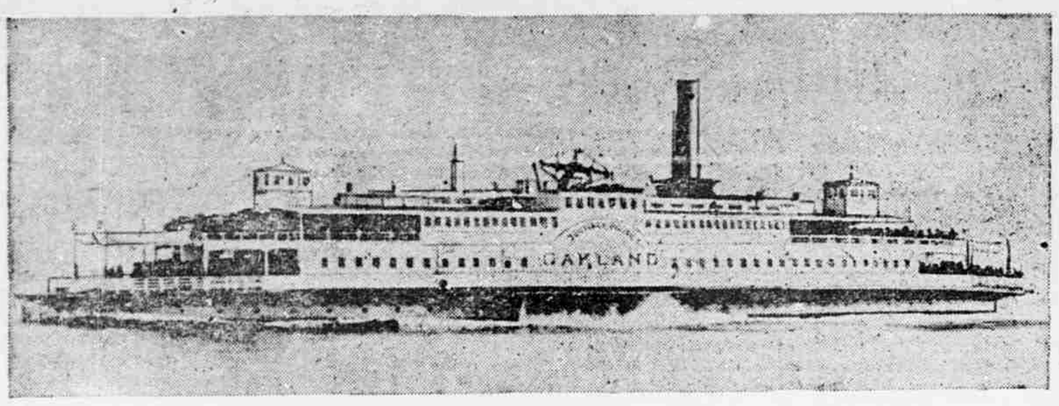

FERRYBOAT OAKLAND CROWDED WITH REFUGEES.

With but comparatively slight interruptions the ferry service between San Francisco and Oakland was maintained throughout the days of earthquake and fire, and the boats were packed with refugees, most of whom were compelled to leave behind them in the ferry house the few bulky belongings they had saved from the wrecks of their homes because there was no room for such things.

PUBLIC LIBRARY NOTES.

Sir Walter Scott was the first of the great romantic writers of modern England. As a boy he showed an extraordinary fondness for collecting and learning by heart the legends and old-time ballads, which were current in that part of Scotland where he was born. Grown older, he found equal pleasure in studying the records and traditions of early English and Scottish history.

From childhood he had a remarkable gift for story telling, and would weave together strange and curious bits of antique lore for the delight of his companions. Later, he became for a while the most popular poet in Great Britain by publishing a series of romantic poems among which "Marmion," "The Lady of the Lake," and "Rokeby" have endured the test of time.

In 1814 Scott turned from poetry to prose and published anonymously the historical Waverley novels, which took the whole English reading people by storm. This triumph was repeated in the splendid novels which followed in rapid succession. Between 1815 and 1825 twelve of these so-called Waverley novels were written. They were translated into all languages of Europe and exercised a profound influence upon the whole subsequent history of European fiction. Had Scott never written, we would probably not have had the romances of Alexander Dumas.

The Waverley novels may be grouped under two heads—novels of Scottish life, and novels based upon incidents of English history. Of the former, the greatest are "Guy Mannering," "Rob Roy," "The Heart of Midlothian," and "Old Mortality." Of the latter, the most famous are "Kenilworth," "Ivanhoe" and "Talisman."

Scott may be said to have created the historical novel and to have quickened by means of it the national pride of his countrymen. At the time of his death he was recognized as a great public character, so that when in his last illness he went abroad in search of health, the British government placed a man-of-war at his disposal.

The romance of "Ivanhoe," is the most spirited and stirring picture of the age of chivalry which English literature contains. It is a vivid picture drama, woven throughout with historic facts and vivified by the glow of a powerful imagination. It touches a remote period of the past and makes it live again, revealing with bold, free strokes a wonderful succession of thrilling adventures, while every page of it is true to life, instinct with human passion, and profound in its knowledge of human nature.

If you have any magazines you want give the library, just let the librarian know and she will send for them.

Library hours: Morning 10:30 to 12 o'clock. Afternoon 1:30 to 6 o'clock. Evening 7 to 9 o'clock. Sunday afternoon 2 to 5 o'clock.

LIBRARIAN.

Let THE TRIBUNE do your printing.

Official Bulletin on Western Nebraska.

Quarterly Bulletin No. 8, for April 1906, issued by Deputy Commissioner Bush and Chief Clerk Despar, of the State Bureau of Statistics, has just been received for distribution. It is a very interesting volume of 128 pages, entitled "Western Nebraska," and in giving information relative to that section it is as exhaustive as possible and is intended to answer every query that the prospective investor or homeseeker might make concerning conditions in the western part of Nebraska.

A small folder map of Nebraska is found within the back cover which indicates, by a heavy division line, what part of the state is described in the Bulletin. The book is illustrated with scenes of western Nebraska, and while it is not intended, in the least, as a boomer, it shows a surprising development taking place in our western counties and it will be quite valuable to all who are interested in that area. The Bulletin may be obtained without cost by addressing a request to the State Bureau of Labor and Statistics, State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Souvenir Postal Cards.

The McCook Souvenir Postal Cards printed by THE TRIBUNE are on sale at

A. McMillen's,
The Ideal Store,
The Tribune Office,
L. W. McConnell's,
The Post Office Lobby.
Ten different views printed.
Other designs are in preparation
Price—Two for five cents.

"Cash," "Received on Account," "Charge," "Paid Out" and other cash register printed supplies at THE TRIBUNE office.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE Citizens Bank of McCook

McCook, Nebraska,
CHARTER No. 276, (INCORPORATED)
in the state of Nebraska, at the close of business May 19th, 1906.

RESOURCES:

Loans and discounts		$270,603 70
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured		375 91
Banking house, furniture and fixtures		16,000 00
Current expenses and taxes paid		1,410 00
Due from national, state and private banks and bankers	$110,908 99	
Checks and items of exch'ge	6,190 81	
Cash—Bills	12,422 00	
Specie	6,775 79	136,297 59
Total		$424,687 20

LIABILITIES:

Capital stock paid in		$ 50,000 00
Surplus fund		5,800 00
Undivided profits		10,883 08
Individual deposits subject to check	$164,205 68	
Demand certificates of deposit	51,735 20	
Time certificates of deposit	72,394 29	
Cashier's checks outstanding	29,326 46	
Due to state and private banks and bankers	40,342 49	358,004 12
Total		$424,687 20

State of Nebraska, County of Red Willow. } ss.

I, A. C. Ebert, cashier, of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is a correct and true copy of the report made to the State Banking Board.

A. C. EBERT, Cashier.

Attest: V. FRANKLIN, Director.
JAMES S. DOYLE, Director.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of May, 1906.
[SEAL.] H. H. BERRY, Notary Public.
My commission expires Oct. 8, 1907.

MESSAGES IN STRAW

THEY MAY BE FOUND WRITTEN ALL OVER GREAT BRITAIN.

The Various Warnings and Notices That Are Denoted by the Wisps. There Is Quite an Extensive Language In These Signs of Straw.

When a farm servant in Perthshire and other parts of Scotland is seeking a new situation he doesn't advertise in the local newspaper or even apply to farmers in the neighborhood. He just waits for "feeing" day, as the market at Lady day and Michaelmas is called. Then, with a wisp of straw either between his teeth or in his hat, he strolls up and down the market place.

That piece of straw serves the purpose of a sandwich board. Without a word being uttered, it is a sufficient intimation that its bearer is a plowman, stableman or other farm worker and is seeking employment with a new master. A similar custom still prevails in the north of England and in some parts of Ireland.

Straw as a sign that certain things are "for sale" is frequently used. Plaited into a horse's tail, with the end curled up, it has such a meaning, but when the plait is partly unwound and allowed to hang downward it denotes that the horse has recently changed ownership.

A wisp of straw fastened to the mainmast of a fishing boat or a pleasure yacht in many districts is a sign that its owner is desirous of selling it. On the Thames watermen place straw in the sterns of their craft for sale.

Dealers in fowls and eggs in the north of Ireland know without any waste of time whether farmers have any of the produce they seek to buy. Farmers having these for sale erect a pole, with straw tied to its top, on their grounds as near as possible to a public road. Cheeses when sold at Chester's and other cheese fairs can instantly be detected by the handful of straw on top of them.

An even more popular use for straw is as a warning of danger. When bridges are being repaired it is customary to hang a bundle of straw from an arch so that those passing beneath it shall be warned against falling bricks and such like debris.

A few wisps tied to a horse's tail denotes that it is a "kicker," while straw for the same purpose is tied to its stall post in the stable. To warn pedestrians who would cross a pathway running through their fields that a vicious bull is grazing there, Kent farmers fasten a bundle of straw to the gate leading to it. Some farmers also give further warning by tying straw to the horns of the bad tempered animal.

Tramps in the south of Ireland fight shy of entering farmyards whose gates are adorned with wisps of straw. It is sufficient notice that fierce watchdogs are kept for tramps and trespassers. As a warning to skaters in the Fen districts straw is strewn about broken and dangerous ice, and should there be any holes in its otherwise sound surface these are marked by straw being stuck lengthwise into them.

Londoners frequently meet with straw as a sign of warning. When wood paving is being repaired or the pathway is being dug up for any purpose iron rods to which a rope is attached mark off the dangerous area. Very often a wisp of straw is fastened to each rod as a further precaution to pedestrians. Without the straw, if the background were dark and the day were dull, shortsighted and absent-minded people might not be aware of their danger till the ropes were reached. Straw, too, is frequently hung outside a warehouse to denote that the crane is being used and to so warn passersby.

Huntsmen in the home counties know directly they see straw tied to the top of a tall red pole to "'ware barbed wire." To warn hunting parties off fields newly sown with wheat or clover roots it is customary also with farmers in central and northern England to bind bundles of straw to their fences and hedges.

During the shooting season on the big Yorkshire moors tall sticks are placed at intervals along the pathways that traverse the gorse and ling and decorated with wisps of straw. It is a warning to the peasantry that the "sporting gentry" are out shooting and that there is danger in crossing these particular paths. Miners frequently warn their comrades of dangerous parts of the workings by throwing straw about the ground.

In Germany workmen repairing the roofs of houses hang a bundle of straw from the top window as a danger signal to passersby, while bricklayers in Norway and Denmark tie a similar bundle to the top of a scaffold pole to signify that the chimney pots are set and their work is finished. In this country it is customary in fixing fireplaces in new houses to place straw within the grate. This denotes that the masonry is not sufficiently dry to withstand the heat of a fire.

A bundle of straw left in a field in Sussex is a sign that the gleaners are not yet allowed to gather the corn left by the reapers. When wheat is being sown, a stick crowned with straw is put up at each end of the field in order to guide the sower and prevent him going twice over the same ground. Tied to hedges and fences, straw is yet again used by surveyors as a guide in measuring allotments.

To denote when roads which are the property of the crown are closed to vehicular traffic large bundles of straw are suspended at each end of the thoroughfare. Fastened to a pole stuck in a newly sown field, a bundle of straw serves as a scarecrow. Secured to the roof of a farmhouse in many parts of Ireland, it is an invitation to passersby to enter and drink the health of the bride and bridegroom who are within, and when strewn thickly across the street, so that the noise of traffic is deadened, it denotes, as is well known, that a person is lying dangerously ill in its vicinity. In the west of England neighbors show their disgust of wife beaters by tying straw to the door handles of the houses in which such cruel husbands live.

The driver of the first caravan of a traveling circus inevitably throws straw out at intervals so that those following behind shall know which path he has taken. Similarly, when an army is marching to action the advance scouts, provided with bundles of straw, fasten a bunch at each turning, or a little way down the road, so that the officers in charge may know for a certainty the route their scouts have taken.

Despite the invention of knitting machines, many elderly women in the north of Ireland still carry wisps of straw stuck into their belts. These form sheaths for their knitting needles, and are a further sign to all and sundry that their wearer is willing to make knitted goods to order.

Even policemen on night duty use straw, especially where there are many warehouses and offices upon their beats. Providing themselves with straws about a foot long, many constables place one immediately beneath a door, between a gate and a post, and in other places. If the straws have been disturbed or crushed, they know at once that there is need for investigation into the causes. This simple trick has been the downfall of not a few clever housebreakers.—London Standard.

LAND VALUES.

Astonishing Rise of Real Estate Prices In This Country.

To those who are skeptical of the wisdom of investing money in real estate there are numerous instances of cities where every inch of land is of great value which have been built upon sites formerly sold for little or even given away. The United States and Canada are rich in such examples. Canada especially has been the scene of great bargains in land. During the first years of its history James I. made a free gift of the whole of Canada, together with Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, to the famous Lord Stirling. Some 200 years later a member of the suit of the governor of the colony was granted 100,000 acres of land by William IV. Later this was increased by the addition of 500,000 acres. Sixty years later a Canadian land company was given 3,000,000 acres, 2,000,000 being paid for at the rate of 60 cents an acre and the rest a free gift. As late as 1880 the Canadian government actually made the Scotch-Canadian company a present of $2,500,000 in cash as a bonus, with a free grant of 25,000,000 acres. As there were many conditions as to the development of the territory in the terms of the grant the bargain was not so one sided as it at first appears.

Every one knows that the whole of Manhattan Island was sold by the Indians for $24. Yet a plot of ground which was once a farm and was granted and still belongs to Trinity church yields a yearly income of $10,000,000.

Pennsylvania, the second most populous state in America, containing scores of prosperous cities, has an area of about 45,000 square miles. This tract of land was given over to William Penn in settlement of a comparatively trifling debt which Charles II. owed to Penn's father and which he found himself disinclined or unable to pay in cash.

The same improvident king was the one who rented 2,700,000 square miles of the land about Hudson bay for a yearly rental of two beavers and two elk per annum. This has proved to be one of the best speculations in land on record. Some 200 years after the deal the company of owners sold the major part of this vast territory to the Canadian federation for $2,500,000, and in the meantime it had been bringing in an average income of $500,000 a year.

Less than 300 years ago the present site of Liverpool was sold for $2,250 by a small London syndicate, who had bought it from Charles I. for even less.

The site of Johannesburg and most of its gold mines, which are said to contain over $14,000,000,000 worth of the precious metal, were sold less than thirty years ago to an Englishman named Pratt for the sum of $1,500. In spite of its cheapness it was a bad bargain for him, for because of his activity in the first Boer war his property was confiscated and he was driven to England in a penniless state.—New York Herald.

The Cadi's Wisdom.

There is a story current among the Persians which sets forth the disclosing power of wisdom, whereby a wise man uncovers the thing that is hidden. A certain cadi, or magistrate, was called upon to decide a curious case. A woman was claimed by two men as wife—one a peasant, the other a mirza, or scribe. Each of the two men swore to the truth of his claim. The woman for some reason was silent. The cadi, unable to get any evidence which corroborated the claim of either of the men, ordered the woman to remain for a time with his own wives. The next day he handed her over to the scribe and ordered the peasant to be severely bastinadoed—that is, beaten on the soles of his feet. Then the woman broke silence for the first time and praised the just judge. The spectators also applauded the justice of the cadi, but failed to see the grounds of his judgment.

"I told her to milk a cow," said the cadi, "and she could not. Then, handing her my writing case, I told her to put it in order. She took the silver spoon and replenished my inkstand. Only the wife of a man who could write would have done this correctly; hence my decision."