

News in Brief

Out of every 1,000 of the world's population 264 own King Edward as their sovereign.

It will take five years to rebuild the Campalle of Venice. The new tower will probably have an elevator.

The Astors are gradually disposing of their real estate holdings in the tenement district of New York.

Lieutenant Governor Guild of Massachusetts has added a full set of Filipino daggers of quaint design to his collection of weapons.

Municipal corporations in England own gas works, water works, street railways, rocks, baths, markets, dwellings, race courses, dairies, and hotels.

It is estimated that nearly all the pine timber now growing in Minnesota (about thirty million feet) will be cut and marketed within the next fifteen years.

Dr. Arthur McDonald, the criminologist in Washington, now says that unless a person wants to become a criminal he should never eat meat or potatoes.

W. C. Hodge died at Bloomington, Ill., aged 72. He was one of the organizers of the republican party and a member of the first republican convention in California.

A special to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch from Virden, Ill., says: The Chicago-Virden Coal company's shaft at Chatham, Ill., was totally burned. The loss may reach \$100,000.

At Los Angeles, Cal., in a duel with three detectives, Joseph Chosser, aged 50, and Louis Chosser, aged 25, father and son, were shot and instantly killed in a lodging house.

Mayor Weaver returned to Philadelphia city council the loan bill appropriating \$16,000,000 for municipal improvements and the council immediately passed the bill over the veto.

The Cleveland Trust company has purchased the business and good will of the Central Trust company. The Cleveland Trust company now has 34,000 depositors and \$18,000,000 in deposits.

General Delaroy made a speech to the Boer prisoners at Admadnagar and succeeded in persuading all but ten of them to sign the oath of allegiance to Great Britain. General Delaroy spoke for five hours.

Rufus H. Connella, president of the defunct banks at Indianapolis, Sterling and Olusta, Oklahoma, small concerns, was found guilty of forgery in the district court at Guthrie. He will be sentenced later.

It was learned at Trenton, N. J., that the Pottery Selling company, just incorporated, has been formed as the result of an agreement among practically all of the sanitary potteries of the United States to control prices and regulate the output of each pottery.

In a fire in the Chinese district at Portland, Oregon, that caused \$70,000 damage, three Chinese lost their lives. Several Chinese opium smokers fought the firemen who were endeavoring to rescue them, not realizing their intent. The firemen carried fifty inmates from the building.

It is announced that General Francis V. Greene will become a resident of Buffalo when he retires as New York's police commissioner on January 1. He has accepted an offer to take charge of the Ontario Power company, now being built in Canada opposite Niagara Falls.

The Paris Journal hears from Berlin that the Princess Charlotte of Saxe-Melningen, a sister of Emperor William, who has been ill for some time, is suffering from cancer and that the verdict of the physicians created consternation in the German court and had a bad effect on the recovery of the emperor.

The house passed, without division, the pension appropriation bill carrying \$138,150,100. While the bill was under consideration there was a general discussion on Panama, rural free delivery, tariff and pensions, speeches being made by Messrs. Scott (rep., Kas.), Miers (dem., Ind.), Sims (dem., Tenn.) and Burgess (dem., Texas).

The Shanghai correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph says that, according to the mandarins, the Peking government has again warned the provincial authorities to prepare for immediate hostilities, owing to the offensive action taken by Russia and her allies regarding far eastern affairs.

Mrs. H. H. McKay Wilson, whose residence, 4208 Westminister Place, is in the heart of the fashionable section of St. Louis, was painfully and dangerously burned about the hands while trying to rescue her servant, Annie Crete, who died in terrible agony from the effects of fire that ignited her clothing.

At Lamont, Fla., Constable Jerry Poppell was shot and killed by Chas. Miller, a turpentine hand, whom he was trying to arrest. Miller tried to escape, but was shot by Woods, a rider attached to the camp, and was taken to Monticello for safe keeping.

Word has been received at the navy department of the arrival at Honolulu of the battleships Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Oregon, and the cruisers New Orleans, Albany, Cincinnati, Raleigh, Yanshan and Pompey. It is not known how long the fleet will remain at Honolulu.

RECORD OF WOOD

SECRETARY ROOT WRITES TO SENATOR PROCTOR.

FAVORS THE YOUNGER GENERALS

Where Rule of Seniority Prevails Military System Must Be Weak—Sound Reasons President Should Follow in Making Military Appointments.

WASHINGTON—The letter of Secretary Root to Senator Proctor, acting chairman of the committee on military affairs, dated November 18 last, giving a resume of the military record of General Leonard Wood, and stating the chief considerations which led to his nomination as a major general, was made public Sunday. After quoting from remarks commendatory to General Wood, made by General Miles, Lawton, Graham and Forsythe, the letter recites that "upon these and similar evidences of fitness President McKinley appointed Captain Wood colonel of the First volunteer cavalry in May, 1898. The secretary also quotes from the commendations of Generals Young, Wheeler, Sumner and Shafter on General Wood's conduct in the Santiago campaign, and says General Wood's appointment as commander of the Santiago province appears to have been based upon a statement made by General Shafter in a dispatch to the department in which he said he 'thought General Wood by far the best man to leave in command of Santiago.'"

The secretary reviews General Wood's subsequent military career, saying in this connection:

"The high estimate put by the secretary of war upon General Wood's services as military governor is shown in the published orders of the war department," referring to the general orders of March 25, 1903, and July 4, 1902, which have heretofore been published. The secretary adds that the opinions expressed in those orders also were the opinions of both presidents under which the service was rendered, saying:

"Upon a review of General Wood's entire military record, I think it fair to say that no officer in the American army below the grade of major general has held more important commands, rendered more distinguished service or demonstrated to a higher degree the possession of the qualities which fit a man to render valuable service to the country as a major general."

Speaking of the principles of which, he says, sound political reason requires the president to follow in making appointments, the secretary says:

"The law which recognizes seniority alone as the title to promotions up to the grade of colonel, abandons that rule when it deals with general officers and imposes upon the president the duty of selecting the best men for generals without expressing any limitation upon the class from which he is to make the selection."

The secretary adds that when such a selection is to be made two different considerations always present themselves to the appointing mind—one, a desire to reward long and meritorious service; the other, to secure the best possible man.

Crown Prince is Punished. BERLIN—Crown Prince William Frederick was required by his mother to remain in his room for three days for having raced a steeple chase against the emperor's wish. The race took place near Potsdam three or four weeks ago. The crown prince is a venturesome rider and had been reprimanded by the emperor for riding up the steps of the Sans Souci palace at the head of the Second company of the First regiment of the guards, of which he was recently appointed.

To Cut Price of Soft Coal. CLEVELAND, O.—A meeting of soft coal operators was in session here to discuss trade conditions generally. There is very likely to be a cut in the selling price of coal, especially in grades used by manufacturers.

How Alliance is Delayed. LONDON—The Daily Mail's Peking correspondent declares that a few Manchuria nobles, who are under Russian influences, are delaying the conclusion of an alliance between China and Japan.

Iowa Judgeship Unsettled. WASHINGTON—The Iowa delegation in congress met to consider the judgeship contest for the northern Iowa federal district, but adjourned until after the holidays without taking any ballot.

Find of Gold in Wisconsin. MILWAUKEE, Wis.—A special from Menominee, Wis., says: Gold ore has been discovered on a farm near the town of Lucas, Dunn county, near this city, and assays \$145 to the ton.

American Nurses in Event of War. TOKIO—The situation here is more favorable than on Thursday. The letter of Mrs. Anita Newcomb McGee, president of the Association of Spanish-American War Nurses, offering to the government of Japan, through the Japanese minister at Washington, the services of trained nurses in the event of war with Russia, has produced an excellent impression and is warmly appreciated as a mark of traditional American friendship for Japan.

RUSSIA IS DEFIANT.

London Hears a Report that Causes Anxiety in Well Informed Circles.

LONDON.—Reuter's Telegram company has learned that considerable anxiety exists in the best informed circles of London regarding the possible outcome of the situation in the far east. Fears are, it is said, expressed that the Russian government may have overstepped the bounds which would make the continuation of peaceful negotiations with Japan possible. It may be regarded as quite certain, it asserts, that Japan will not accept the principles of the last Russian note, which is at variance with Japan's main contention, and that Japan's reply must necessarily be cast in this sense.

Apart from the delicate state of the negotiations between the two nations Reuter says it is also known that Russia is assuming a more defiant attitude, and the outlook may be regarded as more gloomy than it hitherto has been, although it cannot be said that the resources of diplomacy have been completely exhausted.

The statement concludes by saying that there is as yet no actual news of fresh developments and that no ultimatum has been sent by Japan to Russia.

SEND WARSHIPS TO TURKEY.

United States Will Make Show of Force at Alexandretta.

WASHINGTON—As a result of Minister Leishman's advice respecting the Alexandretta affair, the state department has requested the navy department to place a warship at the disposal of Consul Davis, now at Beyroot, upon which he might return to Alexandretta at his pleasure. The navy department accordingly cabled instructions to Admiral Cotton, on board the flagship Brooklyn, at Alexandria, Egypt, to place a vessel at the disposal of Mr. Davis. It is believed the Brooklyn will be selected. It is left to the consul to arrange the terms of his reception.

Although Rear Admiral Cotton was not instructed specifically to take the consul back to his post under escort of a squadron, it will not be in opposition to the navy department's wishes if both the flagship Brooklyn and the San Francisco proceed to Alexandretta on the expedition. It is felt, in view of the indignities heaped upon the consul, the return with two warships will be more salutary than if one ship accompanied him.

HEARS UNION PACIFIC CASE.

Charged With Giving Preferential Grain Rate.

WASHINGTON.—The interstate commerce commission Tuesday gave a hearing in the case of the Union Pacific railroad, charged with giving preferential rates to Peavey & Co., who operate elevators at a number of western points, including Kansas City and Council Bluffs.

John N. Baldwin of Council Bluffs represented the Union Pacific, and contended that there was no discrimination in rates and that its allowances are not excessive. He said there was an agreement with the Peavey company through the Midland Elevator company at Kansas City, and the Omaha Elevator company at Council Bluffs, under which the Union Pacific pays the elevator companies 1 1/2 cents per 100 pounds for handling grain which passes through those elevators.

HOLD MID-WINTER MEETING.

Good Roads Congress, January 28 and 29.

CHICAGO, ILL.—W. H. Moore, president of the National Good Roads association, and Colonel A. S. Mann of Florida, met in Chicago Monday and arranged to hold the mid-winter good roads meeting of the association at Ormonde Beach, Florida, January 28 and 29, in connection with the automobile races at that place. The two events will be followed by similar meetings in the north.

At the St. Louis World's Fair automobile races will be held by the National Good Roads congress, at which time all civilized countries will be invited by the state department at Washington to send delegates.

Three Schooners go Ashore.

ST. JOHNS.—During a fierce blizzard on Sunday the schooner Susan was driven ashore off St. Johns. Its crew, after twelve hours in an open boat, made port this morning badly frost bitten. The schooner Mary Ellen went ashore at Trepassay. The crew clung to the rocks all night and suffered terribly from exposure. The schooner Fashoda went ashore at Green's pond. The crew escaped. It is feared that the schooner Dictator has foundered with its crew.

Not to Employ Russians.

LONDON—The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent says that the Korean foreign office denies the reported agreement to employ Russian officers in the Korean army.

Marines Find Good Camp.

WASHINGTON—In a cablegram from Rear Admiral Coghlan, commanding the naval force in Atlantic-Isthmian waters, which reached the navy department Thursday night, the landing of the battalion of marines from the Prairie at Grogon is reported. The battalion will go into camp at that place, the medical officers having reported that the health conditions there are fully satisfactory. Grogon is some distance above the sea and comparatively healthy.

FOR LAND FRAUDS

REPUTED HEAD OF CONSPIRACY TAKEN IN CHARGE.

OPERATED ON A LARGE SCALE

John A. Benson of San Francisco Accused of Bribing Officers of the Government on His Present Trip to the National Capital.

WASHINGTON—John A. Benson, a wealthy San Francisco real estate operator, charged by the interior department with being the head of the alleged land frauds extending over a number of western states and territories, to which Secretary Hitchcock referred vigorously and at length in his annual report, was arrested here at the Willard hotel by Secret Service Officer John A. Burns just as he was preparing to leave the city for New York.

The charge on which the arrest was made was bribery, it being alleged in the affidavit of Mr. Burns and in the warrant that Benson had paid \$500 to Woodford D. Harlan, formerly chief of the special service division of the general land office and now a clerk in that office, on March 15th of this year, for the purpose of extracting from him information regarding the investigation of his operations at that time being made by the land office.

The warrant was issued by United States Commissioner Anson S. Taylor, and as soon as Benson had been apprehended by Officer Burns he was taken before Commissioner Taylor. He wished to have a preliminary hearing of his case postponed and the date for such hearing was fixed for December 30th. He gave bail for his appearance on that date, when the government attorneys will ask to have him held for the grand jury.

A statement was made by an officer of the government that the information obtained in regard to the alleged conspiracy implicates a number of persons at present employed in the interior department at Washington and elsewhere.

Numerous arrests are expected to follow that of Benson, in short order and some employes who may not be arrested will be dismissed from the service. It is said that Secretary Hitchcock and the special attorneys in the case have considered it absolutely necessary to the working out of the case that no action be taken with reference to the other alleged offenders until the principals in the case had been apprehended.

The government attorneys, Mr. Arthur B. Pugh, who has been the special attorney for the interior department on the land frauds, and Mr. Oliver Pugin, assistant attorney of the Department of Justice, who has also been employed on the case, stated in asking for a large bail bond for Benson that he had been guilty of bribery during his present visit to Washington, since last Monday; and in the interior department itself, notwithstanding that he was aware that his connection with the alleged frauds was fully known by the interior department.

The statement was made later that Secretary Hitchcock was so incensed at the flagrancy of this offense that he told the officers to have Benson arrested at once, although it had not been planned to have him arrested at this time.

FREMONT GETS THE CANAL.

The Canal Board of Arbitration Selects that City.

NEW YORK—The board of arbitration, consisting of T. W. Klowman of the John F. Kelley Engineering company, New York, and George H. Kimball, the well known western engineering expert, met here Monday and decided to make an award in favor of the Fremont Canal and Power company, which concern will build a large hydraulic plant for the purpose of generating electric energy for light, traction and general power purposes in and around Omaha, Lincoln, Columbus, Fremont and several other cities in Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Fremont proposition was considered more feasible than the one submitted by the Nebraska Central Irrigation company, which concern proposed to build a big plant at Columbus.

Wreck of the Discovery Found.

SEATTLE, Wash.—A special dispatch from Juneau says that the wreck of the steamer Discovery was found. An Indian from Cross Sound found the wreck and brought the news to Juneau. The revenue cutter Rush has gone to the scene, taking the Indian as a guide.

Mrs. Wood Sails for Manila.

NEW YORK—By special permission of the war department, Mrs. Wood, the wife of General Leonard Wood, and her 3-year-old son will sail on the transport Kilpatrick, which leaves this port for Manila, carrying the Second United States cavalry.

Chicago Gets National Convention.

WASHINGTON—The republican national convention will be held in Chicago beginning at noon, June 21, 1904, the republican national committee reaching this conclusion. Pittsburg and St. Louis were rivals of Chicago for the convention. Each city was well represented in oratory before the committee and each also had cash offers to make. Pittsburg offered \$100,000, Chicago \$75,000 and a hall, and St. Louis \$40,000 and a hall. The vote 43 for Chicago, 7 for Pittsburg.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

NEWSY STATE BRIEFS.

WAR ON COYOTES.

Club Organized in Custer County to Exterminate Them.

CALLAWAY—A move is on foot to organize a county coyote club in this county, each precinct in the county to have a club of its own, and all to work to gether over the county. For many months the coyotes have been raiding the chicken yards, the pig pens, and in several instances have killed and devoured sheep and calves, and it is proposed that these clubs be organized and on a certain day each week during the winter months a general round-up will be made with the determination of exterminating these pests. The animals are more numerous than they have been for years, and as there is now no bounty on them, but little effort has been made to kill them off. Their hideous howl may be heard in every direction as soon as the sun goes down, and is kept up during the entire night.

The move has been started for the organization of the clubs and it is thought that by each precinct having an organization of its own, and electing its officers and holding regular weekly round-ups, hundreds of coyotes can be captured and killed.

The Salvation Army of Beatrice will give a Christmas dinner to the poor.

E. G. Glenn, Omaha, 50 years of age, dropped dead while blacking a stove.

Lawyers of Omaha are moving in the matter of getting better men on the juries.

The Salvation Army of Fremont will give a dinner to the poor on Christmas.

Mrs. Nancy Palmerton, an old resident of Beatrice has been adjudged insane and ordered sent to the insane asylum.

Congressman Norris has recommended the appointment of Oren B. Ballard as postmaster at Ives, Dundee county, vice J. B. Burk, resigned.

At South Omaha J. W. Nipe shot and seriously wounded Thomas Kirk because the latter refused to pay for a sandwich which he claimed not to have ordered.

Farmers of Lancaster county will boldly oppose the meat trust, according to present plans. A meeting will be held to organize an offensive alliance. The call is signed by J. G. Quinn.

Word arrived at Table Rock of the death of Mrs. Maggie Smith, who died in the Hastings asylum. She had been in the asylum for many months and had passed her allotted three score and ten years.

A Bohemian farmer living near Snyder is glad to be alive. The local freight running between Cornlea and Scribner jammed into his buggy and took off the wheels, nearly making a dead one of the farmer.

Attorney O. Hanson secured a judgment of \$2,000 against the Fremont, Elkhorn and Minneapolis and Omaha railroads in favor of Mrs. Lais Jensen, whose husband, a section foreman, was killed near Kennard by an Omaha train running as a special on the Fremont road.

At 2 o'clock in the morning Louis G. Sack, a farmer living four and one-half miles northwest of Eagle, discovered his barn was on fire. His two barns and contents are a total loss, besides all of his hay, oats and corn, harness and farm implements. His horses were all saved by hard work.

Fifteen acres of land lying close to the village of Snyder were sold for the uniform price of \$100 per acre. The transfer was from Mrs. Matilda Molle, executor for the estate of Frederick Molle, deceased, to Carl Bars and Robert Peltzer, who own and operate the brick yard property in that place.

Carl Klumb, living near Stockham, Hamilton county, attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself through the head over the right eye. Shortly after the shock of the wound he arose and went into the house and medical aid was immediately summoned. Motive for the deed is unknown.

W. F. Porter of Central City, formerly secretary of state, has been at St. Paul endeavoring to interest St. Paul business men in a canning factory proposition. His plan contemplates the investment of about \$10,000 of local capital in a stock company and it is said to have met with considerable favor.

Washington dispatch: Congressman Kinkaid introduced a bill to restore certain rights to settlers on the Fort Randall military reservation in Boyd county. The settlers not only had to pay for the lands, but also to comply with the homestead laws. Judge Kinkaid recommended the reappointment of L. H. Jewett as postmaster at Broken Bow, Neb.

H. H. Aultes, a prominent Stanton county farmer, died last week.

The supreme court has decided that ex-Register of Deeds Holm did not have to pay back money received as fees for looking up the names of signers of saloon licenses, to see if they were freeholders. The court said: "A county officer is not required to account for or pay over to his county money received by him in payment of services performed for another by private agreement which are no part of the duties of his office and which are not incompatible with, and are not included within his official duties."

A recent number of the University of Chicago paper conveys the information that C. C. North, who represented Nebraska in the Missouri debate in 1902, has been selected as one of the contestants in the Chicago-Northwestern debate for the championship of the Western Debate League. Mr. North graduated from the Nebraska university in 1902 and attended Yale Divinity school for a year and this year went to the Chicago Divinity school. Prof. Chandler head of the department at Chicago, speaks very highly of Mr. North's ability and his training in debate.

The furniture and light fixtures for the new Carnegie library building at Beatrice have not arrived, although the time limit specified in the contracts expired some time ago. With the exception of the installation of these fixtures the building is ready for occupancy.

Forrest Marston, accused of swindling farmers in various parts of the state out of insurance premiums, will not preach in Kearney county. He made the date all right, but the sheriff caught him at Fairbury and he will be taken to Elmwood for trial.

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WOMAN KILLED BY CARS.

Buggy Struck by B. & M. Passenger Train.

AURORA—A terrible accident occurred at the city limits of Aurora. Mrs. Alex Wilson and Miss Ethel, her daughter, 19 years of age, whose home is four miles southwest of Aurora, were on their way to the city to do some trading when they were struck by B. & M. passenger train No. 42, at the crossing west of the round house. Mrs. Wilson's neck was broken, resulting in immediate death. The daughter received serious injuries, including a broken leg and bruised head, but so far as can now be told it is thought she will recover. The horse they were driving was instantly killed. The buggy was carried on the pilot of the engine until the train was stopped. The supposition is that the victims of the frightful tragedy were watching freight train No. 45, which was about to pull out of the yards, and failed to see the fast train until it was too late. The husband and father is one of the oldest settlers of this community.

For Primary Teachers.

The primary teachers of the state are especially favored this year in having the promise of Miss Cooper, supervisor of primary work, Omaha public schools, to be present and address them at the state teachers' meeting. Miss Cooper attended the public schools of Oswego, N. Y., and graduated from the state normal school at that place in 1885. In this school she received special preparation for the work she has since done so successfully, that of training and fitting prospective and beginning teachers for their work.

Boy Hurt by Cars.

NEHAWKA—Claude Johnson, a boy about 14 years old, was swinging on the side of a freight car while switching was being done. As the car ran by the stock yards the boy was knocked off by the cattle chute and a couple of gashes cut in the back of his head, another five inches long across his forehead, and his right hand was completely severed from his arm.

Has Smallpox Scare.

GRNEVA—This county is having a smallpox scare and a board of health, just organized, sent out a number of quarantine cards.

Adjudged Insane.

BASSETT—John L. Gordon, aged twenty-seven, of Kirkwood precinct, was brought before the insanity board here and adjudged of unsound mind. He was taken to Lincoln by Sheriff Smith. Mr. Gordon disappeared last summer for several months, and though strict search was made by relatives, he could not be found. In August he reappeared at his old home. Hopes are entertained that medical treatment will restore his mind.

Prizes to Be Given.

Two prizes aggregating \$60 will be given to Nebraska debaters this year if they win from Kansas and Washington universities. Chancellor Andrews has offered a prize of \$30 for one of the teams if it wins. This will be known as the "chancellor's prize." The prize will be shared equally by the speakers. To the other team if it wins will go a prize of \$30, also shared equally, known as the "university prize." Where this prize comes from has not yet been given out.

Killed by a Fall.

LINWOOD—A serious accident occurred one mile east of here whereby Joseph Polifka, aged 28, lost his life. He has been working for L. C. Sedlicky for two years. They were hauling hay, Sedlicky being about twenty rods ahead of him on another load. The hay began to slip and Polifka called to Mr. Sedlicky, who stopped his team and got off his wagon, but could not see Polifka, so he went back to the wagon. Polifka was lying beside the hay dead, his skull crushed.