

The semi-annual examination for professional state certificates to teach in the schools of Nebraska was held in the rooms of the state superintendent at the capitol on Monday and Tuesday.

The Burlington is contemplating the building of a new depot north of its present building in Lincoln.

All the state officials excepting Treasurer Stuefer passed Christmas in Lincoln. Governor Savage received a 50-pound turkey from Colorado for a Christmas gift.

The state has won its case against Charles Gilbert and Armour & Co. at work. The charge was that of having unlawfully possession of 29 prairie chickens.

There is an election contest on in Pierce county over the office of county judge.

Clarence Peterson and Anton Paulson, charged with assaulting and attempting to rob Thomas Gogan and Julius Posen near Lindsay on the night of October 25, were discharged upon preliminary examination at Columbus.

Sheriff Byrnes has returned to Columbus from Walla Walla, Wash., with Thomas Leffer, wanted at Columbus for grand larceny.

Mrs. E. A. Murphy of Wood River last week sold her farm, one mile east of town, to W. H. Hardy of Plainview for \$10,000, averaging \$45 an acre.

Mrs. Carrie Nation was in Humboldt one day last week. A large crowd of people was on the streets all day, eager to get a glimpse of the joint smasher.

The Riverside farm, three and a half miles west of Columbus—540 acres—was sold last week for \$18,500.

The Dempster Mill company at Beatrice was closed last week to take the annual inventory. As soon as it can be taken the company will resume with nearly 300 men.

Carrie Nation visited Lincoln last week and made the rounds of the saloons, haranguing the crowd gathered in each.

A motion for rehearing the case of the Farmers' and Merchants' Irrigation company of Lexington against the Gothenburg Water Power and Irrigation company has been filed with the state board of irrigation.

Reports received at the state labor department indicate that interest in the movement to organize the real estate dealers of Nebraska is rapidly increasing.

Land Commissioner Follmer and Deputy Eaton made their last land leasing trip for several months on Thursday of last week.

The first shipment of books by the Nebraska Traveling Library commission was sent to Loup City, instead of to Blair, as previously announced.

The work of organizing the independent militia companies at Stanton and West Point is progressing rapidly, and officers will soon be detailed to muster them into the state service.

Reports of state and private banks to the state banking board show there have been little change in the condition of the banks.

Articles of incorporation of the Chamberlain Banking house at Graf, Johnson county, have been filed.

The Arctic Ice Machine company of Omaha has been organized with a capital stock of \$100,000.

Robert J. Clancey, private secretary to the governor, passed Christmas in Madison, Wis.

O. I. Johnson, city ticket agent of the Elkhorn at Lincoln, has been promoted to the position of cashier for the company at Superior.

Notwithstanding the severe winter weather there are three new buildings under headway at Carroll.

Bryan denies the rumor that he will relinquish the editorship of the Commoner.

There are three houses in Carroll which are quarantined on account of smallpox. The cases are very light and confined to children.

The city of Portland, Me., has in its streets thirty thousand shade trees, some of which were planted more than half a century ago.

Society women of New York have started a movement to give musical education to the masses by means of nickel concerts, the series to last all through the winter. As a preliminary, with a view to putting the work on a financial basis, a private ball will be given at the Waldorf-Astoria. The prime object of the concert series is to draw young men and women to better surroundings and amusements.

When the stout person is ill and loses flesh his clothes show room for improvement.

SHAW FOR THE CABINET.

The Retiring Governor of Iowa Accepts a Place in the Cabinet.

Secretary of the Treasury Lyman J. Gage Resigns His Post and Gov. Shaw Succeeds.

Des Moines, Ia.—(Special.)—Governor Leslie M. Shaw was gratified on receiving a telegram from President Roosevelt saying:

"I am delighted that you have consented to accept portfolio of secretary of the treasury. Have written."

This was the first official word the governor had received from the president. Pending the receipt of President Roosevelt's letter the governor has made no plans. He anticipates that he will be called to Washington, and if so will go at the pleasure of the president. "I have no plans," said the governor, "except that I assume that I shall fill out my almost completed term as executive. The inauguration of my successor will be January 16."

Governor Shaw has begun to realize something of the prominence which has come to him by the new honors which have been made his by President Roosevelt, for he has received congratulations of his friends in this city personally and by telephone, and telegrams from other sources. While he still preserves the attitude of dignified silence in regard to the details and the tender of the position of secretary of the treasury, his friends know that the matter is all settled. As for the governor, he is still busy with his biennial message. Had he known that this new honor was to come to him at this time, or had he contemplated anything to interfere with the work of his message, he might have had it nearer finished, but he supposed there would be plenty of time and was not making unnecessary haste. In fact, all that has been done as yet toward making the biennial message has been to gather the facts and statistics which form a necessary part thereof. But little of the actual text of the message has been written out.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS.

It is expected that the message of Governor Shaw to the legislature will be one of the completest reviews of state progress ever presented. During the four years he has been governor of the state great changes have taken place. The state was in debt actually far beyond the limits prescribed by law when he came into the office. The war with Spain and the necessary work of equipping four regiments of volunteers entailed upon the state a great expense with no funds from which the bills could be paid. Governor Shaw co-operated with others in securing the means to equip the soldier boys and the state maintained its place honorably. In the four years the state debt has been wiped out and the treasury is now full to overflowing. Governor Shaw in his message is expected to cover this ground fully and fairly. It is, therefore, a matter of considerable importance to him and to the state that he should have time to prepare his message well.

It will not be possible for Governor Shaw to take his new place until about the middle of January, but he will be ready then to take up his new duties. Beyond delivering his biennial message the retiring governor has no special duties to perform at the close of his term. He takes no part whatever in the inaugural ceremonies.

SAFEGUARDING WILSON.

It is said by confidential friends of Governor Shaw that he distinctly made it a condition of his acceptance of the treasury portfolio that it was to be with Secretary Wilson remaining in the cabinet. He authorized Senator Allison, who made the informal tender to him on behalf of the president, to state to the president that unless Shaw could enter the cabinet without endangering the position of Wilson he would not accept. So far as it is possible for Shaw and the Iowa delegation to do so, the interests of Secretary Wilson have been guarded. The fact that the position has been tendered to Shaw with this condition attached indicates that President Roosevelt has no fear of any consequences from placing two cabinet positions in Iowa. Governor Shaw would not do anything that would cause a sacrifice of Wilson, and by taking this position he has distinctly strengthened himself with the Iowa people. On the other hand, it is known certainly that Wilson contemplates an early retirement from the cabinet because of the embarrassment of two cabinet officials from one state.

Woman Don't Want Wine Used.

Pineville, Ky.—(Special.)—No details have yet been received from the scene of the reported encounter between the mountaineers on Red Bird creek, in which several were killed. Reports of the number of dead run all the way from three to ten.

Woman Don't Want Wine Used.

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special.)—The local branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance union tonight sent a telegram to United States Senator Cockrell of Missouri protesting against the use of wine at the christening of the battleship Missouri at Newport News next Saturday. Senator Cockrell's daughter, Miss Marion Cockrell of Warrensboro, Mo., will christen the Missouri and the senator will deliver the oration.

Woman Don't Want Wine Used.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—The committee of arrangements of the Transvaal league having charge of the pro-Boer meeting, January 6, at which Hon. Webster Davis is to speak in behalf of the suffering women and children of South Africa, met at the Paxton hotel cafe.

League Appeals for Funds.

Important business was transacted. Governor Savage has signified his willingness to preside at the meeting. Checks for \$100 each were acknowledged. Other prominent citizens have given evidences of large donations. The Elks quartette has accepted the invitation to furnish the vocal music for the occasion. A large and overflowing meeting is predicted.

How To Wake Up England.

London.—(Special.)—As a Christmas attraction the Daily News endeavored to obtain the views of prominent men on the best way of "waking up England." In view of American commercial competition. The paper consulted Sir Thomas Sutherland, Kenrick B. Murray, secretary of the London chamber of commerce, and others, only to discover the greatest divergence in the views of the persons questioned as to whether any real necessity for "waking up England" exists.

MERGING THE RURAL SCHOOL

Nebraska Superintendent Tells Why He Opposes Consolidation.

Opposes the Organization of Rural High Schools as Contemplated By the Recent Law.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—In a communication addressed to school people, State Superintendent Fowler discusses the advantages of centralization of rural schools. Mr. Fowler advocates the consolidation of small schools and opposes the organization of rural high schools as contemplated by a law passed by the last legislature. His communication follows:

"Will our state school laws permit several of all the districts in a township to unite for the purpose of forming a high school?" I answer yes. The law providing for a rural high school is set forth in sections 9 to 13, inclusive, subdivision 6, School Laws of Nebraska for 1901. This department, however, is not in favor of rural high schools as contemplated in these sections, for the reason that its plan is to leave the pupils of the lower grade in these schools in their own respective independent, and, in many cases, weak districts. The first condition of good rural schools is sufficiency of funds with which to provide and maintain them. How to provide these funds is not an easy problem. Many of our districts are small; the assessed valuation is low, so is the enumeration. With the small share of the state apportionment and with a tax levy that has reached the limit of the law, and yet a want of funds to run a good school, the question is indeed a serious one, and the attendance is often such as to make the per capita cost of maintaining unduly large, so that often a common school education becomes very costly. Any plan, therefore, that tends to weaken the already weak rural school should meet the opposition of all who are interested in the betterment of the rural schools. To overcome the many disadvantages of the present rural school system in Nebraska, and for the purpose of giving every farmer's boy and girl in this noble commonwealth opportunities equal to those of the boys and girls of the village and city, we recommend to the careful consideration of every rural school board and to the fathers and mothers of these children in the rural districts the consolidation of the small schools into a central school and the transportation of the pupils thereto. Consolidate or centralize the weak districts into a common central school, conveying the pupils from every part of the greater district or the congressional township to and from school by means of covered vans or wagons in charge of clean, capable, careful drivers. Such a plan would be legal under our existing statutes, as house roll 223, passed by the last session of the Nebraska legislature, removed the six-mile limit in the formation of school districts and we already had a transportation law.

"The following appeal was formulated and issued:

"The Omaha branch of the Transvaal league appeals for help to alleviate the suffering of the dying women and children in the reconcentrated murder camps established in South Africa. The English government is pursuing the same policy in concentrating the women and children in camps and starving them there that Weyler pursued in Cuba, and which action aroused the American people to declare war on Spain.

"The blue book issued in London shows that 3,156 deaths occurred in these camps in October, of which 2,633 were children; 2,807 deaths in November, of which 2,271 were children, which makes the total number of deaths among women and children in these death camps for the last six months 13,341, the death rate yearly 264 in each 1,000 and the yearly death rate among children 433 in each 1,000. The yearly death rate in England is 18 in 1,000.

"The mortality among the Boer women and children is something appalling. Will the Christian people of America tolerate this awful slaughter of innocent women and children, extending now over a period of three Christmases, without continued efforts to release and rescue at least what of them they yet may?

"We appeal to all organizations and every charitably inclined citizen in the state of Nebraska to give what they can to the movement to raise funds for this worthy cause. Contributions can be sent to William Fleming, treasurer of the organization, in the city hall, Omaha. These are Christmas times when in our festivals and at our homes all hearts are turned to the Prince of Peace. Let us not forget the people of South Africa who can have no festivals, and through the ravages of a brutal conquest war have no homes."

COW VALUABLE FOR WHAT IS IN HER.

Rochester, N. Y.—(Special.)—In an action brought by William Guppy, a Penfield farmer, against Wallace Bridges, a neighbor, the basis of litigation is alleged to be an 1804 dollar. According to Guppy's complaint, he owned one of these rare coins and was on his way to Rochester to sell the same, when he was asked by the defendant to give a helping hand in his silo.

He alleges that he stripped off his coat and did what was requested, but found, when resuming his garments, that a cow in a neighboring stall had reached the coat, chewed the pockets and incidentally swallowed the 1804 dollar.

He now seeks an injunction to restrain Bridges from selling the animal to coin collectors, who are flocking to Penfield and offering fabulous prices. He has also obtained a lien on the animal, pending the result of his suit.

Bridges claims that he has sold the animal to a man named Hamlin, and asks that that individual be impleaded as the defendant and that the action, so far as he, Bridges, is concerned, be dismissed.

The Hamlin man, through his attorney, states that he bought the cow prospectively, agreeing to pay \$700 provided the dollar could be secured after the cow was butchered. Otherwise he says he will not pay a cent.

B. M. BUILDS ENGINES AT HAVELOCK.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—Officials and shopmen of the railroads in this vicinity were elated to learn that the Burlington has just placed another large order with its shops at Havelock for ten more class K locomotive engines. Some time ago an order for eighteen engines of this class was given the Havelock shops and although the order has not been completed as yet, those engines which have been in operation for some time have given such thorough satisfaction that the order sent today was the result.

It is said in railroad circles that the engines manufactured in Nebraska are fully equal in not superior to the best the Baldwin Locomotive works produce and are as good as Burlington, Ia., or Aurora, Ill., shop built locomotives.

How To Wake Up England.

London.—(Special.)—With regard to the announcement made by Secretary Martin of the American Anti-Trust league, that Attorney General Knox had made pledges, on the day of his appointment, was scorned in executive session of the senate, to at once bring suit against five named trusts, Mr. Knox stated in the most emphatic terms that he had never made the pledges attributed to him; that he was not even informed by the senate judiciary committee of the charges against him.

Success in Massachusetts.

This idea of consolidation and transportation is not original with us. It is pronounced a success and in several of the eastern states. Note the following letter from Seymour Rockwell of Massachusetts, for nearly thirty years a member of the school board, who says:

"For twenty-five years we have had the best attendance from the transported children; no more sickness among them and no accidents. The children like the plan exceedingly. We have saved the town (consolidated district) at least \$900 a year. All these children now attend school in a fine house at the center, well kept. The schools are graded. Everybody is converted to the plan. We encountered all the opposition found anywhere, but we asserted our sensible and legal rights and accomplished the work. I see no way to bring up the common schools but to consolidate them, make them worth seeing. Then the people will be more likely to do their duty by visiting them."

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BOERS.

Paris.—(Special.)—In response to the requests of the women's society known as "Pennies for the Boers," aided by poems by Edmond Rostand, author of "L'Aiglon," three more of which appeared in the press on Christmas morning, thousands of gifts of clothes, books, blankets and canned food have been received at the society's headquarters, where they are displayed for Christmas visitors. Many substantial sums of money also were received, but the names of the givers are strictly withheld.

Opposes the Organization of Rural High Schools as Contemplated By the Recent Law.

Paris.—(Special.)—The dominating note of the Christmas atmosphere in Paris was the attempt to do something to aid the people in the concentration camps. At one of the largest theaters a former Boer aid de camp lectured in the afternoon on "The Last Hope of the Boers." He asserted that Europe's determination not to interfere was responsible for "the barbaric ruthlessness of English methods of warfare," and urged that now was the best moment to force the British to offer civilized terms. After an enthusiastic conclusion the audience thronged toward the boulevards, buying hundreds of dolls and mechanical toys representing Boer children and soldiers. These articles were then distributed among the children in the poorer quarters of the capital.

One of the Elysee functionaries informed the press correspondent that Mme. Loubet, the president's wife, when distributing presents to the children of the Elysee palace employees, referred charitably to the Boer women and children and urged her audience to contribute to the relief fund.

The different Boer societies telegraphed good wishes to President Kruger.

Colonel Lynch, member of parliament elect for Galway, was visited by a score of leading pro-Boer advocates, who urged him to go to England in spite of all warnings in order to force the hand of the government. Meantime hundreds of French little ones have received presents from Santa Claus inculcating undying hatred of England and enthusiasm for the cause of the lost republics.

His Mind Tired Beyond Repair.

Urbana, Ill.—(Special.)—John W. Weeks of Champagne, a personal friend of Rear Admiral Sampson, has received a letter from Mrs. Sampson, in which she says the mental condition of the admiral is beyond recovery. The letter is written in reply to a note expressing sympathy with the rear admiral in personal annoyances he has suffered in the controversy with Rear Admiral Schley.

Mrs. Sampson says:

"Admiral Sampson is too ill to really understand your most kind letter, just received, but if he were well he would wish to thank you for it. He cares so much for all 'old times' and for anything that concerns Palmyra. The wording of your letter shows that living in the west has not blinded your eyes to the truth concerning recent events. I have enjoyed your expression of the true facts as you understand them.

"My dear husband is quite worn out with a long life of concentrated duty. Physically he is comfortable and happy, but the brain is tired beyond ever being rested."

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The merits of this plan may be briefly stated as follows:

1. The pupils enjoy the advantage of the interest and enthusiasm and confidence which numbers always bring.
2. Pupils can be better classified and graded.
3. Truancy and irregular attendance are reduced to the minimum.
4. No quarreling, improper conduct or improper language.
5. No wet feet, wet clothing nor colds resulting therefrom.
6. Pupils have the advantage of better school rooms, better lighted, better heated, better ventilated.
7. This plan is sure to result in fewer and better teachers, better paid.

Under separate cover we mail you a copy of the school laws of Nebraska for 1901. For the law providing for the consolidation of districts see section 4b, subdivision 5 of said laws.

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THE FEELING IS BITTER.

Hostile Spirit Fosters Trouble Between Venezuela and Columbia.

While Actual War Is Not Declared, Crisis Is Deemed Imminent Between the Two Countries.

Colon, Colombia.—(Special.)—Newspapers just received here from coast towns in Colombia and Venezuela have much to say about the present status of the Venezuelan-Colombian imbroglio. The gist of these articles is that each republic is still incriminating the other for permitting the mustering of arms, troops, ammunition, etc., and the actual invasion of the other's territory in alleged violation of the laws governing the relation of friendly nations. These newspapers contain no news of a declaration of war by either Colombia or Venezuela.

They set forth that the policy of Colombia is one of readiness to meet any emergency, hence she will make continued efforts to increase the number of her troops on the Venezuelan frontier.

The Colombian gunboat general Pinzon, with 700 troops aboard, has left here for Rio Hacha. It is reported from the interior of Colombia that there has been no recent serious fight there. A few insurgents were found near Honda. They were easily defeated and dispersed by the government troops.

The Colombian conservative General Castro considering it next to impossible to surround the liberal leader, Lorenzo, and his followers, who are now in La Negrita mountains, has come to the conclusion that the government's best policy is to garrison the interior towns in the neighborhood of the liberals' retreat, thus cutting off supplies and forcing Lorenzo to surrender.

General Castro is an old Indian fighter. He has campaigned in the Guajira peninsula and in the Colombian department of Cauca. He is familiar with the Indian tactics of warfare used by Lorenzo.

Port De France, Island of Martinique.—(Special.)—(Via Haitian Cable.)—Large numbers of Venezuelans have arrived here, general Matos, the reputed leader of the revolution against general Castro, and the British steamer Ban Righ are still here. It is alleged that the vessel has on board 5,000,000 cartridges and 10,000 Mauser rifles.

Salvation Army Provides Dinners.

Omaha, Neb.—(Special.)—The Kettle and tripod of the Salvation army has been the means of giving more than 200 families of poor people Christmas dinners. In the army barracks an end of the hall on Christmas morning was stacked with baskets of good things to eat, purchased with the nickels and dimes dropped into the kettles that stood on the street corners for the last week. The contributions amounted to about \$200.

When the distribution began at 9:30 o'clock there were 400 people in the barracks. Only half the number had tickets entitling them to a basket. The rest were there to look on, or to help carry the baskets home. Brigadier Toft had the assistance of Ensign May, Captains Birch and Cunningham and Sister Talbot in distributing the provisions.

The applicants filed down the main aisle, exchanged a bit of pastebord for a dinner, and left by a side door. There were feeble old men and women, who walked with the help of a cane or a crutch; small boys and girls, hardly strong enough to tug away the things that were given for the brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers at home. There were all nationalities and colors.

In each of the baskets that were carried away was a chicken, a pound each of sugar, coffee, butter, potatoes, canned corn, tomatoes and bread. The supply is enough to provide a family of seven for two meals.

Lopez Hanged for Treason.

Manila.—(Special.)—Senor Lopez, who was arrested in Batangas province for treasonable communication with the insurgents, has been hanged. He was a brother of Sixto Lopez, Aguinaldo's European representative, and a wealthy merchant in Manila and Batangas. In 1898 178 Spanish prisoners were handed over to Senor Lopez, who was to conduct them to a place of safety. He ordered the entire party to be cut down with bolos, and personally assisted in the slaughter. He is said also to have robbed the dead bodies. Only thirty of the Spaniards escaped.

Mrs. McKinley's Christmas Presents.

Canton, O.—(Special.)—Mrs. McKinley received Christmas presents and flowers from all parts of the country. She spent Christmas day alone in her home, not caring to join in the family reunion at the Saxton homestead, which would forcibly remind her of Christmases past.

The Years Rail Construction.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—Figures prepared by the Railway Age show that railroad building in the United States during 1901 has been greater than it has been for eleven years previous, the total approximating 5,017 miles of line. In 1899 the total was 5,670, and in 1900 was 4,437 miles. The total construction for the year added to the total mileage previously reported now brings the total mileage of the country to approximately 129,370 miles.

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