

## SALE TIME IN KANSAS

### FARM AUCTIONS BLOOM IN THE EARLY SPRING.

Agriculturists Sell Implements and Household Goods—Some Exchange Possessions, While Others Intend to Retire or Leave the Vicinity.

The early spring is "public sale" time, and not in many years have there been more "auctions" than in this year, 1908. The printing offices have been busy printing bills with big headlines, telling of the number of horses, cattle and hogs, the farm implements, household goods "and other articles too numerous to mention" that have been offered for sale.

The public sale has become a fixed feature in the development of the prairie, writes an Abilene, Kansas, correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. It has reached a time when the farmers who have made their home here have acquired more material than they need to run their farm, or are anxious to change their residence, and so want to have a "sale." They go to the county seat and make arrangements with the auctioneer and have their bills printed. The latter are put up in the postoffice or are scattered on the fence posts of the vicinity. With the advent of the creamery the monthly pay envelope has become a valuable method of disseminating the news of the coming events, and the check for milk is likely to be accompanied with some cards announcing the sale of Farmer Smith's fine stock. It is probable that most of the public sales are for the purpose of making long moves, but there are occasions when the reason is obscure. One farmer in this county sold all his stock and implements two months ago, and then went from sale to sale until he had purchased a new outfit for his farm, taking his neighbors' articles rather than his own in the end.

"What are you selling out for?" was asked of a well-to-do farmer recently. He was known as having plenty of material for running his fine farm, and there was no reason why he should go away.

"Oh, I'm going to take a rest. I've rented the farm and guess I'll move to town. My wife and I expect to visit a while in the East and then we will have a home in town for the rest of our lives. The farm will rent for enough to keep us. What's the use of working?" There was no use, and the farmer was an example of the growing class of those retiring after making themselves comfortable for this life on their Kansas farms.

The attendance on the public sales is usually good, nothing but bad weather keeping the farmers of the vicinity away. The women frequently accompany their husbands and form an interested portion of the audience when the household goods and canned fruit are sold. They are also interested in the dairy appliances and the cows. The bidding is likely to be lively, and it is a curious thing that the average sale shows a scale of prices on common articles and implements that is far above the ones that could be procured at private sale. Under the magic of the wide-awake auctioneer's voice, the figures run up and up until it seems that the buyers must have lost sight of the cost of the articles new.

The "terms of sale" vary little at these auctions. There is usually at each sale the representative of some bank at the county seat. It is a head clerk or a cashier, one who is familiar with the financial standing of the farmers of the county. On the bills and in the advertisements in the papers the "terms" are set forth and usually run like this: "Sums of \$10 and under cash; over \$10 a credit of nine months will be given on note with approved security at 10 per cent interest; if paid when due, only 6 per cent will be charged; 8 per cent off for cash." The prosperous condition of the Western farmer is seen in the large portion of the amount of the sales that are paid in cash. Sometimes during the present spring the buyers have paid more than half the amount in currency or checks before leaving the place. The bank's representative buys all the notes that are given, so that when the day is done the farmer who has had a sale has turned his entire supply of old cultivators, harrows, mowing machines, horses, cattle and bedroom furniture into cash. If he wants to move he is prepared.

The crowd that has looked over the possessions of the household curiously and nodded at the various flaws in the implements of the farmyard, has also had a rude sort of entertainment. On every sale bill, in large letters, appears, "Free lunch at noon," and some of them have the additional legend, "Bring your tin cups." This is Greek to the city resident, but the farmer knows what it means. It is a promise that there will be great steaming cans of coffee, with plenty of sandwiches and perhaps pickles. The task of providing cups for a hundred or two visitors is a formidable one, and the prudent housewife asks that the comers bring cups to use at this function. The habitual auction attendant is fully equipped with the cups to use on such occasions. During the winter all sales begin at 10 a. m., but as the days lengthen the 1 p. m. start is more common. It all depends on the amount of material to be sold.

The amount of property changing hands in this growing method of disposing of used farm material is enormous. In this county alone probably fifty sales have been held since the first of the present year, and they have

averaged fully \$1,000 each, or over \$50,000 worth of second-hand goods disposed of by farmers to their neighbors. The same condition exists in nearly every well-settled county of the State, and so common is the custom becoming that it is unlikely that it will show any diminution for some time to come.

While it is seldom that a public sale is compulsory in order to pay debts, being rather voluntary owing to some contemplated change of condition or location on the part of the owner, there is something pathetic in every such incident. The hawking before a crowd of the tawdry possessions of the home, the once treasured belongings that seem so cheap and worthless when dragged into the sunlight; the occasional tear that comes when the favorite animal is sold and the heartless dispersion of the household pets, savor of the tragic—but it is a part of the West's development.

### DEARLY LOVE THEIR EASE.

Mexican Peasants Have a Chronic Aversion to Work of Any Sort.

The peon, or peasant, of Mexico is probably the laziest mortal under the sun. He seldom leaves his home and only under the most extraordinary circumstances can he be induced to perform any labor. It is very difficult to induce one to go to a part of the republic where labor is scarce and wages double that of his own district. Large contractors have therefore resorted to an expedient to secure labor. They often go and engage a whole village of peasantry from the interior and move them all, men, women and children, to the scene of their labors. The wealthy ranchman has often to resort to this expedient to secure laborers to work his land or attend to his cattle. For this same reason every ranch of large dimensions in Mexico has several small villages upon it which consist wholly of people and their families employed upon the ranch.

As the Mexican peasant is careless about money matters, so he is careless about everything he does. Very rarely has he any interest in his work, and so it is usually very badly done. He cannot understand why any one should want to hurry or to do more than he actually has to do. If you leave him alone and expect him to work in your absence there are ninety-nine chances out of 100 that you will be mistaken. In all probability he will sit down and patiently wait for your return and smoke the inevitable cigar to pass away the time.

As the peasant is with his work, so he is with his family and his home. In most cases though he loves them in his own way, he takes no thought of them. The wife has therefore to exert herself to make both ends meet and she generally does.

### A Curiosity of the Simplon Tunnel.

The engineers digging the wonderful tunnel that runs through the great Simplon Mountain to connect Switzerland with Italy are experiencing great difficulties because of the presence of boiling water in the mountain. The water comes from the top of the mountain and is heated almost to boiling point by the friction and pressure of its percolation through the limestone beds of the mountain. Before the tunnel had been dug very far on the Italian side the heat became so intense that it was impossible to live in it. The mountain was piped, and soon fifteen thousand gallons of steaming hot water were flowing out of the south end of the tunnel every minute of the day and night. The immense flow was harnessed and made to drive refrigerating plants and cold air blowers. Today the temperature of the tunnel has been reduced from a height that would have roasted a man in a minute or two, and the atmosphere now has the pleasant warmth of a June day. The hot water also drives pneumatic drills and boring machines, so that it helps to dig the tunnel as well. When completed, the Simplon tunnel will be the biggest in the world—fourteen miles long, with a cost of nearly one million dollars a mile.

### Peculiar Verdicts.

In the Kansas District Court, recently, a jury returned a verdict finding a certain accused person guilty of larceny. The verdict had not been prepared in the technical form desired, and the judge sent the jury back to make the necessary corrections. The jury was gone for half an hour, and when it returned it brought in a verdict acquitting the prisoner! But a verdict even more amusing was perpetrated by a jury at Pittsburg the other day. The case was a criminal one, and after a few minutes' consultation, the jury fled into the box from its room.

"Have you agreed upon a verdict?" asked the judge.

"We have," responded the foreman, passing it over.

"The clerk will read," said the judge. And the clerk read:

"We, your jury, agree to disagree!"

### Getting Rid of Him.

"I am fixing up a surprise for John, but I am afraid that if he stays around the house he will discover me."

"That's all right. You just tie a towel around your head and ask him if he can't stay at home to-day and help you take up the carpets."—Baltimore News.

### New Alarm Clock.

Swiss ingenuity has produced at Geneva a phonograph alarm clock. It can be set to "go off" at any desired moment and call out in a loud voice any reminder needed.

Necessity keeps a man from getting rusty.

## MARCUM LONG A MARKED MAN

PLOT TO MURDER HATCHED BY COUNTY OFFICIALS

### PAID TO ASSASSINATE

Let and White Paid By Hargis and Callahan

Jackson Ky., June 13.—An annual number of correspondents arrived here yesterday, including magazine writers and artists of illustrated papers. They will now find a quiet town. Provost Marshal Longmire has made no arrests for two nights and two days. Since he closed the "blind tigers" there has been no shooting during the night. The free use of weapons in the carousals around these places led to reports at times of bands of feudists coming into town to attack the jail. When court had to take the noon recess today earlier than usual because the next witness was unable to get on the witness stand it was evident that liquor is still available from some source.

The feature of the trial today was the drift of evidence toward a conspiracy implicating county officials and tending to show that Jett and White had no such motives as the conspirator, but were simply hired to kill J. B. Marcum, who was the attorney for parties contesting the election of county officials. The defense during the afternoon attempted to have the case continued on account of the illness of one of the attorneys for the defense. In both instances Judge Redwine ordered the trial proceed.

Provost Marshal Longmire reported that no arrests were made during the night. Lieutenant Kinnard, who was sent after the missing witness Henry Eereiman, has returned without his man and Deputy Sheriff Whitaker was sent after him today.

When court opened today Attorney Neill for the defense filed a motion asking that the Marcum case be continued on the ground that the defense needed three absent witnesses to contradict the evidence of Mrs. Mary Johnson, a sister of the dead man. Judge Redwine decided that the trial proceed.

The first witness today was William Hurst. He was on the stand regarding a plot to assassinate Marcum in which two county officials are implicated. William Eversole and other witnesses were also examined as to the alleged conspiracy.

The three absent witnesses, Abner Smith and Feltner, are said to have been in the plot to assassinate Marcum. Abner afterward made affidavit that he kept Marcum informed. He gave Marcum an affidavit which was filed in court, saying that the plots were formed in the office of County Judge Hargis and that the judge and Sheriff Ed. Callahan were furnishing the money. Mrs. Johnson testified also to his information being furnished her brother by Feltner.

Now the defense claims that these men are badly needed. Feltner has forfeited a bond of 3,000 after being granted a new trial for the murder of Jesse Fields in the French-Eversole feud. Marcum was his lawyer and secured a reversal in this case. Because he was a friend of Marcum it is alleged, he has picked out to assassinate him as he would not be suspected, a pardon for the Fields murder being the reward promised.

### Steamer Passenger Robbed.

New York, June 13.—Robert Neill, a wealthy resident of Los Angeles Cal., who was first cabin passenger on the White Star liner Germanic, which arrived from Liverpool yesterday reported to the police on his arrival that he had been robbed on Wednesday last while in mid ocean, of drafts and money to the amount of about \$20,000.

The money stolen was the price of a sale of an estate in Belfast. Mr. Neill landed here penniless and was unable to pay \$126 demanded on some gifts he was bringing in. Detectives are investigating.

At the offices of the White Star line was said no report of the robbery had been made there. All the reports from the officers of the ships had been received, but none referred to any robbery. Purser Brewer of the Germanic was seen later and said the robbery had been reported him and that the steward's quarters had been searched in an effort to recover the money.

### President Palma pardons.

Havana June 13.—President Palma has pardoned Seaman M. Reddick of the United States cruiser San Francisco who recently was confined in jail and fined \$50 by a court at Santiago after being convicted of intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Reddick was unable to pay the fine but was released on its payment by his shipmates just before the ship sailed for Spain. The pardon was granted at Minister Squire's request.

## HOTEL DESTROYED

PROMINENT WITNESS IN JETT AND WHITE TRIAL PENILESS

### TROOPS ARE CALLED UPON

Blaze Believed to be Work of Incendiary—Captain Ewen, the Owner, Saw Shot That Killed Marcum

Louisville, Ky., June 15.—The City Hotel at Jackson Ky., a three story building owned by captain B. J. Ewen the principal witness against Jett and White, now on trial there for the assassination of lawyer J. B. Marcum was burned to the ground early yesterday morning. There were fifteen guests in the hotel, but all escaped without injury. There was no insurance on the structure, and the hotel, together with its furnishings and the effects of the guests, is a total loss. The origin of the fire is unknown, but the belief is general that the fire was of incendiary origin.

Captain Ewen had recently put up an addition to the hotel. This was just completed and was as yet unoccupied. It was in this part of the hotel that the fire was discovered.

The town of Jackson has had no fire department, and as its citizens were awakened by the firing of pistols and guns much excitement prevailed.

Ewen's hotel and furniture had been insured, but only a week ago Captain Ewen was notified that on account of the threatening conditions the company had decided to cancel his policy. The house and all fixtures which were valued at about \$10,000 represented the savings of a lifetime. Tonight Ewen, his wife and children, are penniless and dependent on the hospitality of the troops in camp.

Gray and Jim Haddicks and Jerry Lantz, workmen at the Swann and Day lumber yard reported having seen Joe Crawford and Ed Tuap, wagoners for the Hargis brothers, come across the bridge and return just before the blaze was discovered, and Major Allen ordered these men arrested.

Gray Haddick was detained by the provost guard as a witness. Soon the Hargis people were very active. They sent for Attorneys John D. O'Neil of Covington and B. B. Golden of Birberville, defending Jewett and White, and swore out writs of habeas corpus before Judge Redwine, making them returnable at once. The writs were served on Major Allen, and he sent the prisoners to the courthouse under a strong guard commanded by captain Maddox.

Commonwealth's Attorney, Byrd, asked Judge Redwine for time for Major Allen to file a response. He asked that he be given until tomorrow morning but Judge Redwine demanded that it be filed at once.

### Makes Successful Trip

New York, June 15.—Safe and sound after a rough passage from Gourock, Scotland, of sixteen days and twenty-two hours, Sir Thomas Lipton's last challenger for the Americas cup Shamrock III, is now lying at anchor off Tompkinsville, Stanton Island, where she arrived at 10:20 this morning in company with the steam yacht Erin, that had towed her most of the way across the Atlantic, and by Shamrock I, towed by the British tug Cruiser. The one hundred and fifty-six men which manned the yacht and their convoys are all well and there were no accidents to mar the passage.

Between Gourock and Fayal, Azores, where the steamers stopped for coal, calms and squally weather was encountered. The Erin and her tow became separated from the Cruiser and the Shamrock I, before reaching Fayal, but they never lost sight of each other after leaving there. On June 12 the yachts were caught in a gale from the southeast, and while it blew very hard and at heavy seas was running, very little water was shipped and no damage done.

The tug Charles E. Mathews in charge of H. H. Davies met the yachts at daylight twenty miles east of Sandy Hook lightship. Pilots were put on board the Erin at sea, and the Mathews towed the Shamrock III, to quarantine the Shamrock I, being towed by the Cruiser.

The yachts passed Sandy Hook lightship soon after 6 o'clock this morning. They were saluted by every vessel that passed them, all the way to quarantine.

### Claim Against Minnesota

St. Paul, Minn., June 15.—After many failures in the courts and through the legislature to collect \$20,000 earned under the beet sugar bounty law the supreme court today granted the petition of the Minnesota Sugar Company Co. for a writ of certiorari, directing State Auditor Iverson to show cause why he should not certify to the court records in the beet sugar bounty controversy.

## WATSON PERCULATES

WASHINGTON CLERK ROBS GOV. EMBROIDERY HEAVILY.

### SEVENTY THOUSAND

Under No Bond and Loss May Fall Entirely on His Chief. Auditor Petty of District of Columbia

Washington, June 10.—James M. Watson Jr. a clerk in the office of the auditor of the district of Columbia and the son-in-law of a wealthy retired railroad contractor was arrested yesterday on a charge of embezzlement of government funds. The amount is estimated from sixty-five thousand to seventy-five thousand dollars. The warrant makes the specific charge of embezzlement of \$8,000, which represents only a portion of the alleged pecuniations. Watson was not bonded and in case he or his relatives, several of whom are said to be wealthy, fail to make good the alleged losses, Auditor J. T. Petty will be held responsible for the amount. The auditor's bond is for \$20,000.

The money alleged to have been embezzled was part of the funds deposited in the office of the auditor by property owners who are willing to pay half or all costs of improvements abutting on their property, such as paving, sidewalks, alleys and streets. This embraces deposits by railway companies, electric light companies telephone companies, for crossing side walks, for sewers and water mains and is entirely separate from the other accounts. This account is not subject to review by the treasury department, but it is checked by the clerk in charge of the corresponding account in the district department, and he reported it correct as late as February 1902.

The depositors, it is said, have the right to recover from the district through suit. The auditor's office is under the supervision of the board of commissioners of the District of Columbia.

### Flocking to St. Francis

Topeka, Kansas, June 10.—As far as known the Osborne militia company on the way to St. Francis with the men accused of the killing of Daniel Berry and his sons, have not been molested by the parties of armed settlers. The company is expected to reach St. Francis late tonight.

Armed men have been flocking into St. Francis all day, according to a dispatch received from Atwood this afternoon. The situation is critical. The settlers are greatly angered against Dewey and his son and claim to have indisputable evidence of their guilt. Even should evidence be introduced exonerating their crime whether guilty or not, the settlers in their present inflamed state of mind are seemingly determined to wreak vengeance on them anyway as the majority of the settlers recognize in the present case an opportunity to even up old scores with the cattle men.

### Berlin's Plague Precautions

Berlin, June 10.—The name of the plague stricken attendant of Dr. Milan Sachs, who died from the plague Friday at the Berlin hospital, is Otto Margraf. The isolation hospital in which Margraf has been placed has been fenced in and is guarded by the police. Margraf's attending physician, Dr. Pliffigmacher is only permitted to hold telephonic communication with the outside world.

### Mississippi Nearly Made New Record

St. Louis, June 10.—At the rate of from eight to ten miles an hour the Mississippi river, over half a mile wide and ninety feet deep in the channel, is pouring past St. Louis toward the gulf.

For a week the river, slowly at first, and then gaining in speed, crept out of its ordinary confines until on June 8 1903, it had established a high water mark of 37.5 feet, the highest flood tide since the same mark was officially established in 1853. The river is now receding. Thirty feet above low water mark is the danger line for St. Louis and the river rose seven and one-half feet above the danger line.

### Butte Gets County Seat

Butte Neb. June 10.—Butte was the scene of rejoicing last night over the result of the election held yesterday for the purpose of relocating the county seat of Boyd county. Five towns contested for the honor and 2,069 votes were cast, of which number Butte received 1,078, more than twice the vote of any other place and a majority of eighty-seven over all. The result of the election was: Butte 1,078; Spencer 490; Bristow 330; Lynch 124 and Anoka, 74.

## Nebraska Notes

Eight students were graduated from the Dunbar High School last evening.

Louisa Markel Diefenderfer of Wood River died yesterday of heart trouble.

William East, one of the oldest German settlers of Beatrice, is dead of stomach trouble.

The annual institute of the Johnson county school teachers will be held in Tecumseh next week.

A severe hail storm visited a point about five miles east of Lyons and destroyed several large fields of growing corn.

Thomas Smith, the 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Smith, of Beatrice died last night of spinal meningitis.

About \$175 was realized for the Beatrice flood sufferers at the benefit entertainment given in that city last night.

J. H. Dundas, of Tecumseh, is endeavoring to organize a stock company for conducting annual chataquas at that place.

Several hundred dollars worth of damage was done to the Catholic church at Fairmont, which was struck by lightning yesterday.

The citizens of Sterling declined at a mass meeting not to celebrate the Fourth of July this year. They will attend the unveiling of the soldiers' monument at Tecumseh.

W. L. Seymour, of Albion an eye specialist, was arrested under a complaint of Game Warden McConnell and fined fifteen dollars for shooting meadow larks.

By mutual agreement, the Knights of St. Eeb-Ragnos and the Collins Carnival company have cancelled their contracts for a carnival at Fremont on June 29.

Twelve applicants for admission to the bar were examined by the supreme court commission at Lincoln yesterday. The examinations will probably be concluded today.

A vote on the relocation of the county seat resulted in Butte, Neb., being permitted to retain the county capital. A jubilation was held last night.

About 9 o'clock this morning, while sitting in his brother's implement office, Alfred J. Mead of Western, fell from his chair and expired before medical aid could be summoned. Indications are that the cause of the death was apoplexy.

Mr. and Mrs. James Carmady, living near Arborville, are the proud parents of two girls and one boy, born to them Saturday, June 6. All three are getting along nicely and are perfectly healthy, a fact sufficiently important to make President Roosevelt happy.

Only one graduate received a diploma from the Institute for the blind at Nebraska City yesterday. The successful student was Miss Bella Long.

Governor Mickey has solved the problem of matronship at the industrial school for girls at Geneva by promoting the sewing teacher, Miss Lydia McWahon of Columbus to the position. The two positions have been combined.

Postmaster Gus Hyers, of Havenlock has received some handsome pictures of Brazil scenery with a request from D. E. Thompson, minister to Brazil that they be placed in a conspicuous position so that they can be seen by the people. Mr. Hyers has placed them on the walls of the postoffice. The scenes shown include a picture of the residence occupied by Mr. Thompson.

J. W. Sage a local liveryman of Plattsmouth, had a close call from being killed recently as a result of being kicked by a horse. He was harnessing the animal when the accident occurred. He remained in a semi-conscious condition for twelve hours and it was feared he had suffered severe internal injuries, but this did not prove to be the case.

Edward S. Glascock, of Harrisburg, Ill., may ride free for ninety-nine years on the entire Big Four Railroad system, and also all the members of his family. The pass was given to him as a reward for preventing a railroad wreck near his home. The first record of shaving is in the Bible, Genesis xii., 14 Joseph is described as shaving himself, and going to see Pharaoh.