STATE CAPITAL LINCOLN CHAT.

A New Road Law.

According to a law enacted at the last session of the legislature, whenever a rural mail carrier in this state or a postmaster notifies the county surveyor or county highway commissioner that any of the mail routes within the county are blockaded with snow or are impassable for any cause, it is the duty of the county official, within twenty-four hours of receiving such notification, to proceed with all haste to open such road. To accomplish this, the new law sets out that any road overseer may demand and require the services of any ablebodied person who is a patron of the snowbound mail route. All ablebodied persons called to service for this work are to receive pay at the rate of thirty cents per hour for themselves and thirty cents per hour for teams employed at the work. The expense is to be paid out of the township road fund.

Employers Liability Commission.

At a meeting of the commission appointed by Governor Aldrich to draft an employers' liability and workingmen's compensation bill, C. D. Traphagen was elected chairman, and A. E. Sheldon of the legislative reference library was elected secretary. Mr. Sheldon is not a member of the commission, but the legislative resolution creating the commission provides that the legislative reference department shall assist in the work. No compensation is provided for any of the commissioners or the secretary. The resolution creating the commission was passed by the house of representatives only and asks the governor to appoint such a body. The commission comprises Representative I. D. Evans of Adams county, Victor Rosewater, F. I. Ellick and A. C. Weitzell of Omaha, C. D. Traphagen, Rev. A. L. Weatherly and F. M. Coffee of Lincoln.

Revision of Laws.

E. L. King of Osceola and J. H. Broady of Lincoln, members of the state commission appointed to report a revision of the statutes to the next legislature, are calling on departments at the state house for suggestions in regard to changes and elimination of conflicting sections of the law and the dropping of obsolete provisions. They will at the present time call on the state board of agriculture, the state food commissioner and the game warden. Secretary Mellor of the state board of agriculture informed the commissioners that a committee would be appointed at the January meeting of the state board to suggest changes in the law.

Applications at Tubercular Hospital.

The second application to be received from the prospective patients for the tubercular hospital which is shortly to be opened at Kearney, has come to the attention of Land Commissioner Cowles. No appointments for the new institution have been made, but for the time being the patients will be taken care of by a nurse and a physician located at Kearney. Later on, if the list increases, a specialist will be appointed as the head of the hospital.

Nearly 2,000 Insane in State.

There are 4,188 inmates at the fourteen state institutions at the present time, according to figures compiled from monthly reports just made to Governor Aldrich from the heads of the various institutions. The Hastings asylum contains the largest number, there being 1,048 inmates at Ingleside. There are 616 inmates at the Lincoln hospital for the insane, and 330 at the Norfolk hospital, a total of 1,994 inmates at the three institutions for the care of the insane of the state.

Pardoned by the Governor.

Dr. W. H. Johnson, who was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary about a year ago, was given a Christmas present by Governor Aldrich in the shape of a pardon. His time would have expired on January 12, 1913.

The board of educational lands and funds has under consideration the purchase of $20,000 worth of Merrick county bonds.

In reply to questions from the government civil service commission, Governor Aldrich has stated that the number of officers and employes of the state of Nebraska, exclusive of the militia, is 861, the number of persons in the unorganized militia subject to the call of the governor or the legislature, 130,000; number of county officers, including commissioners and supervisors, 1,203. The governor is unable to ascertain the number of municipal officers in the state.

Dr. Winnett of the state railway commission has just finished a hearing of the petition of patrons of the irrigation ditch at Cozad for better service. A large amount of testimony was introduced and at its conclusion the doctor requested that the petitioners submit briefs on the question of the jurisdiction of the commission to deal with the question presented. These briefs will be turned over to the attorney general and if that official decides the commission has jurisdiction, some action will be taken.

ALL OVER NEBRASKA.

Better Results in Farming.

Butler County.—Hon. Thomas Wolfe, banker and mayor of David City, in an address recently before the Butler County Short Course in Agriculture and Domestic Science, said much of a practical character along the line of soil culture and better results, in both of which he is interested. They are matters, he contended, in which we should interest ourselves more than in the continual chase of dollars, dimes and nickels for individual pocketbooks.

"When I came to Nebraska in 1864," said the speaker, "I came from Wisconsin where ox teams were the principal means of transportation in logging and farm work. Omaha was a small city and the principal transportation faculties were the bull trains across what was then termed the Great American Desert and to and from the mountain ranges. This land here could then be bought from the government at $1.50 per acre. Since that time it has increased in value to from $150 to $200 per acre.

"We must increase our efficiency in farming this land to get a profit, to make a fair return for these increasing values. That is what these meetings are intended for. We must increase our yield of wheat to 50 bushels per acre and our corn to 75 bushels per acre. This we can do, for we have the most fertile soil in the world naturally. Prof. Hunt tells me that he can raise 50 bushels of wheat and 75 bushels of corn per acre on his Otoe county farm. Why cannot we do likewise, if we do as he does? He plows 10 to 12 inches deep, fertilizes, has rotation in crops, grows alfalfa and selects seeds to produce the best results in cultivation.

"We are not raising as many bushels of corn and other grain per acre as heretofore. We have plowed our land only from four to six inches mostly for the past 30 years. If the land had not been marvelously fertile it would have been entirely exhausted. Ben Franklin's motto, "Plow deep while sluggards sleep," is still appropriate. If we add to this more scientific cultivation, more care in selection of seed with greater vitality, we will profit much."

Hangs Himself From a Tree.

Gage County.—Philip Hess, a man 67 years of age, well known in Beatrice, was found near Pickerel, about ten miles north, hanging to a tree dead. The man disappeared from his boarding house here about four days ago and it is thought that he secured a rope, walked up into the timber and ended his life. Mr. Hess was an old soldier, and while an inmate of the Milford home about two months ago tried to kill himself by jumping off a railroad bridge.

Narrow Escape From Death.

Burt County.—Louis Larsen and his son, William, had a narrow escape from death when struck by a train at the Omaha road crossing. When hit their buggy was thrown on one side of the track and the team on the other. The son was unhurt. The father suffered a severe shock and bad bruises, but his injuries are not serious.

Big Land Deal.

Redwillow County.—The largest land deal ever handled in this county was closed when the F. T. Wilcox ranch, six miles south of McCook, a school lease of 640 acres, and 160 acres in Dundy county, became the property of Dr. John Conrad of Sumner, Mo The total amount of the deal came to over $38,000.

Well Now Down 2,873 Feet.

Otoe County.—The deep well which is being sunk here is now down 2,873 feet and the drill has struck the hardest rock encountered since the well was started. It is slow work cutting through it. This well has been worked on by the contractors, Ingersoll Brothers, for the past three years.

Bankers Asked to Assist.

Lancaster County.—Bankers of the state are asked in a letter written by State Fire Warden Randall to cooperate with that official in preventing the destruction of property by fire. The fire warden asks the bankers to help in compelling owners of town shacks to repair or tear down such buildings.

Killed Himself.

Burt County.—When Nels Mossberger went over to the tumbledown shack used as a residence by his friend, C. E. Bolden, he was horrified to find Bolden dead upon the floor. A gaping wound in the man's head and a revolver lying near the body told the story. He had killed himself after a New Year spree.

Succumbs to Wound.

Dodge County.—Michael Gorey, the North Bend saloon man who was shot by Albert Pruyn of North Bend on Christmas day, died from his wounds. He was fifty years old and was unmarried. Pruyn is under arrest.

Meeting of Fair Managers.

Lanaster County.—Arrangements are being completed for the third annual meeting of the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers to be held in Lincoln Tuesday, January 16.

Burrows Pleads Not Guilty.

Cass County.—Henry Burrows was arraigned in county court charged with the murder of William Sayles. He pleaded not guilty and asked to have Byron Clark as his attorney. The preliminary examination will be held in a few days.

MAY DEPORT BOY

Youth Arrested as Stowaway Involves Four Nations.

Immigrant Officials at New York Find Perplexing Problems in the Case of an American High School Lad.

New York.—Higher education and travel in the case of Samuel Goulden, a stowaway on the Prinz Sigismund, have given the immigration authorities some perplexing problems to solve in which four big nations are interested.

They don't quite know whether Goulden, an 18-year-old high school graduate, must be sent back to Jamaica, a British colony, or to Russia, or whether he has a right to remain here.

The boy insists that his father and mother came to this country from Russia when he was six years old and that his father became a naturalized citizen.

The boy was graduated from the high school of Thomas, W. Va., where he says a search of the records will show that his father became a citizen, thus making him also a citizen of the United States.

Goulden's troubles came about through the fact that his parents disagreed and parted, whereupon he went to Oklahoma to seek his fortune. He failed to find it and after beating his way back home decided to go to Panama.

He thought his education equipped him to work on the big canal and on November 30, with $1.50 in his pocket, acquired by pawning two of his rings, went aboard the steamship Prinz August Wilhelm. For three days he mingled with the first class passengers and appeared regularly at his meals. Then it was discovered that he had not paid for his passage.

At Kingston, Jamaica, Goulden was turned over to the British arthorities and thrown into jail. When the Prinz Sigismund stopped there on its trip to New York, the boy was put aboard.

GAVE AWAY STAGE MONEY

Property Man of Burlesque Company Startles Bowery by Generosity and Suffers Broken Nose.

New York.—William Klosterman, property man for the Cherry Hill Burlesque company, now playing in Jersey City, decided when the ghost walked for him he would come over to New York and blow off all the boys. As one preparation he wrapped a real $20 bill around a big bundle of stage money and then ambled from saloon to saloon in New York buying for every one in the house.

At two o'clock in the morning Policeman Kirk of the Mulberry street station, was told that a Rockefeller was giving away money at Houston street and the Bowery. The cop investigated and found that Klosterman, who had been giving away the stage money, had fallen down an areaway and in spite of a broken nose had gone peacefully to sleep. The cop locked him up and arraigned him in the Tombs police court.

"Suppose that had been good money you were giving away," said Magistrate Herbert, "think of what it would have meant to you. You were so drunk you would just as likely have given away good money."

"Believe me, judge," said Klosterman, "if I had that much in real money I would be staying at home minding it. If you ever catch me drunk again you can send me up for life."

"I guess the broken nose is punishment enough for you," said the magistrate. "Discharged with reprimand."

AMERICA GETS A $300,000 RUBENS

THE CORONATION OF ST. CATHERINE

NEW YORK.—"The Coronation of St. Catherine," by Rubens, recently arrived in New York, having been purchased from the duke of Rutland. It is one of the most important canvases of the great master, and was painted in 1633 for the altar of St. Barnabas in the Church of St. Augustin in Malines. The picture is 8½ feet in height and 7 feet wide, and its figures are life-size. It has been bought by a well-known American collector.

1912 IS BLACK YEAR

Prophetess of Paris Makes a Dark Forecast.

Mme. de Thebes, the Famous French Seeress Predicts Many Kinds of Catastrophies in Europe During Next Twelve Months.

Paris.—One long horrid vista of catastrophes is all that Mme. de Thebes, the famous Paris "prophetess," can see in the history of the approaching year. She states that 1912 is "The Black Year," and predicts for humanity practically every misfortune except housemaid's knee.

War will come at the end of the year, when the French armies will go forth. There is just a sporting chance that the cataclysm may be postponed till 1913, but it is absolutely certain to come then. It will be so great that "it will not only turn Europe upside down, but other continents as well, and particularly Asia. We shall reach the paroxysm of the peril when the earth quakes at home. We shall be at the end of our ordeals when the essential substances, particularly milk, are lacking.

"There is a hard winter in prospect, a muggy spring, a heavy summer and a bitter autumn." There will be most frightfu' storms and the wine will be second rate.

"Blood and fire everywhere," is the next item in 1912, "particularly at Brest, Toulon and Paris." Conspiracies, treacheries against the state, foreign gold, assassinations, fierce riots, epidemics, floods and possibly total ruin will come to Paris, besides the usual number of passionate dramas.

An actress will play a vital part in affairs of state.

The calamities will be by no means confined to France. Spain will have conspiracies and fusillades, but the royal family is saved. "After 1912 there will be no Hohenzollern and no dominant Prussia. The kaiser's days as emperor are numbered." England also is menaced by an evil destiny.

Mme. de Thebes recalls the tale of the French editor, anxious for "sensations," who came into his office and asked his deputy what had happened. "Nothing," he was told, "except that a man's nose has been bleeding in the Place de la Concorde and a chimney is on fire in Montmartre." "Enough," said the other, and wrote the placard: "Blood and Fire in Paris!"

NO CARS IN YOSEMITE PARK

Interior Department Believes Automobiles Would Interfere With Stages.

Washington.—There is one place in the United States where the motor car is seeking in vain for admission. That is the Yosemite National Park. The interior department has been receiving numerous requests for permission to operate motors in the park. All of these were refused and it was decided that "it is impracticable to permit cars in the park because their presence would practically eliminate travel by stage, the roads being in such condition that it would be dangerous for teams and motor cars to meet."

The department also has made a rule that no visitors be allowed to carry firearms into the park.

HOG RESENTED BEING ROPED

Exemplar of Western Methods Happens to Speed With Porker, and He Is Reluctant.

New York.—Herman Oechli, a farmer of Sandy Ground, a hamlet on the west end of Staten Island, called in three of his neighbors, John Foster, William Farley and Robert Brinley, to help him kill his prize porker.

"This is some hog," commented Oechli, as he pointed proudly to a pen where grunted a 400-pound Berkshire.

"We'll get him out of the pen," said Foster, who formerly was a cowboy in Wyoming. The hog was driven from the pen and Foster hurled a lasso about his neck.

"That's the way we did the trick in Wyoming," he laughed.

The pig objected to the lariat and started off. Foster held back, winding the rope about his arms and body. Then the pig decided he was good for a distance.

"Stop me!" yelled Foster.

His three companions started in pursuit. The porker broke through a gate, reached the road and made off in the direction of St. George.

"Can't you stop me?" Foster continued to yell.

So fast did the hog run that soon Oechli, Farley and Brinley were distanced. Foster wanted to be distanced, but the rope would not permit.

A mile down the road Foster was still yelling, "Stop me!" and seemed really put out when persons he met stepped aside to give him and the hog a clear track.

When the hog at last stopped to get breath Foster was so winded he could not disentangle himself After his three friends released him he sputtered:

"It's my pleasure to kill that hog," and he did.

TOO PRETTY FOR POOR MAN

Husband Gets Divorce From Wife on Odd Plea—Couldn't Purchase Autos and Other "Necessities."

San Francisco, Cal.—A wife with a comely countenance is too great a luxury for a workingman, William J. Gallagher told Judge J. J. Van Nostrand in the superior court, while testifying in support of his complaint for divorce from Mrs. Blanche Gallagher.

"I could not afford to pay for the automobiles with which she thought her good looks entitled her to be supplied," said Gallagher. "She also thought she should wear clothes entirely too expensive for a man earning only $5 or $6 a day. I did the best I could, but she was too pretty for a poor man and became discontented."

After listening to the husband's detailed recital of the wife's necessities the court granted Gallagher's petition.

Sermon Bares a Theft.

Cincinnati.—Steve Callahan, a negro, was so influenced by a sermon delivered by a colored evangelist, that he confessed to burglary and returned to the home of Frank Holmes, 206 Syramore street, a fur coat he had stolen. Today he told the police he had committed more than a score of other thefts.

DOG GUARDED A LOST BOY

Even a Chicago Policeman Couldn't Rout "Fox" From His Little Master's Side.

Chicago.—Every child who has read with tears in his eyes the third reader story of "Faithful Fido," the dog, shot by his master because he had tried to remind him of forgotten saddle bags of gold, will have respect for this pet fox terrier.

Irvin Spitza, 4 years old, wandered far from his home. "Fox" knew that the child was doing wrong, but decided to keep good trace of him. The dog remained at the child's heels until the latter fell asleep in a doorway.

The dog was the aggressor later in an argument with a policeman, who found the pet cuddled on his little master's lap. The policeman was unable to rout the dog with safety to himself, so he called for a patrol wagon. At the same moment his telephone message reached the station the father of the boy was there asking that a search be made for his boy.

When the wagon reached the place the lad was awakened and father, boy and dog were overjoyed.

Girl Lasses a Coyote.

Gillette, Wyo.—Miss Alta Scott, a school teacher, while riding in the country, lassoed a coyote which her dog had scared up.

The noose caught one foot of the animal and Miss Scott held it until the dog attacked the coyote.

Then she dismounted and seizing a big stone, threw it, killing the coyote.

W. N. U., SIOUX CITY, NO. 2-1912.

SHE KNEW.

Visitor (examining picture in dining room)—Is that picture one of the old masters?

Hostess—Yes; that's a picture of our cook.

Speaking Airily.

First Aviator—How far is it to the next gasoline reservior?

Second Aviator—Two graveyards and a spiral glide to your left, old man.—Life.

Difficult.

It is difficult for Mme. de Stael "to grow old gracefully." It is more difficult to grow old cheerfully.