

GOULD DECLINES TO TALK.

Hellwood Bank Cashier Keeps His Own Council.

David City, Neb., Feb. 8.—The excitement incident to the failure of the Platte Valley state bank of Hellwood is subsiding and all fears of violence to A. H. Gould, cashier, and R. G. Gould, assistant cashier, who are in jail in this city, have been dispelled.

The only change in the general condition of the bank's affairs heretofore reported, are that forged notes and mortgages are coming in daily and as a consequence the amount of the forgeries is growing at a rapid rate.

A very conservative estimate of the amount of the forgeries so far as known up to his time will aggregate \$150,000 and the end doubtless is not yet.

A larger amount of notes and mortgages are held by Butler county banks and local capitalists. All of these, so far as known, are genuine. Gould evidently preferred to protect his friends. Real estate mortgages have been forged, including the certificates of filing and recording, giving book and page, while this week several chattel mortgages have been received by banks and attorneys here for collection that are also forgeries.

The Platte Valley state bank was organized in 1885, with David Besley as president and a Mr. Converse cashier. Some time in 1886 or 1887 H. R. Gould of Omaha, was elected president and A. H. Gould cashier, who have held their official positions to the present time.

Gould claims had it not been for the blowing up of the bank safe a short time ago, in which his private book where he kept a record of all the forged notes, the amount of each, and the date of maturing, and when one of those notes matured he would replace it with another forged note and pay the holder the interest.

Gould claims had it not been for the blowing up of the bank safe a short time ago, in which his private book where he kept a record of all the forged notes was destroyed, he would not have been detected and he would be still running the bank as before.

SHORTAGE IN ACCOUNTS.

Police Judge at Grand Island Tenders His Resignation.

Grand Island, Neb., Feb. 8.—Police Judge John Combs today handed in his resignation to the mayor and the office will be filled, temporarily, until the spring election, by one of the justices of the peace.

Mr. Combs was elected in 1900, being one of five candidates for the position. He was formerly a railroad man, and had the support of the railroad men of the city, with just enough to pull him through in the five-cornered race that was made. At the recent meeting of the council it was developed that he had not made report nor turned in any of the monies collected for fines and penalties for the months of December and January.

New Cuticle for a Child.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—What is regarded by physicians as one of the most difficult skin grafting operations ever performed has been completed here. On the body of five-year-old Marjot Weaver 219 square inches of skin have been grafted. The operation took five months, as the surgeons could only operate every fortnight, owing to the low state of the boy's vitality. The new cuticle covers the patient's chest, abdomen, back and sides.

FAITH IN GOULD

INDIANA MEN HARD HIT BY BELLWOOD BANK WRECK.

Failure Means Their Ruin—Many Victims at La Porte and Michigan City—Aggregate Over a Hundred Thousand Dollars Lost.

La Porte, Ind., Feb. 7.—The wrecking of the bank at Bellwood, Neb., comes as a crushing blow to many persons in this county who were deceived upon by Cashier A. H. Gould to make investments which are now said to represent an aggregate total of nearly \$75,000, and if disclosures continue to be made the amount lost by credulous investors may be in excess of \$100,000. The Goulds still own realty in this county, and their property interests will not begin to cover the amount lost in the bank wreck, and attorneys are not confident that the property held here can be turned in as assets. Many of the investors in the schemes of the Goulds are small property owners, whose loss partially means ruin. The Goulds enjoyed in a marked degree the confidence of the people of this county. They played upon this confidence, it is charged and found no difficulty in obtaining almost any sum they wanted on the promise of handsome returns for the investments. The feeling is now so bitter that many of the victims are ready to subscribe money to aid in their criminal prosecution. The money secured in this county is said to have been used in covering up some of the numerous forgeries.

Michigan, City, Ind., Feb. 7.—Amos R. Gould, the former Michigan City resident, who is under arrest at David City, Neb., for forgery in connection with the wreck of the Platte Valley bank of Bellwood, succeeded in getting hold of over sixty thousand dollars of Michigan City money for investment. An estate here had \$4,000 worth of stocks in Gould's private bank, and under the Nebraska state banking laws stockholders are liable for double the face value of their stock, so that the estate will likely have to pay \$1,000 as well as lose the entire stock. Other people here have from \$25,000 to \$40,000 worth of mortgages and paper, so that the loss to Michigan City residents will equal if not exceed the total of \$63,000.

Two Southern Lynchings.

Nicholasville, Ky., Feb. 7.—Tom Whittaker, colored, charged with the murder of John Foster, three weeks ago, was taken from the jail at Lynchburg, last night and hanged by a mob.

Whittaker's case was called in court yesterday and continued. Late last night the mob appeared, and securing possession of the negro, hurried him to the court house, where a rope was placed around his neck and he was hanged.

Nashville, Ky., Feb. 7.—Tew Brown, the negro who killed Miss Della Powell yesterday, was taken from the officers this afternoon and lynched. Intense excitement prevailed last night, and the mob made repeated attempts to get the negro, but were baffled in its attempts. This morning County Attorney Mitchell, Sheriff Christian and Deputy Scott removed the negro from jail to take him to Miss Powell's home for identification. Over 200 men surrounded the jail, but attempted no violence when the officers promised not to take Brown to Lexington. About 100 men accompanied the officers and prisoner. Notable among them was William Powell, brother of the girl, armed with a double barreled shotgun. After the negro had been fully identified and as the officers were taking him back to the jail, the mob seized and lynched him in the court house yard before the officers could get into the jail.

Mrs. Soffel Not Improving.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 7.—Word comes tonight from 40101er to the effect that Mrs. Soffel, the accomplice of the Biddle brothers, is considerably worse. Her wounds seem to be healing nicely, but she takes very little nourishment and her mental condition is described as approaching collapse.

Harry Biddle, the brother of the dead man, who had their remains buried yesterday, says the grave will be protected indefinitely from vandals by armed guards. He today made formal application to be appointed executor of the estate of Ed and Jack. He claims that the former when first arrested had in his possession about \$1,000 and the latter \$200 in cash.

Effects the Wrong Man.

Greeley, Col., Feb. 7.—Jator Williams mortally wounded Peter Kane, an insane prisoner, in frustrating an attempt of two other prisoners to break jail. When Williams unlocked the cage for the purpose of putting Kane inside, Thomas Huff and David Fair, charged with highway robbery, made a dash for the door. Williams immediately shot Huff, but the latter saved himself by seizing and holding Kane in front of himself as a shield.

SUN SHOWS RUINS

FIRE AT WATERBURY BURNS FAR INTO THE DAY.

Evidence of Incendiarism—Burning of Scoville House Due to Firebugs—Sobriety Aid in Preserving Order—Flames Start in Cellar.

Waterbury, Conn., Feb. 4.—The sun rose this morning on a blackened and smouldering mass of ruins that marked the main business section of the city.

There is a very strong suspicion that the fire which completely destroyed the Scoville house, burning thousands of dollars worth of furniture, appointments and personal effects, and imperiling many lives, was the work of an incendiary. The fire originated in the pool and billiard room in the basement of the house, on the further side from the burning district. The room was locked up and no one was supposed to be there. No fire was kept in the room, all heat being supplied from a boiler in another part of the building. Manager Truman said at the police station, while the fire was still raging that he had not the slightest doubt it was of incendiary origin. No one could be found to explain its origin and the authorities have been quietly investigating.

The fire came so close on the heels of the big conflagration that the thousands of spectators who witnessed it were thrown into a more complete panic than the original fire caused. The flames had only begun to die out along Bank, Grand and South Main streets, at 4 o'clock, when flames leaped upward, as by magic and people feared the city was doomed after all. The call was rung in promptly and the engines that hurried to the scene turned their attention mainly to preventing the spread of the flames. It was evident that the hotel was doomed and if the fire had reached the adjacent buildings, there would have been very little hope of saving the center of the city.

BURNS FAR INTO THE DAY.

The fire burned far into the day and was not extinguished entirely until evening. The scene about the city today was only little less remarkable than that of the previous evening. Thousands of people strolled around the icy streets and with the greatest difficulty were restrained by the militia and police from venturing within the danger lines. A tangled network of wires on Bank and South Main street greatly hindered the work of extinguishing the last flames and clearing away the wreckage.

A revised list of losses and insurance is very difficult to obtain at this time. Few know just what the loss was on their buildings and stock. It is believed that when the truth is known the figures telegraphed this morning will not be far from the correct estimate.

The remarkable feature of the fire was undoubtedly the absence so far as known, of loss of life. Two men who were asleep in the Scoville house, Charles Y. Kent of the Holmes, Booth & Hayden company and member of the board of education and the second cook, a German, were reported missing, but both have been located.

The rebuilding of ruined structures is only a question of time. Temporary quarters have been secured by all the firms. Many have already telegraphed for new stocks and will resume business immediately. The American publishing company is among the heaviest losers, the building being entirely ruined, but the paper was issued in an abbreviated form tonight.

There has been more or less disorder about the streets today, but the police have been very active and the militia have been of great service in handling the crowds. The streets were piled with household goods and strewn with small articles thrown from the windows. Some of this property was confiscated by passers-by, but the amount of thieving was small compared with the opportunities offered by the confusion.

The number of injured was very small and in all but one or two cases cases the injuries were slight. The streets are rapidly being cleared and the trolley service will soon be resumed.

HARD NIGHT FOR FIREMEN

Rarely have firemen been obliged to contend against worse conditions than those which prevailed in this most disastrous conflagration. The wind was blowing a gale and the cold was intense. It seemed at one time as though every structure in the heart of the city would be destroyed.

Charged With Swindling.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—James B. Agnew, who claims relationship to the well-known Philadelphia family of that name, is under arrest here charged with swindling physicians in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin out of small sums of money. He is charged with having fraudulently obtained cash subscriptions to a Chicago medical publication with which he had no business connection. Agnew came to Chicago from New York.

BROTHER GETS REMAINS.

Bodies of the Two Biddles are Taken to Pittsburg, Pa.

The remains of Edward and John Biddle, the dead bandits, arrived at the Pittsburg & Western railroad station and were at once taken to the Pittsburg morgue. In spite of the intense cold and the comparatively early hour of their arrival hundreds of persons gathered in the waiting room and by the time the train arrived the crowd had increased to 1,000 or more.

When the train drew in there was a rough scramble to get on the platform of the depot during which several were bruised by being crushed against the side of the stairway. The remains were in rough boxes, in charge of Detectives Roach and Swinchart, who were accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Hoon, Constable Aaron Thompson and J. Holliday of Butler. The morgue wagon was waiting and the bodies were driven to the morgue for identification. An immense crowd soon gathered, but a large detail of police prevented them from entering the building.

The remains of the murderers will be turned over to their brother, Harry Biddle, who will see that they receive proper interment in the South Side cemetery. The funeral will be conducted as privately as possible, and Rev. Father Sweeney, the priest who rendered spiritual advice to the Biddies while they were in the Pittsburg jail, will conduct the services.

Dispatches from the Butler hospital this morning report Mrs. Soffel's condition unchanged. While it is believed she will get well, the danger is not passed, and on account of this uncertainty in her condition nothing is being done in the way of preparations for her removal to Pittsburg. If she lives, in addition to an ordering to the charge of aiding prisoners to escape she will be confronted by charges of furnishing the Biddies with firearms and aiding the felonious assault upon the jail guards and the officers who effected the capture in Butler.

Mrs. Soffel is already taking steps to defend herself and has written to a prominent Pittsburg attorney to engage his services. Her father is said to be quite well to do, and as parents are relenting, she hopes to receive aid from them.

The prison board is satisfied Mrs. Soffel had assistance within the prison walls and before the incident is finally closed it is probable there will be an almost entirely new force of attaches at the jail.

The county authorities do not believe Ed Biddle's dying statement implicating Jennie Zehers in the Kehney murder and it is not likely any action will be taken by them.

MRS. SOFFEL TELLS HER STORY.

Mrs. Soffel made a statement tonight to some newspaper men in the presence of Dr. Bricker, concerning the escape of the Biddies and their experiences before they were captured. She said in part:

"I had not intended going with the Biddle boys on the night of their escape, but Ed's entreaties won me over." She told of how she remained in the library on Thursday morning awaiting the signal for the outbreak. It was her intention to let the boys go and she would meet them later. While sitting in the library she was almost paralyzed when the two brothers came crashing through the door. In their excitement they had the key to this door and had to break it down.

"Ed asked me to come with them. 'Come with us,' he said to me. I resisted but finally felt myself giving way to Ed's persuasions and yielded."

She then told of her experiences Thursday night, which was spent in a school house. The weather was bitterly cold and the exposure affected her greatly. She denied the report that she was intoxicated, saying that the Biddies had bought half a pint of whiskey and that she took but one drink, which seemed to stimulate her. Continuing she said:

"The next night we secured a sleigh and drove through the country all night. The weather was bitterly cold. There was no robe in the sleigh and I suffered terribly. When daylight came I was nearly perished. The next day brought us to the terrible scene. We drove through Butler and knew that we had been suspected."

"Then we soon reached Mount Chestnut, and getting something to eat, started out again. I was feeling ill and was frightened. The boys learned that the detectives were after us and they consulted about defending themselves. Ed said to Jack, 'It is a life for a life; let's shoot them down.'"

Keeley Institute Burned.

The city of Dwight, Ill., suffered a \$300,000 fire loss today. The great laboratory of the Keeley institute was completely destroyed, together with the Livingston hotel, a brick and stone structure owned and controlled by the Keeley company.

All of the guests and employes escaped without injury, with the exception of a colored cook who was bruised by jumping from a second story window.

QUAINT KOREAN CEREMONY.

Weird Rites of Releasing a Soul from the Fangs of Purgatory.

The ceremony in the old South Gate was held to release a spirit from hell, says the author of a delightful paper on Korea.

In the middle of the dense crowd filling the pavilion was a rectangular space. At each end stood a man with a big fold of loose cloth in his arms. Beside each of them a woman stood around them ran the folds of the cloth, which also crossed the rectangle diagonally. On the folds were Chinese characters, and in the midst of them, in the open space, stood the sorceress, wearing a red shirt with red bands over her shoulders, and long, loose sleeves flopping in the air. With her was an old woman beating big cymbals to gether. Before them were the widow and son of the man whose spirit was by this ceremony to be released from hell. At one side a woman beat a drum resembling two hour glasses, and behind her wore three great tissue paper figures suspended in the air and waying wildly. These represented spirits. The crowd stamped them awesomely. On the floor before the sorceress was a little table holding two peeled melons, one red, one yellow, some wine in a green bottle and three green apples which it was pleasant to think would surely give the little devils cholera morbus. The widow, an ugly, scarred-faced woman, poured out some wine and prostrated herself before the table several times. The son, a well-dressed fellow, did the same, while the sorceress, kneeling down, beat the cymbals to call the devils to the offering. A native told me that the man had been dead four years, that the devil had presumptive rights for three years, but that the deceased could now be got off provided, of course, the mourning woman was satisfied with her remuneration. When the performance lasted three days it would often cost \$100. The pieces of cloth would be burned, the native said, to make a ladder for the spirit from hell to heaven. The surplus folds in the men's arms went to the sorceress.—Leslie's Magazine.



America has 28,000 druggists.

New York has 40,000 night workers.

In Japan there are less than 450 men who have \$250,000 apiece.

Canada's forests are found to be equal to supplying the world with pulp wood alone for 840 years, on the basis of 1,500,000 tons of manufactured pulp a year.

There are 80,000 persons, men and women, employed in what the law describes as gainful occupation—working for others for compensation—in New York City.

The employees of the Grand Trunk railway at Port Huron, Mich., have raised a fund of \$3,000 to establish a co-operative store where they can purchase the things they need at lower prices.

The total value of the manufacture of bricks and tiles in the United States in 1900 was \$76,335,871 and of pottery \$19,768,070.

Locomotives to burn oil are appearing in the Pacific States. They are built with the cab and furnace in front and the smokestack behind. The tender is discarded, and the oil and water are conducted in pipes.

Circulars issued by the Carpenters' Council of St. Louis, have been received in Chicago, stating that St. Louis is flooded with carpenters, and that work on the World's Fair buildings will not begin until next spring.

William B. Eckert, one of the oldest members of the printers' craft, died at the Union Printers' Home in Colorado Springs. The cause was old age, the deceased being 84. Mr. Eckert was the first member admitted to the home at the time of its opening, 10 years ago. He came from the Philadelphia union and was a worthy and respected member. He had the distinction of being one of the original founders of the Typographical Union of North America in 1852, and always had been one of the strongest and most upright members.

Genius at Home. "John, did you split the kindling?" "Yes, dear." "Is the coal in?" "Seven buckets full." "Now come and help me get the children to bed, and when the house is perfectly quiet you can have the dining room to yourself and write a short story to pay the house rent, and a poem or two for the gas and water bills, and see if you can write a love song that you can sell for enough to pay the milk man and the washerwoman!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Symbiotic. The Cheerful Idiot—I notice our landlady is up on foot-ball. The Gloomy Sage—How so? The Cheerful Idiot—Why, she serves her pie in "bollow wedges."—Brooklyn Eagle.

False Pretense. We're all often forced to rob Peter in order to settle with Paul. But some of us merely rob Peter and Paul never sees us at all.—Philadelphia Press.

Pig Iron Used in 1900. More than 27,000,000 pounds of pig iron were consumed in this country in 1900.



The Pierce mill is installing an electric plant.

The Auburn Herald has started in on its twenty-fifth volume.

Modern Woodmen will hold a mid-winter carnival at Fremont this week.

A Nemaha county farmer recently shot an eagle bearing a 'possum in its talons.

A 108-acre farm near Emerson that was bought for \$25 an acre ten years ago recently sold for \$75 an acre.

The Weeping Water Republican last week put out a fine illustrated edition.

The Union Pacific has been having trouble with coal thieves at Lexington.

J. D. Hayes of Lincoln, who has been appointed state oil inspector to succeed E. R. Sizer, will assume his new duties about March 1.

Walt B. Reynolds, who has successfully conducted the Madison Chronicle for the past two years, has leased the plant to Fred D. Wright.

Professor Gun, who has been principal of the Mason schools, has resigned and started for the Philippines, where he will engage in his profession.

Dr. Eason, of Hebron, was attacked by a thoroughbred bull the other day and severely injured before help arrived and drove the enraged animal away.

Oakland is expecting a building boom the coming summer. Among the improvements are a new depot, a new bank building and several brick store buildings.

While at work moving the Christian church, J. Sutich of North Bend, was hit by a chain that slipped its hold, and his leg was broken just below the knee.

The Odd Fellows' building at Nemaha, is completed. It is two stories high and built of brick. The upper floor will be used for lodge purposes and the lower floor for stores.

Mr. Bridge and Mr. Haggert from near St. Libory drove into an opening on the Loup river from which ice had been taken. Both horses were drowned, but the men succeeded in getting ashore.

E. R. Sizer, on resigning his position as state oil inspector to take charge of Lincoln postoffice, has appointed T. E. A. Williams, graduate of the State University, as his deputy.

The explosion of a lamp in a cellar at Plainview, caused a fire which destroyed four buildings. The loss is \$4,000, all of which is covered by insurance with the exception of the property owned by R. J. Jewell.

A representative of an eastern company was in Nebraska City looking up the prospect of an electric car line. The property of the present horse car lines will be purchased if the line is built.

The farmhouse of Peter Eich, in Wayne county caught fire on the roof when no one but his wife was home. She ran to a nearby schoolhouse, secured the assistance of a woman teacher, and the two put up a ladder and extinguished the fire.

Reports from all portions of the range country are to the effect that no loss of stock has occurred during the recent storms and cold weather. The feed has been good on the range and the cattle were fat and strong. Ranchmen as a rule are also well provided with feed and shelter.

"Grandpa" Edwin Davis died at Plattsmouth, aged 91 years. He retained all his faculties until the time of his death. During the civil war he and two of his sons served in the Fifteenth Iowa infantry. Both of the sons were killed, but he escaped without a scratch. He was born in New York state.

Elmer Kreibling and Herbert Muschelles, two 14-year-old Bruning boys, went rabbit hunting and were caught by the recent storm. After wandering aimlessly around for several hours they finally reached a farmhouse. Both were almost exhausted and frostbitten, but have recovered.

Martha Furstennau, a 16-year-old daughter of William Furstennau of Webster township, Dodge county, died from the effects of an injury she received about a year ago. She was kicked in the head by a horse and lost the sight of one eye. Other complications set in and medical help proved of no avail.

The packing house at Nebraska City has begun to kill a limited number of hogs each day. This is the first attempt at operation since the strike was declared. Manager Burdick announces that he has a sufficient force of men to run the plant at partial capacity. Information whether or not terms have been made between the strikers and the packing company has not been made public.

Prospectors will bore for oil, coal or gas near Nebraska City.