

## GRIP THIEVES WORKING

English Portmanteau is Stolen From Union Depot.

POLICE HUNT AROUND IN VAIN

A Satchel Placed on the Platform of the Union Depot is Carried Away. One House Was Searched But Bag Could Not be Found in It.

[From Saturday's Daily.] Thieves stole an English portmanteau belonging to Mrs. C. R. Allen of Hawarden, Iowa, from the platform of the union depot between 6 o'clock and 7:30 last evening. The grip contained a large amount of clothing, together with two dozen souvenir spoons, and personal property of especial value to the owner. The police worked all night attempting to locate the satchel and apprehend the thieves but their efforts were unavailing. One or two very suspicious clues have been developed and these will be pursued further by the officers in the hope of catching the guilty parties.

The grip, which is a sole leather bag of British pattern, bears the mark, "C. J. R. A." in small black letters. It was left at the entrance door of the depot about 6 o'clock, the baggage room being locked. Agent Elseffer was met a little later and notified that the grip had been left. He intended to check it when he returned to the station but when he went back, the grip was gone. No one had noticed the bag and none had seen it carried away. The man who opened the baggage room door says he did not notice it at that time.

It was thought for a time that the thief might have arrived on the train from Sioux City, snatched the satchel and climbed back upon the car, connecting with the Northwestern passenger going west and making a getaway in that direction. The conductor was wired to search the train, however, and failed to locate the baggage. All morning trains going out were watched by the police and as the portmanteau did not show up it is considered that the stolen property is still in the city. A trail leading from the depot to a house in Edgewater was followed by officers and the house searched without results. The trail led down under a railroad bridge but nothing was found there.

A liberal reward is offered for the grip. For its return, or a notice as to when and where it may be found will be sent to Mrs. C. R. Allen, Norfolk, the reward will be forthcoming to any address and no questions asked.

[From Monday's Daily.] Six of the twenty-two sterling silver souvenir spoons which were packed in the portmanteau stolen from the union depot platform on Friday evening, have been recovered by the Norfolk police from Charles Durham, a switchman at the Northwestern yards, who bought them for \$1 from a stranger on that same night. The grip itself together with the wardrobe and the other eighteen spoons, have not been recovered. Mrs. Allen, whose property it was, has returned to her home at Hawarden, Ia.

The six spoons were located at midnight. Officer Carl Pilger, who has worked untiringly on the case, learned that someone had been selling silverware in the vicinity of the Northwestern yards and upon investigation found that Mr. Durham had been one of the purchasers. Mr. Durham, when found by Chief Kane and Officer Pilger, admitted that he had bought a half dozen spoons on Friday evening from a stranger.

According to his description, the thief was rather a heavy set man with a little dark mustache and wearing an overcoat which came about to his knees. He struck the Northwestern freight yards about 8 o'clock, going there, evidently, on the M. & O. passenger train which left the union depot a few minutes earlier.

Arriving at South Norfolk, the fellow evidently ripped open the sole leather bag that he had picked up so easily and discovered a couple of dozen spoons which bore the marks of "Mother," and other similar souvenirs, together with the initial "A" or the word "Allen" engraved somewhere upon them. The half dozen which were sold to Mr. Durham for \$1 were marked with the letter "A." A sugar shell was thrown in.

Looking for the Rest.

What was done the remainder of the contents has not yet been ascertained, but several pretty good clues have been developed and it is not improbable that all of the contents may be restored. Outgoing trains have been watched so that the satchel has not been taken from the city, it is thought.

As it was the satchel more than the contents whose loss was regretted, any information as to its whereabouts would be appreciated.

The fact that the passenger rode down to the Northwestern station upon a passenger train that left the union station shortly before 8 o'clock does away with the idea that the grip had been taken before the arrival of the train. If it had been taken into the baggage room at the depot when the officers returned and unlocked the doors, instead of being allowed to remain outside until after that train had passed, the theft would not have occurred.

The work of Norfolk's police in this

connection has been remarkably clever. Without the slightest assistance from even men at the yards who saw the fellow selling contents of the satchel, and working with no clues at the outset whatever, Chief of Police Martin Kane, Officer Pilger and Officer Livingstone deserve credit. It was quick work and it would have been quicker if people who saw the thief had reported the matter.

Mr. Durham has given his hearty co-operation to the searching for other goods which the thief may have sold. It is his opinion, however, that he was the only one who bought at all. The stranger approached and offered the spoons for sale. He was very nervous. It is not an infrequent occurrence for bums who drop into the yards to offer to sell articles of one sort or another and Mr. Durham, noting the good quality of the silverware, handed the fellow a dollar. Later he saw the man, together with another stranger, who was well dressed, walking about in the switching yards. Both of them boarded a freight train which went east about 9 o'clock. They had no bundle or grip, he says, when he saw them walking around. For this reason it is thought that they must have emptied the grip near the yards and taken out merely the bundle of spoons.

### CARE IN PREVENTING ACCIDENTS

Caution Should be Used in the Management of the Traffic on Norfolk Avenue.

Some time ago it was found necessary for the Norfolk city council to prohibit the tying of teams on the Main street of the city, to afford all the room possible for the handling of the increasing traffic of the city. The move has had a beneficial effect, and yet there is frequently a congestion of traffic that causes the people to wish that those who had platted the town had laid out a broader thoroughfare for the main business street.

That would now be a great expense, and it is probable that the people will have to accommodate themselves to the present width street until some of the adjoining streets are developed toward the relief of conditions. It is evident from several accidents that have happened recently that drivers cannot be too careful in driving through main street and that no unusual speed is permissible at any time. Pedestrians should likewise be careful in crossing the thoroughfare, as, with the greatest caution on both sides, the accidents are almost certain to happen, but care will decrease the liability to accident. It has been surprising to some, that on busy days of the week accidents have not been more frequent, because of the rush of business, but with the warning that accidents bring to the attention of those using the street for any purpose, it is hoped that greater caution will be exercised in the future than in the past and that accidents of this character may be avoided. Especially should anything likely to frighten horses and precipitate a runaway, be eschewed, for with a runaway on one of Norfolk's busy days, with the streets crowded with teams and people, the results might be very disastrous.

### ELEVATOR AT ELGIN BURNS

Serious Fire Last Night Threatened Whole Town.

DEPOT ALSO CAUGHT FIRE

By Strenuous Work the Depot Was Saved, but the Elevator Was Entirely Destroyed—Was the Property of W. F. Hammond.

Elgin, Neb., Feb. 2.—Special to The News: The large grain elevator at this place, the property of W. F. Hammond, was destroyed by fire, which was first noticed at 9:30 last night and an hour later the building was in ruins.

The building and its grain contents was a loss to the owner of about \$10,000, besides which three cars of coal in the coal sheds and the sheds themselves were destroyed. The elevator was insured for \$2,500.

Mr. Hammond, the owner, formerly lived in Elgin, but now resides in Stockton, Ill. Besides the elevator, he owns a large lumber yard here. W. H. Cratty is his local manager.

It is believed that the fire started from friction caused by one of the pulleys in the top of the building, as the fire started in the top of the structure, and it is not considered possible that it could have caught in any other manner.

The Northwestern depot also caught fire, but by strenuous work on the part of the bucket brigade which was quickly formed the railroad property was saved, although one of the outbuildings was destroyed. Four or five box cars that stood on the side track near the burned elevator were in danger of destruction, but they were shoved out of the way and the property saved.

Hotel Furniture Moved Out.

The Roberts hotel and barn, that stood on the other side of the elevator were threatened from flying brands and the intense heat, and the furniture was moved out of the building and scattered about town to save that much from destruction, but fortunately it did not catch fire.

Elgin has no waterworks system and no fire department and it was useless to attempt to subdue the flames after they had gained headway, but a hastily organized bucket brigade did effective work in preserving the railroad depot, which was in the near neighborhood of the elevator and the blazing brands from the fire threatened its immediate destruction, but were extinguished by the prompt action of the men with the buckets.

In the face of the strong northwest wind that prevailed it was feared for a time that the entire town was doomed to destruction and there surely would have been a number of buildings destroyed if the depot had burned and the citizens whose property was endangered are very grateful this morning for the heroic endeavors of the impromptu bucket brigade, to whose energies is due the fact that the town still stands.

The Midland Concert company was

entertaining the people of Elgin when the fire broke out, but when the alarm of fire was given the room was quickly emptied, and the company was brought up against the proposition of either postponing the entertainment or playing to empty seats, and of course they chose the former.

"YON YONSON."

Swedish Comedy Drama at the Auditorium Last Night.

The popular conception of the awkward, green Swede, fresh from the shores of his home country, with a keen perception and large heart that prompt him to appear at the right moment and in the right place to circumvent disaster that had been planned by the heavy man, was again delineated last night.

Nelse B. Erickson in the title role was easily the best in the cast, and with the aid of Madge Wood as "Yoney" furnished amusement and love for the crowd. Eva M. Bennett as "Roly," pictured a lively young fellow, and gave the young men in the audience a lively conception of a girl's idea of strenuous love making.

The specialties by the lumbermen's quartet and that by Erickson, himself, were features that were particularly appreciated by the audience.

Wigner Woman Suicides.

Wigner, Neb., Feb. 1.—Special to The News: Mrs. Dietrich Medricks committed suicide early yesterday morning by hanging herself in the barn at her home twelve miles north of the city, and that her death was the result of self-murder was the verdict of the coroner's jury.

When Mr. Medricks awoke yesterday morning his wife was not in bed, but he gave it no serious thought as he supposed she had gotten up to prepare breakfast, as had been her custom. The husband therefore went to sleep again, but when he got up at 7 and found no fire in the kitchen and no preparation for breakfast under way became alarmed and at once instituted a search for the missing woman. He first searched the house upstairs and down but could find no trace of her, excepting that her clothes were in the bedroom as she had left them on retiring the night before. He then commenced a search of the outbuildings, and finally found her body suspended in the barn. She was quite dead when found and there was no way of telling when she had left the house and how long she had been hanging.

The coroner was summoned and an inquest held, the verdict being that Mrs. Medricks had come to her death by hanging, with suicidal intent.

The deceased had not been just right in her mind for several days, having grieved almost constantly over a fancied wrong she had done a neighbor.

### W. J. BRYAN'S SISTER IS DEAD

Died at 1:30 This Afternoon at Her Home in Lincoln—Was Being Kept Alive on Oxygen.

Lincoln, Jan. 30, 2 p. m.—Special to The News: Miss Nannie Bryan passed away at her home in this city this afternoon at 1:30 in spite of the efforts to keep her alive.

### ROSEBUD BILL IS PASSED

There is Considerable Satisfaction in Washington.

SENATE WILL LIKELY PASS IT

There is Now Every Prospect That the 416,000 Acres of Reservation Land Will Soon be Opened up to Settlement—Good for Gregory.

Washington, Feb. 2.—There is considerable satisfaction here over the fact that the bill opening the portion of the Rosebud reservation in Gregory county, South Dakota, to homestead entry was passed by the house without division. Representative Burke of South Dakota, author of the bill, presented the reasons why it should pass. Considerable discussion ensued over the measure, particularly in relation to sections 16 and 36, which are set apart in the bill as school sections and intended to be used for the school fund of South Dakota. Congressman Baker of New York, the single taxer of the house, presented reasons why the bill should not pass and in view of the small attendance on the floor it was thought wisest to let the bill go over and come up later as unfinished business. On the convening of the house the bill was laid before that body and without any objection it was advanced to third reading and passed. It is confidently expected a favorable report on the bill will be made by the senate committee on Indian affairs Thursday and as the senate has passed a similar measure on a number of other occasions no antagonism is expected from this quarter, so that conditions seem propitious for an early opening of the 416,000 acres included in the Rosebud reservation covered by the bill to permanent settlement, the consummation of which has been the cry of settlers residing in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota for years past.

### WANT KINKAID FOR SENATOR

Brown County Republicans Asked Regarding Their Choice of Candidates for Various Offices.

Ainsworth, Neb., Jan. 30.—Special to The News: The political pot has commenced to boil, and some of the leading republicans have been asked to express their preferences of candidates for various offices. All are for Roosevelt for president and John L. Webster for vice president. For United States senator Congressman M. P. Kinkaid of the Big Sixth is in favor. Dietrich is not considered to have any chance at all of succeeding himself.

Drops Dead at West Point.

West Point, Neb., Feb. 1.—Special to The News: Joseph Zajicek, a pioneer resident of West Point, and one of the most prominent Bohemians of the state, fell dead at his home in this city yesterday at noon. The funeral will be held from the residence tomorrow afternoon and State Senator Zedilek of Wilbur will have charge of the obsequies.

Mr. Zajicek came to Cuming county

in 1867 and was one of the best known and most popular Bohemian citizens of the state.

He was the father of Ex-County Treasurer Joseph Zajicek, jr.

### HUGE OMAHA GAS TANK BURSTS

100,000 Feet of Gas Escaped From Omaha Tank and All Fires Were Quickly Quenched.

Omaha, Jan. 30.—A huge tank at the Omaha gas works burst this afternoon and 100,000 feet of gas exploded. All fires in the neighborhood of whatever sort were hastily quenched for fear of a possible explosion.

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