

BIG FIRE AT NORFOLK

NEBRASKA TOWN SUFFERS FIRE LOSS OF \$40,000.

Loss of All School Records a Severe Blow to Graduating Class—Two Teachers Suffer Heavy Loss of Their Books.

The splendid high school building at Norfolk, Neb., was destroyed by fire early Sunday. The loss is estimated at between \$35,000 and \$50,000, with \$15,000 insurance.

The flames were discovered at about 5 o'clock, and an hour later only three heat cracked walls of the once handsome edifice remained.

The foundation of the building can be used again.

FORTIFICATIONS ON ISLANDS.

Nearly \$1,500,000 Will Be Spent in the Philippines.

Fortifications for the Philippine islands formed the subject of a lengthy conference at the White House Saturday night.

There is available at the present time for this purpose \$1,435,000, and tentative plans already have been prepared for carrying out the project.

Former Kansas Senator to Be Released from Jail March 22.

Former Senator Joseph R. Burton, of Kansas, will be released on March 22 from the Ironton, Mo., jail, where he is serving a six months' sentence for practicing before the postoffice department as attorney for the alleged get rich quick company of St. Louis.

TWO BANK ROBBERS CAUGHT.

Man Who Has Most of Plunder Secured at Masonville, Ia.

Two of the men who robbed the Farmers' Savings bank in the little town of Masonville, six miles west of Manchester of \$5,000 were captured Thursday evening in an old barn in the north part of the city, where they were hiding until nightfall so they could escape.

WILKIE GIVES IT UP.

Unable to Solve Mystery of Big Chicago Robbery.

Chief Wilkie, of the United States secret service, who has been in charge of the investigation at Chicago of the disappearance of \$173,000 from the subtreasury, returned to Washington Friday night.

DESPERATE BATTLE IN BOAT.

Three Young Men Killed and Fourth Seriously Wounded.

Thacker Rice and Speed and Elijah Bailey, brothers, were killed in a desperate fight in a boat while crossing the middle fork of the Kentucky river, twenty miles below Sargent, Ky.

Slough City Live Stock Market.

Saturday's quotations on the Slough City live stock market follow: Top hogs \$5.50. Top hogs, \$6.35.

Mother and Child Burn to Death.

Mrs. Frank Carnes and her daughter May were burned to death in a prairie fire on their farm near Collinsville, I. T., Saturday. Mr. Carnes was severely burned while trying to save the women.

Increase Price of Oil.

The price of all mid-continental oil was marked up 1 cent Saturday by the Prairie Oil and Gas company, of Independence, Kan., to 41 cents for high grade and 28 cents for fuel oil.

TO LAND KIDNAPERS.

Detectives Strike Trail in the Marvin Case.

Deputy Attorney General Richards working on the case of little Horace Marvin, who was kidnaped on Monday at Dover, Del., has instructed State Detective Hawkins to arrest John Hart, a footman, of Gloucester and Bowers' Beach, who had been tracked to Newcastle with his peculiar black hulled, cat rigged sloop, which, it is alleged, was the craft used to get the child up the river to a point where trains connected.

This sloop had been traced to Salem creek, where she is supposed to have been since Monday evening because of the floating ice in the Delaware river. Mr. Richards received word at 3 o'clock that the sloop had been seized at Newcastle and that the skipper was under surveillance. Hawkins went at once to Newcastle and put Hart under arrest.

Meantime Dr. Marvin was sought by Secretary of State Joseph L. Cahill and notified that Gov. Lea had taken hold of the case and would have a conference with him at his residence relative to the quickest method of recovering the boy and capturing the kidnapers.

"The governor is greatly interested," said Mr. Cahill, "and desires to assure you that no pains or reasonable expense will be spared to get back your boy."

"We must have the boy back first," said Dr. Marvin. "I would rather think about that and talk about that line of action than I would the infraction of the laws. I shall never rest on earth until I get him."

Pittsburg and Lancaster chiefs of police have telegraphed that they hold boys under surveillance answering the description of Horace Marvin.

RECEIVES THE \$25,000 PRIZE.

Man Who Guessed the World's Fair Attendance is Finally Awarded.

After two years' litigation a decision was rendered in the circuit court at Clayton, Mo., awarding to M. Logan Guthrie, of Fulton, Mo., the prize of \$25,000 offered in the contest to the person who entered the nearest guess to the total number of paid admissions to the world's fair.

Guthrie guessed 12,804,616, which was announced as the exact number of admissions. Several other claimants appeared and payment of the prize was held up pending a settlement of the different claims.

BURTON NEAR LIBERTY.

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HOISTS WARE HOUSE.

Harriman Seeks Peace Terms in Railroad Case.

"I am ready to make the advance ment of a scheme of co-operation between the government and the rail ways my chief interests," said E. H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific railroad, on returning to New York Thursday from Washington.

Mr. Harriman declined to talk about the report that he had obtained control of the Reading railroad.

Speaking of the agitation against corporate wealth, he said: "They—we, all of us—should have considered the possible effects of this agitation before it was begun or before conditions that made its growth possible were allowed to continue. If we had all met on common ground and co-operated for our mutual benefit nobody would be worrying over the situation as it is today.

"We all made a mistake in this. I realize the mistake and I believe the administration at Washington is beginning to realize that it has been a little too radical in its attitude toward the railroads. Henceforth I look to see its opposition take on more of the spirit of co-operation. I believe the railroads can expect to receive more even-handed justice.

"We men at the head of the great corporations on our part are coming to a better understanding of what the government expects of us. We are beginning to get the point of view of the administration. We feel that we are now, all of us—the public, the government and the railroads—on a common ground where we can deal with each other in the right spirit."

NOT GUILTY OF MURDER.

Strother Brothers Quickly Cleared by Jury.

The Strother brothers' case was given to the jury at Culpepper, Va., Thursday, and the jury quickly returned a verdict of not guilty.

The "higher law" was the principal plea of the defense, although emotional insanity also entered into the defense.

The jury was out but one hour. The announcement of the verdict was a signal for an outbreak of approval. Judge Harrison, in dismissing the jury, said: "Gentlemen, I thank you for the verdict, which I think will be approved by the public. It has established a precedent in the state of Virginia that no man tried for defending the sanctity of his home should be found guilty."

James and Phillip Strother were charged with the murder of Wm. F. Bywaters, their brother-in-law, at the Strother home, near Culpepper. They shot Bywater in defense of the honor of their sister, the young bride of an hour, as he was seeking to escape from the house after the marriage ceremony had been performed.

The most sensational testimony produced was that of Mrs. Bywaters, who told of her betrayal by Bywaters under promise of marriage; that she pleaded with Bywaters to make honorable reparation, and of their trips to Washington for the criminal operation which she dreaded; his indifferent treatment of her, the forced marriage, his attempted flight, and the shooting followed.

All the parties involved in the case are prominent. James Strother is a member of the Virginia legislature.

EXPERTS ARE EXPENSIVE.

Jerome Asks for an Appropriation of \$15,000.

District Attorney Jerome sent a request to Comptroller Metz for an emergency appropriation of \$15,000 in special revenue bonds to pay the expense of experts engaged by the state of New York to testify as to the sanity of Harry Thaw on the night he shot Stanford White.

In the trial of Albert T. Patrick for the murder of William R. Rice the district attorney obtained more than \$50,000 to pay the expense of experts employed by the state.

Russian Sailors Sent to the Mines.

Twelve sailors belonging to the Russian cruiser Emir of Eukhara who were tried by courtmartial for mutiny at the time of the outbreak at Sveaborg, have been sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor in the mine for from three years to life.

Russian Radicals Win.

The first skirmish for control of the opposition in the lower house of parliament was won by the radicals, who compelled the constitutional democrats to abandon their candidates for vice presidents and accept the nominees of the radical coalition.

Two Women Poisoned; Mystery.

Ardine Ratekin, a young girl, and Mrs. D. Woodglass, a widow, of Shenandoah, Ill., Thursday died from strychnine poisoning. There is no clew as to the person who placed the poison before either of the dead women.

Passes 2-Cent Fare Bill.

The 2-cent maximum fare bill passed the Illinois house Thursday by practically a unanimous vote. A few who opposed the bill refused to vote.

Steamer Crushed by Ice Floes.

The seal fishing steamer Leopold was crushed in the ice floes off Cape Race, N. F., during a terrific gale at midnight Wednesday and totally wrecked. The crew of 103 men reached land safely.

Four Greeks Killed by Train.

Four Greeks employed on tidewater railroad construction work at Roanoke, Va., were struck by a Norfolk and Western freight train Thursday near Roanoke and killed.

Nebraska State News

TWO PRISONERS ASSAULT JAILER

Unsuccessful Attempt Made to Break Prison at Grand Island.

Prisoners Crawford, a negro being held on the charge of burglary committed in Grand Island, and Defreeze, a horsethief jailed on the account of Deuel county, from the authorities of which he has broken jail several times, made an attack on Jailer Mehlert at Grand Island and attempted to escape, but the jailer had become suspicious from the actions of the pair for some days and had exercised precaution.

As he was about to put the prisoners into the cages for the night and was in an open corridor with them Crawford made a lunge for Mehlert's key chain and keys and made the attack with such force as to tear the chain and a portion of the trousers away, securing the key. Mehlert had a .38-caliber gun drop on Crawford in a moment and Crawford surrendered. After careful maneuvering he had both in the steel cells and found a heavy club in the vicinity of where Defreeze had stood, some feet away from Crawford, awaiting the approach of the jailer. The two will have some confinement and watching henceforth. Hamlin, awaiting trial for murder in the first degree, to which he has once pleaded guilty, made no attempt to join the others and is not believed to have been in the conspiracy.

ACCIDENTS AT GRAND ISLAND.

Conductor Hadlock Hurt and Conductor Quinn May Die.

Conductor Hadlock, of the second division, was quite severely cut about the head while trying to mount his outgoing train at Grand Island. The injury is not serious.

Conductor Quinn, of the first district, Omaha, was severely and perhaps fatally injured the same day just after having reached Grand Island. He left his train in the east yards and was walking along the tracks to the city when another freight came along and he decided to try to ride to the city. The train was moving quite swiftly, however, and he was thrown to the ground. His head fell close to a tie. A part of the tie, as they passed, struck his head and he was severely lacerated. It is feared that there has been an injury to the skull.

SHELDON FINALLY YIELDS.

Signs 2-Cent Fare Bill at Last Minute.

The 2-cent fare bill is now a law. Shortly before 12 o'clock Wednesday Gov. Geo. L. Sheldon signed the bill and it became operative at once. Fearing that the railroads would fight the bill Gov. Sheldon signed it in order to render the emergency clause safe from technical assault. He announced that he did not consider the 2-cent fare an estoppel from the enactment of equitable freight rates. He will insist on a reduction of the present rate on a fair basis under the jurisdiction of the railway commission. The Burlington began selling 2-cent fare tickets at midnight. Other roads are expected to follow suit.

State Loses to State Journal.

The State Journal company of Lincoln has won again in the suit brought by the state for \$85,000 alleged to be due from the sale of copyrighted supreme court reports. The court held it had no jurisdiction to allow the amending of a petition which required the setting aside of a decision rendered at a previous term of court.

Golden Wedding at St. Paul.

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Phillips celebrated their golden wedding Tuesday evening at their residence in St. Paul in the company of about 100 invited guests. The venerable couple were the recipients of hearty congratulations and many beautiful and expensive tokens of the occasion in the form of articles of gold and plate.

Sell Tickets at Two Cents a Mile.

The local railroad agents have commenced to sell tickets at 2 cents a mile. The Burlington is charging 42 cents to Omaha from Plattsmouth, while the Missouri Pacific makes a price of 38 cents, the distance being shorter by the latter road. Previously each road charged 56 cents to Omaha.

Business Men's Ticket Planned.

In response to a call for a Republican caucus at Falls City a number of Republicans met at the court house for the purpose of nominating a Republican ticket for city offices. Previous to the meeting the business men of both parties had agreed to nominate a business man's ticket.

Arapahoe Commercial Club Organized.

The formal organization of the Arapahoe Commercial club was effected at a meeting of business men recently. A constitution and by-laws were adopted providing for a membership fee of \$5, with monthly dues. Nearly all present subscribed as members and elected officials.

Bad Smell in High School.

Some person entered the high school building at Plattsmouth during the night time and amused himself by scattering a foul-smelling chemical throughout the building. The five teachers and the 175 scholars took a day's vacation.

Protecting Banks at Blair.

The breaking up of the ice in the Missouri river some days ago and the subsequent high water has taken out over one-third of the 1,000-foot dike built this winter by the Northwestern railroad to protect its Missouri river bridge at Blair.

Commercial Club for Randolph.

At a meeting of Randolph citizens it was decided to organize a commercial club to promote Randolph interests. W. P. Hill was chairman of the meeting and H. L. Peck was secretary.

RAILROADS STILL FIGHT TAXES.

Seek Signatures in Clarke Against Terminal Taxation Bill.

A petition emanating from railroad circles is being passed around in Clarke, requesting Merrick county's representative in the legislature to oppose the terminal taxation bill. The petition reads:

"The undersigned voters and taxpayers of Merrick county, believing that the bill now pending in the legislature to change the present method of assessing railroad property and giving authority to local assessors to assess, said bill being known as the terminal taxation bill, would lessen the amount of taxes to be paid this county by the railroad companies; would respectfully request you to vote against such measure."

The circulators of the petition advance the argument that the law will operate to the detriment of the local school fund. Many are signing the paper in imaginary defense of the schools, who doubtless are in favor of collecting a just tax from railroad depot and terminal properties heretofore escaping taxation. To offset the effect of this petition, it is known that letters are being addressed to Merrick county representatives in the house and senate at Lincoln urging them to stand by their pledge and support the bill.

NEBRASKANS MOVE WESTWARD

Several Nance and Valley County Families Go to Coast to Live.

Dr. E. E. Cottle and family have disposed of their lovely home in Fullerton and will leave for Seattle, Wash., where they will spend the summer. The doctor may discontinue the practice of his profession because of poor health and engage in farming and stock raising. He will be accompanied west by his brother Charles and family, of Valley county.

David Keller, Jr., who has been a prosperous young farmer of that county for many years, will with his family leave the first of next week for Washington, where they intend making their future home.

Harvey Baldrige, wife and daughter Ethel, will take the train soon for a six months' touring trip through Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington and California. Mr. Baldrige says he may conclude to make his future home somewhere on the Pacific coast.

MOTHER SAVES BABE FROM FIRE.

Home Burns in Night, but Entire Family Escapes with Lives.

The family of Mr. George Palmer, agent for the Northwestern railroad at Henderson, had a heavy loss and Mrs. Palmer suffered severe injuries from a fire in the depot building. Agent Palmer was in Omaha on business and in the night Mrs. Palmer awakened and went to the kitchen. When she opened the door she was confronted with a sheet of flames. Her mother was with her and they soon roused the children. One by one they were taken from the building. The baby being left until the last. Mrs. Palmer rushed through the burning building and rescued the baby and was frightfully burned about the face and arms. The fire department saved part of the depot, but Mr. Palmer lost nearly all of his household goods and personal belongings.

Two Accidents Near Blue Hill.

Will Nee Hall, living eight miles southwest of Blue Hill, received a bad fracture of his right leg as a result of a runaway Tuesday. He was driving a team hitched to a hayrack, and when the team became unruly attempted to jump from the rack, with the idea of getting at the horses' heads. His coat caught on the rack as he jumped and he was caught between a part of the windmill and the rack. The bone in his right leg above the knee was splintered in two places.

Farmers Quarrel Over Lease.

William and Henry Reel, farmers were tried on the charge of assaulting W. W. Seng, of McCool. Before the trial the defendants told the county attorney if the case was dismissed they would pay the costs. The Reels say Seng had drawn up a farm lease, stipulating many things they knew nothing about.

Hendee Is Found Guilty.

In the case against former County Judge Hendee, of Wilber, on the charge of embezzling \$3,385 belonging to the George Smith estate, the defense did not introduce any evidence, but asked the court to instruct the jury in favor of the defendant on technical grounds.

Smith Has Brother in Omaha.

George Smith, aged about 40, was found dead on the court house steps in Chadron. He has been cook in the Tschauer restaurant for six years and has spoken of a brother in Omaha, with whom he had been in partnership in the bakery business.

Railroads Now Pay Taxes.

County Treasurer Barnard, of Beatrice, received a check for \$35,880 from J. P. Francis, assistant cashier of the Burlington road, as payment in full for taxes due Geary county for the years 1904, 1905 and 1906.

Orchard Incorporates.

At a meeting of the board of supervisors of Antelope county at Neligh Tuesday, March 5, a petition was presented for the incorporation of Orchard as a village. The petition was granted and a village board appointed.

Burlington Pays Butler County.

The Burlington road has paid its taxes in Butler county, which amounted to \$28,716.74, including interest. The interest alone amounted to \$2,117.34.

Burns Wins Match with Parr.

"Farmer" Burns won his wrestling match with James Parr, champion of England, at the Auditorium in Omaha. Parr took the first bout in 21 minutes and Burns the second and third in 12 and 24 minutes respectively. The wrestling was catch-as-catch-can.

Defaulting Judge Convicted.

A jury in the district court at Wilber found former County Judge Hosmer H. Hendee guilty of the embezzlement of \$2,235 of county funds. Sentence was deferred.



A well defined rumor is in circulation that Governor George L. Sheldon is responsible for the action of the railroads in accepting the 2-cent fare law without appeal to the courts, it being taken for granted all of the roads will follow the example set by the Burlington. It is told on reliable authority that Gov. Sheldon, who during the session has had little to say, but who has been saving some words, wielded the big stick on the giant corporations and forced them to come to time, and thus saved the state the expense and annoyance of going through the courts the first thing with the two-cent bill. The big railroad officials appeared before the governor and asked for a hearing on the question. It is told on good authority that the executive was perfectly willing to allow the roads to make any showing they might desire but it is also said he told them their showing would do no good, as he himself had studied the matter pretty thoroughly. The officials wanted the governor to veto the bill, and he emphatically refused to grant this request. Then, it is said, and there is every reason to believe the story is true, the railroad men offered to put in a 2 1/2-cent rate if the governor would refuse to sign the measure but would veto it. Again the executive showed his backbone and refused, and then he began to do the talking. He demanded that the railroads accept the 2-cent rate without a contest. It is the general impression that by giving the railroad men five days in which to prepare for the change Governor Sheldon forced them to consent to take the 2-cent rate without a court trial. Whether it is his due or not, Governor Sheldon is being congratulated upon the outcome of the fight.

The following letter endorsing Senator McKesson's bill to require elevator companies to report their prices daily to the labor commissioner has been received by him:

"St. Paul, Minn., March 2, 1907. Dear Senator McKesson: The enclosed clipping from the Minneapolis Journal attracted my attention as it deals with a subject that I know is of the greatest importance to the grain producers of the country. Here in Minnesota we have the matter of grading well regulated, but in the matter of prices things are not what they ought to be. Wherever the line companies prevail there has been a tendency to underpay, and I have thought of just such a law as your propose. Publicity will do more to check the evil than anything else. If I am not asking too much kindly favor me with a copy of your bill; our legislature is now in session and they may take up the matter. I observe that you will require reports to the labor commissioner. Here in Minnesota we would have these reports sent to the Railroad and Warehouse commission who are the supervisors of the grain interests of the state. We have here a country elevator department of which I have had charge for five years and my opportunities for noticing local price manipulations have been abundant. Thanking you in advance for any favors shown, I am, yours truly, Harry Peig, Supervising Inspector.

The State Board of Public Lands and Buildings has been organized with Governor Sheldon chairman and Land Commissioner Eaton secretary and the manner of doing business has been completely revolutionized. Heretofore it has been customary for a state superintendent needing supplies to buy the same and later get a permit from some member of the board. The heads of these institutions have been informed that hereafter they will get the permits first and the permits will be issued only by the board and not by a particular member, as has been in practice for so long. Heretofore it has been the custom for the land commission, as secretary of the board, to open all bids and tabulate them prior to the quarterly buying. This has been changed and the bids will be opened in the presence of the board. The secretary of the board holds his position by the grace of the members and not by statute or constitution and therefore he is subject to the orders of the board.

Armstrong of Nemaha county believes there are too many inquests held and if the number could be decreased, the taxpayers in the various counties would have their burdens just that much lessened. To remedy what he considers this evil, Mr. Armstrong has introduced a bill providing a fee of \$5, to be paid the coroner for viewing the body of a person whether he holds an inquest or not and the same fee now provided for in case the inquest is necessary. Mr. Armstrong says inasmuch as a coroner receives no fee unless he holds an inquest, inquests are held on the very slightest provocation. At every inquest the jury has to be paid, and the coroner has to be paid, whereas if the coroner receives a fee for viewing the body, in many cases he would hold no inquest.

United States Senator Norris Brown and Mrs. Brown are in Kearney making arrangements to move back to that place at once. Miss June Brown, who will be graduated from the high school this spring, will remain in Lincoln until school is out.

T. C. Munger left for Washington recently upon receipt of information that he had been endorsed for the position of federal judge created by the Norris judicial bill. Judge Munger expects to return as soon as he has satisfied himself that the president and senate are satisfied with him.

Mrs. McMahn has been reappointed superintendent of the Geneva Industrial school for girls by Governor Sheldon. Mrs. McMahn served this capacity during Governor McKesson's administration.