages of the members averaged over 70 years. General Hobson replied to the welcoming address. A business session was then held.

Howard Case is Opened.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 14.—Both the commonwealth and the defense announced today they were ready and proceeded to secure a jury in the case of James Howard, indicted as a principal in the assassination of William Goebel.

Battle With the Boers.

LONDON, Sept. 14.—Lord Roberts reports from Machedodorp, under date of Wednesday, September 12, that General French was heavily engaged that day with the Boers in the hills west of Harberton and that General Hutton had gone to General French's support.

Mrs. Oom Paul Wouldn't Go.

LORENZO MARQUEZ, Sept. 14.—Mr. Kruger telegraphed his wife to join him before sailing, but she has replied that her health will not permit it.

# THE CRISIS NOW PAST

## Necessity for Speedy Action on Russia's Evacuation Proposal Passes.

### DIPLOMATIC SIDE HOLDS ATTENTION

Expected Order to General Chaffee to Leave Peking is Not Issued—A Message from Li Hung Chang Removes Many Embarrassing Obstacles.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 14.—The crisis that was near at hand yesterday over the evacuation proposal of the Russian government has been averted for a time at least, and the diplomatic side of the matter has become again the object of attention. The order to General Chaffee to leave at once, which was expected in some quarters today, was not issued. Instead, earnest efforts are making to arrange the preliminaries for the negotiations which are expected finally to settle the Chinese troubles. Li Hung Chang's message today removed perhaps the last obstacle to this speedy beginning of these negotiations and the only doubt that now exists is as to his ability to redeem his pledge to protect American interests and stop the outrages upon the missionaries and native converts. If he can do this, and thus manifest the existence of a de facto government, there is no reason to doubt negotiations will begin at once. Notice that Russian troops will not evacuate Peking until some arrangements have been made for the installation of a government to take charge of affairs is directly in line with the aim that the state department has been pursuing in the exchanges with Li Hung Chang, and if the Russian decision is adhered to it certainly will facilitate the ultimate withdrawal of all of the foreign troops, in the opinion of the officials here. An inference from the Russian statement is that Li's coming to Peking will be followed by Russia in the hope of making the desired arrangement for the establishment of a Chinese government there. As Li cannot reach the capital from Shanghai, starting tomorrow, inside of a week, it may be that there will be no developments in the international situation within this period of time.

Our government has not been advised even yet that all of the answers to the Russian note have been returned. It is said that all of the powers have been heard from on the subject, but the disposition to regard their communications not as answers but rather as argumentative statements, will leave the main issue still open for discussion. This point, however, becomes of diminished importance in view of the announced purpose of the Russian government to modify the terms of its original proposition in the manner indicated.

### FORMER NEBRASKANS SUFFER.

Wife and Son of W. H. Lamb Among the Missing at Galveston.

SUPERIOR, Neb., Sept. 14.—W. H. Lamb of Galveston, who is here visiting his daughter, received word that his wife and son are among the missing and not a vestige of his home in that city remains. As the building was only a block from the beach it is hardly possible that they are alive. Lams were at one time one of the wealthy families of Beatrice and later residents of Superior for three or four years.

Berlin Takes Out of School.

BERLIN, Sept. 14.—The Leipzig Tageblatt announces that a pamphlet with the sensational title "My Relations With Emperor William II.," by Countess Emily Elizabeth Wedel-Berthold, the divorced wife of Count Hermann Wedel, has been confiscated by the Leipzig police on the ground of lese majeste. The pamphlet purported to make revelations regarding the affairs of Dreyfus, and the murder of King Humbert.

Maine's Election Returns.

LEWISTON, Me., Sept. 14.—Returns received from all but two of the 251 cities, towns and plantations in the state show the following vote for governor:

Hill (rep.), 73,156; Lord (dem.), 39,911; Rogers (pop.), 3,107; Leonard, (soc.), 465. Republican plurality, 32,245. In 1896 the republican plurality was 48,208, on a total vote of 118,364.

Kansas City Raises a Great Fund.

KANSAS CITY, Sept. 14.—The fund which is being raised here for the relief of the Texas storm sufferers now amounts to \$6,780 and is being increased every hour. Much of this money is being expended here for provisions, as they can be bought here much cheaper than in Texas. A carload was shipped today to Galveston and more will follow tomorrow.

Home From Cuba.

CLAY CENTER, Neb., Sept. 15.—H. K. Wheeler, who has served a term of enlistment in the Eighth United States cavalry, and for the past year in a civil capacity in Cuba after being discharged from the army, came in for a visit with his parents. He looks hearty and robust, and talks interestingly of conditions in Cuba. He will return in about two months.

Much Land Changing Hands.

TRENTON, Neb., Sept. 15.—More land is being purchased and transferred than ever before in the history of the county. A number of farmers are buying adjoining lands, thus giving them more good pasture and cultivated lands. Several buyers in eastern states are buying and a number are coming to purchase good farms.

Lang on Trial at Beatrice.

BEATRICE, Neb., Sept. 15.—The case of Grimes against Lang, wherein Lang is charged with resisting an officer, is being heard before Judge Swiler at the district court room in this city.

High Water Delays Traffic.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Sept. 15.—The Looking Glass creek in the western part of the county is running out of its banks and is causing much trouble. The water rose higher than ever was known before from the effects of the heavy rain Monday, and last night over two inches more fell. The freight on the Columbus-Cedar Rapids branch, which left here at 6 o'clock this morning, found over 100 feet of track washed out between Ocoee and Monroe and had to return to this city.

# AID FOR TEXAS SUFFERERS.

Gov. Poynter Issues a Proclamation Calling for Help.

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 15.—Governor Poynter has issued a proclamation calling on the citizens of Nebraska to extend aid to the Texas flood sufferers. Following is a text:

A Proclamation.—To the Generous People of Nebraska: Complete information of the devastation of the city of Galveston by wind and water reveals the fact that not only have thousands of citizens lost their lives, but several thousand who escaped death are left destitute and without food or shelter. So urgent are the necessities that the mayor of that city has appealed to the citizens of his own as well as surrounding states for immediate assistance.

I therefore call your attention to the existing conditions in our sister state, knowing that from your abundance you will not hesitate to lend assistance. Proclamations having already been issued by the mayors of Omaha and Lincoln, contributions may be sent to them or to this office.

The manager of the Western Union Telegraph company and the manager of the Postal, both of Lincoln, having generously offered to transmit all contributions free of charge, the funds sent to this office will be transmitted daily to the mayor of Galveston.

W. A. POYNTER, Governor. Executive Chamber, Lincoln, Sept. 12.

Commander Hubbard issued the following appeal to Knights of the Macabees, asking aid for Galveston sufferers:

To the officers and members of the Knights of the Macabees throughout the state of Nebraska: You are earnestly requested to make a donation at once for the Galveston sufferers. Act freely and quickly send all donations either to the mayor of Lincoln or Omaha.

### Nebraska at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—Emanuel Spelch of Tecumseh was today appointed chief of the mail department division of the postoffice department. Mr. Spelch has for a number of years been in the office of the sixth auditor. In 1897 he was made chief of the foreign division, which place he now resigns to accept the more responsible one in the postoffice department.

Rural free delivery will be established at Dorchester, Saline county, on the 15th inst. The service will embrace an area of forty square miles, with a population of 800. A. M. Roberts is appointed carrier.

The order discontinuing the postoffice at Simeon, Cherry county, has been rescinded.

The postoffice at Orlando, Deuel county, has been moved three miles east with Charles A. Avery as postmaster.

### A Jail Delivery.

GENEVA, Neb., Sept. 15.—A mysterious jail delivery was made here during the heavy rain storm. At the usual hour in the evening Jailer J. L. Baldwin locked the cells containing two prisoners. During the night two men entered the jail, turned the combination lock and removed one George W. Gates, held for trial in the district court on a charge of incest. Tippen, the other prisoner, was then locked in his cell by the strangers, who quietly left the building with their man. It is not known whether the men were friends or enemies of Gates. There was much feeling against Gates at the time of his preliminary hearing and there was some talk of a possible lynching here.

### Bring Cattle to Nebraska.

AINSWORTH, Neb., Sept. 15.—H. N. Chapman, a well known cattle dealer of Rapid City, S. D., disposed of 300 western cows with calves by their side to Wales Bros. and W. H. Kennedy of Lakeland, this county, the consideration being \$12,000. Last week he disposed of twelve carloads of the same kind of stock to parties at Wood Lake at like figures. Brawn county is fast filling up with good cattle. There is no lack of feed for all that can be secured.

### Burglars Lose their Nerve.

GIBBON, Neb., Sept. 15.—Burglars broke into the postoffice here, drilled three holes in the safe knocked off the handle and combination, but did not get it open. Entrance was gained by prying open the back door with chisels taken from the wagon shop. They were apparently scared away.

### Home From Cuba.

CLAY CENTER, Neb., Sept. 15.—H. K. Wheeler, who has served a term of enlistment in the Eighth United States cavalry, and for the past year in a civil capacity in Cuba after being discharged from the army, came in for a visit with his parents. He looks hearty and robust, and talks interestingly of conditions in Cuba. He will return in about two months.

Much Land Changing Hands.

TRENTON, Neb., Sept. 15.—More land is being purchased and transferred than ever before in the history of the county. A number of farmers are buying adjoining lands, thus giving them more good pasture and cultivated lands. Several buyers in eastern states are buying and a number are coming to purchase good farms.

Lang on Trial at Beatrice.

BEATRICE