

The Valentine Democrat

VALENTINE, NEB.

I. M. RICE, - - - Publisher

DENIES THE CHARGE

HERMIT SAYS HE IS NOT A WHOLESALE MURDERER.

At First it Was Thought He Might Have Been a Member of the Notorious Taylor Gang Which Operated in Missouri.

Tacoma, Wash.: A diary kept by "Bob" Taylor, the hermit captured after a battle with a sheriff and posse, makes it appear that he has killed others since February, 1903. One entry, undated, reads:

"Today I killed 'Feller' Killon and—"
The last word is unintelligible. The sentence may mean, "I killed a fellow," and the rest may refer to killing and shooting. It is believed the prisoner is the missing Taylor of Lena County, Mo., who, after murdering several persons for crimes which he was sentenced to be hanged in 1896, escaped and disappeared and for whom heavy rewards were offered.

Long life as a hermit may have affected his mind, for there is said to be no doubt that he is partially demented. Taylor, who killed W. W. Barnes Thursday, and wounded Sheriff Denham Friday, denies being a member of the Taylor gang of desperadoes, one of whom escaped from the Lynn County, Mo., jail in 1896. His story is fully corroborated by Jailer Lincoln, who is now guarding the prisoner in Tacoma. Lincoln was jailer at St. Joseph, Mo., when George Taylor escaped, and says the prisoner bears no resemblance whatever to the Missouri desperado.

The account in Taylor's diary found in his hut of having killed two men, he says, refers to Barnes and his companion, whom he shot Thursday.

Taylor admits having shot a man near Jamestown, N. D., but claims it was an accident, and that the man was only slightly injured.

Taylor says he was at one time a cowboy in Montana, and that until the present time had not committed any crime.

ROSEBUD RESERVATION.

South Dakota Urged to Promptly Select Its Portion.

Washington: Commissioner Richards, of the general land office, appreciating the interest in the opening of the Rosebud reservation, has called upon Gov. Herreid of South Dakota to make selections in the townships reserved for special purposes as soon as possible.

A telegram was sent to the governor Saturday stating that a list of selections equal to the loss should be filed at once with the local land office for transmission to the department, where specific bases would be assigned to the separate tracts.

The losses alluded to relate to the selection of school indemnity lands, which were selected by Indians in taking their allotments.

The state of South Dakota is entitled to 5,604 acres by reason of allotments, and 1,243 acres on account of fractional townships.

HURRICANE ROOF COLLAPSES

Twenty People Injured on a St. Louis Ferry Steamer.

St. Louis, Mo.: The hurricane roof of the ferry steamer Alanzo C. Church collapsed early Sunday evening while the steamer was crowded with sightseers viewing the United States gunboat Nashville at anchor in the river harbor here, and about twenty people were injured, a number of them being reported in a critical condition.

No stop was made at the Nashville owing to the heavy flood current running. As the ferryboat rounded the Nashville and was starting back to the dock the crowd on the upper deck rushed to the steamer's side and out upon the hurricane roof. The strain was too great and the roof collapsed, precipitating a large number of people twenty feet to the deck below, which was also crowded. Instantly a panic ensued.

NINE WERE KILLED.

World's Fair Special Train Wrecked in Missouri.

St. Louis, Mo.: An Iron Mountain train running as a world's fair special, struck an open switch at Kimmswick, Mo., thirty-six miles south of here, Saturday and was wrecked.

Engineer Bailey was killed and Fireman Gumbert were fatally injured. Nine bodies have been removed from the wreck. Six passengers are seriously and twenty slightly injured.

The wreck occurred while the train was going at excessive speed. The engine turned completely over, pinning Engineer Bailey beneath tons of steel. Master Mechanic Tabor was riding on the engine and was instantly killed. The baggage car was thrown nearly 100 feet from the wreck and is entirely demolished.

Four Hunters Drowned.

Duluth, Minn.: Four men, employees of the Davidson & McKee ranch, in Aitkin County, were drowned in Rice Lake eight miles southwest of Kimberly, Minn. They were out duck hunting and their boats capsized.

Tragedy in a Box Car.

Council Bluffs, Ia.: Three men and a boy were burned to death in a box car in the Northwestern yards here about 1 o'clock Monday morning. They are believed to have been tramps trying to steal a ride.

Glover to Swim the Channel.

Baltimore, Md.: Samuel Glover, who swam across Chesapeake Bay, will now try to cross the English Channel. He has just signed an agreement with Dr. Ordway of the London Athletic Club to that effect.

Steamers Collide; Thirteen Drown

Falmouth: The Spanish steamer Zazopirakbat was sunk off the Scilly Islands Saturday evening in a collision with the British steamer Cresyl. Thirteen members of the crew of the Zazopirakbat were drowned.

ROCKER WILL HANG.

Must Die for the Murder of August Schroeder.

Rock Rapids, Ia.: For the death of August Schroeder, his wife's former husband, near Doon, Ia., June 30, 1900, Charles Rocker was Friday afternoon found guilty of murder in the first degree and condemned by the jury to suffer death for the crime.

It is the first time in the history of the judicial district that a jury has imposed the death penalty, and it is indicative of the jury's confidence in the guilt of the accused.

The case went to the jury at 6:45 o'clock Thursday evening. The jury deliberated until 1:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, most of the time being consumed, it is understood, in consideration of the question of penalty. Under the Iowa statute, the jury must say whether the defendant shall suffer death or life imprisonment in cases of conviction of murder in the first degree.

It was some time after the jury reported to the sheriff that they had agreed before the court officials were assembled to receive the verdict. The news of the agreement spread through the town quickly and by the time the court was assembled to hear the reading of the verdict, the room was packed by an intensely interested throng.

Clerk of Court McNab received the verdict from Foreman W. K. H. McElroy, and read these words:

"Verdict No. 1—We, the jury, find the defendant, Charles Rocker, guilty of murder in the first degree as charged and further find and determine that the defendant be punished with death."
It is doubtful if Rocker would have ever been brought to justice had not the involuntary workings of his own conscience incriminated him. After a fit of brutal anger and a spree last autumn, he acted out in his sleep the murder of Schroeder, and Mrs. Schroeder, whom Rocker had taken as his wife, forced him to tell the whole story of the crime. She had until that time believed Schroeder had committed suicide as Rocker claimed. But now she found not only that Rocker was guilty, but that he had deceived her in their marriage, having a wife from whom he had not been divorced, and a family of children living at Dundee, Minn. She decided to testify against him and as a result appeared in the trial and dramatically condemned her husband as guilty. This more than any other testimony tended to convict him; in fact, it is doubtful if a conviction could have been secured without her evidence. An indictment is hanging over her for complicity in the crime but it is doubtful if she will be prosecuted.

A NEW YORK FAILURE.

Strong Firm Goes to the Wall and Its Chief Partner is Very Sick.

New York: The deputy sheriff Friday took possession of the office of Woodend & Co., members of the consolidated stock exchange, on an attachment for about \$5,000.

Up to a few days ago the firm had extensive wire connections to branches in various cities, and was generally supposed to be doing a large business. At the home of W. E. Woodend a physician said he was ill to see anyone except his physicians. Mr. Woodend has been prominent at several horse shows.

After the attachments issued Friday an involuntary petition in bankruptcy was filed against Wm. E. Woodend, broker, doing business as Wm. E. Woodend & Co. The petitioning creditors are the Hadden Rodee Company, a Wisconsin corporation.

CANAL IS PAID FOR.

Panama Company Gets \$40,000,000 and Turns Over Deed.

Washington: Uncle Sam has paid the \$40,000,000 to the new Panama Canal Company and the title to the canal property rests with the United States. The deeds are in the possession of Assistant Attorney General Day and Russell, who will leave Paris for Washington in a few days. The money was paid to the canal company on the authority of Attorney General Knox, by a French syndicate and a draft for the \$40,000,000, drawn on the treasury, is now on its way to New York.

This secret and unexpectedly speedy action was taken by President Roosevelt's order to prevent further delay in the transfer through possible court proceedings by the few dissatisfied stockholders of the Panama Company.

Attempted Murder.

Jeffersonville, Ind.: An attempt was made to assassinate D. M. Robbins, candidate for mayor on the independent labor ticket. Robbins was seated in his home when two bullets crashed into the window, one splintering the chair on which he was sitting and the other demolishing a lamp. No arrests have been made.

Push Cart Ice Cream Poisons.

Cincinnati, O.: George H. Harjard, advertising manager of the Columbia and Walnut Street theaters, says he will sue the city for damages because the officers have not enforced the pure food laws, and his 8-year-old daughter was poisoned by eating penny ice cream bought from a push cart man.

Clears Priest of Assault Charge.

Bellefonte, Pa.: The Rev. Father Victor Zarek, arrested last Sunday on the charge of beating Andrew Sofka, was exonerated. District Attorney Spangler announced that, as the coroner's inquest revealed that the boy died of peritonitis, the commonwealth had no case against the priest.

Tramp Fasts for Seven Days.

White Plains, N. Y.: Imprisoned in a freight car for seven days without food or drink, and half starved, a tramp who gave his name as John Nowell was rescued by railroad men on the North White Plains terminal of the Harlem Railroad.

Testament Saves His Life.

Jeffersonville, Ind.: D. M. Robbins, independent labor candidate for mayor, declares a vest pocket edition of the New Testament saved him from being killed. A pistol bullet was fired through a window, hit the testament in his breast pocket, and fell to the floor.

Treasure Not on Lost Ship.

St. Petersburg: The admiralty denies that treasure amounting to \$6,000,000 went down with the battleship Petropavlovsk. No Russian warship carries more than \$50,000.

NEWS OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA

Germans Have Suffered Very Severe Losses.

Berlin: Col. Duerr (concerning whose return from German Southwest Africa conflicting reasons have been given) arrived at Hamburg Thursday and made the impression that he was a very sick man.

The commandant of the Grootfontein district, German Southwest Africa, cables that the Germans there have suffered most severe losses, and lack the necessities of life. He adds:

"I beg for immediate assistance."
A semi-official publication says the authorities here do not expect further engagements with the Hereros until the German forces see the opportunity of striking a decisive blow.

The Cologne Zeitung prints a Berlin dispatch evidently inspired and designed to defend the government against the charge of lack of energy in suppressing the rebellion.

"The government pursued a policy," says the correspondent, "of letting the Southwest Africa authorities determine what forces they needed, and sent all they requested."

REFUSES \$80,000 BEQUEST.

Methodist Board of Foreign Missions Will Not Accept Gift.

Chicago: The board of foreign missions of the Methodist Episcopal church has repudiated the gift of \$80,000 proffered to its funds in the will of W. W. Cooper of Kenosha and Chicago.

Mr. Cooper, an enthusiastic member of the church and interested in its missionary efforts, lost his life in the Kenosha theater fire on Dec. 30. It is understood in Kenosha that the church board refused the bequest "because Mr. Cooper met his death in a place of amusement not countenanced by the church."

Notification that the gift was refused has reached the county clerk at Kenosha. In his letter to the court A. B. Leonard, secretary of the board, gives no reason for the action more than to state that it was the unanimous decision of the church body.

SAN DOMINGO REVOLTS.

Island Republic is Again Stirred by Renewed Hostile Activity.

Cape Haytien, Hayti: The Dominican government cruiser Presidente has arrived here. On the way from Puerto Plata to this port it stopped at Monte Cristi, on the north coast of Santo Domingo, and fired several shells at the forts, which are held by revolutionists. The latter replied and obliged the cruiser to cease the bombardment.

Gen. Jimenez is expected to return to Santo Domingo soon with war munitions.

It is reported that an agreement has been entered into by the Haytien exiles to make a joint effort to re-entree Hayti and Gens. Salnave, Fouchard and Leconte, all former candidates for the presidency, are preparing plots.

DIAMOND ROBBERY BY A RUSE

Young Man Impersonates Wealthy Chicagoan and Gets Gems.

Chicago: A diamond robbery involving the loss of \$1,100 worth of jewels by a prominent Chicago firm is puzzling Pinkerton detectives.

An order purporting to come from a wealthy Chicago man was given over the telephone requesting that certain styles of gems be sent to the residence for the inspection of his wife.

Shortly after the diamonds were delivered a young man called at the house and said that the jewels had been left by mistake. He presented the firm's business card and was given the diamonds. No trace of the man or the jewels has been obtained.

GETS HIS PIE; LOSES FAMILY.

Fired of Waiting for Gastronomic Husband, Wife Boards Train.

St. Paul, Minn.: A Toledo (O.) traveling salesman left his family in the Monon station waiting room Thursday while he went to a lunch counter for a piece of pie. When he returned they had gone, and after rushing around the station, pie in hand, shouting their names, he learned they had taken a train.

The man boarded the rear platform as the train got under headway, but had to drop the pie to do it.

MOURNED AS DEAD, YET LIVES

Theodore Gottlieb, Who Left Chicago Ten Years Ago, Returns.

Kenosha, Wis.: Mourned as dead for the last five years, Theodore Gottlieb, a former resident of Chicago, called at the store of his brother, Jacob Gottlieb, Wednesday afternoon and made himself known. He is a wealthy railway owner in Cape Town, South Africa. Gottlieb left his home in Chicago ten years ago. He says he was in the war with Spain, and was reported among the killed at San Juan.

No Beer Fumes for Babies.

Kansas City, Mo.: By a decree of divorce granted to Mrs. Daisy Hayes, Wednesday, James A. Hayes, the defendant, is restrained from visiting their two children within forty-eight hours after he has taken a drink of liquor or beer. The children, girls, were placed in the mother's custody.

Blame Death to Mother.

Binghamton, N. Y.: Mrs. Henrietta De Witt was arrested at Sidney, Delaware County, charged with the murder of her 17-year-old daughter, Florence Mackintosh, by poisoning her with arsenic.

Peanut Roaster Exploded.

Winona, Minn.: A new kind of accident was invented here Thursday. A peanut roaster blew up, doing \$1,500 damage and injuring one person. Agitation has begun for a city peanut inspector.

Brothers Death Was an Accident.

Dedham, Mass.: Harris E. Dexter, a 14-year-old boy, was acquitted of the murder of his younger brother, Parker. The boys were alone at home when Parker was shot, and Harris claimed the shooting was an accident.

Discover Five Dead Indians.

St. Louis, Mich.: Workmen excavating for a sewer in Morrison avenue unearthed the skeletons of five adults. Apparently that section of the city was the site of an Indian cemetery in the early days.

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEWS OF THE WEEK IN A CONDENSED FORM.

Alleged Murderer in Jail—James Kelley is Suspected of the Killing of Arthur Snowden—Prisoner Refuses to Say a Word.

Deputy Sheriff Lachnit returned to Columbus from David City with James Kelley, who is charged with the murder of Arthur Snowden at Humphrey on March 28. Kelley will talk to no one, remaining absolutely silent on all questions, County Attorney Latham says the evidence against him so far is entirely circumstantial, but is quite strong.

Snowden was found murdered in Humphrey Township March 28. His remains were sent to a medical college at Lincoln and were not identified until just recently. His parents are said to live at Kearney.

Kelley has just completed a ten-day sentence at David City for robbing the general merchandise store of E. A. Cram of that city of about \$5 worth of wearing apparel. He was found with the goods in his possession near the stock yards and pleaded guilty. While he was serving his sentence Sheriff West received a description of the supposed murderer of Arthur Snowden near Humphrey, on March 28, which was a complete description of his prisoner. The officers of Platte County were notified, and advised when the sentence would expire.

Upon request from the authorities of Platte County the prisoner was again arrested by Sheriff West, as the supposed murderer. Deputy Sheriff H. C. Lachnit of Platte County, accompanied by Sheriff Bauman of Dodge County, went down to David City and immediately identified the prisoner as the man wanted.

The prisoner gives his name as John E. Benton, but it is known that he has gone under the aliases of James Miller, James Kelley, James Thompson and James Morris.

Sheriff West was for a long time chief of police of David City, and is now serving his second term as sheriff of Butler County, and he says that Benton is, in his opinion, one of the toughest criminals he has ever seen or had charge of. Sheriff West believes he will receive the \$400 reward offered by the supervisors of Platte County.

PROSSER GREETED NEW CARS

Wind and Rain Cannot Stop the Big Barboune.

In spite of a heavy rain, accompanied by a cold, driving wind, which raged all day Sunday, Prosser's 200 population was increased by 500 excursionists, who came from various points between Manhattan, Kan., and Prosser to celebrate the installation of the Missouri Pacific's daily passenger service. A reception committee met the excursionists at the station. Three bands were present.

At 1 o'clock the 2-year-old ox, which had been roasting over a wood fire since 3 in the morning, was brought in and laid upon the platform in Woodman hall and two butchers dispensed generous portions to the hungry visitors, who included men, women and children. Sunday's was the first passenger train to enter Prosser in twelve years, and the energy with which the Prosserites strove to entertain their visitors, in spite of storm, marked their appreciation of the innovation.

DEMANDS INVOICES.

County Assessor Gets After Merchants at Nebraska City.

County Assessor Grant Zimmers is having a great deal of difficulty in getting correct assessments from the various merchants in Nebraska City and other towns in the county. He has in a number of cases demanded the invoices of stocks and proposes to let none evade the law this year.

The county surveyor and city officials are making a survey of the railroad property in the county and they propose to have the railroads pay their full share of taxes as well as other corporations doing business in the county.

Horses Killed by Lightning.

Messrs. Hockett, Gaddis and Scott bought at Grand Island on Friday last thirty-seven head of western horses, turning them in a pasture three miles west of Harvard, Saturday. Monday morning when going to look after them thirteen were found dead along the wire fence, the supposition being that they had all been killed by lightning, every indication being that they had dropped dead.

Aged Man Gets Bad Fall.

Allen Barnes was severely injured at Table Rock by the falling of a scaffold. His arm is broken near the elbow and there are three bad cuts on his head and face. As he is about 70 years of age the injuries are regarded as very serious. W. G. Ward, who was on the scaffold, also fell, but his injuries are only slight.

Grain Looks Well.

York County farmers are rejoicing over the fine rains of last week. Winter wheat is looking better than at any time in several years and promises another bumper crop. Oats is looking fine and believed to be better than most farmers hoped for. Ground is in fine condition. Many farmers are preparing their ground for corn.

To Form a Commercial Club.

At Grand Island a declaration for the organization of a commercial club has been signed by thirty-five business men and others interested in the progress of the city, and it is expected that an organization will be perfected at an early date.

Robbed in Broad Daylight.

In broad daylight A. Myers, a guest at the Millard Hotel at Omaha, was robbed of \$200 at the point of a revolver and the robbers escaped through a crowd of people in the hotel lobby and drove away in a hack.

Gets Caught in Shafting.

At the brick plant of Glasgow & Dye at Peru Dave Gilliland, in putting on a small belt, backed against a key in a line shaft, which tore his clothing all off except the lower part of his trousers. He is badly bruised, but not seriously hurt.

RAINS OF MUCH BENEFIT.

Warm Weather, However, is Needed in Nebraska.

The latest Nebraska crop bulletin, published at Lincoln, says:

Low temperature continued during the week, averaging from 7 to 10 degrees below the normal throughout the state.

The rainfall for the week was the heaviest for the year, and ranged from about 25 of an inch in the northwestern part of the state to over 4 inches in some southeastern counties. In the southwestern section, where the dry conditions have continued for many weeks, the rainfall for the week ranged from 1 to 2 inches.

The fine rains of the week will prove of much benefit to winter wheat and spring grain, pastures and gardens, especially in the central and western sections of the state, where the soil had become very dry. The continued cold has retarded the growth of all vegetation. Winter wheat, however, has grown fairly well and is in excellent condition except where damaged by dry weather in a number of southwestern counties. In the southern half of the state oats and some spring wheat are beginning to grow. Considerable corn ground has been plowed and this work was progressing rapidly until delayed in most localities by the heavy rains which occurred the latter part of the week. Garden truck is beginning to come up and fruit buds are swelling in the southern sections.

DIES FROM ACCIDENTAL SHOT

Smaller Boy Grabs Hold of Gun When it is Discharged.

An accident with a 22-caliber rifle at the Lutheran orphan's home, just east of Fremont, Tuesday noon, resulted in the death of Basil Rupin, aged 15 years, an inmate of the home.

Young Rupin had been shooting some pigeons and was walking across the yard at the home, holding the gun in both hands. A smaller boy, Peter Sissakian, grasped the stock of the weapon and tilted the barrel upward. It was discharged and the ball entered Rupin's right eye, passing thence into the brain. He lingered for several hours and died in the evening.

Young Rupin has been at the home for twelve years, having been placed in it when he was 3 years old. His mother is dead but his father is still living and resides at Topeka, Kan. He was the oldest boy in the home and the accident would not have happened had it not been for the smaller lad, who is but 6 years of age.

GOES TO THE PEN.

William Turley Starts on Seventeen-Year Sentence.

William Turley, convicted at Grand Island of murder in the second degree of Norman T. Bliss and sentenced to seventeen years in the penitentiary, was Wednesday afternoon taken to Lincoln by Jailer Wickwire. While he joked with the ticket agent about not needing a return ticket, since he would have some pretty close relations with the state at Lincoln for some time, he was nevertheless somewhat moved and said that if he had to remain in the penitentiary 100 years he would still insist that he did not shoot Bliss while his back was turned, as was testified to and as the shot-riddled clothing indicated.

None of the members of his family were at the train when he departed, he having short notice of the same and simply writing a letter.

FARMERS MAY PROTEST.

Those Near Lushton May Make Showing Before Equalization Board.

Farmers living near Lushton are talking of forming an organization for the purpose of sending a delegate to Lincoln to urge upon the state board of equalization the injustice of the return of some of the railroads in Nebraska of valuations. Nearly every farmer in York County has rural mail delivery at his door and every farmer take a daily paper. They are reading the schedules returned by the railroads of Nebraska, now being printed in the dailies, and are taking a great interest owing to the fact that their lands have been raised from \$25 to nearly \$50 per acre, and that when the assessors go through with them they felt as if they had been through a wringer, and that there was nothing, even the chickens and a fork of hay, that escaped taxation.

Bald Eagle Stole Pigs.

J. D. Pentiman, a farmer living west of Plattsmouth, has been missing spring pigs for some time very mysteriously. A few days ago he noticed an eagle circling over his feed yard and decided that it was responsible for the disappearance of more than a dozen fine young porkers. Charley Fleishman succeeded in shooting it. It was a fine specimen of the bald eagle and measured 88 inches from tip to tip.

Light and Water Plants Pay.

Fremont's electric light and water plants both show balances on the right side of the ledger for the year ending April 1, 1904. The lighting plant, which has previously not been a paying investment, shows a balance of \$1,682.25, and the water department a balance of \$1,708.90.

Shot Proved Fatal.

Aaron Stevens, the young man who was accidentally shot last Sunday morning at Hooper, is dead. The injuries, which at first were thought not to be serious, were found afterward to extend further than was supposed. A number of the shot took effect in the abdomen, and the patient suffered intense pain until death relieved his sufferings.

Didn't Need a Jury.

Court has been in session at Wayne for the past two days, Judge Boyd presiding. The jury was discharged without having been called to sit in a single case.

Fruit Injured.

A severe hail storm occurred with the storm of last Sunday a few miles west of Pawnee City. It is reported that nearly all the fruit was killed or badly injured.

Russians Going to Beet Fields.

Twenty-three families of Russians left McCook Thursday bound for the beet fields of Colorado. They formed part of a trainload gathered up at various Nebraska points, all bound for Colorado sugar beet fields.

Gas Was Turned On.

George Wilson of Valley Junction was found insensible in a room at the Boyd Hotel, Lincoln. The gas was turned on when the man was discovered. The doctors say he will die. He is a young man, apparently 25 years of age.



Reports of 508 banks in Nebraska, compiled by the state banking board, show an increase in deposits of over \$1,700,000 over the report of last November; the number of depositors has increased over 3,000, and the per cent of reserve has increased from 20 1/2 to 32 per cent. The loans and discounts in the present statement are \$34,952,194.03, while for the November call they were \$24,530,329.20. The total deposits shown by this statement are \$38,777,300.98, while the November statement shows total deposits of \$37,074,882.24. The number of banks over the last statement has increased seven; the number of depositors at this time is 119,675 and the November statements show the number to be 116,484. The report is a statement of the condition of the banks at the close of business March 17.

The judgment obtained in the district court by H. M. Cameron, administrator of the estate of Johnson, is set aside by the supreme court and the case reversed. Gooch was driving a traction engine over one of the county bridges and the structure giving way beneath him, he was killed. This was on July 25, 1901. Suit was brought for \$5,000 damages. The court says that a county cannot be held as the insurer of those who have occasion to use its bridges, and that if there are any defects, latent in character, and not discoverable from the ordinary tests and examinations, and if the county is not negligent in that regard, it is not liable.

Representatives of the Nebraska Creamery Company and dairymen from all over the state were at Lincoln Thursday talking shop. Figures reported at the convention show the number of head of milkers in service to be 1,186,000, valued at \$20,000,000, annually. Here are some figures showing the amount of business done by the butter factories during the last few years, which show the increased interest being taken in dairy matters: In 1898, \$161,369.05; 1899, \$202,871.90; 1900, \$406,058.67; 1901, \$507,221.98; 1902, \$794,913.84; 1903, \$1,259,000. The close of the present year will likely furnish another surprise in the amount of coin that is falling in a golden stream into the laps of the farmers of the state.

Special Examiner Wiggins is at work on the books of Gen. Colby, formerly adjutant general of the state, who was indicted by the federal grand jury at Omaha for being short in his accounts to the extent of a number of blankets amounting in value to \$2,000. The legislature made no appropriation to pay for this examination and Mr. Wiggins will depend upon the next legislature to recompense him. The work was delayed several weeks by the case of the Bankers' Union of the World, Mr. Wiggins having made the investigation of that company, which caused the attorney general to file a motion for an injunction against the company.

The returns of the Sioux City and Western branch of the Willmar and Sioux Falls Railway were received by the state board of equalization Saturday afternoon. The road returns its mileage in Nebraska at 128.2