

ORDER WILL HELP

SETTLERS BENEFITED BY LAND OFFICE MOVEMENT.

DOCKETS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Senator Millard and Representative Kinkaid of Nebraska Induce Commission to Reverse Ruling that Would Exclude the People.

WASHINGTON—Senator Millard and Representative Kinkaid have secured an order from the commissioner of the general land office whereby hereafter local land offices shall permit the public to gain information regarding cancellations of public lands. Hereafter the cancellation docket in every land office in Nebraska and elsewhere will be open to public inspection, and may be given to the press for publication if the newspapers so desire.

The commissioner a month ago issued an order to land office officials not to permit public inspection of cancellation dockets. Reference is made, of course, to the cancellation of land entries, or homestead entries, in cases where the settler or entryman fails to comply with the law and is forced to relinquish any claim to the land. Upon representations made by Senator Millard and Representative Kinkaid, to the commissioner of general land office, remonstrating against his action, he today wrote a letter to Senator Millard, as follows: "After careful consideration it was decided that the interest of good administration, as well as that of the general public, would be subserved by making the cancellation docket a public record, open to inspection at all times, and permitting the publication of cancellations in the press if desired. The enclosed circular of instructions to that effect has been sent to all registers and receivers."

The circular directs that cancellation record be kept on the counter of local land offices at all points, open to the inspection of the public, and all cancellations ordered made by relinquishment, or by order of the general land office, must be immediately entered on the cancellation record and also upon tract books and plats. This order will be of an immense advantage to homesteaders, enabling them to re-locate upon homestead claims, which in many instances are composed of excellent land and in some cases well improved.

The joint resolution extending the time for the opening of the Shoshone Indian reservation to settlement from June 15 to August 15 passed the senate and has gone to the president for approval.

THANKS FROM PRESIDENT FOR AIDING JAPAN

WASHINGTON—The president sent the following telegram to Dr. Louis Klopsch, editor of the Christian Herald, New York:

"Let me heartily thank you, and through the Christian Herald for the admirable work done in connection with the famine sufferers in Japan. You have now raised \$100,000 and you have rendered a very real service to humanity and to the cause of international good will."

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

MILLION PERSONS STARVING.

Red Cross Officials Say Terrible State of Affairs Exists.

NEW YORK—The New York state branch of the American National Red Cross issued a statement as to famine conditions in Japan which says: "The famine in Japan, which has been considered for some time moderately serious, is now known through the source of reliable private sources of the New York Red Cross, to be one of the most terrible of modern times. The failure of the rice crop, which at one time was believed to be limited to certain classes only in the northern provinces, has been found to be general in these parts of Japan. Conservative estimates place the number of starving Japanese at from 800,000 to 1,000,000 persons. For these there is absolutely no relief in sight until next October, when a new harvest will be available.

The sum of \$16,000,000 will be required to save the Japanese country people.

Regard Sentence as Legal.

WASHINGTON—The state department has reported to the friends of Finest and Coughener, the Americans just sentenced at Chihuahua, Mex., to twelve years' imprisonment for the killing of Americans Rutherford and McMurray at Diaz, that it has found nothing so far in the proceedings before the Mexican courts to indicate that there has been any denial of justice, and on no other ground could the department undertake to interfere with the execution of the sen-

Treasury Balances.

WASHINGTON—Today's statement of the treasury balance in the general fund, exclusive of the \$150,000,000 gold reserve, shows: Available cash balance, \$154,938,657; gold coin and bullion, \$89,073,750; gold certificates, \$43,775,240; total, \$278,787,647.

WASHINGTON—The secretary of the navy has received the resignation of Midshipman Minor Meriwether, jr. This is the second time he has offered his resignation.

GENERAL THAYER IS DEAD.

Distinguished Nebraskan Had Been Unconscious Several Hours. LINCOLN—General John M. Thayer is dead. The distinguished soldier and statesman answered the last roll call at 7:30 Monday night after a most gallant fight to survive until the arrival of his two sons, who were wired of their father's condition Sunday morning. They failed to reach Lincoln in time, but numerous comrades and friends looked after the last wants of the patient. Those who were in the death chamber when the general breathed his last were: Mart Howe, H. V. Hoagland, Dr. Houtz and Mr. and Mrs. T. H. McCauley. For several hours General Thayer had been unconscious.

In contrast to his strenuous life, the end of General Thayer was peaceful and calm, and at no time during his sickness did he suffer the least pain. His passing was due to a general breaking down of the system and not to any particular ailment.

Messages were sent Sunday to his two sons, George Dana Thayer of Meeker, Colo., and John M. Thayer, jr., of Alton, Ill., neither was able to reach Lincoln before death came. Funeral arrangements will not be completed until their arrival.

General Thayer had long planned arrangements for his funeral. These plans will be followed as nearly as possible.

General Thayer formerly planned to have his remains sent to his old home in Massachusetts, but later he decided that he preferred the state of his adoption. Two weeks ago he visited Wyuka cemetery in company with James Heaton with whom he had left written instructions for his interment. He selected a spot for a burial place and revised his written instructions entrusted to Mr. Heaton.

HIS HEALTH FAILING AND WILL RESIGN

ST. PETERSBURG—In high circles late tonight the rumor was current that Count Witte had definitely decided to retire from the premiership. The Associated Press is unable to confirm the rumor as Count Witte had retired and the chancellery was closed when the correspondent called shortly after midnight. From an absolutely authoritative source, however, it can be stated that Count Witte at a session of the council of the empire this afternoon made an enigmatical statement which is interpreted by many members of the council as a virtual declaration that his career as premier is ended and that he will be succeeded by Privy Councillor Kobokoff, former minister of finance.

CASPER LOOKS FOR NEW ROAD.

Makes Favorable Showing to Colorado & Southern.

CASPER, Wyo.—The committee appointed by the Casper Commercial club, composed of Hon. Patrick Sullivan and George F. Stipphen, to confer with the Denver Chamber of Commerce and the officials of the Colorado & Southern railroad, concerning the building of that company's line from Orin Junction to Casper, reported most favorably at the last meeting of the local organization. This committee visited the Chamber of Commerce in Denver and also Vice President Parker of the above mentioned road last week, and were listened to with much interest. The railroad officials expressed surprise when shown the figures of the volume of business done in Casper, as did also the members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Indiana Officials are Short.

INDIANAPOLIS—A special investigating committee appointed several months ago to examine the books of the state auditor's office, reported to the governor today that J. O. Henderson, democrat, who was auditor from 1891 to 1895, owes the state \$91,962.85, and A. C. Daly, republican, who was auditor from 1895 to 1899, owes the state \$23,667.74.

\$140,000,000 FOR PENSION PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON—In less than twenty minutes time the senate Tuesday voted away \$140,000,000 of the public funds. The sum is carried by the pension appropriation bill, which brief document was made the subject of very little discussion.

Horrible Execution.

MINSK, Russia—The execution of Ivan Koukloff, who attempted to assassinate General Koukloff, was a horrible affair. He was hanged at the gate of the prison in the presence of a gaping crowd, but the noise was so badly adjusted that Koukloff suffered agonies for ten minutes.

Comanches Apply for Divorce.

LAWTON, O. T.—For the first time in the history of this country, divorces were applied for in the district court by two Comanche policemen.

Mining Plant Destroyed.

OURAY, Colo.—Fire broke out in the ruins of the Camp Bird mill, which was wrecked on Sunday by a snowslide, completing the destruction of the plant. The mill was erected in 1898 at a cost of \$500,000.

Tariff War Settled.

BELGRADE, Serbia—The Austro-Serbian tariff dispute has collapsed. Orders have been issued to admit all Austrian merchandise into Serbia on the same conditions which prevailed before the tariff war.

PACKERS WIN OUT

INDICTMENTS QUASHED SO FAR AS TO INDIVIDUALS.

CORPORATION TO STAND TRIAL

Court Finds That Individuals Were Compelled to Furnish Evidence—Great Rejoicing Among Those Who Are Relieved by the Decision.

CHICAGO—All of the packers who were indicted by the federal grand jury last summer upon charges of being in conspiracy in restraint of trade and commerce were on Wednesday granted immunity from criminal prosecution under the indictment. While the individuals are to go free the indictments found against the corporations of which some of the indicted individuals are members and others are employees, are to stand.

A decision to the above effect was handed down by Judge J. Otis Humphrey in the district court. The arguments in the case were concluded shortly after 3 o'clock. Judge Humphrey soon commenced the delivery of his opinion. It was oral and the judge spoke for nearly an hour before giving the slightest indication of what the ultimate decision would be. He reviewed the case at length in all its bearings, cited all the essential facts which had been brought out and concluded as follows:

Under the law in this case the immunity pleas filed by the defendants will be sustained as to the individuals, and denied as to the corporations, the artificial persons, and the jury will find in favor of the government as far as the corporations are concerned, and against the government, as far as the individuals are concerned."

During the rendition of the decision the court was crowded by the defendants and numerous spectators. Edward Morris and Edward Swift were in court and both smiled happily when the decision was announced.

J. Ogden Armour was not present, but some of the men prominent in the employ of Armour & Co., who were named in the indictment, were there and their joy was great. When the judge announced that the indictments would not be against them they crowded together and commenced to shake hands in mutual congratulations. The attorneys for the defense were also highly pleased, and when the decision had been announced they shook hands all around, and hastened to the jury box to shake hands with the jurors, who had been excluded from the court room during all of the arguments made in the case, and had rendered a verdict in accordance with the directions of the court.

District Attorney Morrison, who has handled the case alone with the exception of the arguments by Attorney General Moody, sat with bowed head for a short time after Judge Humphrey had concluded, and then walked over to the jury box and shook hands with the jurors.

THE EARTHQUAKE LEFT A TRAIL OF DEATH

LONDON—The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent telegraphing concerning the earthquake Saturday morning in the vicinity of Kagi, island of Formosa, says that the railway lines were twisted, telegraph poles thrown down and houses destroyed. The correspondent says that the Nichi Shim Buletin states that the casualties exceed 100 and that the Jiji Shimpo places them as high as 800. An official dispatch, he adds, reports sixty deaths and many more persons injured and two hundred houses destroyed.

DEATH FOR O'HEARN.

Jury Finds Him Guilty and Assesses Extreme Penalty.

OMAHA—After deliberating less than three hours, the jury in the O'Hearn murder case brought in a verdict at 7 o'clock Saturday night finding him guilty of murder of Nels Lausten on the night of January 20 and fixing the penalty at death. Every precaution was taken by the authorities to prevent a demonstration and when the verdict was read only O'Hearn, his guards and the court officials were present. The outer doors of the courthouse were locked, and no one was admitted until after O'Hearn had been escorted to a cab, which was in waiting on the west side of the courthouse. He was taken to the penitentiary for safe keeping.

Eighty-Two Tons of Mail.

OMAHA—The largest quantity of mail ever transported out of Omaha on a single train was sent out Sunday afternoon on train No. 9 of the Union Pacific. It weighed eighty-two tons, or 164,000 pounds. The mail was of the current miscellaneous character and it required a solid train of nine mail cars to carry it. The average mail sent out on this train is fifty or fifty-five tons. It is almost exclusively Pacific coast and Rocky mountain mail.

Cleveland Reaches 69 Years.

PRINCETON, N. J.—Former President Grover Cleveland, spent his birthday away from home Sunday for the first time since he moved to Princeton. This is his 69th birthday. Mr. Cleveland is now in Florida with Prof. Howard McClellan, where the two have been for ten days. He will likely remain south a month longer on account of poor health. Mrs. Cleveland on Sunday night said that his outing in Florida was improving him and that she expected him to return much better.

BUFFALO BILL IS ALL RIGHT.

Never in Better Health and Now in Italy With His Show.

NEW YORK—Colonel W. F. Cody, (Buffalo Bill) has cabled from Genoa, Italy, emphatically denying the reports widely disseminated throughout the United States that owing to family troubles, business perplexities and failing health he is threatened with complete collapse and would shortly retire from the head of his famous Wild West show, which is now on tour in Europe. Colonel Cody's cablegram was addressed to J. A. Bailey, general director of the Barnum & Bailey's circus, who is Colonel Cody's business partner in the Wild West show. It is as follows:

GENOA, Italy, March 12.—Barnum & Bailey, 25 West Thirty-fourth street, New York: Strongly deny reports of falling health, bad business and retirement. Never in life felt better and business immense.

CODY.

TOM LAWSON EXPOSES ALLEGED INSURANCE PLOT

BOSTON—Thomas W. Lawson, forwarded a telegram to Chairman Armstrong of the insurance investigating committee of the New York legislature. In it allegations are made to the effect that interested parties have received assurances that the proposed insurance legislation can be killed. The telegram concludes:

"I assure your committee its work was never in greater danger than at present. I have in my custody insurance policies issued within a few days signed by new reform officers and affidavits from the insured that they received them for nothing by proxy and in some cases with large rebates."

FEAR EFFECT OF BOYCOTT.

Missionaries Confer With President on Chinese Affairs.

WASHINGTON—A delegation from the Methodist Episcopal church, south discussed with the president the situation in the Chinese empire. In the delegation were Dr. Young J. Allen, fort forty-six years a missionary in China; Bishop Galloway of Mississippi, Dr. Walter R. Lamouth, missionary secretary and Dr. James Atkins.

The visitors expressed a fear that if the boycott continued injury might be done to the work of the American churches among the Chinese.

LYMAN J. GAGE TO RETIRE.

Health of Former Secretary of Treasury Is Failing.

NEW YORK—It became known in Wall street that Lyman J. Gage, former secretary of the treasury, has decided to resign as president of the United States Trust Company, to which position he was elected after his resignation from President McKinley's cabinet a few years ago. The cause of his resignation is failing health. Mr. Gage was president of the First National Bank of Chicago prior to entering President McKinley's cabinet as secretary of the treasury.

N. Y. LIFE TRUSTEES TO PAY.

Will Make Good the \$148,000 Contributed to Campaign Funds.

NEW YORK—At a conference in the office of a downtown lawyer it was agreed that the trustees of the New York Life Insurance Company, who were members of the finance committee during the presidential campaigns of 1896, 1900 and 1904, and were cognizant of the political contributions made by the New York Life should reimburse the company to the extent of \$148,000. This is the total of the political contributions made by the company.

MR. BABCOCK SAYS HE CANNOT SERVE AGAIN

WASHINGTON—Representative Babcock of Wisconsin, has again made it clear to republican leaders that he will not serve in another campaign as chairman of the republican congressional committee. He has urged Senator Allison and Representative Hepburn to agree upon a date and call a joint caucus to select a chairman. Mr. Babcock said:

"My health will not permit me to undertake the committee work in another campaign. I have made up my mind finally."

Americans Sentenced in Mexico.

EL PASO, Tex.—Ole E. Finstad and L. G. Coughener, of Los Angeles, were sentenced at Santa Rosalia, Mexico, to twelve years and six months each in the penitentiary for murder.

Still Cutting Passenger Rates.

BOSTON—President Mellin, of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad company, authorized the statement that reductions in passenger rates would be put into effect on all lines during the spring and summer.

Anti-Hazing Bill Reported.

WASHINGTON—The house committee on naval affairs decided to make a favorable report on an anti-hazing bill drawn by the sub-committee, headed by Representative Vreeland of New York, and embodying many of the ideas of Secretary Bonaparte.

Henderson Succeeds Schofield.

WASHINGTON—General Thomas Henderson of Illinois was elected president of the Society of the Army of the Ohio, to succeed the late General Schofield.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

STATE ASSESSMENT BOARD GIVES ASSESSORS DIRECTION

The State Board of Assessment adopted rules for the guidance of county assessors and incidentally instructed them to assess the reserve funds of fraternal companies. The rules adopted by the board answer the questions raised by the county assessors at their recent meeting held in Lincoln. Secretary Bennett was instructed to send out to the county assessors the following letter:

It has been taken for granted by some assessors that insurance companies are to be assessed only upon their gross premiums for Nebraska business during the preceding year. This is erroneous. The assessment of the gross premiums, is an assessment, not upon the valuation of the property of the insurance companies, but upon their business. It is not in lieu of the assessment of the property which they own in the state and county, but in addition thereto—State against Fleming, 97 N. W. Neb., 1,063; Achen and Munich Fire Ins. Co., against the City of Omaha, 101 N. W. Neb., 3. The assessment on the business or gross premiums shall not be made, however, against fraternal beneficiary associations and mutual insurance companies that operate on the assessment plan, have no capital stock and make no dividends, and whose scheme of insurance does not contemplate the return of any earnings or profits to the policy holders. The last named class of companies and associations shall be assessed only upon the value of all their property. Their property may consist of office furniture and fixtures or any other personal property, such as credits due or to become due, notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys, deposited in banks or elsewhere, whether held by such associations and companies as reserve funds, contingent funds, emergency funds or in any other manner. Such property is subject to assessment and taxation against them and shall be listed and assessed by the assessors.

1. Taxation being the general rule, exemption the exception, where there is any doubt in the mind of the assessor as to certain classes of property being exempt from taxation under section 13 of the revenue act, he shall assess the same.

Saloon licenses should be listed as a franchise or privilege. The valuation placed thereon is purely a matter for the sound judgment and discretion of the assessor, the same as that exercised in fixing the value of other property. Opinion by attorney general, June 10, 1905.

The actual value of notes, bonds or mortgages representing moneys loaned or invested shall not be reduced or diminished by subtracting therefrom the debts owing by the person assessed who owns such notes, bonds or mortgages. Credits evidenced by book accounts and the like may be offset by debts of like character only. Lancaster county against McDonald, 103 N. W. 87.

Each deputy assessor shall upon actual view, list, value, assess and return all property subject to taxation in the townships, precincts, districts, cities or wards and villages assigned to him in the manner provided in this act. Section 24, revenue law, 1903.

In listing live stock and other classes of property covered by items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 34, 35, 36, 37, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54 of the personal schedule correct numbers must be given.

Under item No. 49 please list automobiles separately, giving numbers and value.

THERE ARE FEW GRAY WOLVES.

State Auditor Says Majority of Wolf Scalps Are From Dogs.

LINCOLN—"Knowing the habits of gray wolf as I do, I am sure that there are no gray wolves in Eastern Nebraska and very few in the west. Bounty claims for such animals alleged to have been killed in Eastern Nebraska will not be honored by this department, unless the entire carcass is brought in that it may be examined."

The speaker was State Auditor Searle, who this morning refused bounty on two scalps brought in from Nebraska county, informing them, as he recently did some citizens of Omaha, that the animals they supposed to be gray wolves were really coyotes or shepherd dogs. The state pays a bounty of \$5 per head on real gray wolf scalps.

Highlanders Held for the Tax.

AURORA—Judge Evans held a short session of court and decided the case of the Royal Highlanders against Hamilton county. The opinion sustained the contention of the county commissioners in the right to tax fraternal societies.

Bounty on Gray Wolves Claimed.

LINCOLN.—Notwithstanding the statement by Auditor Searle that he would require the hide of a gray wolf when a person filed a voucher for bounty, claiming he had killed such an animal in Nebraska, three vouchers were filed here by a party from Nemaha county and no pet accompanied the claim. The claims filed at this time will be held for further consideration. The strange thing about these claims for gray wolf bounties is that every one has come from a thickly settled portion of the country.

NEBRASKA BRIEFS

The Young Men's Christian association building at Beatrice, is nearly completed.

Young women of Omaha are about to enter upon a money-getting campaign to build a home for the Y. W. C. A. They want \$125,000.

Henry Guenwaldt, a resident of West Beatrice, lost the sight of his left eye by being struck in the face by a piece of iron while at work.

At Tecumseh, County Judge Livingston fined George Howell \$25 and costs for stealing a pair of horse blankets. He could not pay and went to jail.

Rev. G. C. Porter, pastor of the First Presbyterian church at Laurel, has tendered his resignation to the church in order to be free to become a full-fledged socialist.

Robert Samuel Briggs, for many years a resident of Omaha, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. His wife found the body lying on a bed in a big pool of blood.

In a fire originating from gasoline, Mrs. Annie E. Hambricht, aged sixty-eight, and her son Dell, aged thirty, of Omaha, received burns which resulted fatally for the aged mother.

The new town of Uehling on the Great Northern has thirteen business houses and two residences completed and seven business houses and one residence in course of construction.

At Ainsworth when H. W. Farrier went out to his stable to look after his fine thoroughbred stallions, and jacks, he found one of the latter, valued at \$1,000, dead, the cause being unknown.

At Plattsmouth, Mrs. Mary Leiner has brought suit before County Judge Travis against J. W. and W. E. Tulene, asking for damages in the sum of \$1,000 for personal injuries alleged to have been committed March 9.

Schnyder attorneys interested in the Platte river bridge case were in Lincoln recently. The supreme court appointed Judge Sullivan of Columbus, as referee. He will take evidence and decide the case not later than April 17.

P. Donahue, an employe of Frankman Bros. & Mordis, fell over backward from the Great Northern bridge across the Platte to the ice, a distance of thirty feet, striking on his back. Strange as it may appear he was not seriously injured.

Former School Superintendent William Collins of Cuming county, having sold his farm, has left with his family for Gridley, Cal., where he will engage in fruit raising. Mr. Collins has been a resident of Cuming county for twenty-five years.

The latest enterprise at Cambridge is the organizing of a building and loan association, which has just been perfected by the business men. The certificate of approval of the articles of incorporation has just been received from the secretary of the state banking board.

Judge E. K. Valentine has packed his household goods and leaves West Point. The Judge and Mrs. Valentine have been identified with the best interests of West Point and Cuming county for nearly forty years, and enjoy the friendship of hundreds of citizens, whose best wishes follow them to their new home.

Company D, N. N. G., in connection with other citizens at Weeping Water, are considering the plan of putting up a building to be used as an armory, auditorium and opera house. This is something that is badly needed, as Weeping Water has no building (except the churches) suitable for holding a public meeting of any kind.

Fire destroyed a large part of the business section of Liberty, causing a loss of \$35,000, partly covered by insurance. The fire was discovered by the engineers on a passing train who blew the whistle for ten minutes, thereby awakening the inhabitants, but was of no avail as the fire had gained so much headway.

Secretary Mellor of the State Board of Agriculture has issued his advance announcement of the state fair, to be held in Lincoln September 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7. August 31 and September 1 and 2 are set apart for preparation days. In the announcement it is stated that the increase in premiums over last year is \$1,000. During the last year \$25,000 was spent in permanent improvements. The indications are the fair this year will be better than ever.

Attorneys for W. L. Newby, whom the district court of Saline county disbarred from practicing because it was alleged Newby had forged a deed in a legal controversy, are in the supreme court to have the matter reversed and the charges quashed. Attorneys for Newby assert the district court had no right to disbar Newby from practicing in all the courts of the state, but that they have a remedy in criminal proceeding if they desire to prosecute the attorney.

The citizens of Pierce are feeling pretty good over the fact that they no longer live in a village, but a city of the second class. The village board met and A. L. Brande presented an affidavit showing that there was 1,000 inhabitants, which made the village a city.

G. H. Johnson, president of the Commercial club of Beatrice, gives out the information that he has had an expert from the Kansas oil fields make a thorough investigation in that neighborhood, and that the latter is satisfied that oil and gases can be found there.