

GETS A JAIL SENTENCE.

Harry Thompson Failed to Clear With a Pants Pattern.

CLERKS TOO MANY FOR HIM.

Acquired a Reputation as a Spender in Norfolk Just Before Christmas. Will Now Languish in Jail for Two Months.

[From Saturday's Daily.]
Harry Thompson, the westerner who created quite a sensation by entering Norfolk shortly before Christmas with a roll of money about as big as leg and reputations contain something like \$1,400 which he was intent on spending in the shortest possible time, is again brought to public notice in quite a different light. And it is believed that his meteoric career in Norfolk is now about to close.

This morning he went into the store of J. W. Humphrey ostensibly to look at some coats and vests, but his real intention was petit larceny, as it afterward proved. There were present in the store at the time W. S. Tupper, Mr. Maloney the cutter, and P. O. Hirsch. The fellow decided that he did not want a coat and vest at the present time and started to walk out when it was noticed that he had concealed something under his coat. It was a bolt of cloth valued at about \$15. When he saw that the game was up, Thompson showed fight and threatened to shoot but failed to produce a gun. The men in the store were equal to the occasion and when resistance was offered they armed themselves with any clubbable weapon in sight and held the fellow in the store until Robert Uter, who was passing, summoned Chief of Police Kane.

The officer started with his prisoner for the city jail, but he showed an inclination to resist arrest and the assistance of Constable Conley was secured and the man placed behind the bars.

This afternoon he was arraigned before Justice of the Peace C. F. Eiseley on the charge of petit larceny, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a term of 60 days in the county jail, the court taking off a month of the limit because of Thompson's plea of guilty. He was taken to Madison this afternoon by Chief of Police Kane and given into the custody of Sheriff Clements.

Since his first appearance in Norfolk some have persistently held to the belief that Thompson was a hold-up man of some sort and that the money he so freely spent was not acquired by honest toil and this circumstance seems to prove that belief. There has been a considerable trade in valuable cloth patterns recently that had the appearance of not being of just the right sort and the officers are inclined to think that they now have the author of such transactions safe for a couple of months.

Thompson was much put out at being put to the ignominy of an arrest and pretended to be considerably under the influence of liquor. He is not of an intellectual or refined appearance, has a corner of his nose chipped out and has had repeated difficulties of several kinds since his advent in Norfolk. At the expiration of his term in jail it is hoped that he will look up greener fields. If not it should be undertaken to make Norfolk too hot to hold him.

Piano Recital.

[From Monday's Daily.]
Dr. Charles Sitzer of Albion will give a piano recital in the First Congregational church tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. Dr. Sitzer is by profession a dentist but has made himself proficient in music. This recital is arranged for him to meet the musical people of Norfolk. A small admission of 15 cents will be charged to defray necessary expenses. Dr. Sitzer played in preliminary concert when Paderewski visited Lincoln. Following is the program:

- PART FIRST.**
Isolda's "Love Death".....Wagner
"Sonata Appassionata," Opus 57.....Beethoven
Ballade Opus 38.....Chopin
Fugue and Fugue.....Bach
"Eri Koenig".....Schubert
- PART SECOND.**
Soprano Solo, "Thou'rt Like unto a Lovely Flower".....Miss Edith Mason
"Witches' Dance".....MacDowell
Fantasia—Impromptu—Opus 96.....Chopin
"Witches' Dance".....MacDowell
Reading, "The Annexation of Cuba".....Miss Esther Mason
Hungarian Rhapsody, Number 8.....Liszt

PLAINVIEW HOTEL BURNED.

Fire of Incendiary Origin Causes Loss of \$8,500.

[From Saturday's Daily.]
Plainview, Neb., Feb. 20.—Fire which was unquestionably of incendiary origin, totally destroyed the Merchants' hotel at this place early this morning. The loss is about \$8,500, insurance \$4,000. F. Steinkrause, the owner of the building, occupied a room there and G. H. Fair, wife and child were living in two rooms. The rest of the house was unoccupied.

Night Watchman C. A. Bertles discovered the fire about 1 o'clock this morning and awakened Steinkrause and the Fairs. They escaped safely, but the furniture and clothing belonging to the Fairs, valued at \$1,000, were burned. The hotel was built a year ago at a cost of \$7,500. The first tenant, S. T. Johnson, moved out three weeks ago, and no other renter had been secured. There had been no fire in the rear of the building where the flames originated since Johnson moved out. This has convinced everybody here that the building

was set on fire, although no motive can be assigned for it. It is not known whether or not the hotel will be rebuilt.

A RANK DECEPTION.

Junior Class of the High School Gives a Successful Entertainment.

[From Saturday's Daily.]
If there was any rank deception at the junior entertainment in the high school room last evening, the audience that filled the room to overflowing was certainly not the victim, as both the amateur production and the musical program were thoroughly enjoyable. The cast of characters assuming the various roles in "A Rank Deception" had been in practice during the past six weeks and had certainly improved their time to advantage as each gave an silent interpretation of his or her part. The plot of the play was not only easily comprehended but was highly enjoyed. A fully appointed stage was used, the scenery being a paper pasted on frames made in the annual training department, answered the purpose to a nicety. The stage settings of furniture, rugs and flowers were tastefully arranged and the whole effect was well lighted with electricity. The intervals between acts were agreeably filled with delightful musical selections and the evening was a pleasurable one throughout. The class realized about \$60 as the result of the entertainment and the money will go toward apparatus and supplies for the chemistry and physics classes. Several plots on the parts of members of the other classes, calculated to embarrass, and interrupt the program were discovered and frustrated in time.

Following is the program and cast of characters:

- Opening solo—Kathryn Shaw.
Instrumental solo, "Heather Bells"—Miss Florence Estabrook.
A RANK DECEPTION—ACT I.
Instrumental duet, "Witches' Flight"—Miss Jessie Drebert and Florence Estabrook.
Instrumental solo, "Rustling Pines"—Miss Eva Carpenter.
A RANK DECEPTION—ACT II.
(Four months elapse between Act I and Act II)
Instrumental solo, "Narcissus"—Miss Kathryn Shaw.
Class song, "A Stein Song"—Junior class.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:
Mrs. Francis Charmington, an attractive widow, owner of the Charmington canning factory—Miss Edith Viole.
Madeline Deering, her niece, who conducts all love affairs upon a patriotic basis—Miss Louise Whittys.
Dora Vandever, a damsel yearning for a mission—Miss Ethel Long.
Reginald DeBluster, a millionaire, in love with Madeline—Mr. Oliver Uter.
George Washington Wheelshaft, a real up-to-date hero, also in love with Madeline—Mr. Ray Hyde.
Frederick, Mrs. Charmington's son, in love with Dora—Mr. Will Stafford.

Poisoning of Cattle by Common Sorghum and Kafir Corn.
[From Saturday's Daily.]

During the past few years, the Nebraska experiment station has investigated the loss of cattle from eating green sorghum and Kafir corn. The prediction of the veterinarian that a chemical poison would be found has been fully verified. While the work was in progress, two English investigators discovered that prussic acid can be obtained from the Egyptian great millet. A little later and entirely independently, the Nebraska investigators discovered that prussic acid can be obtained from our common sorghum and Kafir corn.

The poison is always present in at least minute traces, but becomes dangerous only when the plant is arrested by dry weather at certain stages of its growth. Sunlight such as prevails in the arid and semiarid parts of the country causes the development of the poison in excess. When the symptoms of poison do not appear so violently as to make medical treatment out of the question, drenching the animal with a solution of corn syrup or with sweet milk is suggested.

Thoroughly cured Kafir corn that had been especially deadly before harvesting, was fed to an animal without producing any symptoms of poisoning.—Synopsis of Bulletin No. 77 of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station by A. T. Peters and S. Avery.

Soil Temperatures.

[From Saturday's Daily.]

For fifteen years past the temperature of the soil has been measured daily at the state farm at seven different depths, ranging from 1 inch to 3 feet, and a study of the results recently has brought out many interesting conclusions.

For example, it appears that in every month of the year the surface of the ground averages warmer than the air; this shows that it is the ground which first feels the effect of the solar heat and is warmed by it, and then it imparts its heat to the air, rather than the air warming the soil. The warm surface layers also impart their heat to the deeper soil, but more slowly, so that at a depth of 3 feet the highest and lowest temperatures of the year are not reached till about a month later than they occur at the surface. At a depth of three feet the range between summer and winter is only 34 degrees, instead of a hundred and more, as it is in the air and at the surface. The coolest place in the ground is shown to be somewhat below the depth of three feet, but probably not much more. The greatest depth to which the ground freezes in the winter is most commonly 18 or 20 inches; twice since 1890 it has frozen to a depth of more than 3 feet—viz, in 1895 and in 1899.—Lincoln Climate and Crop Service.

PAIR OF DISASTROUS FIRES.

Battle Creek and Tilden Visited by the Fiend.

HOTEL AND BANK DESTROYED.

Battle Creek Hotel is a Total Loss and Tilden State Bank is Seriously Damaged—Both are Insured—Loss is Not Estimated.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]
The hotel at Battle Creek was totally destroyed by fire at a early hour this morning and several neighboring buildings had a close call. The furniture, bedding and clothing in the hotel, with the exception of that in the front rooms of the lower floor, likewise went up in the flames. The loss was partially covered by insurance. The owner of the hotel, D. L. Best, was in Dodge at the time of the fire.

The fire broke out about 2 o'clock and it is believed that it caught from a defective gas leading from the kitchen range. The smoke and blaze was first noticed by members of the family of Tom Mayhew, who live north of town. They had got up to look after the horses that were making a disturbance and on noticing the fire hurried to town and gave the alarm to the inmates of the hotel.

There were a number of guests in the hotel and all were asleep at the time of the fire, who, though aroused in time to make their escape, had scant opportunity to look after their attire or personal effects. Many were out on deshabille. Hats and neckwear were generally forgotten in the excitement, and one guest managed to escape in a dress suit and overcoat. "Franz" Rynn, the Battle Creek character who has carried mail to and from the trains there during the past quarter of a century, was an inmate of the hotel at the time of the fire. He was aroused sufficiently to be removed from the building, but was confused by the excitement of it all and made an effort to return to his room while it was in a mass of flames. He was noticed in time and prevented from going to a fiery doom.

Battle Creek has no system of fire protection, and what was done toward preventing the spread of the fire was done by a bucket brigade, the wells of the neighborhood furnishing the water supply. Another building stands within about six feet of the burned structure, and the impromptu fire department did heroic work in preventing the spread of the flames to this and other buildings. Several times the neighboring building broke out in flames, but each time the blaze was extinguished. All the goods in the building had been removed, even to the doors and windows, as it was thought that it was surely doomed to destruction, but thanks to the vigor of the fire fighters it was saved. The people likewise moved out of other nearby houses as the flames were at their worst and it was thought that little short of a miracle could prevent the destruction of that immediate portion of the town. Fortunately there was no wind blowing, else it is believed that the heroic efforts of the firemen would have gone for naught. The fire burned for two hours before the hotel building was entirely destroyed.

The proprietor of the hotel was in Dodge at the time of the fire and had not returned at the time THE NEWS' report was sent in. It is impossible to estimate the amount of the loss, but the property is said to be quite well protected by insurance.

Speculation is already rife as to what the result of the destruction of the hotel will be. It is generally considered that Battle Creek can support a much larger and more modern hotel and it is generally hoped that such a hotel will spring from the ruins of the old structure that will be not only a matter of pride to Battle Creek but to this entire section of the state.

Tilden State Bank Burned.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

Tilden was also visited by a destructive fire last night, the Tilden State bank, of which G. A. Luikart of this city is president and A. J. Dunlevy of Tilden, cashier, was gutted by the fiery element.

On receipt of the news Mr. Luikart left on the morning freight for the scene of the fire and full details of the matter may not be learned until his return. It is reported, however, that the building, with the exception of the walls, is an entire loss but that it is well protected by insurance. It is supposed that the fire caught from the furnace in the basement.

The building is of brick, two stories high, with a large basement, suitable for business purposes. It was a substantial building and occupied one of the best corners in the town. The front of the first story above the basement was used for the banking business. In the rear of the banking rooms were living rooms for renters and in the second story above the whole building was a large and completely appointed lodge room used by the Odd Fellows, Workmen and other orders. The banking rooms were completely equipped with fine furniture and modern conveniences, the books, money and papers being kept in a fire proof vault that would preserve them from injury in a serious fire.

In the basement was a furnace for heating the building and it is supposed

that the flames were started from this. Tilden has no waterworks system, and if the building was saved in any part it was by the energetic action of a fire brigade armed with buckets.

OXNARD CHANGES HANDS.

Property Sold to J. L. Bartholomew of Iowa.

[From Saturday's Daily.]
The Oxnard hotel has changed owners and will change management on the first of March. J. L. Bartholomew from Moorhead, Iowa, has purchased the property from E. A. Bullock, the deal having been completed last evening. Mr. Bartholomew is a hotel man and stock dealer, and his interests in Iowa will prevent him from removing to this place for a few months to take active charge of the business. In the meantime C. H. Vail, who has been manager for some time, will continue to officiate as landlord. This morning Mr. Bullock introduced his successor to business men of the city, who gave him a welcome and wished him success in his new venture.

The Oxnard is the leading hotel of the city. It is a large four story brick and was built about ten years ago at a cost of \$40,000. It has always done the leading business here in its line and there is no reason to doubt that it will continue to maintain its prestige. Recently Mr. Bullock commenced overhauling some of the rooms, adding baths and other modern conveniences, and it is understood that the new proprietor will continue the improvements started.

FORESTS IN SAND HILLS.

Pine and Cedar to be Planted by Bureau of Forestry.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]
Washington, Feb. 24.—Special: The task of growing valuable forests on the barren sand-hills of Nebraska will begin this spring, when the bureau of Dismal River forest reserve near Halsey with red cedar and jack pine. If the seeding succeeds and is done with economy, the bureau will seed and plant the following year probably 1,000 acres in cedars and pines and will ultimately extend the forest by gradual plantings over a large part of the 208,000 acres in the Dismal River and Niobrara reserves.

A nursery has been established at Halsey, in the valley of the Middle Loup river, with a half-acre seed bed protected by laths. A tool house and office building have been built. Nearly 600 pounds of seed, principally western yellow pine, red cedar and jack pine, has been collected for planting in the spring.

The sand hills are unfit for agriculture. If large forests can be grown on them, the timber will be of very great value to a country now without trees, where lumber brings high prices. The attempt of the bureau has every chance of success.

Obituary.

[From Monday's Daily.]

David Whitla, who died suddenly at home east of Battle Creek last Tuesday and was buried in Prospect Hill cemetery near this city Thursday, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, April 16, 1844. When he had attained young manhood's estate he emigrated to Iowa, settling there in 1866. On August 26, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Agnes J. Webb at West Union, Iowa. He came to Nebraska first in 1871 and settled in Madison county in the spring of 1872.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitla have lived on the present estate of the family during the past 24 years and there they have brought up their family of children. The original homestead is one mile south of the present farm.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Whitla, all of whom survive the father's death. They are: Wm. Whitla of Anoka and Webster Whitla of Battle Creek, both of whom are married; two daughters, Misses Mabel and Maud, and the youngest son, 13 years of age, David, jr., live at home.

Mr. Whitla was next to the youngest of a family of nine children, of whom but three sisters survive: Mrs. Jane Jackson of Waterloo, Ind., Mrs. Julia Lotz and Mrs. Lizzie Dennis, both of Carrolltown, Ohio.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the neighbors and friends, and especially the members of the Masonic fraternity, who did all in their power to make the burden of our loss of a kind husband and loving father as light as possible. Their efforts will ever be recalled with gratitude.

Mrs. DAVID WHITLA AND FAMILY.

A SOCIAL SESSION.

Traveling Men and Families Have a Good Time Saturday Evening.

[From Monday's Daily.]
The Norfolk council, U. O. T., held a social session on Saturday evening, to which their families and friends were invited. The evening was enjoyed by all. Most delicious refreshments were served. Following is the program rendered:

SOME LEGISLATIVE DOINGS.

Revenue Revision Continues Uppermost.

NEW MEASURES INTRODUCED.

Resolution Introduced Calling for a Constitutional Convention—Elevator Bills and Telephone Rates Being Considered.

[From Monday's Daily.]
Lincoln, February 23. (Special correspondence)—The revenue bill is still the prevailing topic of conversation at the capital. The bill is to be presented to the house this week, and no doubt will be discussed to the exclusion of other bills. The new bill was agreed upon in detail by the joint committee a week ago, and a sub-committee has been at work carefully revising it and correcting the clerical errors in the typewritten copies. The expectation is that it will come before the house in splendid shape, and that very few important amendments will be offered or adopted. There are some few who are skeptical about the passage of a general bill, but they seem to be in a decided minority. In the senate there seems to be an overwhelming sentiment in favor of the proposed bill.

Among the standing committees during the past week the principal interest has centered around the proposed elevator bills and the investigation of telephone rates. After several hearings, the Ramsey elevator bill, house roll 70, has been recommended for passage, with some slight amendments. In the meantime the committee to investigate telephone rates has had several very warm meetings, and at this date has come to no definite conclusion. The evidence as to the expense of conducting a telephone business has been most startling in its variance, and it is probable that further evidence will be heard during the week. In the strife as to whether the independent lines shall be allowed to establish toll stations in the large cities, the special telephone committee seems to have lined up with the old line company.

The joint resolution calling for a constitutional convention has passed the senate by an unanimous vote, and is now in the hands of the house committee. It is said that it will receive considerable opposition in the house, and may not pass. The statement recently made that the governor is opposed to the idea of a convention may have some effect in retarding the resolution. There are many who advocate the adoption of amendments, instead of calling a convention, on account of the expense which would be incurred by the convention. Others, however, point to the fact that in the last dozen years the state has spent \$140,000 attempting to adopt amendments, and failing in each case.

Interesting bills recently introduced in the senate: 179, providing a penalty of not more than three years in the penitentiary or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for the crime of desertion of minor children by parents; 181, changing the registration law to permit voters to register at the office of the city clerk on any day during the month preceding the election; 183, amending the pharmacy law in regard to registered pharmacists; 184, permitting the hooking or seining of fish in the Missouri river at any season of the year; 188, providing that road tax in counties not under township organization be paid half in labor and half in cash.

Interesting house bills: 280 and 281, to prevent fraud or counterfeiting in the handling of railroad tickets; 285, providing for a lien on grain for the threshing or shelling bill; 289, to regulate the use and prevent injury to bridges and public highways; 290, to compel the cutting and trimming of hedges along public roads; 304, to provide for the full width of public roads; 313, making the birthdays of McKinley and Lincoln and "flag day" public holidays.

Up to date the senate has passed 37 bills and killed 17; the house has passed 32 and killed 30. The senate has 38 bills on general file ready for consideration and the house has 40. The number of bills that pass both houses is usually about 110.

Irma Cody Married.
North Platte, Feb. 24.—Special: Miss Irma Cody, daughter of "Buffalo Bill," was married at high noon today to Lieutenant Scott. Col. Cody is now in England, and in his absence Dr. Frank Powell of St. Paul had the pleasure of giving the bride away.

Boy Locked in Vault.
A peculiar incident the Democrat failed to mention last week was the locking up of one of the sheriff's sons between the inner and outer doors to the vault in the sheriff's office. The boys were playing about the office and the elder one told the little fellow to stand between the doors and see how dark it was. The boy on the outside fooled with the combination lock and couldn't open the door to let his brother out. The space is rather small and air tight and nobody at the court house knowing the combination, a message was sent down town for the sheriff to get there double-quick. After considerable delay Mears was found, and he turned pale when told what was wanted. Quickly jumping into Bradford's delivery wagon he whipped the team into a 2-minute clip, but when he got to the

office was so nervous he couldn't open the door. County Clerk Brown was given the numbers and also Treasurer Volpp but each failed. By this time the sheriff pulled himself together and the door opened, and the lad, very red in the face and badly scared, was taken out, little the worse for his narrow escape from death, for if Sheriff Mears had been out of town there would have been no help for his son.—Wayne Democrat.

DAMAGE NOT LARGE.

Floor of Tilden Bank Burned through and Furniture Destroyed.

[From Wednesday's Daily.]
President G. A. Luikart of the Citizens National bank of this city and of the Tilden State bank, has returned from his visit to Tilden where he went to look after the interests of his banking property that was damaged by fire Monday night.

The loss was not nearly as large as at first reported, and the building is far from being a total wreck. The floor of the banking room was burned through, the partition between the banking rooms and the rooms in the rear, but this is about the entire damage. The loss to the building is entirely covered by insurance, and the loss of furniture and fixtures, above the insurance will be about \$300. The heat of the fire was not sufficient to even warp the doors of the vault and the books, papers and other property contained therein were found to be intact.

The ceiling of the banking room was scarcely scorched and the rooms above the building were damaged to no extent whatever.

This is a remarkable showing when it is considered that Tilden has no fire fighting facilities. The men who fought the flames worked like Trojans and it is due entirely to their efforts that the building and its contents were not a total loss. Three men were especially energetic in their efforts to control the flames and one of them ruined a good suit of clothes during the fight with the element.

The building will be put in repair at once and meantime temporary arrangements are being made by the bank's officers to care for the wants of their customers.

A MUSICAL EVENING.

High Class Recital by Dr. Sitzer at the Congregational Church.

[From Wednesday's Daily.]
The musical program rendered at the Congregational church last evening was fairly well attended. It was in no sense amateurish. Dr. Sitzer, the performer, considering his meager instruction, has gained his technical and interpretative qualities through his own efforts. His technical ability as well as the emotional, is far above the average. As is natural, an untraveled player will not play as one who has seen and known the world. Each number was preceded by descriptive and analytical remarks.

The program opened with Wagner's "Love Song," from the opera Tristan and Isolde. It was played masterly, elucidating the passionate grandeur characteristic of the composition. Isolde's love song is the noblest hymn ever sung in praise of this passion. The rendering of Beethoven's sonata, also Schubert's Erlking, was highly meritorious.

He was forced to omit the Witches' dance by MacDowell, a very pleasing by different number, owing to the condition of the piano.

A reception was tendered him after the recital, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Cole, in which many of the musical people joined to meet Dr. Sitzer.

Mr. Sitzer attributes much of the inspiration for his coloring and interpretation to his study of nature.

Letter List.

List of letters remaining uncalled for at the postoffice February 24, 1903.
Miss Helen Blair; Wm. Bernmaster; J. English; Geo. Gray; Herman Gull; Mrs. John Hannab; Otis Inlay; C. W. Johnson; Annie Leonard; Miss Kate Miller; Miss Katie Mueller (2); Charles Mitchell; Miss Mabel Mack; Jas. LaPlante (2); August Pajohl; Milton C. Rissi; Lavina Rice; Hugh Shelby; Geo. Shajer; Jno. W. Smith; H. L. Sammers; W. R. Tucker; John Visk; Helen Weigener (3); Lettie Wachter; Miss L. Williams.

If not called for in 15 days will be sent to the dead letter office.
Parties calling for any of the above please say advertised.
JOHN R. HAYS, P. M.

Notice.

Owing to the presence of smallpox of a much more malignant type than two years ago, and the increasing number of contagious diseases, the board of health feel it necessary to take drastic measures to stamp them out. All contagious diseases of whatever nature must be reported. I would recommend that all persons who have not been vaccinated within the past two years should have it done immediately. The co-operation of all citizens in the thorough carrying out of quarantine measures is necessary to eradicate small pox.
FRANK G. SALTER,
City Physician.

A Congregational church has been organized at Plainview and Rev. J. J. Parker of Wakefield has been called as pastor. The call has been accepted and Mr. Parker will enter upon the discharge of his duties in his new location about the middle of March.