

NEBRASKA

The Burlington depot of Indianola was destroyed by fire.

Arbor Day was quite generally observed throughout the state.

The Kingman Implement company's warehouse at Omaha burned, entailing a loss of \$400,000.

Sarpy county fruit growers report a fine prospect for apples. Peaches are all killed, however.

The fine high school building at Alliance is deemed unsafe by reason of prevailing winds and it is generally believed that it will have to be condemned.

At a meeting held by the reorganization committee of company E at North Platte fifteen persons were enrolled as members of the local company, which will be mustered into the national guard.

A plan to establish telephone connections with the outside world is meeting with success in Osceola. Twenty-seven subscribers have been secured and only ten more are required.

Lyons is to have another school building. It was so decided after several meetings had been called at the high school. This building is to be of frame, and built for the lowest contract price, and to be located down town, near the Catholic church.

The postoffice at Yeager, eight miles south of Beaver City, was burned, with its entire contents. The loss was \$1,800, insured in the Central Mutual of Hastings for \$1,100. The postoffice was located in the store of Postmaster Yeager, the family living in the second story, and they all had a narrow escape from death.

The westbound freight on the Union Pacific picked up a man three miles from Gibbon, lying near the track in an unconscious condition. He was taken to the Kearney city hospital and an examination showed he was injured on the head, temple, on the knees, right hand and spine. He had fallen from the train.

The Standard Beet Sugar company at Ames made a lucky strike at the factory site in sinking an artesian well. They are down to a depth of 235 feet, and have secured a fine flow of pure water that is entirely free from alkali. It flows a stream sixteen feet above the surface of the ground that is large enough for irrigation purposes.

W. J. Scott, a stockman from Mexico, is looking over the grazing land near Wallace and has concluded to bring up about 10,000 head of cattle to be herded in the sand hills north of Wallace. Mr. Scott is the representative of large cattle interests in Mexico and means to utilize some of the many thousand acres of land in Lincoln county.

The Grand Army of the Republic post of McCook has contracted for a large twelve-foot monument in memory of our dead heroes. Standing on the base will be a soldier, six feet high, in the position of "attention." The unveiling occurs May 31, and upwards of 5,000 witnesses are expected to be on the ground, including the Third Nebraska regiment.

April 25 was a red letter day in the history of Curtis, the event being the opening up for business of the new creamery. The ladies of the town served lunch with creamery butter, the first output. The officers and chief dignitaries were present, with several distinguished speakers from abroad, and the affair was pronounced a success and highly enjoyed by all.

Arbor Day in Nebraska City, the home of its founder, J. Sterling Morton, was given general observance. The banks and offices were closed. Many citizens spent the entire day in planting shrubs and trees and otherwise beautifying their grounds. The usual Arbor Day exercises, attended by a large amount of tree planting, were held at the schools throughout the city.

House movers are reaping a harvest now moving buildings from Spencer and Butte to Perry, the new town at the end of the new railroad running from Atkinson north. Andy Krickas of Butte met twenty-five excursionists that came to Atkinson over the Elk horn on April 18. They left for Boyd county the next morning to look over the prospects of the new town of Perry with a view to locating there.

This section, says a Callaway dispatch, has witnessed one of the most destructive prairie fires that ever passed through Custer county. Several persons lost their lives and great damage was done to buildings, grain and other property. Seybold and Alexander McDonald lost a quantity of corn; John Kennedy, a stable and other property; O. P. Olson several head of hogs. The latter was severely burned. Two farmers named Coe and Morrisey were burned to death.

Last week a special train containing 500 or 600 head of young cattle was shipped into Imperial to be ranged during the summer. They are owned by Hon. A. C. Shallenberger of Alma, Neb. Milton Eearl has also received several carloads, and County Clerk McClelland leaves for Arizona to purchase several thousand head more. The ranges of Chase county are the finest in the state and are ample for thousands of head more. The new grass is already furnishing good feed.

Quite a building boom is on at Cresco.

Cattle in this section of the country, says a North Platte dispatch, have come through the winter in splendid condition, notwithstanding the unusually cold weather experienced, and there are at least five times as many cattle in this locality now as there were two years ago. All of the stockmen are prosperous and it is no unusual thing now for a farmer, who a few years ago, was groaning under a mortgage of \$500 on his homestead, to give check for two or three thousand dollars for a herd of cattle.

DEATH OF STOTSENBERG

Letter of Condolence From Secretary Meiklejohn.

FATHER OF DECEASED NOTIFIED.

Gallant Officer Lost His Life While Leading a Charge Upon the Enemy's Works—Likelihood that the First Nebraska Will Soon Sail for Home.

The Late Col. Stotsenberg.

Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn sent letters of condolence to the father and wife of the late colonel of the First Nebraska volunteers, J. M. Stotsenberg, who died leading his troops in the Philippines on April 23. Following is the secretary's letter to Hon. John H. Stotsenberg of New Albany, Ind.:

"Information that your son, Colonel John M. Stotsenberg, First Nebraska, U. S. V., has been killed in battle has been received. That he has met the common doom of mankind in the noon-time of life and at the entrance of a notable career is cause for deep sorrow and regret. But that he was killed in battle, leading his command in a successful charge upon the intrenchments of the enemy and met death in the way a soldier would choose to die is some comfort, though inadequate to solace the sense of personal bereavement you now feel.

"It may be a comfort to you to know that this department did not wait until his death to do him honor. When the legislature of Nebraska, the governor of that state and other prominent citizens, laboring under a misunderstanding of the great work your son was accomplishing with his regiment, asked to have him relieved of his command, the response of this department was:

"It would be destructive to discipline and would imperil the interests of the service to dismiss from the volunteer army on an exparte statement an officer with an unblemished record, against whom no complaint has been lodged by or through any military authority."

"I have this day closed the incident of said complaint by endorsing across the face thereof, these words: 'This officer and soldier was killed in battle at the head of his command while leading a successful charge on the intrenchments of the enemy on April 23, 1899.' I wish it were within my power to render him and you a greater service."

The Crop Conditions.

The last Nebraska crop bulletin presents this summary:

The last week has been dry and windy, with an excess of sunshine. The average daily temperature deficiency has varied from about one degree in the western counties to nearly three degrees in the southeastern. The daily maximum temperatures generally exceeded 70 degrees on but one day of the week, and then were but slightly above. The weekly minimum temperatures ranged from 38 degrees to 22 degrees, with heavy frosts in most sections of the state.

The rainfall has been below normal in all counties. In most of the western counties no rain fell. In the central and eastern scattered showers occurred. The amount of rainfall was, however, very small, generally less than a tenth of an inch, except in a few northeastern and southeastern counties, where it ranged from a quarter to slightly more than half an inch.

The last week has been favorable for farm work and rapid progress has been made in seeding small grain. Spring wheat is now all sown, except in a few northern counties, and there the greater portion of the crop is sown. Oat seeding is well advanced everywhere and practically completed in southern counties. Plowing for corn has commenced in most counties and a little corn has been planted in the southern portion of the state. The ground is in good condition for plowing and seeding in eastern counties, but is too dry for quick germination and growth, and in some parts of the central western portion of the state seed will not grow until after rain comes. The high winds of the last week have dried the ground rapidly and have been exceedingly unfavorable for water wheat, and the reports of the condition of this crop are decidedly less encouraging than they were a week ago, the estimate of most reports this week being from about all dead to about a quarter of the crop alive, while a few estimates in southeastern counties indicate a slightly better condition.

New Sugar Factory Begun.

The Standard Beet Sugar company of Ames has a force of men at work driving, piling and excavating for the new factory. Carl Leonard of Chino, Cal., who had charge of the building of the factory there, is superintending the construction of the factory. Two companies have been organized in Fremont for the purpose of raising sugar beets. One has a paid up capital stock of \$3,000, divided into shares of \$50 each. It has leased 150 acres of land east of the city which is now being prepared for seeding. This company expects to expend not to exceed \$20 per acre in growing the crop. Another company of seventeen stockholders, with a capital of \$4,000, has leased 210 acres northeast of the city for beets. Other individual beet raisers will probably increase the acreage of beets in this immediate vicinity to 650 acres. While the ground is dry it is in good condition and the work of planting will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

Promotions in First Regiment.

The order issued making promotions in the First Nebraska at Manila institutes these changes:

Captain Frank D. Eager, Company B, appointed major, to rank from April 9, 1899, vice Williams resigned.

First Lieutenant Harry L. Archer, adjutant, appointed captain Company H, to rank from April 9, 1899, vice Eager promoted.

Second Lieutenant Burt D. Whedon, Company C, appointed first lieutenant and adjutant, to rank from April 9, 1899, vice Archer promoted.

First Regiment May Return.

Friends of the First Nebraska regiment have been assured that the regiment will be returned to the United States within a few days. Whether it will be possible for the war department to spare the regiment immediately is doubted by many. Brad P. Cook of Lincoln is in receipt of the following letters from President McKinley's private secretary and Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn, which indicate that the regiment may sail for home May 5:

Executive Mansion, Washington.—Mr. Brad P. Cook, Lincoln, Neb.: My Dear Sir—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., with enclosure, and to say that it was promptly brought to the attention of the president. Very truly yours,

GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,

Assistant Secretary to the President.

War Department, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Washington.—Mr. Brad P. Cook, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: I am just in receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., enclosing copy of a resolution addressed to the president, adopted by the relatives and friends of the First Nebraska volunteers, and have very carefully noted the contents of same. In reply I take pleasure in advising you that cable advice just received from General Otis is to the effect that the return of the volunteers will commence about May 5 and will continue as rapidly as the accommodations of the transport service permit.

I earnestly hope that this action of General Otis will serve in some measure to allay the natural anxiety which the relatives and friends of the Nebraska boys feel as to their return, and perhaps the statement of General Otis to the effect that the health and spirits of the troops are good will also have a tendency in the same direction.

I trust that my interest in the welfare of the Nebraska regiment is not lost sight of in the earnest desire for its return to civil life.

No efforts of mine have been spared to aid the troops in any way within the power of the government, and it would have pleased me as much as anyone had it been possible to have ordered the return of these troops some time ago, in response to the earnest solicitations which have emanated from the parents and friends of these boys.

I trust, however, that the prospect of their early return will be satisfactorily regarded. Very respectfully,

G. D. MEIKLEJOHN,

Assistant Secretary of War.

Land Troubles in the Northwest.

There is being developed a condition of affairs in the grazing region of the northwest part of the state that, according to rumors from that section, portend serious conflicts between the present occupiers of government lands and others who are preparing to assert what they contend are better rights to them.

In the grazing portion of the state which is sparsely settled there are large bodies of government land which have not been taken up under the homestead or other acts which permit settlers to obtain title from the government. This land is nevertheless valuable to the owners of herds of cattle and the luxuriant grass upon it is turned into dollars through the medium of the cattle that are fattened there every year.

The cattlemen do not own this land and no one else has cared to purchase it. The lines defining the ranges are pretty well defined and the rule that no one will trespass on another's range previously occupied by him, is well established. Thus the use of the grazing ground is by unwritten law of the range, made the property of the particular ranchman almost as much as if he had purchased it and held a written title to it.

Two years ago the national congress passed a law making certain provisions concerning lands belonging to the government which are included in the zone known as the semi-arid region, where irrigation and other devices for the distributing and saving and storing of the Nebraska rain streams are utilized to assist in the raising of crops or providing domestic animals as well as men with water for ordinary domestic purposes. One of the provisions of this law is that whenever a person or corporation builds or constructs a reservoir on or near this unsold government land in the irrigation region, that so much of this land shall be set apart and the constructor of the reservoir shall have the right to use it.

The amount of land that a company or person may take possession of is dependent upon the size of the reservoir, its capacity to hold water and supply the surrounding land with the necessary element for human livelihood. The reservoir men do not get a title from the government to the land, they simply have the sanction of the law for their occupation and use.

Recently there have been several companies formed for the purpose of building reservoirs in the grazing section of Nebraska and filing made for the use of large bodies of this government land. The promoters of these companies are said to be principally eastern people, but Nebraska citizens are also in this business.

The point where the trouble is likely to arise is when these claimants to the right to use the land try to oust the ranchmen who have heretofore held it. The prospect for conflicts of this sort are said to be more than likely and if the reports that are coming in to the state capital of the fooling among the old possessors are not exaggerated this does not seem to be far from wrong.

Weaver's livery barn in Schuyler, burned to the ground. The fire broke out about 3 o'clock and in less than thirty minutes was completely consumed. Twenty head of horses were burned, besides twelve carriages and a lot of harness and other paraphernalia. Gibson & Fiddles had the barn rented and owned most of the contents. Messrs. Flynn, Sixta, Grassman and Nelhart lost five horses and buggy which were kept in the barns. The total loss is about \$8,500, of which Weaver's is about \$3,000 on buildings and the balance is a loss on personal property within the barn.

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REPAIRS BRIDGES AND TRENCHES

Natives Are Cheerful Over Prospects of Returning Peace—Filipinos Ask Us "Would You Fight While We Are Discussing Peace?"—A Slight Skirmish With the Insurgents.

MANILA, May 1.—While it is the general expectation among Americans that the Filipino emissaries will return with revised proposals from General Antonio Luna, Major General Otis is not letting this prospect interfere with his preparations for pushing the war. Yesterday he ordered Major General Lawton to return to Angat, a few miles northwest of Nozagaray, and not to advance aggressively while the negotiations were pending. General MacArthur is apparently acting on the same policy, but he is repairing bridges and strengthening the lines of his force, which is stretched out with a four-mile front, and within a quarter of a mile of the enemy. The possibilities of peace are gratifying to a great majority of the army, which has regarded the war as an unpleasant duty that must be performed according to American traditions.

Manila is cheerful over the prospect of a return of normal life, though there are skeptics who remark that a truce would enable the insurgents to rest until the rainy season, upon which they have been depending as an important aid.

The prisoners report that there are 75,000 refugees north of San Fernando. This is not impossible, considering the thickly populated region which the Americans have cleared. It seems also that smallpox is spreading among them.

The so-called Filipino congress will meet at San Fernando tomorrow.

When Dean C. Worcester of the United States Philippine commission, who accompanied the Filipino emissaries to Manila, said to Colonel Manuel Arguelles that the Americans were under no obligations to refer to him from fighting, the Filipino officer said: "Would you fight while we are discussing terms of peace?"

Mr. Worcester responded with a suggestion that an armistice would give the Filipino leaders time to escape.

"My God, where would we escape to?" the Filipino exclaimed, referring in this to maneuvering battle lines behind the Filipino lines.

Arguelles said the correspondent of the Associated Press that he was much disappointed in the results of his mission. He said also that Arguelles expected Calamint to be the center of the American army.

Lieutenant Colonel Wallace of the First Montana regiment, Major Adams and Major Shields, who slept on Friday night in General Luna's camp, where they went to inform the Filipinos that their envoys would return in safety, found the Filipino commander cordial. The Filipino troops were moving their hats as the Americans passed.

The Filipinos complained to them that the Americans used explosive bullets, which is not the fact. The American officers retorted that the copper shells used by the Filipinos are worse than explosive bullets. General Luna said he regretted being obliged to kill Americans, but that was his business.

General Wheaton entertained Colonel Arguelles and Lieutenant John Bernier and provided them with horses to return to their camp.

In the course of the conference yesterday, Jacob Schurmann, chairman of the United States commission, told Colonel Arguelles that if the insurgents would lay down their arms he and his colleagues of the commission would consult them regarding the plan of government to be submitted to President McKinley. He said he would not promise that all their suggestions would be adopted, but he could assure them that there would be a presumption in favor of their suggestions, adding that the commission would be especially desirous of satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the Filipinos.

When Colonel Arguelles protested that unconditional surrender would be humiliating, Mr. Schurmann replied: "There would be no humiliation in treating our brother Filipinos as General Grant treated our brother Americans at Appomattox."

Mr. Schurmann said yesterday to the correspondent of the Associated Press:

"I believe Colonel Arguelles is personally sincere and honest, though I have no means of ascertaining the sentiments and aims of the authorities behind him. The Filipino people, people, like other Asiatic people, have no trust in mere words, without force behind them, but with force I consider a conciliatory spirit of the utmost importance."

Rush for Ute Lands.

DENVER, Col., May 1.—About 500 homeseekers who desire to locate in the Ute reservation are already here and more are coming daily. The rule allowing settlers to go upon the surveyed lands and make their selections in advance of the opening obviates much of the trouble experienced at previous openings. The only rush for these lands will be at the land office. Settlers desiring claims on the surveyed portion are allowed to examine the country in advance, but must return from it before noon, May 1. At that hour they may line up and make a run for the claims that they have selected. They have thirty days in which to file on these claims.

Madman in a Theatre.

MADRID, May 1.—At the Comedy theatre Friday night where the queen regent and Infanta Isabel were present, a man dressed like an American was observed walking up and down the corridor with a dagger protruding from his pocket. On arrest a loaded revolver was also found. He gave an incoherent explanation. A card was found with the name Patricia Charmon, a military veterinary surgeon. It is believed he is mad.

ADVANCE ON MALOLOS.

Mr. Harrison Grey Tells of the Advance on the Rebels' Capital.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 1.—Released from quarantine today, Brigadier General Harrison Gray Otis, U. S. V., who arrived from Manila last night, on the transport Sherman, is a happy man at being again at home. This veteran of three wars is a civilian in time of peace and as soon as he foresaw the termination of hostilities with the fall of Malolos he asked to be allowed to resign. He expects to leave for Los Angeles tomorrow and will at once assume his position as editor in chief of the Los Angeles Times. He was interviewed today by a reporter of the Associated Press. Speaking of the position held by his brigade during the campaign, General Otis said: "In the advance upon Malolos, begun at daylight, March 25, my brigade constituted the center of the general line and its orders were to pierce the enemy's center, which was done the same day. After this movement was under way the First brigade advanced west of the railway track, running north, and at right angles to it, while the Second brigade advanced abreast on the east side of the same track. The usual regimental formation adopted in all the movements in line of battle was to post two battalions on the firing line, with one battalion in support."

"In the advance upon Malolos, how was your main line constituted?" "I have already described its formation. If you will examine the map of the region it will perhaps make the respective positions of the two divisions of the Eighth army corps clearer to you. The First division, with the exception of Wheaton's brigade, was on the south of the Pasig, the Second division and Wheaton's brigade were north of that river."

"The Malolos assault, as a whole, was made by the Second division, Major General MacArthur commanding, supported by Wheaton's brigade (the Third of Lawton's First division). The entire column was strengthened by the divisional artillery, made up of regular and volunteer pieces. The assault was made at Malolos, which was the goal of the game, was made by men from Iowa, North Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Young's battalion of Utah light artillery, under their respective officers. A squadron of the Fourth Cavalry of the United States was the only mounted force in the column. Part of the regular cavalry was mounted on big horses the remainder on ponies."

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GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Father Barada, Santiago, is confirmed by the pope bishop of Santiago.

The British government has decided to contribute to a British Columbia-Australian cable.

Twenty thousand cigars were secured at Knoxville, Tenn., by revenue collectors, boxes having counterfeit stamps.

The Japanese war ship Hiyel has arrived at Esquimaux, B. C., where its crew will be richly entertained by resident Japs.

Roland Quentin, secretary of the Eagle Boat Store company, St. Louis, now missing, is found to be short \$10,000, with more appearing.

The verdict for \$10,000 has been set aside and a new trial granted in the suit of J. M. Maxwell against Nat C. Goodwin, involving the right to use the play, "Ambition."

Captain Urias Rhodes, who is to sail the yacht Defender in the trial race, has spent all his life on the water and is a friend of such old sailing masters as Norman Terry and L. A. Jeffrey.

James H. Merrill, mayor-elect of Oshkosh, Wis., bears a striking resemblance to the cartoon of Uncle Sam. He is a lawyer and has a state reputation for his after-dinner speeches.

James P. Talliferro, the newly elected United States senator from Florida, was a private in the confederate army, is a party leader in his state, but was never a candidate for office before.

Robert H. Pitt, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the last congress, began life as a newspaper reporter, went to Washington as a correspondent and then entered the diplomatic service.

The Canadian government has been advised from the Yukon to allow the military contingent to remain there pending the settlement of the boundary question. No action has been taken in the matter.

Nearly 2,000 claims for pensions on account of disabilities resulting from wounds and diseases have already been filed by the Veterans' Bureau of the United States.

General Arthur MacArthur, who was appointed adjutant of the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin volunteers in 1862, was at the age of sixteen years of age that he was formerly known as the "Boy General" and was killed in the Philippines.

Mr. De Fays de Lamoignon, who is believed in the American opinion to be the best lawyer in the world, was born in France and followed the profession of a lawyer in his native country.

General DeWitt, the son of Major DeWitt, has received an appointment as a major in the regular army, and will be assigned to the position of adjutant of the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin volunteers in 1862.

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