

THE NORFOLK WEEKLY NEWS-JOURNAL.

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1901.

PENITENTIARY DESTROYED.

Nebraska State Prison the Prey of Flames.

LOSS TO THE STATE \$300,000.

Convicts Are Huddled From Their Cells and the Lincoln National Guard Summoned to Corral Them in the Prison Yard—Aid From Lincoln Arrives.

Lincoln, March 1.—Fire which started in the living rooms of the warden of the state penitentiary at midnight last night destroyed the entire main building, together with the cell house and other buildings. Before the flames had gained a great headway Warden Davis gave orders to release the convicts from the cells and march them under guard to the prison yard and there place them under double guard. The removal was accomplished safely and without disorder. Extra guards were also posted on the stockade walls, armed with shotguns, with orders to permit no escapes. The origin of the fire is unknown. When first discovered the officers of the institution immediately set to work all the small fire fighting apparatus of the prison. Water was used in abundance, but assistance from the city fire department was called for and a steamer and hose cart were dispatched in response to a telephone message. At 1:40 a. m. the city fire department arrived and began throwing water on the walls. The flames had gained too great headway, however, and the firemen directed their efforts to saving some of the remote shop buildings. By request of the warden, Chief of Police Hoagland sent all available policemen to aid in preserving order. Later, as an additional measure of safety, Lieutenant Governor Savage, acting in the absence of Governor Dietrich, in response to the suggestion of the warden, ordered out the local company of state militia.

The loss to the state is over \$300,000. The penitentiary cost \$312,000 originally, and there have been additions and improvements since. The number of inmates averaged 400.

Progress of the Flames.

The fire started from an unknown cause in the kitchen of the upper story in the main building near the cell house at the west end.

The fire was discovered by Warden Davis himself shortly before midnight, he being aroused by the crackling of flames and smell of smoke.

The alarm was immediately given, convicts, guards, and employees aroused. The convicts were ordered to clothe themselves, and, in their prison garb, marshaled into the huge court yard, to the number of nearly 300, under the espionage of a score of armed guards patrolling on the top of the wall surrounding the court yard.

The emergency guard of the penitentiary system was quickly at work with lines of hose, but these proved inefficient and a telephone message summoned the Lincoln fire department. All efforts to save the great stone building were unavailing. The convicts were hustled out into the yard, armed extra guards stood sentinel on the walls and the Lincoln National Guard was ordered out. A company left on a special Burlington train to guard the convicts.

The warden and his immediate aids made quick work of removing the books, records and papers of the institution to a place of safety. Nothing else of value was saved from the burning structures.

The main building contained the chapel, office, library and living apartments of the warden and officers.

It is rumored that several escapes have been made and that the convicts are getting in an ugly mood, but this report was denied, both by the warden and several of the guards.

The entire cell house at the west end is destroyed. The main center building is gone. This practically destroys all the buildings used for the purpose of a prison.

CAUCUS DWINDLES AWAY.

Only Forty-Five Members Attend the Session Held Last Night.

Lincoln, March 1.—The Republican senatorial caucus met last night, but with only 45 members present, less than enough to nominate under the rules, and adjourned until next Tuesday. The action of last night is regarded as the forerunner of an abandonment of the present caucus and the circulation of a new call under changed rules.

On ballot for United States senator in joint session Mead transferred his vote from Thompson to Dietrich. The Lancaster men, however, turned the vote of Trompen from Currie to Rosewater. Miskell also came back to Rosewater, making the latter 15. Melklejohn gained Johnson and had Spencer been present would have touched 85 as high water mark. Other changes were of a minor character. The totals:

Allen	20	Kinkaid	2
Berge	4	Martin	2
Crouse	8	Melklejohn	8
Currie	13	Metcalfe	1
Dietrich	2	Moran	1
Haines	2	Rosewater	15
Hartman	2	Thompson, D. E.	28
Harrington	4	Thompson, W. H.	11
Hinshaw	13	Wethereld	2

The senate devoted a greater part of the day to work in committee of the whole, discussing the manner in which constitutional amendments shall

be printed upon official ballots.

The judiciary committee made an exhaustive report in which the death knell of many bills was sounded. The cigarette bill, which the committee reported for postponement, was upon motion to non-concur placed upon general file by a vote which indicates the passage of the bill in the senate.

ATLANTA IS EXCITED.

Wife of a Prominent Jeweler the Victim of an Outrage.

Atlanta, Ga., March 1.—Mrs. C. A. Buchanan, wife of a well known jeweler, living in the heart of a prominent residence section of the city and within two blocks of the governor's mansion, was the victim yesterday of an outrage which has caused much excitement in Atlanta. She was compelled at the point of a pistol, held by a negro, who stealthily entered the house while she was alone, to give him her purse containing \$5. The negro then commanded Mrs. Buchanan to cook breakfast for him, and while she was engaged in this he stood with his pistol constantly pointed at her. After the food had been placed on the table, the negro seized Mrs. Buchanan and bound her to a bedstead. He then ate his breakfast. When he had finished he gathered some paper and placing it under Mrs. Buchanan set fire to it. The negro then ran from the room, and jumping through a rear window escaped. Mrs. Buchanan kicked the burning mass from her and by severely wrenching her wrists managed to free herself. Her condition is critical. The entire police force and bloodhounds are searching for the negro.

FIVE MINERS KILLED.

Victims to Accidents in South McAlester and Weir City Shafts—All Were Shot Firers.

South McAlester, I. T., March 1.—An explosion occurred last night at mine No. 5, one mile northeast of this city, which resulted in the death of three men and the probable injury to many more.

The dead are: Steve Delucas, Bristo Bart and W. B. Welch.

All three men were shot firers and had just gone into the mine to work when the explosion occurred. It is supposed that the pit was overcharged with gas. A rescuing party is working heroically to reach the dead men, but as the force of the shock resulted in great damage to the mine, slow progress is made.

The mine is the property of the Osage Coal and Mining company, which is owned by the Missouri Pacific railroad.

Weir City, Kan., March 1.—An explosion occurred last night at shaft No. 3 of the J. R. Crowe Coal company. Two shot firers, S. B. Hatfield, single, and J. W. Watkins, married, were killed. Watkins was colored. The explosion is supposed to have been due to an accumulation of gas. The explosion was terrific, the timbers in the shaft being torn to splinters. The lower part and top were wrecked.

STRUCK BY A TIDAL WAVE.

White Star Liner Has a Lively Experience at Sea.

New York, March 1.—The White Star line steamer Teutonic, which reached port yesterday, had a lively experience on Sunday. While the ship was riding in fair weather and going at her usual speed she was struck by a tidal wave. The ship went down in the hollow of the sea and immediately there was crushing of iron work and a mass of water boarded her on the starboard side, thundering down on hatches and deck houses. The wave broke high up, throwing down the men in the crew's nest and rushed on, leaving them bruised and badly shaken. John Michaelson, a steerage passenger, was hurled down and caught his foot in such a way that it was almost completely torn off at the ankle. The passengers generally became so frightened that they were on the verge of a panic.

M'KINLEY AVERSE TO DELAY

Wants Chinese Negotiations to Proceed Without More Bloodshed.

Washington, March 1.—Special Commissioner Rockhill at Peking has been instructed to make it known to the foreign ministers that the president strongly deprecates any action that will tend to delay or check the present negotiations there and especially is he desirous that there shall be no further unnecessary bloodshed. It is confidently believed that our commissioner will be able to secure the support and co-operation of a sufficient number of the other ministers to secure a cessation of the punitive demands which it is believed by officials here are not only unworthy of civilized nations, but threaten to drive the Chinese to desperation and thereby cause a renewal of armed resistance on their part.

Ignored Rio's Signals of Distress.

San Francisco, March 1.—Captain Hodgson of the Fort Point life saving station notified Major Blakely, superintendent of life saving service, that Mark Ellingson, the guardsman who was on duty in the lookout tower the morning the steamer Rio de Janeiro was wrecked, had confessed to him that he heard the Rio's signals of distress, but paid no attention to them and neglected to arouse the station. Captain Hodgson immediately suspended Ellingson.

CONGRESS VOTES TAX CUT

War Revenue Reduction Bill Adopted Without Division.

REPEAL SOME PROVISIONS.

Tax on Bank Checks, Promissory Notes, Express Receipts, Telegraph and Telephone Messages and Mortgages Knocked Out—Senate Makes Concessions.

Washington, March 1.—An immense amount of business was disposed of by the senate yesterday and not a single point raised was sharply controverted. The river and harbor bill, carrying appropriations of more than \$50,000,000, was passed without a word of discussion, and the senate adopted the war revenue reduction bill without disturbing in the least the millpond smoothness of the proceedings. Final conference reports were made and agreed to on the diplomatic and consular and the agricultural appropriation bills and another conference on the postoffice appropriation was agreed to. Conferences on several other measures were agreed to. The last hour and a half of the session was devoted to the consideration of the civil sundry bill.

The house cleared the decks yesterday a number of important conference reports without much difficulty. The final reports on the diplomatic and consular and agricultural appropriation bills were adopted. The major part of the day was devoted to the bill to promote the efficiency of the revenue cutter service. The conference report on the war revenue reduction bill proved generally acceptable to both sides and was adopted without division. Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, acquiesced in it as the best that could be done, although he stated that the minority still believed the war taxes should be reduced \$70,000,000.

The report as agreed to shows a compromise all along the lines of the bill, the changes in the present law being as follows:

War Revenue Reduction.

Tobacco—Twenty per cent discount of the original tax of 12 cents per pound, as against 25 per cent reduction as fixed by the senate and house as the bill passed the house. The rate agreed upon will make the tax \$9.60 per hundred pounds.

Cigars—On those weighing more than three pounds per thousand the house rate of \$3.30 per thousand was retained as against \$3.30 as fixed by the senate and \$3.50 in the present law. On those weighing less than three pounds per thousand the senate rate of 18 cents per thousand was allowed to stand.

Cigarettes—On those weighing not more than three pounds per thousand the senate action fixing the rate at 18 cents per pound prevailed.

Beer—The house rate of \$1.60 per barrel and repelling the 7/8 per cent discount was retained.

Bankers' Capital—Present law retained.

Commercial Brokers' Tax—Repealed.

Certificates of Stock Transfers—The rate of 2 cents for each \$1,000 is retained and the senate amendment, including the transactions of stock shops, was accepted by the house conference.

Sales of Products at Exchanges—The senate amendment exempting the sales of merchandise in the actual course of transportation was accepted, but the rate of 1 cent for each \$100 as fixed by the present law was retained.

Bank Checks—Repealed in accordance with the house action.

Certificates of Deposit—Tax repealed.

Promissory Notes—Tax repealed.

Money Orders—Tax repealed.

Bills of Exchange—Foreign—The rate fixed at 2 cents for each \$100.

Express Receipts—Repealed.

Telegraph Messages—Repealed.

Miscellaneous Bonds—Tax Repealed, except upon bonds of indemnity.

Certificates of Damage and Certificates Not Otherwise Specified—Repealed.

Charter Party—Repealed.

Conveyances—Tax repealed, below \$2,500, above \$2,500 25 cents for each \$500.

Telephone Messages—Tax repealed.

Insurance—Tax repealed on all kinds of insurance, in accordance with the action of the house, the senate conference receding on all senate amendments.

Leases—Tax repealed.

Manifests—Tax repealed.

Mortgages—Tax repealed.

Steamship Passage Receipts—Exempted below \$50 in value and the rate fixed at 50 cents for each \$50 in cost for that price and over.

Tower of Attorney—Tax repealed.

Protest—Tax repealed.

Warehouse Receipts—Tax repealed.

Proprietary Medicines—Tax repealed in accordance with house action, the senate amendment being disregarded.

Perfumery and Cosmetics—Tax repealed.

Chewing Gum—Tax repealed.

Legacies—Law modified so as to exclude from taxation legacies of charitable, religious, literary or educational character.

The total reduction of the revenues as made by the bill as agreed upon will amount to about \$41,000,000, as against a reduction of \$40,000,000 as it passed the house and \$45,000,000 as amended in the senate.

The provisions of the bill as agreed upon will take effect on the first of next July.

Preparing for the Inauguration.

Washington, March 1.—The preparations for the inauguration of President McKinley next Monday are rapidly nearing completion and without all signs fail there will be a larger crowd of strangers present to witness the ceremony than Washington has seen in several years. The general inauguration committee has been hard at work for more than a month perfecting arrangements, and the spectacular features of the celebration, as well as the general arrangements made for the occasion, is on an exceptionally fine scale.

Turkish Troops Ordered to Frontier.

London, March 1.—An imperial trade orders the concentration of 50,000 Turkish troops on the Bulgarian frontier near Krustendit, says the Constantinople correspondent of the Daily Mail. This measure is taken on the advice of the ministry of war, owing to agitations in Macedonia, which is

assuming the form of brigandage on a large scale.

Orange River is Falling.

Oudtschorn, Cape Colony, March 1.—General Dewet, it is officially asserted, having failed to cross the Orange river at Daltorspoort, is hurrying to Renfontein by the way of Petrusville. The Orange river is falling fast.

RIDDLED WITH BULLETS.

Indian Desperado Shot to Death by a Mob at Holdenville.

Holdenville, I. T., March 1.—Johnson Miller, a full blood Creek Indian, was shot to death by a masked body of men. Miller was under arrest for the murder of Herbert McDade. He was arrested yesterday near Wetumka and brought here pending a hearing before the United States commissioner. The officers, fearing trouble, secretly conveyed their prisoner out of town two or three miles and lodged at the farm house of Robert Stewart. At a little after midnight about 40 armed and masked men forced an entrance into the house, disarmed the guards and began shooting at the prisoner at short range. The prisoner escaped from the house by jumping through a screen door and fled across the yard, clearing a four foot picket fence at one leap, running 300 yards, where he was overtaken and his body filled with lead. More than a dozen bullet holes are to be seen in his body. Miller was a desperado and had committed three cold blooded murders within six months, besides numerous robberies.

TWO DIE IN A WRECK.

Three Others Badly Injured and Passenger Train Burned as Result of Collision Near McKeesport, Pa.

Pittsburg, March 1.—Two dead, three badly hurt and a passenger train burned is the result of a head-on collision between a passenger train and a local freight on the Pittsburg and Charleston railroad at Coal Valley.

The dead: Frank White, engineer; Milton S. Thompson, mail clerk.

The injured: C. Shaver, fireman, badly scalded and bruised; Charles Stroud, baggage-master, bruised and burned; and Michael Kulick, Schoenerville, passenger, back hurt.

None of the other passengers were hurt beyond minor cuts and bruises. Immediately after the collision the passenger cars took fire and were destroyed, only one car escaping. The trains in collision were the Uniontown express, south-bound, and the local freight coming toward Pittsburg. The local was standing on a siding delivering freight at the time. For some reason as yet unexplained the express instead of keeping to the main track shot off into the siding and telescoped the other train. All of the victims were on the express train, which carried between 50 and 60 passengers.

Mrs. Nation Visits Stockyards.

Kansas City, March 1.—Mrs. Carrie Nation reached Kansas City yesterday and left last night for Topeka. During the afternoon she visited the Exchange building at the stock yards in company with her brother, J. V. Moore, who is a live stock dealer here. She was followed by a large crowd of brokers and cattle men, and business was suspended temporarily.

Emperor William Has Close Call.

Berlin, March 1.—About noon Emperor William had a narrow escape from serious injury while crossing Unter den Linden, when his carriage came into collision with an electric car near the Schloss. The emperor was thrown against the side of the carriage and slightly bruised.

Reed Not the Right Negro.

Indianapolis, March 1.—The negro "Doc" Reed was again taken to the Darter home in Irvington, and after carefully scrutinizing the prisoner Miss Darter declared he was not her assailant. He was then released from custody.

Botha Named Conditions.

London, March 1.—The Daily News says: "We learn that Commandant Botha offered to surrender on certain conditions, and that pour-parlies are in progress. It is probable that Mrs. Botha brought proposals from her husband to Lord Kitchener."

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

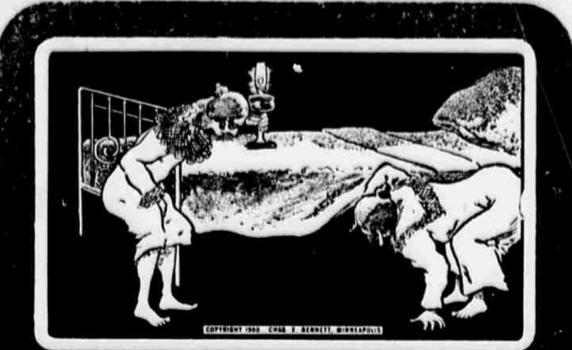
Judge Harzell has succeeded in closing the pool rooms at Madison, Ills. George McFadden was given the decision on a foul in the eighth round over Dal Hawkins at San Francisco Thursday.

The trial of Jesse B. Davis, a Bellevue hospital nurse, accused of the murder of Louis R. Hilliard, an insane patient, closed Thursday and the jury rendered a verdict of acquittal.

James J. Hill has started to grade his railroad from Marcus to Republic, giving that mining district an outlet by way of Spokane. The first work in being done near Cascade City on the United States side.

The joint session of the scale committee of the coal miners and operators of Illinois came to an abrupt end Thursday, when the operators refused to longer entertain the demands of the miners' scale.

Rev. F. W. Emerson, pastor of the First Christian church, and Dr. M. R. Mitchell were arrested Thursday on a state warrant, charging them with being accessories in the smashing of the Curtis cold storage plant in North Topeka.



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