

Nebraska Legislature

NEW GOVERNOR SWORN IN.

Shallenberger Now Chief Executive of Nebraska.

Ashton C. Shallenberger, the first democratic governor of Nebraska since the days of J. E. Boyd, in 1891, took the oath of office Thursday afternoon in the presence of the members of both houses. A thousand spectators witnessed the inauguration.

In his message Shallenberger urges the passage of a bank deposit guaranty act, advises strict economy and asks for several amendments to the primary election law.

George C. Junkin, a former Iowa, was reinstated as secretary of state. The other officers are as follows: State treasurer, L. G. Brian; state superintendent, E. G. Bishop; land commissioner, C. B. Cowles; auditor, F. L. Barton; attorney general, W. T. Thompson. W. H. Cowgill, a democrat, was installed as railway commissioner. Lieut. Hopewell was sworn in to preside over the senate.

Thursday night at the state capitol building occurred the reception to Gov. Shallenberger and the new state officers in the house chamber and the inaugural ball in the senate. The functions were largely attended by society people of the city and state. Gov. Shallenberger was attended by his newly appointed staff, gorgeous in their new uniforms, forming a harmonious contrast to the handsome gowns of the ladies.

Most of the members of the legislature attended.

F. H. Monroe, of Washington, D. C., registered Thursday in the office of the secretary of state as a lobbyist in conformity with the anti-lobby law passed by the last legislature. Mr. Monroe is the first man to register under the provisions of the law. He represents no privilege seeking corporation, but as secretary of the People's Blue League of America he will endeavor to persuade the members of the legislature to pass a bill submitting to the next general election an amendment to the constitution providing for the initiative and referendum.

MESSAGE OF SHALLENBERGER.

Bank Deposit Guaranty is Feature of the Document.

Gov. Ashton C. Shallenberger in his message to the Nebraska legislature declares that he believes that no new or radical legislation is needed at the present time, but that energy should be directed toward amending, improving or correcting the existing laws. He recommends the appointment of a qualified commission to revise and improve the present code of laws, so that justice may be more easily and rapidly obtained in the courts of the state.

He admits that the banking laws of Nebraska might be improved, and asserts that it is a reflection upon our American civilization and business methods to longer fail to provide an insurance guaranty fund and banking law which will make every dollar deposited in a Nebraska bank absolutely sure of being returned to its lawful owner when it shall be demanded.

"There can be no rule of business ethics," declares the new governor, "which makes it just to secure the state and nation and deny the same protection to the individual depositor. The only question for you to decide, it seems to me, is as to whether or not the proposed additional guaranty fund can be credited with the certainty that it will provide absolute security to the depositor and not place an unfair burden and responsibility upon the banker.

"I believe that the desired security can be obtained by levying a light tax upon the capital stock of each bank transacting business under our laws, thus providing a guaranty fund to pay promptly any possible loss to a depositor by reason of the failure of a state bank. The amount of such tax to be a certain per cent of the average deposits as shown by the reports of the department of banking, and payment to be made at stated periods and for a fixed amount.

"If one-half of the volume of money supposed to be in circulation in the United States were returned to the banks it would enormously expand the business and wealth of the state and nation and raise the banking power of the United States until it would exceed that of the rest of the civilized world. To bring this great idle fund into active channels of trade is the problem for bankers and legislators to solve. If loss of bank deposits is made a thing of the past I believe that a great step in this direction will have been accomplished."

Let Bankers Share in Control.

Gov. Shallenberger quotes figures to show that the percentage of loss to depositors during late years has been greatly reduced, and during the eight years since 1909 has amounted to an average of about \$26,000. He insists that this percentage of loss can still be materially reduced. To this end he advises that the minimum capital required for the incorporation of a state bank be increased to at least \$15,000; also that bank examinations be made twice a year, instead of once, as now required. Examiners, he claims, should be assigned to a certain territory and thus eventually would become familiar with conditions and securities in that locality, and would acquire the necessary knowledge as to the worth of the bills receivable of the banks which they would examine, which is the essential thing in determining the solvency of any banking corporation.

"Under a guaranty plan which would make the banks of the state sustain the losses of the entire system," the message reads, "the bankers should be given a share in the control of the department. The present banking board, which is composed of three officers elected for an entirely different purpose, should be abolished and a non-partisan board established to be composed of three members to its members to have had at least five years' practical experience in banking and at least two of them to be actively engaged in that business at the time of their appointment. A bank commissioner should be appointed by the

governor with the approval of the banking board, who should have had an experience in the banking business equivalent to that required by a member of the board, and he should select the necessary number of examiners with the approval of the board of control. The banking board should sit in session at Lincoln at stated periods and be paid for actual time in session. They should have complete control of the issuance of charters and the general administration of the banking laws. It has been urged by critics of the guaranty of deposits plan that it would lead to the establishment of too many banks. This would be a serious objection if such were the result. It would greatly strengthen our banking system if the banking board were empowered to exercise a proper censorship over the issuance of bank charters. A substantial increase in the amount required as a minimum capital for the establishment of state banks would have a salutary effect in keeping the number of banks within a satisfactory limit and also provide greater security to the depositor."

How to Provide a Fund.

In regard to the amount of assessment to be levied in order to provide an adequate fund for the prompt payment of depositors of insolvent banks, Gov. Shallenberger suggests that one-fourth of 1 per cent be levied upon the deposits as shown at the last statement published prior to the commencement of the operation of the law; this assessment to be followed by additional levies in like amount at periods of six, twelve and eight months thereafter. After the accumulation of a guaranty fund equal to 1 per cent of the average deposits in the guaranteed banks, an annual tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent should be levied. "Because it is necessary under a proper system of insurance that the prosperous years should pile up a surplus fund to provide for the inevitable demands of less fortunate times."

It is suggested that as an additional security against any possible emergency such as extraordinary demands upon the fund, the board should be empowered to levy an assessment of not to exceed 2 per cent of the average deposits in any one year. While this assessment might never be levied, the power to use it would have a sustaining effect in times of possible panics. Such a system, the governor declares, "would be a rock of refuge for the banks and for the people in the heaviest financial storm that may come."

The proposed guaranty fund, he says, should be deposited with the state banks under regulations similar to our present state depository law or with such additional security as the legislature may require. The proposed law ought to provide that national banks may avail themselves of the advantage and protection of the guaranty fund under suitable provisions and satisfactory showing as to the condition of such banks to the banking board. It is suggested that the banking board be empowered to fix the rate of interest to be paid depositors by banking corporations operating under the guaranty of deposits law, or, if this be thought too great a power to confer upon them, the rate should be fixed in the statute by the legislature.

Amend the Revenue Law.

The new governor advises that the present revenue law be amended in so far as is necessary to restore to the people the right to elect the precinct assessors, and to limit, in part, the arbitrary powers which the present law gives to the state board of equalization and assessment, so that the people shall have restored to them some voice in determining the amount of taxes they shall be compelled to pay to support the state government.

It is declared that the railroad commission should be authorized and empowered to appraise the physical value of the public service corporations of the state and to control their debt making power; and that the legislature should provide the means with which to pay the cost of such appraisal. Gov. Shallenberger says that it is his belief that adequate funds for this purpose can be provided by requiring all corporations doing business within the state to pay a small annual license fee into the state treasury, just as a bank or insurance company is now required to do.

Complete local self government under charters satisfactory both to the cities and to the legislature is advocated for Omaha and South Omaha.

The present primary law is declared both unsatisfactory and unfair. A county primary is suggested, to nominate county officers and delegates to a state convention. The state convention to select two or more names to go upon the primary ballot and to make the county platform, which ought to be issued in advance of the primary, instead of after it.

For Board of Control.

A non-partisan board of control, to be appointed by the governor, is suggested, this board to have the entire management of the various state institutions; to be composed of three members, and to have at its command a qualified purchasing or business agent. The governor urges the abolishment of the practice of maintaining a cash fund at the various state institutions, and advises that this proposed board of control purchase all supplies for all the institutions by open competition among those desiring to sell to the state. It is advised that the clerk of the supreme court and other officers who now receive and retain the fees paid them by the public be placed upon a fixed and reasonable salary, and all fees and moneys recovered by them be turned into the state or county treasury.

A suggestion is made that the legislature make a proper appropriation to assist in the worthy and patriotic purpose of erecting a suitable monument in Lincoln to the memory of the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, for whom the city was named, this being the centenary of his birth. Caution and good judgment are urged in the matter of all appropriations.

Foreign Prejudice.

First Foreigner—Why do they call this the "garden city?"

Second Foreigner—Why? Look at the rich, black dirt in the streets!—Chicago Tribune.

The stopping of an express train requires twice as much power as starting it.

"SHOOT OR SAVE US," BEG QUAKE VICTIMS

Sufferers Ask to Be Shot Rather than Further Endure Horrors of Ruined Cities.

LEMON RINDS ARE DELICACIES.

Famishing Populace in Devastated Region Fights Desperately for Pieces of Food of Any Kind.

A press correspondent on the scene of the Sicilian earthquake says that when Deputy Lamagna appeared among the famished, wounded, desperate survivors at Reggio, they crowded around him and shrieked: "You who are in authority, tell the government to take us away from here or have us all shot to end our suffering!"

The correspondent who heard the heartrending appeal says: "I have witnessed shocking episodes enacted by famished survivors and have myself felt the pangs of hunger. For long hours I had nothing to eat except a few lemon rinds picked up from the mud and have sought desperately for a morsel of bread. On approaching the military authorities I was sent to a place among the ruins where the municipal assessor, surrounded by a howling mob, was distributing tickets for bread and raw meat. A desperate struggle was going on.

The soldiers had requisitioned a few oxen, horses, and asses—lean, wounded and dying animals, which they hurried off to the seashore, slaughtered, and cut them up with bayonets. Pieces were distributed among the people, who with difficulty were kept back by the soldiers with their rifles. No sooner was one piece, still warm, received than it was torn to shreds by ten eager mouths, and the people struggled on the ground for any morsels that fell. Stories of almost miraculous escapes and episodes of the most appalling character are told by survivors."

TWO CITIES OF DEAD.

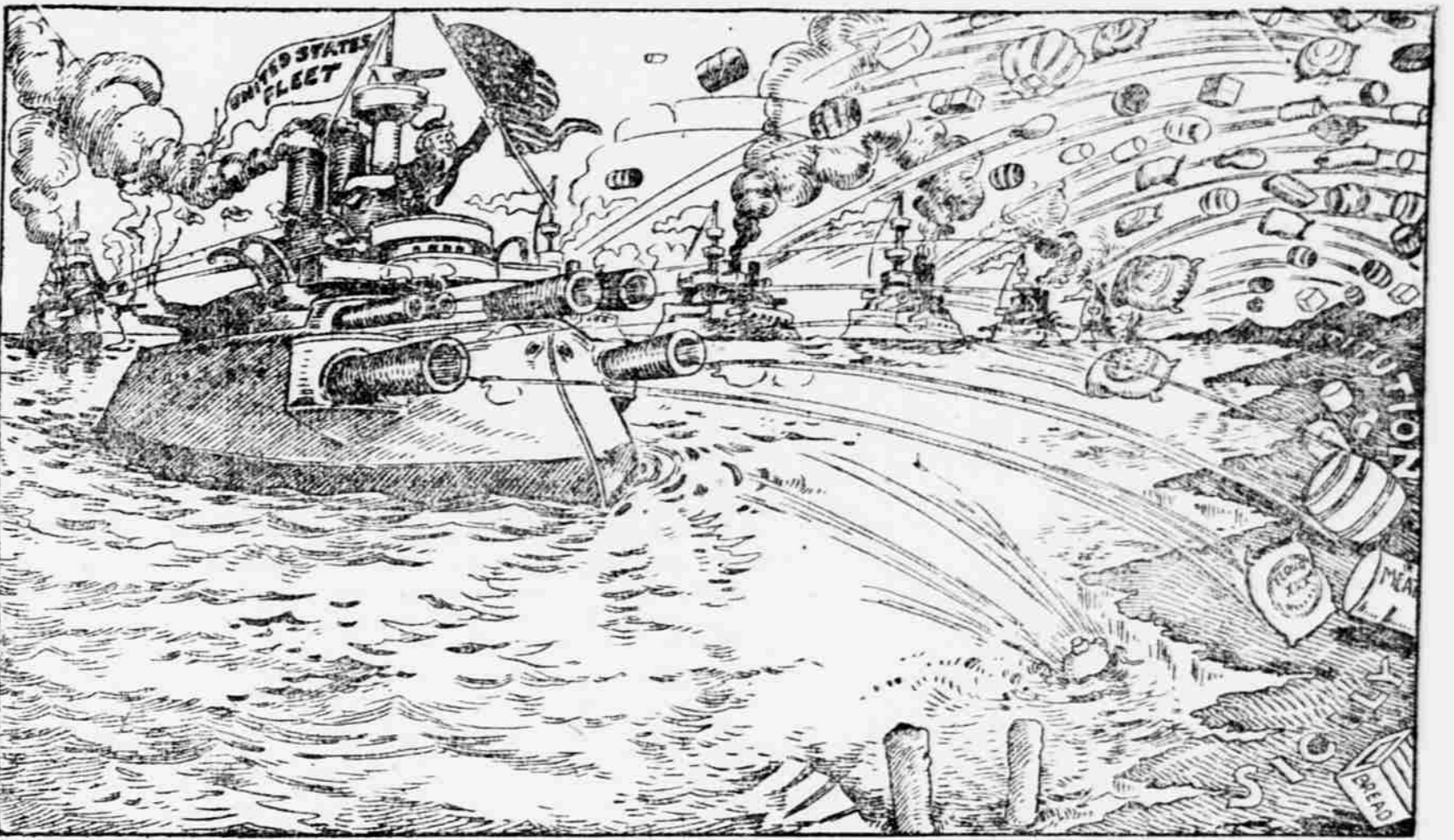
Fear of Disease Causes Forcing of People from Reggio and Messina.

The authorities decided to evacuate completely Reggio and Messina, conveying everybody outside, and leaving the cities perfectly empty. They will be surrounded by military lines to prevent any one re-entering. This measure has been adopted in order to prevent a pestilence occurring. A royal decree was issued placing the Messina and Reggio districts in a state of siege, which is stricter than martial law.

What was the bustling and picturesque port of Messina and the prosperous city of Reggio are cities of the dead. Where happy thousands once lived vultures and their grim sustenance are the sole inhabitants. Every ship that could be put in service transported the terror-stricken people of the two places to more favored spots in Italy. Reports of the inevitability of further shocks and the slight tremors of the day before decided those who had remained where their homes once stood that in the future the land must become a desert and that Messina and Reggio will exist only in memory.

The idea of recovering the dead bodies has been abandoned. At first when a form was rescued from the ruins it was placed with others in a long row to await identification. Few were recognized. The rescuers ceased to care for the dead. When bodies were found they were left to decompose. The search for the living will continue to the last minute, and it was

THE UNITED STATES FLEET TO BOMBARD STRICKEN SICILY WITH MISSILES OF MERCY.



—Minneapolis Journal.

KNOW CHURCH VICTIM.

Man Murdered in Michigan Identified as G. Browning.

By means of two false teeth it has been definitely established that Gideon Browning, of Adair village, was the man who was butchered Tuesday evening in the little "Rattle Run" Methodist Church in Columbus township, near Port Huron, Mich. With part of the mystery which has enshrouded the brutal crime thus cleared, the supervisors of St. Clair County immediately offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest of Rev. John H. Carmichael, of Adair, pastor of the little church and the man who at first was supposed to have been killed, dismembered and then burned in the church stove. The teeth which identified the dead man were found when the ashes from the stove were sifted.

The minister is a man over six feet tall, weighing more than 200 pounds, and the description says: "Both legs have been broken and he walks with a decided limp. Both his feet turn out noticeably, one at an angle of 45 degrees. He has a scar on the upper lip and another on the side of his nose. His eyes are light blue or gray."

Strenuous efforts to discover some motive for the killing of the carpenter by the minister were fruitless. Rumors that Carmichael had been seen crossing the St. Clair River into Canada could not be corroborated. An officer sent to St. Thomas, Ont., reported no trace of him there.

Mrs. Carmichael and Miss Carmichael, wife and daughter of the minister, were examined by the prosecuting attorney, and he stated afterward that he was convinced that they knew nothing of the murder nor the man's disappearance. A statement by Mrs. Carmichael that her husband's sister is an inmate of an insane asylum in West Virginia may explain some of the features of the crime.

LIFE FOR WIFE MURDERER.

Ohioan Placed Poison in Coffee, the Trial Showed.

In Gallipolis, Ohio, Judge Branbury sentenced Fred Van Meter, 27, to life imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary for the murder of his young wife, Van Meter's wife died after drinking coffee, which, it is charged, had been poisoned. His mother-in-law narrowly escaped death, but recovered. Nine of the jury favored electrocution, but a compromise was reached.

ROCK RENT BY EXPLOSION.

Strong Flow of Gas Afterwards Makes Investigation Impossible.

A second mysterious explosion, apparently some distance beneath the surface, took place on the farm of D. E. Livengood, ten miles south of Sandusky, Ohio, where workmen have been engaged for some time in clearing away forest and underbrush with a view to opening up a

CALLS EDDY FAITH A FRAUD.

Dr. Johnston Myers Fiercely Assails Christian Science.

In an address which bristled with the strongest denunciatory terms at his command, the Rev. Johnston Myers of Immanuel Baptist church, Chicago, arraigned Christian Science as one of the greatest menaces of modern times. He denounced the entire Christian Science movement as a fabric of lies and fraud "built upon a foundation of error." He declared that the teachings of Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy were those of a physician with whom she formerly was associated and whose teachings were also "a pack of lies." And, last but not least, he declared that to his own personal knowledge "this delusion" was responsible for scores of deaths. He himself had charge of at least one funeral a month, said he, which was directly chargeable to Christian Science. These accusations were laid at the door of Mrs. Eddy's cult in the course of an address on Christian psychology in which Dr. Myers advocated the program of mental treatment, which also includes drugs and physicians, as outlined by Bishop Fallows.

DEATH OF FLY SAVES MANY.

Sudden Fate of Insect in Milk Leads to Discovery of Poison.

A wholesale attempt to exterminate the roomers in a boarding house at 620 East First street, Los Angeles, failed because a fly was instantly killed when it fell into a five-gallon can of poisoned milk. Two men are held in the city jail on suspicion of having carefully arranged to poison the twenty persons. The prisoners, who gave their names as W. H. Morris and Charles Johnson, are both negroes. Johnson, the police say, lived at 125 Rose street, and it was there that a quantity of poison, salts of vitriol, similar to that found in the milk, was discovered. Mrs. Fannie Martin, the landlady, said the two prisoners had visited her place, had been ordered away, and that they declared they would have revenge. The milk was left on the back porch in an open five-gallon can. As

MAP SHOWING SCENE OF WORLD'S GREATEST CALAMITY



WOMEN ACQUITTED OF MURDER.

Mrs. Erb and Mrs. Beisel, Sisters, Are Set Free at Media, Pa.

Mrs. M. Florence Erb and Mrs. Catharine Beisel, charged with the murder of Capt. J. Clayton Erb, husband of the former, were acquitted in Media, Pa., after the jury had been out nearly eighteen hours. At 9:45 o'clock the jury came in and asked for further instructions on the question of self-defense. One of the jurors asked what Mrs. Beisel was justified in doing when Capt. Erb threatened her. Judge Johnson said: "It is for the jury to say what was the condition of her mind. If it was necessary for her to shoot to save her life or herself from great bodily harm, or if she thought so, she had a right to shoot. The law is that a person must escape if he can before shooting. It is for you to decide whether Mrs. Beisel had that opportunity."

ODDS & ENDS OF SPORT

"Kid" McCoy says he will fight no more, but will drive racing automobiles for a living hereafter.

Percy Smallwood, the Welsh runner, who is matched to race Dorando at St. Louis, defeated Robert Hallen of New York and Michael Spring of Brooklyn, in a ten-mile relay race.

At Sydney, N. S. W., Jack Johnson, the Texas negro pugilist, defeated Tommy Burns, the Canadian, and took away the latter's title of heavyweight champion. Police stopped the fight in the fourteenth round.

In a twelve-mile exhibition relay race at the athletic grounds in Fall River, Mass., Dorando Pietri, the Italian Marathon runner, defeated Floyd Boughty of Providence, and Samuel Myers of Cambridge, by half a lap. Boughty's time was 1:03:39; that of the Douglas Myers team was 1:04:18.



astounding how many people were dug out alive as late as Friday.

Quicklime was at first used on the bodies, but this soon gave out. The stench became horrible, greatly impeding the work of rescue. Vultures have swarmed to the places where the cities were and add to the ghastly horror of the charnel houses.

Children Burned to Death.

In the absence of the mother, who went to the field to see their father, two children, aged 2 and 4 years, were burned to death at the home of Thomas Burgess near Moody, Mo.