

### OVERCOAT THIEF CAUGHT

#### "WILLIAM WISE" TURNS OUT TO BE NOT SO WISE.

#### "FATHER" WAS TO CALL AND PAY

George Gebhart, Alias Wise, Who Had Secured a Fur Coat at the Star Clothing Store a Month Ago, Got Another Last Night.

[From Saturday's Daily.] An overcoat thief who has apparently been stealing expensive garments from Norfolk stores for several years, was captured Friday night in a manner that sounds like a story-book tale. He gave the name of "William Wise," but it is believed his real name is George Gebhart. He has been working on farms south of Norfolk in Stanton and Madison counties, having recently been employed at the Bask farm. He was caught in the act of getting a coat from the C. & N. store under false pretenses, pleaded guilty to the same game a month ago at the Star store and is suspected of having obtained a fur coat in the same manner a couple of years ago from Baum Bros. store. Just as he was about to drive out of town with a young woman who teaches school in Madison county, he was apprehended and jailed. Saturday morning he pleaded guilty to the charge of "obtaining an overcoat under false pretenses," and was fined \$5 and costs by Justice Eiseley. The young woman who had driven to town with him went to the home of a friend in the city and she was asked by the prisoner for enough money to pay the fine.

#### How He Got the Coat.

Just before 6 o'clock in the evening Gebhart entered the C. & N. store and asked to look at overcoats. Ed Kennedy, a salesman, produced samples and found one that seemed to suit the stranger.

"I'll take this," said the young man. "My father is at the barber shop and I'll go after him. He'll be in shortly and pay for the coat."

Then the young man looked around and picked up a pair of gloves that he liked. He kept constantly walking to the door and looking out into the street. Another customer came in, the salesman's attention was distracted for an instant and the young man with the overcoat disappeared. Search on the street failed to locate him.

Mr. Kennedy had a "hunch" that the fellow would strike for the Junction in order to catch a train. He therefore made straight for the south but failed to locate the mysterious stranger around the railroad yards or station. Returning, he saw a man walking across the street wearing a fur overcoat and carrying a bundle over his arm. Kennedy drew closer and recognized the thief. The man was just getting into a buggy in which sat a young woman.

"How about the coat?" asked Kennedy. "Oh, didn't father call and pay for it?" asked the amazed young farmhand. "Well, here's your money then."

#### Fur Coat Stolen Too.

Mr. Kennedy then recalled that a fur coat had been stolen from the Star store about a month ago. Something seemed to tell him that this was the garment now worn by the young man. An arrest was essential.

Under the pretense of telephoning up town in order to see if "father had dropped into the store and paid later," Kennedy induced the young man to enter a drug store and wait for a moment. Meanwhile the police were notified. Gebhart insisted that Kennedy get into the buggy and be driven up town. Kennedy agreed. Gebhart entered the vehicle and Kennedy went to the horses' heads to detain the team. At that moment a policeman arrived and the arrest was made.

#### Peculiar Coincidence.

Kennedy had wanted the arrest made because of the fur coat theft from the Star clothing store. Yet he had no evidence. He took a chance, however, and the man was taken in charge by an officer. Kennedy hailed a passing cab and climbed into it. By another peculiar coincidence Sol G. Mayer, owner of the Star clothing store, chanced to be in the cab. Immediate action followed. Gus Kuhl from whom the lost fur coat had been procured, was notified and came down town. He entered the store, where the prisoner was held and, walking up to the young fellow, exclaimed:

"Well, William, it took your father a long time to get that shave."

"William" had worked the same barber shop game on Kuhl for the fur coat.

#### Was the Coat, All Right.

It was the same fellow and the fur coat, just as Kennedy's intuition had told him, was the one that had been lost. The thief, when he entered the Star store on the twenty-seventh of October, had declared that he was a cousin of Mr. Wise, a well known Northwestern railroad man. He had given the name of "William Wise."

He says his parents live in Missouri.

#### THOUGHT FINE TOO LOW.

Police Force Believed That \$5 and Costs Was Not Enough. The light fine of \$5 and costs imposed by Justice Eiseley upon Gebhart, the self-confessed overcoat thief, who has been making trouble among Norfolk clothiers for some years, was a source of wonderment among the police force. Gebhart attempted to secure the money from a cousin with the opinion of Justice Eiseley that the prisoner ought to be paroled for a day

and given opportunity to hunt up money for the fine, but later he ordered the man jailed.

Justice Eiseley, in speaking of the low fine, said: "He can not pay his fine. Therefore to increase it would be simply to cause extra expense to the county."

It was agreed that Gebhart should pay for the fur coat taken from the Star clothing store, before he should be released.

The prisoner was identified by Jake Baum as the same man who took a coat from Baum Bros. two years ago. "Unless he pays for that coat," said Mr. Baum, "we will prosecute him." Though the prisoner had \$25 with which he paid for the C. & N. store coat, he had but \$7 left and it was thought that he would be unable to settle with Baums and that therefore another complaint would be sworn out against him.

#### Battle Creek.

Frank Tegeler has rented the Schmode farm in Highland precinct and will move onto the place next spring.

W. C. Craig, formerly of Madison, now of Kingfisher, Okl., is here this week on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wolf of Hadar were here on Thanksgiving with relatives.

L. T. Allen was here Thursday in the interest of the Sturgeon music store.

Walter Braasch of Norfolk was here Friday in the interest of the Lincoln building and loan association.

It is said here that the Chas. Brown 80-acre tract west of town is sold to a man of Wyoming, John Gleason.

Philip Sheets was here Saturday on business from Meadow Grove.

Your scribe was out in the country Thursday to consume an American bird.

Chas. B. Ulrich, one of our butchers, celebrated his 55th birthday Friday and he was surprised by his friends and relatives, and now he is putting a new barn on the place he recently bought of Hon. F. J. Hale.

Mrs. C. Zimmerman, who has been seriously ill the last week, is reported better.

H. C. Pahl and Chas. Schroeder were business visitors to Norfolk today.

Herman Eucker was down to Norfolk on business Saturday.

Our new agent, Henry Whitney, arrived here Monday from Stuart and lives at the quarters over the depot. Mr. Whitney is a well known citizen here, as he was raised in Tilden.

Mr. Crum, who moved here from Neligh, has traded his residence and two-acre-ground in north Battle Creek for Norfolk property and moved there Monday.

Ed. Worley of Tilden was here Sunday visiting at the home of his brother Harder Worley.

Chas. Benish of Norfolk moved to Battle Creek and has occupied the Mrs. Reikofski property.

Wm. Volk, who lived in a nice cottage in north Battle Creek, has moved out south of town again on one of his farms.

John Olsen, an old carpenter, has been sick here this week.

### WAS SUICIDE FROM HERE?

#### NORFOLK BLANK BANK CHECK ONLY MARK ON DEAD MAN.

#### KILLED HIMSELF IN LINCOLN

#### Stranger in Capital City, Who Had Been at a Boarding House Since November 12 and Out of Work, Was Thought to Come From Norfolk.

Is Albert Roll, who suicided at Lincoln Monday afternoon, known in the vicinity of Norfolk?

The only bit of paper by which any location could be tacked to a man who ended his life at Lincoln and who claimed to be Albert Roll, was a blank check from the Norfolk National bank. A telephone message from the sheriff at Lincoln to the bank in this city was received shortly after the tragedy, in a vain inquiry as to who the man might be, where he came from and what should be done with the remains.

No such name was known in the bank here and no one has been found who does recall such a name.

No description of the man was given to Cashier Pasewalk, who talked with Lincoln, but it has been thought that perhaps the man may have been known somewhere in this part of the country.

The remains will be held at Lincoln a few days, it was said, in the hope that the man might be identified.

Roll went to a boarding house here on the twelfth of last month and has been out of work ever since.

Roll was a German about fifty-five years of age. He suicided by hanging himself with a rope. The suicide wore a dark coat and trousers, brown woolen shirt, a white slouch hat and light working shoes.

Lincoln, Dec. 4.—Albert Roll, a German, and supposed to be from Norfolk, committed suicide, hanging in a barn in the rear of the Washington hotel, 200 South Ninth street. To fellow guests he stated that he lost his wife and property and had nothing to live for.

#### Left Bills Behind Him.

Ainsworth, Neb., Dec. 4.—Special to The News: A man giving the name of Fred Richards of Dennison, Iowa, is wanted by the City Cafe and I. W. Mefford of this place. He came to town as a musician. He ran bills at the City Cafe and at the Mefford store, then left.

### TO FIGHT HORSE THIEVES

#### ASSOCIATIONS AT CREIGHTON AND VERDIGRE.

#### BE ONE SOON AT WINNETOON

President George Evans of the North Nebraska Live Stock Owners Association Has Returned From Trip Bent on Organization.

G. W. Evans, president of the North Nebraska Live Stock Owners association, has just returned from a short trip up the Bonesteel line, where he went to interest farmers and others of that section in the necessity of organizing against the horse-thieves who have been working this territory. He met with much encouragement and there will be associations organized at Creighton, Verdigre and Winnetoon. The Winnetoon farmers will meet and organize on Saturday, December 8.

County Attorney Berryman of Knox county has issued the following circular to people of that county, which applies also to other counties of this territory, including Madison, Stanton, Antelope, Pierce, Boyd, Wayne, Holt and Rock:

Creighton, Neb., Nov. 28.—To the People of Knox County: During several months and up to the present time, quite a large number of horses have been stolen in northeastern Nebraska, and the thieves are so thoroughly organized that so far recovery of the property and capture of the thieves has been almost impossible. The facts are the thieves are thoroughly organized and the people are not, and the larceny of livestock has become so general that it is impossible for the officers of the law in any part of this state to be successful in their efforts to arrest the guilty parties. On account of these existing conditions the people of Madison and other counties have organized a society by the name of The North Nebraska Live Stock Owners' Protective association for the purpose of aiding the officers of the law and especially the sheriffs to capture persons guilty of larceny.

Mr. G. W. Evans, president of the local association at Norfolk, is organizing these societies in Knox county for the purposes here named and I most urgently advise all owners of livestock of Knox county to become members of this association at the first opportunity for the purpose of aiding in the enforcement of the law, recovering stolen property and arresting the thieves in order that all citizens may be properly and thoroughly protected in their property rights. An organization of this kind was made in Creighton last night consisting of twenty-two members and I believe this number will be increased to 100 within two weeks. In order to make this movement thoroughly successful these organizations should be made in all parts of Knox county. The sheriff is giving us his active assistance in this work.

Yours very truly,  
J. H. Berryman,  
County Attorney.

#### TUESDAY TIDINGS.

Rev. J. P. Morgan went to Omaha yesterday.

Bruce Perrine of Winnetoon was in the city Tuesday.

Mrs. H. L. Snyder returned from Omaha last night.

Geo. Christoph left for Sioux City Tuesday morning.

W. F. Lehman made a business trip to Stanton Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Fox returned from Albion last night.

Mrs. Koplaine and son of Pilger were in the city yesterday.

Mr. Edmund C. Mapes went to Plainview for a few days' visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Henzler of Tilden were Norfolk visitors yesterday.

Mr. Malenz and Rev. Klop of Stanton were in the city yesterday.

Fred Ellwanger of Boyd county was a passenger on train No. 402 Tuesday.

Mrs. Haggard of Sioux City is in the city visiting with Mrs. D. Mathewson.

Ralph Boyd went to Pilger Tuesday morning to do the tin work on the Rogers building.

The mother of Dr. J. C. Myers, who has been ill for the past few days, is somewhat better.

George A. Jeffers, a Bonesteel attorney, was in the city Tuesday on his way to Sioux City.

Mrs. Dearborn has arrived in Norfolk from Sioux City to entertain at Wednesday club functions during the afternoon and evening.

Mrs. L. E. Jacobson and son of Larrabee, Iowa, returned Tuesday from a visit with her sister, Mrs. S. S. Smith of Albion.

F. A. Huston, for twenty-five years a business man of Pierce, but now a resident of Mapleton, Iowa, was in the city on business Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Younger of Lander, Wyo., have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Rish, on their way to Chicago. Mrs. Younger and Mrs. Rish are sisters.

Chris J. Lichty, wife and mother, from Waterloo county, Ontario, returned Tuesday after an extended visit with David Risser and other friends in the Mennonite settlement on Eagle Creek, in Holt county.

George Krotter came down from Bonesteel Tuesday morning and at noon went to Stuart. He prefers the long round-about way to the system of aerial navigation that is the only means of crossing the Niobrara river between Stuart and Bonesteel at the present time.

B. R. Greenblatt of Omaha and G. A. LeBlanc and W. J. Turecek of

Bloomfield, bound for the land of 640-acre homesteads, were in the city Tuesday. Armed to the teeth, they will bring back some birds—if they buy them.

Sherman Weatherholt was in Norfolk from Hoskins yesterday.

County Commissioner John Malone of Madison passed through Norfolk on his way to Tilden.

Mrs. Rinehart of Naper was in the city a half a day. She has been visiting people and scenes familiar in her younger days.

J. C. Foy of University Place, left this city for Anoka Tuesday with a view to real estate investments.

O. C. Gates, wholesale dealer in hay at Lincoln, went up the Elkhorn valley Tuesday to look after shipments.

J. B. Smith, a Neligh attorney, has been in the city on business for the last two days, making a trip to Creighton in the meantime.

Captain H. E. Ely, U. S. A., spent the day with his sister, Mrs. E. E. Gillette. Captain Ely has just returned from Europe and will go to the Philippines in February.

James Forbes and wife of Anoka were passengers Tuesday for Los Angeles, California, where they will spend the winter. Their son, Will D. Forbes and his family, accompanied them and will remain a couple of months. James Forbes is vice president and his son is president of the Citizens bank of Butte, and the Anoka National bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Soren Nelson of Spencer were in the city Tuesday forenoon. Mrs. Nelson has lately recovered from a severe illness, and they will make a trip to Rapid City for health, business and pleasure combined. They were disappointed in not meeting a party from Sioux City, who expected to make the journey with them.

P. H. Simons of Butte, was down from that place Tuesday. He will go to the gulf states to investigate the yellow pine situation, and will probably make some extensive purchases for his yards at Butte and Herrick.

Dr. Lowell Clarke from Denver, inspector in charge of the veterinarians of Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska, was in the city yesterday consulting with Dr. Myers.

Mr. Julius Salzwedel and two daughters, Amand and Clara, are quite sick at their home east of the Junction.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Alexander who has been very sick, is much better.

Miss Elsie Dobbin has returned from Hoskins where she has been visiting with her parents.

Mrs. John Brown is on the sick list.

Carl Russel has resigned his job switching and has secured a position with a contractor in California and left for there over the Union Pacific.

Little Gertrude Kendal is quite sick with a bad cold.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hedrick is much better today.

Little Edward Wood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wood, is quite sick.

John Hinze, one of the night musicians, has secured a job for a few days.

A. R. Beaton, foreman of the saw mill here, loaded up the portable mill and went to Fremont to saw up the old bridge timbers and ties.

Teddy Crouse, the Chicago & Northwestern boiler inspector, passed through here last night on his way to Lander.

Frank Tanner, who is suffering from an abscess of the knee, is getting along nicely.

Henry Hasenpflug has sold out his interest in the Hasenpflug & Kelleher saloon at the Junction and will retire from the business. Mr. Kelleher will continue to operate it.

About 6 o'clock Monday evening Max Johnson, a little boy ten years old, hitched a horse to the buggy to bring Mrs. Schwartz home from the millinery store. On turning into Norfolk avenue, a man driving very rapidly ran into the boy's buggy, knocking the boy out, and it would seem upset the buggy, at least the horse ran away and came running up to the store with only the thills of the vehicle attached, causing consternation and alarm among the few who collected in the vicinity. In a few moments the boy came along, frightened but unhurt, to the infinite relief of Mrs. Schwartz, whose forebodings were the more painful from the short time that had elapsed since she had telephoned the boy. That no greater damage was caused is remarkable, considering the force of the impact. That it transpired while people were at supper accounts for the occurrence of such an incident on the main street with so few observers.

The epidemic of horse stealing that has prevailed over Nebraska for the past six weeks has reached Dodge county and the authorities today were in hot pursuit of a horse and buggy that disappeared Saturday night from the barn of John Hobebrand, a well-known farmer who resides three miles southwest of Hooper. Showing familiarity with the premises, the thief entered the barn, harnessed the best horse to a single driving buggy and then escaped through a pasture after cutting the wire fence with a cutter which was stolen, together with a hammer and other tools, from a tool chest. A farm hand named William B. Bush who was in Mr. Hobebrand's employ until Saturday could not be found and was under suspicion. Hundreds of descriptions of him and the outfit were mailed today from the office of Sheriff Bauman to sheriffs in every county in the state. It developed that he was in Fremont and Sheriff Bauman arrested him on Sixth street. Bush denied his guilt.

### PAST OF COLORED TROOPS

#### THEY SHIELDED MURDERER IN RANKS AT VALENTINE.

#### MURDEROUS BRAWLS FREQUENT

C. H. Cornell, a Banker of Valentine, Writes a Letter Telling Something of the Past History of the Twenty-fifth Infantry.

C. H. Cornell, a banker at Valentine and prominent citizen in northern Nebraska, has written the following letter, giving brief summing up of the past career of the colored troops who were recently discharged at Brownsville, Tex., and into whose discharge congress is to probe:

Could the persons, even the colored ministers and others who are holding mass meetings, denouncing President Roosevelt's action in dismissing from the service the entire enlisted strength of the three companies of the Twenty-fifth United States Infantry, which were stationed at Fort Brown on the night that Brownsville, Tex., was "shot up," have had the opportunity of knowing those troops better, the chances are they would not be so severe in their criticism of the president's action.

Two battalions (eight companies) of that regiment came to Fort Niobrara for station, directly from the Philippines in 1902. They remained at that post continually until its abandonment in July last, when in leaving, they were assigned to stations in Texas, Valentine, four and one-half miles distant, is the railway station where all the post's business was transacted, and having a population of about 1,200, sustained very much the same relation to Fort Niobrara as Brownsville to Fort Brown, Tex. Consequently they were in and out of town constantly, singly or in numbers, trading, loafing or attending errands, and it is said by our citizens, rightly, that they were well-behaved and no citizen, not looking for it, had the least excuse for getting into trouble with any one of them.

However, among themselves and with their camp followers (principally discharged soldiers from the colored regiments), a part at least were terrorists, and in their brawls seemed to place no more value upon a human life than though the taking of the same were a mere incident in their purpose of destruction. In the dance halls and resorts (which followed them into the country and went out of business and left immediately on the departure of the troops), they would fight like demons, and the records of our district court have been loaded down with criminal cases due to these fights, with a goodly number of participants in the state penitentiary, to say nothing of the number punished by military court martials. Bearing particularly on the phase which brought about the wholesale dismissal a somewhat similar case might be recited:

#### A Terrible Killing.

A discharged soldier from one of the colored regiments, named Stratton, kept a rooming and dance house on a tract of land about a mile and a half from Fort Niobrara. On the night of October 23, 1904, about midnight, while the usual dance was in progress, a team hauling a spring wagon with four occupants drove up in front of the door and one of the inmates (called Lal Johnson) came out of the house to the wagon. Immediately shots rang out, apparently fired at the wagon, but from a point that each must take effect there or pass into and in some instances through the dance hall, which was very well filled with dancers. When the firing ceased it was found that Turnbull, the driver, was shot through the arm; Raymond Smith, an occupant through the breast near the heart, one horse killed and the other wounded. Inside the building a stove had been hit and shattered, the bar shot up somewhat, but miraculously no person hurt, although there were many number of close calls. Coincidentally, two men in khaki were seen with guns across their shoulders starting toward Fort Niobrara. Next morning sixteen empty Krag-Jorgensen shells were found on the ground at the point where the firing seemed to come from, and the location the two men were seen leaving. The wounded were taken to the Fort Niobrara hospital, where the Johnson woman died next day. Turnbull recovered promptly and Smith finally.

The shooting having been committed off the reservation, came under the jurisdiction of the civil authorities. Consequently the sheriff and coroner were notified, a coroner's jury empaneled and post mortem held at the post hospital, which resulted in determining that from the character of the wound it was done by a Krag-Jorgensen.

#### Blacks Shielded Murderers.

The murder appearing so wanton and cold blooded, extraordinary efforts were put forth to try and locate the guilty ones. Persons who were thought by their associations to be on terms of intimacy with the soldiers were looked to to secure the information, and Colonel Hoyt, commanding the regiment, assigned Lieutenants Mapes and Wigenstein for special duty, to run down the guilty ones if possible. The officers, in fact, were particularly anxious to apprehend and deliver the culprits to the civil authorities. However, although that shooting was done on a clear, bright night, by two persons seen in the act or immediately thereafter, not the

slightest trace has to this day been discovered in the direction of either apprehending the guilty parties nor of learning the motive. It was said that although numbers of the enlisted men might have full knowledge of the men and motive no one would dare to divulge the same for fear of his own life.

Although the murdered one was of their own color and without character, the act was no less a crime than the like one which followed it in Brownsville, and only emphasized the necessity of some form of salutary punishment. While the soldiers might justly silence in the latter case on account of fear lest a fair trial could not be had in Texas, no such excuse could prevail here, since the murdered was not a citizen of the community, but a woman of their own race, in whom no one would have any special interest, and the trial could have been purely on its merits without prejudice against the prisoners. Yet those who possessed the necessary information were as silent in the former as the latter instance.

No question but that a very large majority of those soldiers discountenance such acts, judged by what was seen of them during the four years here, but there are tough characters in each company, ready at all times to do acts of violence, whom the better men do not appear to endeavor to get rid of, and who are responsible for the condition in which the men of those three companies find themselves now. It is another case of "poor dog Tray."

Threats were heard that this town might be "shot up" some night, but the treatment of these soldiers by our citizens was such that we did not believe the cooler heads would ever permit it to be possible.

It may be said that soldiers should not be allowed their rifles excepting when on actual duty. That is supposed to be the case, yet at times they find a way of getting a part of them at least. However, is a man worthy to be a soldier who cannot be trusted with a gun excepting when in ranks for fear lest a whole community be "shot up?"

This communication is written with the one purpose, however, of endeavoring to influence those colored pastors and people, and the sympathizers of all races, to investigate at little closer range, with the hope that they will modify their resolutions and memorials directed against an honest and courageous president.

C. H. Cornell.

### THIEVES BURN HEN HOUSE

#### AN UNUSUAL RAID AT FARM OF WILL SWANEBACK.

#### ALL THE FOWLS ARE STOLEN

#### Another Raid Has Been Added to the List of Work Done by Chicken Thieves in the Vicinity of Norfolk.

#### No Clue to the Guilty.

Stealing all of his chickens and setting fire to his chicken coop, thieves raided and did extraordinary damage at the home of Will Swaneback, four miles south and two miles east of Norfolk, on rural route No. 4, during the night.

Mr. Swaneback is at a loss to know who may have done the work and has no clue. He was amazed when he arose and went into the farmyard at dawn to find his hen house in ashes and the birds gone.

It is supposed that the thieves are the same who have been creating a reign of terror among chicken owners in this section for some months past, undetected. No new light has been thrown upon the identity of the thieves and, so far as known, no effort is being made to trace them.

These chicken thieves have been working not only in the country around Norfolk but also in the city itself. Various coops in various places have been raided, one man having recently gone to the barnyard to find his valuable shepherd dog dead, as well as twelve fowls.

The chicken thieves have become about as serious a problem as the horse-thieves around Norfolk and it is thought that the farmers and other chicken owners of this territory, if one were captured, would go the limit in punishing the culprit.

### ORDAIN REV. JOHN M. HEINS

#### Congregational Council Delighted With South Norfolk Pastor.

Rev. John M. Heins, pastor of the Second Congregational church at South Norfolk, was ordained yesterday afternoon by an ordaining council of the Congregational church. The council met at 2:30 o'clock for the purpose of examining the applicant and the examining board were more than delighted at the excellent showing made by Mr. Heins and his evidence of scholarly ability. Ordination was granted by unanimous vote.

The following churches were represented: Bloomfield, Pierce, Norfolk First church, Plainview, Stanton and Neligh, either by pastors or delegates. The following program was rendered:

Invocation, Rev. J. J. Cluff, Stanton. Scripture reading and sermon, Rev. J. J. Parker, Plainview. Ordaining prayer, Rev. W. J. Turner, First church, Norfolk. Address by ministry, Rev. J. J. Cluff, Stanton.

Mr. Heins is a graduate of Amherst college and a graduate of Yale theological seminary. He carries the degrees of A. B. and B. D.