

STATE CAPITAL LINCOLN LIQUOR

A ruling of great importance to money lenders as well as borrowers was made by the supreme court in the case of Allen against Dunn, from Garfield County. It is, in brief, that the taking of interest for more than one year in advance is unauthorized by law, if by such action more than 10 per cent is received on the actual sum loaned. There is a statute in Nebraska which says: "Any rate of interest agreed upon, not exceeding \$10 per year upon \$100, shall be valid upon any loan or forbearance of money, goods or things in action, which rate of interest so agreed upon may be taken yearly or for any shorter period, or in advance, if so expressly agreed." In the case in question a loan of \$600 was made at 6 per cent interest. The note that was signed, however, called for the payment of \$630, and the effect of it was that the borrower paid \$636 interest more than 10 per cent. The supreme court, in this opinion, says that "it is quite clear that under the statute the taking of interest for more than one year in advance is unauthorized, if by such action more than 10 per cent is received."

The generous response from all over the state to the request from the department of labor for statistics to be included in the annual bulletin to be used by Labor Commissioner Bush some time in July indicate that this report will contain much valuable information. Among the new features of the work will be the report of the packing houses, which have made complete returns. Among the other new features of the report will be the fraternal statistics, railroad statistics, county statistics and more complete reports of land sales and demands for land. The railroad statistics will include the number of employed of various classes, the salary during the year, wrecks, number of persons injured and killed, the mileage by counties and a good portion of the returns required by the state board of equalization. The fraternal statistics will include the number of lodges, members, officers, location, etc. The county statistics will include ecclesiastical, professional and criminal statistics, number of saloons and number of educational institutions.

Gov. Mickey Saturday morning granted his first pardon to a convict. The object of executive clemency is Sonny Ford, sentenced to the penitentiary for four years from Cherry County for shooting and killing Allen Rothchilds in June, 1903. The original sentence was seven years, the supreme court having cut this down to four years. The governor gave Ford his freedom only after there had been filed with him an affidavit from Dr. A. N. Compton to the effect that Rothchilds just before dying had told the doctor that Ford had shot him accidentally. Rothchilds said that Ford was showing him the revolver and that it was discharged when he attempted to break the breech. Dr. Compton was not a witness at the trial in the district court, otherwise Judge Harrington, who sat on the case, wrote to Gov. Mickey that he was sure the verdict would have been different. Besides the affidavit a petition with the names of many prominent people of Cherry County attached was filed with the governor.

It is now up to the supreme court to decide whether the district court has jurisdiction to decree a divorce to a non-resident defendant upon his cross-petition when the facts show him clearly entitled to it. The question is raised in a brief filed by Attorney George Loomis in behalf of Charles C. Pine, in a suit for divorce from Nettie S. Pine. Charles Pine lives in New Jersey and Mrs. Pine lives in Fremont. She brought suit in the district court for divorce, alleging cruelty and failure to support. Pine filed a cross-petition, alleging infidelity. According to the brief filed, he proved his allegations against his wife, but, being a non-resident, the district court held it had no jurisdiction to grant him the divorce. Consequently his cross-petition was thrown out of court and the woman also was refused a divorce.

The census bureau at Washington in a report on irrigation in Nebraska in 1902, says that water was artificially applied to 245,900 acres, an increase of almost 66 per cent since 1899. There were 2,562 farms irrigated and the 527 systems employed were constructed at an initial cost of \$2,463,748. This sum includes the cost of the necessary hydraulic works and of the 1,861 miles of main canals and ditches. The increase since 1889 in number of farms is 52.8 per cent, and in total construction cost \$8.0 per cent. The average first cost per irrigated acre increased from \$8.2 in 1899 to \$10.2 in 1902. Of the total irrigated area 241,680 acres were watered from springs and 1,021 from wells.

J. Howard Hunter of the department of insurance of Toronto, Can., has written to Secretary Royle of the state banking board for information as to how best to deal with the "Home Building Associations." Mr. Hunter refers to a paragraph in the report of the banking board for 1902, in which Mr. Royle called attention to an English company which had tried to start a home association, and the promoter had died in the asylum. Mr. Hunter requests that Mr. Royle send him further details of this case, and also other information that he may have.

The Nebraska Telephone Company in Lincoln exclusively has returned its property to the county assessor, without its real estate, at a valuation of \$152,000. In Lancaster County its property was returned at a valuation of \$170,000. Mr. Bryan's Commoneer returned its property at a valuation of \$18,985.

Just now it looks like competition will do for Lincoln what its former city councils have failed to do in the matter of securing a reduction in gas rates. The Lincoln Traction Company has got in the game, and it was learned that about twenty families, among them being some of the best customers of the gas company, had signed five-year contracts with the traction company for electric lights at prices much lower than these families have been securing light. As a result, so it is claimed, the gas company intends to disregard its former price schedule and meet competition.

THE WAR IN THE EAST

JAPAN'S SUCCESSES ON LAND AS NOTABLE AS ON SEA.

Mikado's Forces Seize Feng-Wang-Chang and Cut Off Port Arthur—Russians Retreating to Concentrate Their Armies—General War News.

Swift is the procession of events in the war in the Far East. After their defeat of the Russians at the Yalu, May 1, a defeat which cost the Czar's forces a loss of 2,394 men in killed, wounded and prisoners, the Japanese boldly pushed forward to Feng-Wang-Chang, where it had been asserted the Russians would give battle. The Russians, however, did not dare risk an engagement and the place fell into the hands of the Japanese, the enemy beating a retreat to Liao Yang, in the vicinity of which, it is now said, a battle will take place, should General Kuroki follow up his advantage. It is probable, however, that General Kuropatkin, the Czar's commander-in-chief, may find it necessary not to make a stand before the Japanese reach Mukden. It is said that he has not enough troops to meet the Japanese in open fight and hence his policy of retreating until he is sufficiently reinforced.

Meantime the Japanese have landed in heavy force on the Liao Tong peninsula and Port Arthur has been cut off by land and sea from all communication with the outside world. The landings were effected on the east and west coasts of the peninsula and within a short time the actual investment of Port Arthur should be made. Simultaneously with the forward movement of the Japanese army under Kuroki and the landing on the Liao Tong peninsula, the Russians began the evacuation of New Chang, the chief town of Manchuria. The place, with General Kuroki advancing on the road to Liao Yang, was untenable by the Russians, unless they elected to remain and undergo a siege, and so the place was abandoned and the military stores sent northward to Liao Yang. With the exception of Port Arthur, the whole of the Liao Tong peninsula now remains in Japanese possession and probably another week will see all of Manchuria, south of Mukden, in the grasp of the Mikado's soldiers.

It is probable that a Japanese army will take possession of New Chang and march forward toward Liao Yang to effect a junction with General Kuroki.

The Russian retreat, however, greatly strengthens the position of General Kuropatkin. Formerly his forces were scattered from New Chang, in the west, half way up the Yalu River, in the east. Ignorance of the Japanese plan of campaign and the uncertainty of where the Japanese would strike rendered necessary this disposition. Now the Japanese plans of action are fairly well revealed and General Kuropatkin is concentrating his forces to meet the enemy's advance. With the exception of the garrison at Port Arthur there are now no Russian soldiers further south in Manchuria than Liao Yang. What force General Kuropatkin has at his disposal is carefully concealed. It is said by some that 150,000 men, outside the garrisons, constitute the fighting forces of Russia in the Far East and from Paris comes the rumor that it will be July 21 before the last of the reinforcements which Kuropatkin needs for offensive operations shall have been dispatched from Europe. By that time it is asserted he will have 500,000 under him. Meantime 100,000 reserves have been called to the colors and Russia in further preparation for the struggle has placed a loan in Paris for \$150,000,000.

Much interest centers in Port Arthur, which the Japanese will soon formally besiege. Before they can strike the place it will be necessary to force the strong earthworks defending the narrow neck of land forming the entrance to Kwan Tung promontory. These works, owing to the shallowness of the water, cannot be attacked from sea, while the railroad, which traverses the promontory, will enable the Russians to move troops rapidly to any desired point. Just how the fortress is prepared to stand a siege the world in general knows little. It has been said that it is provisioned for a year and that 50,000 men defend it. It has been said, too, that the place is actually short of provisions, and that the number of men defending it is only 7,000—some say 4,000. It doesn't seem natural that with three months' time, since the outbreak of hostilities, to provision it, the Russians would have been lax in this particular, and it may be assumed that the garrison is sufficiently strong to make a stubborn defense.

Meantime the rumor of sending the Baltic fleet to the Far East is again revived. It is said in St. Petersburg that the fleet, consisting of eleven ironclads and seventeen cruisers, will leave Cronstadt in July and will round Africa in its voyage. If this report is true, the Russians are evidently sanguine that Port Arthur and Vladivostok will be standing by that time.

Russia's First Line Smashed.
The overwhelming advance of Gen. Kuroki's army, after its victorious passage of the Yalu, compelled the Russians to give up Fengwangcheng without striking a blow in its defense. Newchang has been evacuated and the Russians admit that they cannot hope to hold Haicheng. Thus Russia's first line of defense has been shattered almost without the firing of a gun. There seems to be nothing left but Liao-yang—and then Mukden, and after that Harbin.

Old papers for sale at this office.

BLOW UP DALNY DOCKS.

Russians Reported to Have Destroyed Improvements Costing Millions.

Viceroy Alexieff telegraphed to the Czar Thursday announcing that the Russians have blown up the docks and piers at Port Dalny, Liaotung peninsula, presumably to render more difficult a Japanese landing at that point.

Port Dalny, on Taliwan bay, on the east coast of the Liaotung peninsula, was intended by Russia to be the chief commercial emporium of its eastern dominions. An edict providing for its construction was issued by the Russian Emperor July 30, 1880, and Port Dalny, fully equipped with all modern improvements, docks, warehouses and railroad facilities, was opened to commerce in December, 1901. Taliwan bay is one of the finest deep-water harbors on the Pacific. It is free from ice in winter and ships drawing thirty feet of water can enter at low tide without difficulty, and without the aid of pilots can sail or steam alongside the immense docks and piers, where their cargoes can be loaded into railroad cars and run direct for 6,000 miles into the city of St. Petersburg. Five large piers had been constructed, each supplied with numerous railroad tracks and immense warehouses and elevators, gas, electric lights and water, and a large breakwater was being constructed so that ships could lie at the piers and load and unload regardless of weather. Docks for foreign vessels, steam and sail, extended between the piers and along the shore for two miles. There were two first-class dry docks, one intended for ordinary ocean steamers and the other designed to accommodate the largest vessels of war or commerce. Over \$6,000,000 had been expended on the harbor system before the end of 1902 and it was estimated that the cost of completing the works would be \$20,000,000, but this does not in any way represent the total cost of the erection of this great commercial port, which, with Port Arthur, distant about twenty miles, was leased by the Chinese government to Russia in 1898. Nearly 25,000 men were employed daily on the work of constructing the port and town. The total population is estimated at about 60,000, mostly Chinese, Japanese, Koreans and Russians.

JAPANESE HEROES HONORED.

Decorations for Living and Dead Who Blocked Port Arthur.

The casualties in the attempt of the Japanese fleet to block Port Arthur, which took place on May 3, are one officer, Commander Takayangi, commanding the steamer Yedo Maru, and six men killed; four men seriously and five officers and eleven men slightly wounded; fourteen officers and seventy-four men are missing and eight officers and thirty-six men were rescued uninjured. All the officers of the blocking ships, including Commander Takayangi, who was killed, have been decorated and granted annuities by the Emperor.

Every supplemental report received from Gen. Kuroki, commanding the first Japanese army, increases the Russian casualties in Sunday's battle at Chientcheng, on the Yalu river. The Japanese have buried about 1,400 Russians and have 503 of the enemy's wounded in the field hospitals. It is estimated that the total Russian casualties exceed 2,500. Over 300 Russian prisoners were sent to Matsuyama.

The official report of the Japanese casualties shows that the guards lost one officer and twenty men killed and had seven officers and 122 men wounded. The second division lost one officer and eighty-four men killed and thirteen officers and 303 men wounded. The twelfth division had three officers and seventy-six men killed and five officers and 293 men wounded.

CZAR CALLS RESERVES.

Imperial Ukase Orders Out Troops in Six Provinces.

An imperial ukase issued in St. Petersburg calls out the reserves of several districts in the governments of Poltava, Kursk, Kharhoff, Ryazan, Kaluga and Tula, with the view of the completion of the units to be sent to the far East from the military districts of Kieff and Moscow.

There is a complete absence of official information. The authorities are as silent as the grave concerning Gen. Kuropatkin's plans, only declaring that his tactics will be vindicated. The report of the appearance of the enemy at Kwantien, on the Mukden road, from the Yalu, causes some disquietude. If the Japanese could get on this road, above Liao-yang, the Russian position there would be threatened. The St. Petersburg papers seem more concerned about the effect of the Japanese successes upon the Chinese than about the ultimate result of the campaign.

According to advices from the north, cables a Pekin correspondent, the native Chinese are becoming excited, owing to reports which are reaching them of continued success of the Japanese arms.

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.

Viceroy Alexieff refuses to receive any more foreign war correspondents.

It is admitted that half a million men would have been required to hold southern Manchuria.

Three thousand bandits are camped outside of the walls of Newchwang ready to begin looting.

The increasingly threatening attitude of the Chinese also is a serious factor in the situation which may contribute to induce Gen. Kuropatkin to evacuate Liaoyang.

Red placards all over Moscow and Kharkoff provinces summon the reserves of the Tenth and Seventeenth army corps to the colors, and these two corps will be dispatched to the far East as quickly as possible, thus adding 100,000 men to Kuropatkin's forces.

Admiral Togo is hoping that Russia may succeed in dickering for a few more warships. Business in Admiral Togo's line is likely to be rather dull otherwise.

Liaoyang is expected to be the scene of the next battle between the Russian and Japanese armies, unless Gen. Kuropatkin shall decide to continue his retreat northward to Mukden.

The Russian authorities are completely in the dark as to what is happening in the territory occupied by the enemy, except such news as comes from the newspapers abroad and originating from Japanese sources.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



One Hundred Years Ago.

Discontent prevailed in Egypt at the ascendancy of the English in that country, and in Alexandria, much anxiety was felt lest the English should send a garrison to that city.

The acquisition of Louisiana by the United States was celebrated in all of the thirteen States.

Thomas Young, claimed to be the first decipherer of the Rosetta stone, died.

The population of Washington, D. C., was less than 5,000 persons.

The Dutch surrendered the Island of Surinam to the British.

The Boston Board of Health issued new regulations for farmers who kept live stock in the town limits.

Seventy-five Years Ago.

The market of Philadelphia was said to be the finest in either Europe or America, being fully a mile long and well supplied.

Venice became a free port.

The Turks were preparing for an attack on Sizebold, the Russian stronghold, on the Danube.

A law for the expulsion of Spaniards from Mexico was promulgated at Tampico, and thirty days was allowed them to embark.

Fifty Years Ago.

Garibaldi arrived at Genoa in command of an English coal vessel from Newcastle.

A German professor fell into the crater at Vesuvius.

News reached New York of the evacuation of lower California by Colonel Walker.

The New York and London Cable Company was organized to lay a cable from New York to Liverpool.

The Bank of England raised its discount rate and the Bank of France reduced its rate, as a result of the Crimean war.

A severe earthquake shock was felt at Acapulco.

Forty Years Ago.

General R. E. Lee made his famous blunder over the location of Grant's army at Spotsylvania, which led the Confederates into an almost impregnable position.

The first day's battle of Spotsylvania was fought between the armies of Grant and Lee, including Colonel Emory Upton's capture of the "bloody angle" in the Confederate line.

The indecisive battle of the Wilderness, one of the bloodiest of the Civil War, was fought between the armies of Grant and Lee.

General Grant made his flank movement from the Wilderness battlefield to Spotsylvania in the effort to get between Lee's army and Richmond.

The army of the Potomac was under marching orders, with seven days' rations, ready for a decisive blow against Lee.

General U. S. Grant wrote his famous words, "I . . . propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer," in a letter to Halleck on the Wilderness campaign.

Thirty Years Ago.

The Republican House Committee on Postoffices was criticised for not ordering an investigation of alleged Postoffice Department frauds.

The trial of Professor David Swing for heresy was begun by the Chicago presbytery.

A New York newspaper declared Chicago was destined to collapse as a commercial city because it had built enormous stores and hotels that could not be filled.

The House of Representatives refused to appropriate \$3,000,000 for the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition.

The congressional investigation of hoodlums in District of Columbia contracts ended, Governor ("Boss") Shepherd publicly assuming responsibility for all acts of his subordinates.

Twenty Years Ago.

The banking firm of Grant & Ward, composed of General U. S. Grant and Ferdinand Ward, and the Marine National Bank of New York failed for over \$1,000,000.

Supporters of Chester A. Arthur in Illinois and Wisconsin were said to be planning to throw their influence to Robert T. Lincoln for President.

The first news was received that the steamship State of Florida had been sunk in collision off Bird rocks, 135 lives being lost.

Out of a total of 820 delegates chosen to the Republican national convention 378 were pledged to James G. Blaine for President, 271 for Chester A. Arthur, and 70 for Senator Edmunds.



"I always liked Gladys," said the woman in the silk gown. "But she has been awfully unfortunate, poor girl. I think she was engaged four times.

"The first time it was to young Lawrence Corbin. He got into trouble at the bank, you remember—gambling, of course—that and other things. Well, her people were opposed to it from the first—her aunts particularly; they almost went down on their knees to her and implored her not to marry him, but she only said he needed her all the more to steady him. At last he met May Rossiter from New York and became infatuated with her and he just plainly jilted Gladys. I know she felt awfully bad about it, poor girl.

"A year after that, though, she met Max Devenish. He didn't satisfy the parents, either. They said he was a low politician. He was in politics, of course. Gladys said that almost every great man in history was a politician and she was proud of it. She talked about his career in the most enthusiastic manner, but that engagement was broken off, too. No, I never knew what it was. He was the Devenish they sent to the penitentiary for hoodlums.

"Then there was Harding Jacobs. It was certainly the queerest thing in the world what the girl saw in him. He was bald and undersized and had no money to speak of and four children—one girl nearly as old as Gladys. But she just seemed to think he was everything that was noble and great. Well, would you believe it? That miserable little man wrote her a noble and great letter 'renouncing his happiness' when the date of the wedding was set and

Gladys had half her trousseau bought. He said he had been selfish in urging her to link her lot with him and he feared the duties and responsibilities that would devolve upon her as his wife would be too arduous for one so young. She was nearly 30 then, Oh, it nearly killed her.

"Naturally, people began to talk then and when she announced her engagement to her baron I never saw the town so excited over anything. He was a German and the title may have been genuine or it may not, I'm sure I don't know as to that. But he was an inventor and he had some wonderful invention—a hot airship, her people called it—that needed just a little capital to make him wealthy and famous. Well, that foolish girl let him take all her little fortune and go to Europe with it. Her friends just begged her not to, but she said if she could trust him with her life and happiness she surely ought to be able to trust him with her fortune. So he went and she never heard another word from him. Gladys had to go to a rest cure after that.

"Now? Oh, she's married. Yes, she's been married for three years now. Her husband just adores her and they say he's one of the most handsome and fascinating men you ever saw. Money? I wish you could see their home. It's a palace, and there isn't a thing she wants that he doesn't give her. She seems to think just as much of him as he does of her. You never saw a happier pair."

"It just shows what perseverance will accomplish," continued the other woman.—Chicago Daily News.

THE CADDY DOG.

Good-by to the much maligned small boy caddy. His work "has gone to the dogs."

Miss Maud M. Pottle, of Minneapolis, now residing in New York, possesses a remarkably fine greyhound of unusual intelligence. Miss Pottle is an enthusiastic golfer, and "Bob," her dog, is her devoted slave. One day last fall Miss Pottle was playing a swift game on the links, with Bob at her heels barking his admiration. Becoming overheated she doffed her golf jacket, and, buttoning it across Bob's back, proceeded with the game. Bob carried the jacket so well that to Miss Pottle came the inspiration: "Why



BOB IN GOLF HARNESS.

not make the dog a golf blanket with pockets to carry the sticks and a pouch for the balls?"

To think with Miss Pottle is to act, and the following week Bob appeared on the links of the Marine and Field Club, of Brooklyn, proudly bearing sling across his back his mistress' drivers, lofters and putters. And Bob from that day went down in the history of golf as the first caddy dog on American links.

Bob is learning to retrieve, and his quick eye enables him to unerringly follow the course of a ball while his nimble feet fly over the ground to its rescue at a gratifying speed.

By means of a simple harness, which Miss Pottle herself invented and which she is having patented, Bob can carry six clubs, three on each side. When he was initiated into his work of caddy Miss Pottle led him around by a chain; but one lesson, however, was expected to teach the dog what was expected of him, and now he follows his mistress from point to point, always ready to provide her with driver, loft or putter or to have her take from the ball pouch, which is attached to his neck, a fresh white sphere.

"NATURE NEVER GIVES UP."

Fact that Should Encourage Us in Fighting Disease and Evil.

A phrase from a recent magazine article is so suggestive and so full of encouragement that it seems worth while to make it the text for one of our small sermons. The phrase is, "Nature never gives up." You may with profit say this over carefully and thoughtfully and let its full meaning come to you. "Nature never gives up." Nature is on the side of health and sanity, and consequent happiness. Hard as your case may be, the great Mother is fighting the battle with you. Has disease got into your bones? Nature has marshaled her forces to combat it, and with marvelous strategy has set engines to work which are endeavoring to drummont the enemy. Nature is working in conjunction with the physician and yourself. That is a thought which ought to cheer you.

You have been imprudent, possibly—have done and left undone. You have taken such ill care of your God-given body that your friends have set you down as hopeless or worse. You have told yourself that there is no help for you. Nature has not given you up. She wants you to live and work and be healthy and happy, and in the event of your neglect of yourself, she is still fighting for you. She has no moral idea in doing this. She just does it. Perhaps you deserve to be given up. Many of us do, it sometimes seems. But Nature is blind to that. Of course, she is not all-powerful. She can be overcome. She fails often. But you will do well to remember that in every case while there is a spark of life left, she is trying. Let that thought brace you. Buck up, and give Nature some help.

I should like to think that we could carry the analogy into the moral world as well. Do you not believe that there are forces as yet unvalued which are fighting the fight for good in the souls of men? Bad a man or woman may be—there is exterior pressure to make him or her better. There is law; there is education; there are all the societies and institutions whose object is to help the downfallen and the unfortunate. But are there not other forces, too? Does not the great Mother of Souls fight continually for the spiritual health and sanity of all people? The thought is comforting, stimulating, encouraging. It is the business of every individual to add all his personal strength to all encounters with evil, physical or spiritual. He can do so more heartily and with better faith for success if he remembers that "Nature never gives up."—Woman's Home Companion.

A Good Cat.

A good cat—the kind you want to have in the house, if any—will fall a round, stubby pug nose, full, fat cheeks and upper lip, and a well developed bump on the top of the head, between the ears, betokening good nature. A sleepy cat that purrs a good deal is apt to be playful and good-natured.

By all means to be avoided is a cat with thin, sharp nose and twitching ears. It must be remembered, also, that a good mouser is not necessarily a gentle or desirable pet, although any good cat will catch mice if she is not overfed; quick, full, expressive eyes generally betoken a good mouser.

The greatest mistake—and probably the most common one—in the care of domestic cats is overfeeding; particularly, too much meat. In wild life the cat has exercise which enables her to digest her food. In the lazy house life the same full feeding leads to stomach troubles and to fits.

Unerring Foresight.

Ben Jonson was at work on one of his plays.

"What you have concluded on," he wrote, "make good, I pray you."

He stopped to chuckle over it.

"I like that phrase, 'make good,'" he said. "Three hundred years from now they'll be using it as the latest choice bit of slang."

Novel Motor Race in France.

The most curious motor race ever organized was held in Paris. The competitors were taken to the top of Eiffel tower, and a distant church spire was pointed out to them. Then they had to descend, get aboard their machines and find their way through the maze of streets to the church.

Just about the time the average man gets his political shaft down to coal, he strikes water.