

JANE'S CABIN WAS BURNED

Match Touched to it at Order of the Health Board.

JANE GRINNED AT THE FLAMES.

Was Infected With Smallpox—"Fortune Teller" Sign no Longer on the Door—She Will Quit the Town and Go to Sioux Falls.

[From Thursday's Daily.]

The little old cabin on South Fourth street, where "Aunt" Jane Gordon-Johnson, a colored woman with a bad reputation, has been living in one way and another and telling fortunes for years, was yesterday afternoon set afire by the city and Homeless Jane is now making ready to shake the dust of Norfolk from her feet.

The structure which Jane called her home was about as small as a building could well be and remain a house, but it was big enough for her to cook in and the door was wide enough for the card that said "Fortune Teller" to the people who passed by and to one now and then who drove up and stopped. The shanty was burned at the order of the city board of health, which condemned it yesterday morning on account of the smallpox germs with which it was saturated and because it would have been practically impossible to separate the house and the disease.

At 4 o'clock one of the city fire companies and Mayor Koenigstein drew up at the house and Jane walked out—out into the street, to stand by and watch her home go up in smoke and flames. A couple of cans of kerosene were poured over the floor, a bunch of hay was chucked into a hole of the wall, and a match was touched. A moment later the wooden frame was wrapped in a band of leaping flames which crackled and snapped for twenty minutes and then all was over and nothing remained to tell the story but a pile of ashes. A great crowd of people from all over the neighborhood gathered to see the burning—and a happy crowd they were.

Ordinarily it would seem hard luck to have your very roof burned away from your head. But Jane didn't take the pathetic side of it to look at. She stood with her elbows on her hips and her broadest grin upon her face, for the \$45 which she had been allowed for the building looked better to her white eyes than a dozen roofs just then. And besides, she was happy there on the sidewalk because she was enjoying her own fireside, and where on earth is there a pleasanter place?

Anyone enjoys a good fire, and this was a good fire to the people of South Norfolk. Time after time they have tried to buy the house or to induce Jane that she rather live somewhere else, and just as often have they been turned down. A half hundred women gazed at the pretty smoke as it curled up into the clear sky, the children danced about like a band of warriors and Jane, as an Englishman put it, stood near like Nero and watched 'er 'ome burn down, simply exclaiming "Holy Smoke!"

When it was all done, Jane was taken down on Braasch avenue to the home of her sister, Sadie, where she will remain for a time before she leaves for her home in Sioux Falls, S. D., to live with her mother.

[From Wednesday's Daily.]

Jane Gordon, a colored character familiar in Norfolk for years, is to be burned out of house and home. This was decided by the board of public health, consisting of Mayor Koenigstein, Chief of Police Kane and City Physician Salter, at a meeting held this morning. The reason for the act is the fact that Jane's house is so thoroughly saturated with smallpox germs that it is practically impossible to fumigate the building.

Possibly no fire that has happened in Norfolk for years has had quite the oddity attached to it that this coming conflagration will bear. There have often been fires set by the incendiary at night, with the purpose of destroying buildings and property, but this is the first case where a fire is deliberately planned and premeditated and then executed by the city with cheerful method.

The building to which the match will be touched is a little, old shanty on South Fourth street, with a couple of narrow rooms in it and a gilded placard on the door bearing the words, "Fortune Teller." Here has Jane Gordon lived for years, with her son, and here she has unraveled many a myth of the future. Of late, however, she has had little time to give to the future for she found that the pressing present, with smallpox in the house, was quite enough to handle. It has been an uncompromising case of smallpox but the house has been small, too—too small, in fact to make it worth while to try to get rid of the disease. So they will get rid of the building, and possibly the germs, alongside, will go up in smoke.

The burning will be done as soon as men can be spared from the flood and a hose company will be on hand to prevent anything else going. Jane will be paid for the property.

Besides this business, the board decided that in case smallpox patients must be moved on account of high water, and where no building is procurable, the city hall will be given over for the purpose.

WEDNESDAY WRINKLES.

Miss Lena Wetzel has returned home from Des Moines, Iowa.

The Browning club enjoyed the evening last night at the home of Miss Josephine Durland.

Mrs. Robert Craft is visiting relatives and friends at South Norfolk, from Missouri Valley.

A Washington dispatch states that

Geo. A. Brooks of Bazile Mills has been appointed postmaster of his home town.

Mrs. A. A. Warner of Oakdale is the guest of Mrs. L. B. Musselman, instead of Mrs. Mary Elliott as stated yesterday.

An Odd Fellows encampment will be instituted at Tilden tomorrow night and a number of the Norfolk members contemplate attending.

Miss Porter of Des Moines, Ia., has returned to Norfolk to take charge of the trimming department at Miss Bender's milliner store this spring.

A dray wagon runaway that was fierce but not disastrous, held the boards on Norfolk avenue about a minute yesterday afternoon.

Miss Etta Durland returned yesterday from a ten days' trip to Chicago in the interest of the firm. Miss Durland was accompanied on the return by Miss Mary Harris, of Chicago, who will take charge of the trimming department at the Durland Sisters' milliner store this season.

C. Dixon, formerly of Blair, is now a Norfolk citizen. He has purchased the oil wagon business of H. M. Roberts and will conduct it hereafter. He will start a new flour and feed store in the city. Mr. Dixon's household goods are now here and he will remove his family at once.

"Billie" Ferguson, a well known character of Norfolk, who has done stage work around the play houses of the city for the past dozen years, expects to leave in a day or so for an all summer's trip with Campbell Brothers' circus. He will do the lemonade and palm leaf fan selling act.

Extensive and permanent improvements are being made by Dan Craven at the Norfolk Steam laundry. Two mammoth cisterns are now in process of construction and hereafter soft water will be used for washing clothes. This will make a large saving on soap suds. The cisterns are 16 feet and 12 feet in diameter and will drain moisture from business houses near the laundry.

CUBANS RATIFY TREATY

Senate Approves Reciprocity With United States.

VOTE IS SIXTEEN TO FIVE.

Confirms Protocol by Exactly Two-Thirds Vote—Argument is Advanced That Reduction on Sugar Will Aid Cuba's Trade.

Havana, March 12.—The reciprocity treaty with the United States was approved by the senate by 16 votes against 5.

The treaty was ratified by exactly two-thirds of the vote of the senate. Fifteen administration senators and one nationalist voted in favor of the treaty and five nationalists against it. There were three absentees, all of whom, it is believed, favored the treaty. The ratification required only a majority vote, so that there were three votes to spare. Senator Zayas, the only nationalist who voted for ratification, in explaining his vote, said it was his desire to amend the treaty with reference to the exchange of similar commodities produced in both countries, but he had no intention of opposing the treaty itself. Senator Sanguily, the leader of the opposition, explained that his opposition was designed chiefly to draw out whatever could be advanced in support of the treaty and that the arguments of Senator Bustamante, as put forward in the senate, convinced him that the country would be more prosperous with reciprocity than without it, but nevertheless his attitude of opposition and disapproval of the acts of the executive department of the government forbade him voting yes.

The vote was taken immediately on the conclusion of a forceful appeal by Senator Bustamante. He insisted that whether the trust or the producers were the chief beneficiaries of the 20 per cent reduction of custom duties on Cuban sugar shipped to the United States, it was not possible that such differential treatment favoring Cuban sugar in competition with that of Europe could result other than favorably to Cuba's trade. The treaty would also provide the protection that Cuba needs on tobacco. "I vote," said the speaker, "for the treaty with the conviction that we, in so doing, are rendering a patriotic duty to Cuba, even if the treaty is not approved by the United States senate."

THE CUBAN TREATY.

Senate Committee Reported Favorably on the Measure.

Washington, March 12.—Special to The News: The senate committee reported favorably today on the Cuban reciprocity treaty, with amendment. The house must also approve the treaty before it will become operative.

When the appointment of Crum came before the senate this morning, there were not enough favorable votes to confirm. It is believed that there will be no further action in the matter at this session.

The Kansas legislature proposes that the slot machines must go, and has passed a law to that effect. Other states have been making a wholesale onslaught on gambling and it will soon be unsafe to bet on a ball game in this country. It is proper. All people should desire an opportunity of making an honest livelihood, but no one, except the gamblers themselves, desire that opportunities should be afforded for the accumulation of wealth by games of chance.

SUICIDE'S BROTHER FOUND

Man Who Hanged Himself Lived in Iowa.

BROER WAS LIKELY HIS NAME.

Identity Discovered by Carl Otto Through an Advertisement—Photograph Exactly That of Dead Man—Body is Now Dissected.

[From Wednesday's Daily.]

There is scarcely a shade of doubt that the unknown suicide who hanged himself in Norfolk and was found suspended from a tree one mile north of the city on January 26, and who was kept at the undertaking parlors of Session & Bell for five days awaiting something to develop his identity, and who, being unclaimed at the end of that time, was, in accordance with the laws of the state, shipped to the medical department of the state university at Lincoln for dissection, was a man named Broer from Hubbard, Hardin county, Iowa, and a brother of Louis Broer who has been trying for some time in vain to locate the missing man.

This fact was developed quite completely yesterday afternoon by Carl Otto, who lives on Prospect avenue west of Twelfth street, in the shape of a letter from the Iowa man containing a description of his brother and a photograph which exactly resembles the face of the dead man and the likenesses of him that have been retained. The discovery was all brought out through a little advertisement which Otto read and answered.

The notice appeared in an issue of the Germania, a German paper published at Milwaukee, and stated that for proof of the whereabouts of his brother, Louis Broer of Hubbard, Iowa, would pay the sum of \$50. Carl Otto wrote a letter to Broer and informed him that an unknown man whom he considered 55 years old, had hanged himself in Norfolk and that if Broer thought it could be the fellow, a letter and photograph might develop the fact more fully. This was written last Friday. Broer received the word Saturday and replied immediately, sending a little photograph about an inch and a half square, and the fact that his brother was 56 years old. He asked what style of clothing the dead man had worn. Otto's letter was evidently the first information of any sort, whatever, that Broer has received, although, according to his letter, he has sent out some 300 photographs over the country.

The photograph is apparently exactly that of the man who was kept at the undertaking establishment so long awaiting identification. There seems to be not the slightest room for doubt as to a coincidence of this and a likeness that was made at the time, and following up this fact P. F. Bell, of the firm Sessions & Bell, has written today a personal letter to Mr. Broer, giving a complete description of the man who was found and asking a description of the clothes worn by the lost brother. If the case still works out and Broer thinks the description given fits accurately, the clothing will be expressed to Iowa and the fact established beyond a doubt.

The matter is a serious one as there is probably an estate involved and in order to be absolutely certain that there is no mistake everything possible will be done to gain positive evidence.

The dead man in question was found suspended from a tree near the Hille farm on First street, one mile north, January 26, this year. He had strangled himself in a wire noose. He was comfortably dressed, had a blue overcoat and mittens, and in one pocket was \$29.35 cash. There were no papers from which his name could be obtained. He looked to be about 55 or 60 years of age, and had grey whiskers. The body was taken to the undertaking rooms, embalmed and made ready for burial. For five days the public looked at the unknown man in the hope that some one could place him. Orders came from the state authorities that the body be immediately shipped to the medical college, according to a law which would let it lay but 48 hours. The undertakers asked for special permission to hold it over time but the limit came and the stranger suicide, friendless and unknown, was shipped to Lincoln where long ere this he has passed under the dissecting knife. And now, but two months later, a probable brother is found who has been searching all over this broad land in vain for the missing Broer. It is possible that the Iowa man may come to Norfolk to clear up the mystery absolutely.

THURSDAY TIDINGS.

Dr. Bertha Ahlmann is in Pierce today.

J. M. Pile was in the city from Wayne yesterday.

Mrs. H. McBride is visiting friends at Plainview.

M. H. Rathburn was in the city over night from Lincoln.

W. H. Bucholz made a business trip to Madison yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Salter returned from Omaha yesterday.

There will be a club dance at the Railway hall in South Norfolk tonight.

W. H. Baird, formerly superintendent of the Norfolk Sugar factory, but now of Grand Island, was in the city this morning.

Miss Krasne has returned to her home at Fullerton, after a visit with Norfolk relatives.

A. J. Dunlevy, J. F. Erskine and F. L. Putney were Norfolk guests from Tilden yesterday.

Mrs. C. M. Janes entertained a company of ladies at her home on South Twelfth street yesterday afternoon, in

honor of her sister, Mrs. Harvey of Omaha. Cards were a pleasing feature of the afternoon, which were followed by a dainty lunch.

Mrs. C. W. Inskip left this morning for the eastern markets in the interest of the Inskip millinery store.

Miss Irene Southerland of Tokamah visited Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Poucher yesterday, enroute to Plainview.

Norfolk lodge No. 46, I. O. O. F., will meet in regular session tonight. There will be work in the Third degree.

The Ladies' guild of Trinity church will meet with Mrs. S. W. Hayes tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

George Box was in the city yesterday from Sioux City, greeting old friends and attending to business matters.

There will be a meeting of the clerk's union at the city hall tonight at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of effecting an organization.

Bob Stoughton, a hostler at the Brunson stables, was quite badly kicked by a horse a few days ago and is now limping about on crutches.

A. G. Bohnert, formerly in business here but now farming in Boyd county, was in the city last night, meeting friends and acquaintances.

The Koenigstein pharmacy is undergoing thorough repairs. The windows are being lowered, new shelving placed and the store remodelled throughout.

Rev. H. Bross of Lincoln will be at the Congregational churches next Sunday. He will preach at the First Congregational in the morning and at the Second Congregational in the evening.

C. E. Burnham was registered in the city yesterday "from the best town in Nebraska." Inasmuch as Mr. Burnham's home is in Tilden, it is presumed that he was standing up for that place.

W. H. Godkin has become a citizen of Norfolk. He has bought the Whitham residence property at the corner of Thirtieth street and Madison avenue and will move his family from Humphrey at once.

The Salter Coal and Grain company are making improvements on their property in the way of a new addition to the elevator. The new wing will be of the same height as the old, will extend about 30 feet and will be used largely for seed grains. A. Morrison has the contract.

H. E. Owen came to Norfolk this morning. He says that owing to trouble at home, he is stopping at the Pacific. The nature of the family jar is a quarantine card on the front door of his house, where his young son, Chandler, is still ill. His friends will be glad to learn, however, that he is improving and will be out as soon as the health board removes its calling card.

A number of South Norfolk people went down to Wiener to take part in the Cantata of Ruth, which was presented under the supervision of Rev. Franklin Baker, the same as it was given in Norfolk. Those taking parts were Mrs. Immley, as Neora; Mrs. Hedrick, as the Jewish maiden; Miss Clara Beach, Miss Bessie Williams and Homer Williams as members of the chorus. While the presentation was successful, it did not equal that directed by Mr. Baker in Norfolk last year.

The ministers of five Norfolk churches are negotiating for an engagement with Rev. M. B. Williams, the noted evangelist, for a series of meetings in Norfolk, the date and the plan of the meetings having not yet been determined. Rev. Mr. Williams is at present in Topeka,

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