

NORFOLK BIDS FOR A NORMAL.

Legislature Will Be Shown Advantages of Location.

IF THIRD SCHOOL IS WANTED.

Commercial Club Directors Will Make Strong Effort to Bring Normal School Here if a Third State Normal is to be Voted—Site Discussion.

While by no means confident that a third state normal school is within the range of possibilities this year, the Commercial club directors at their meeting yesterday afternoon further canvassed the situation and determined that the advantages possessed by this city as the location for a state normal school should not be lost sight of by the legislature when the normal question comes before that body.

An informal canvass made along Norfolk avenue has resulted in \$2,500 already being pledged to a normal site in case an appropriation for normal purposes should be made. It is stated that the men here listed are willing to increase their contributions if necessary.

A committee to investigate a proper site for a normal school was named as follows: G. D. Butterfield, H. A. Pasewalk, Burt Mages, J. W. Ransom and J. S. Mathewson.

Four Children Are Cremated.

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 27.—Four children were cremated and their parents seriously injured today in a fire which destroyed the home of A. M. Kendall on Bryson Hill, Dunbar, east of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendall leaped from the second story window after repeated unsuccessful efforts to reach the room occupied by their children.

The fire is supposed to have started from a small gas stove left burning when the family retired.

Taft Will Eat Alligator Meat.

New Orleans, Jan. 27.—Secretary Trezevant of the Progressive union, which is taking the leading part in preparations for the entertainment of President Elect Taft and party on their return from Panama, is arranging to give the president elect an alligator steak dinner.

Miss Thurston Coming to Town.

Norfolk playgoers are to see a theatrical favorite of national popularity, Adelaide Thurston in "The Woman's Hour," is coming to town a week from next Tuesday—February 9.

Miss Thurston, of course, needs no introduction to people who follow the theatrical events and who read the magazines. It will be her first appearance in Norfolk and a large and representative audience, not only of Norfolk people but of people from this entire territory, should greet her.

"The Woman's Hour" was especially written for Miss Thurston by that splendid author, Frederick Paulding. Mr. Paulding accompanies Miss Thurston on her present tour in the capacity of stage director and leading man.

A Royal Slave.

"A Royal Slave," with elaborate stage settings and well spoken lines, gave satisfaction at the Auditorium last night. The story of the play is one of action with considerable attention to the climax in each act. The company carried its own scenery for each of the five acts.

Seems Sure Census Will Total 5,000.

The census count at noon today 3,521 persons.

City Clerk Ed Harter, census taker, having found 1,316 people in the southwest quarter of town, expects to find 1,000 people living in the northwest quarter, which he is now engaged in taking. This will give virtually 2,300 people living west of the Northwestern tracks.

When the government census of 1900 was taken the town was divided into two parts, one including all the territory west of the tracks and the Junction, the other that part of the city north of the Junction and east of the tracks. About 1,900 people were found in each of these two sections. The total population then was 3,883.

If without counting the Junction, Ed Harter finds 2,300 people west of the tracks, it would appear that the city has the desired 5,000 population. It is, of course, in the territory west of the tracks that the greatest growth has taken place.

The Kaiser 50 Years Old.

Berlin, Jan. 27.—The fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Emperor William was celebrated here today. The crowned heads of German states came so Berlin and presented congratulations to the emperor. Calls were also made by the diplomatic corps.

The flag dedication of the Landwehr Verein of Norfolk formed without doubt the most notable celebration in Nebraska of the German emperor's fiftieth birthday anniversary. The day was pitched for the important celebration of the dedication of the handsome new flag by the Kaiser's old veterans because it marked Emperor William's fiftieth birthday.

American and German flags mingled on Norfolk avenue and up in Marquardt hall were the flag draped pictures of Emperor William and President Roosevelt. The picture of the emperor was unique in that it is a re-

production of a drawing by a miniature hand writing artist, the whole picture being made up of finely written lines setting forth the history of the royal house to which William belongs. The writing must be read by a magnifying glass.

A parade up Norfolk avenue opened the afternoon's program, the members of the Sons of Herman, the Norfolk relief association and a chorus of young ladies joining with the ex-members of the German army who make up the Verein. A band headed the parade. The afternoon program and flag dedication followed, the ball and banquet coming in the evening.

Crash Unheeded in Norfolk.

Ten miles northwest of Norfolk seems to have been the nearest point to this city at which the explosive crash of Manday's meteor was heard. And at that point the noise is reported to have resembled a dynamite explosion.

Eugene Crook, the Foster banker, who was in Norfolk Tuesday afternoon, reported a crash at Foster. Carpenters working on a building said the noise resembled the explosion of a powder mill, and thought that the oil tank at Plainview had blown up. One rumor had it that a Burlington engine at Plainview had exploded.

Herd of Cattle Stampeded.

Mr. Crook said that a herd of about forty cattle near Foster stampeded when the crash came, and, turning around, ran back toward the farm house. Earl Plymesse, a young man twenty-three or twenty-four years old, had difficulty in escaping from the panic-stricken beasts with his life.

Team of Mules Ran Away.

A team of mules near Willow Creek, Mr. Crook said, were so frightened by the noise that they ran away.

Mrs. Ida Eves Gets Divorce.

O'Neill, Jan. 27.—Special to The News: Judge Westover came down from Rushville Monday to convene district court and issued a decree of divorce to Mrs. Ida Eves, wife of E. S. Eves, publisher of the Holt County Democrat. Besides the divorce the decree carried with it alimony in the sum of \$3,520. Of this amount \$1,000 was directed to be paid "forthwith," the balance in monthly payments. The suit came as a great surprise to O'Neill people. The petition was filed Saturday and alleged cruelty. A formal answer was filed denying the charge of cruelty, but the defendant was not represented in court Monday. Mrs. Eves has possession of their son for five years and their daughter for one year.

The Holt county Agricultural society was re-organized Monday evening with the election of the following officers: President, C. E. Hall; vice president, S. F. McNichols; secretary, Wm. Froelich. It is the intention of the society to continue the annual race meet here and expect to become reinstated in the North Nebraska circuit.

Dedicate the Verein Flag.

German army veterans, members of the Landwehr Verein of Norfolk, take part Wednesday in a flag dedication ceremony attended by exercises which will take up the greater part of the day.

At 10 a. m. at a regular meeting of members, initiation of new members is held. The new members coming from Pierce, Hadar and Norfolk. Without these additions the society has sixty-three members.

During the day reception committees meet all trains. Twenty-five visitors are expected from Columbus.

The afternoon opens with a parade from the Schwertfeger building, where the members assemble at 1:30 p. m. Headed by the Norfolk band and joined by visiting members of other Vereins, the Sons of Herman and the Norfolk relief association, the veterans will march up Norfolk avenue to Marquardt hall, where the program is to be carried out. A feature of the parade will be a squad of twelve veterans with rifles who will drill in the fashion of the German army.

The flag dedication will be the principal feature of the afternoon. Speeches will be made by F. Mertens of Omaha, president of the Western Kriegerbund of Iowa and Nebraska, and Rev. Carl Martin, pastor of St. Johannes church. Music will be furnished by the band and by a chorus of fifteen young ladies.

The afternoon will close with another parade, down Madison avenue to First street and then west to Marquardt hall.

The day will close with a banquet and ball.

Gregory's Welcom to the Victors.

Gregory, S. D., Jan. 27.—Special to The News: The Gregory delegation which has been in Washington for over a month in the interest of the land office for Gregory were tendered a reception and welcome home by the citizens of the city on Saturday night at the Auditorium. Covers were laid for 150 and there were several successive tableaus served. When the delegation arrived at the building the band played and the ladies, who had the banquet in charge, escorted each one around the long room to the deafening shouts of the onlookers. But they did not stop at this but they also marched around with the visitors from other towns in the county. The speech-making was in charge of Gov. F. M. Ziebach, as toastmaster. The speakers from outside were: J. N. Ellerman, C. A. Johnson, M. L. Parish, County Judge C. A. Davis, D. Coffee of Fairfax; A. J. Jones, Herrick; J. D. Keller, Dallas. The local speakers were: B. F. Slaughter, J. R. Hoover, C. E. B. Oldham, G. G. Warner, Rev. Father Gleason, Rev. Ferguson, E. T. Spencer, L. A. Wilson and the delegation, J. M.

Hackler, Fred Huston, Windsor Doherty and W. H. Tackett. There was joy in every speech over the victory of Gregory and no malice shown any competitor.

Since the announcement that Gregory had secured the land office there is increased activity in the building lines. The Luelyn hotel will be raised to three stories and steam heat put in, making this one of the most complete hotels in the county. The Pacific hotel is also putting an additional story on the kitchen making it the same height as the rest of the building. Other buildings are planned and will soon be on the way. Prices have advanced for the reason that there is an increased demand that could not be supplied as all the present buildings were already occupied and would continue to be.

Chicago Winners Looking Up Rosebud

Gregory, S. D., Jan. 27.—Special to The News: Mr. Carroll, vice president of the Chicago Homesteaders' association, a company formed of winners in the Tripp county drawing which has attained considerable notoriety, is in Gregory this week interviewing the real estate men and locators in the interest of the association. There are more than a hundred in the club and they are going after the matter in a systematic way. He is a guest of Tom Carey, a leading grocery merchant here.

U. S. Marshal Here.

Then followed a secret visit to Norfolk of Deputy United States Marshal J. A. Tracey of Sioux City together with an officer of the mutual insurance company and a Mountain Lake banker. Tracey at once started an investigation through the postoffice and other sources. Within the last week he has found that B. B. Thomas of Norfolk was known at the Norfolk post-office here as C. J. Boeneke of Anoka, that at Emmett he was known as F. R. Thomas, in Sioux City as Peter Andruh and in Tyndall by his right name.

Arrested in South Dakota.

News of Thomas' arrest comes from Deputy Marshal Tracey at Scotland, S. D., together with the information that the swindler has admitted nearly everything.

Bank Does Not Lose.

The Norfolk bank has been notified that it will lose nothing as the insurance company will pay its draft, which was issued to its accredited Norfolk "organizer" and which was a bona fide draft save for the past transactions.

A Fake Anoka Elevator.

One of Thomas' fires was at Anoka, where he collected \$2,500 on an Anoka elevator which he reported as burning. No such elevator existed.

It is not known that Thomas wrote any legitimate policies.

The company being a mutual concern and rather local in its operations did not keep any tab on their Norfolk organizer.

No Quake; a Meteor.

Neligh, Neb., Jan. 27.—Special to The News: A meteor weighing in the neighborhood of 100 pounds, was found near this city yesterday morning by several business men of this place.

It was about 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, when the supposed earthquake shock was felt in this section of the state, that Ed Cox, a carpenter who was at work nearly two miles south of town, noticed a fiery flash in the direction of Neligh and also considerable dust arise from the ground beneath it.

Upon reaching home in the evening, he told what he had seen. The skeptical refused to credit his story, but some of the citizens accompanied by the informant went out yesterday morning to the place where he had seen the dust rise, and upon approaching saw fumes as of burning sulphur issuing from a deep hole in the earth.

With considerable difficulty the still hot stone was dug out and brought to town. It was placed on exhibition at the Register office where it was viewed by a large number of people from this place and the county.

Many shuddered as they thought what a calamity there might have been had the terrible monster from the heavens fallen in the city and struck one of the buildings.

The parties who have the find state that they are going to take it to Lincoln and present it to the museum in the capital city. They may stop over in Norfolk and give the people of that city an opportunity of seeing the largest meteor ever found in northeastern Nebraska.

Explains Lack of Vibration.

Many heard the deafening crash, but few reported shake.

The finding of the 100-pound meteor at Neligh, where it fell at about 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, explains completely the mysterious deafening crash which was heard at Pierce, Foster, Plainview and Creighton, and which frightened horses, chickens, cattle and mules.

It seemed singular at the time that there should be so tremendous a crash without perceptible vibration of the earth, but there seemed no other explanation for the phenomenon than that it was a shaking of the earth. Only two reports told of the earth vibrating, the Plainview primary school and a house southwest of Pierce being said to have felt the jar.

The meteor also explains why the crash was heard in a certain definitely defined circle. The sound waves carried the crash in a circle of about thirty miles radius, thus reaching Pierce, Foster, Plainview and Creighton as the outer limits. These towns lie about thirty miles northeast of Neligh.

After 12 Years Watch Returned.

There's somebody in Norfolk today whose heart is lighter than it has been for a dozen years. There's a conscience in town that's relieved.

And incidentally a gold watch that was stolen from Mrs. D. Rees twelve years ago, is back in her possession.

Mrs. Rees was ill twelve years ago

when her watch was stolen from the top of a dresser. On the watch was an onyx chain, linked with solid gold. And the chain, all but a couple of links, has come back home with the little gold timepiece after all these years' absence.

Watch Hiding Behind Picture.

The stolen watch, long since despaired of by Mrs. Rees, peeked out from behind a picture at the I. M. Macy photograph gallery yesterday, and was restored to its owner.

It was in a little pasteboard box, tied with white linen thread, and on either side of the box was written: "Mrs. David Rees, Norfolk, Neb."

That was all. There was no note. The watch had, apparently, been dropped on the moulding behind the picture at the photograph gallery after all these years, in order that it might be found, just as it was found, and returned to its rightful owner. And in order, too, that a worried conscience might be set at rest.

Mrs. Rees never knew for sure who took the watch. Two different people were suspected. There is nothing now to indicate which it may have been. Singularly enough, Mr. Rees lost a watch in the same way at about the same time, but that has not come back.

Atkinson Hotel Sold.

Atkinson, Neb., Jan. 27.—Special to The News: Through the agency of R. L. Hanks, the Commercial hotel of Atkinson was sold to W. B. Harrison of David City. O. W. Ellenwood, the present proprietor, will give up possession March 1.

Special Message on Maine.

President Asks Appropriation to Re-move From Havana Harbor.

Washington, Jan. 27.—President Roosevelt today sent a special message to congress approving the recommendation of Governor Magoon that an appropriation be made to remove the wreck of the Maine from Havana harbor.

Brownsville Matter Settled.

Bill Drafted Satisfactory to Roosevelt and Foraker.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Senate leaders today announced that they have drafted a bill for settlement of the Brownsville question, satisfactory to both Roosevelt and Foraker.

Kill La Follette's Bill.

Stephenson in Wisconsin Only Lacks Two Votes of Election.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 27.—The assembly today killed the Blaine bill for the investigation of alleged corruption in the senate primary. The first ballot on senator in the joint session gave Stephenson 65, lacking two of being enough to elect.

PRESERVATION OF HOME THEIR THEME.

President Opens Conference on Care of Dependent Children.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The importance of the preservation of the home intact was the central theme of discussion at the conference on the care of dependent children, which was opened by President Roosevelt at the White House. The subject under consideration was "Should the breaking up of a home be permitted for reasons of poverty or only for reasons of inefficiency or immorality?"

It was the unanimous opinion of an array of notable charity workers that children can best be reared under the influence of the home and that they should be removed from the family circle only when proper supervision at home has become impossible. It also was the consensus of opinion that where poverty exists in the home state aid should be given. President Roosevelt said, in part:

"There are half a dozen types of children for whom we need to care. There is, first of all, the complete orphan, the child who has lost both father and mother. For this child we wish to make permanent provision. My own belief is that the best kind of permanent provision, if feasible, is to place the child in a home.

"We have then to meet the case— one of the most distressing of cases— where the father has died, where the breadwinner has gone, where the mother would like to keep the child, but simply lacks the earning capacity. Surely in such a case the goal towards which we should strive is to help that mother so that she can keep her own home and keep the child in it; that is the best thing possible to be done for that child. How the relief shall come, public, private, or by a mixture of both, in what way, you are competent to say and I am not. But I am competent to say what I think the goal should be.

Leavitt Will Not Oppose Divorce Suit.

Lincoln, Jan. 25.—Word has been received here saying William Homer Leavitt will not oppose the suit of his wife, Ruth Bryan Leavitt, for a divorce. He is quoted as saying: "I never denied her a thing in my life and I will not oppose the divorce. Only three days ago I received a letter couched in the usual affectionate terms. Only she asked why, if I did not love her, I did not get a divorce. I would not do so, however, on account of the children. I received a long typewritten letter signed by Thomas Allen, in which he said there had been so much newspaper talk that Ruth must get a divorce. The letter evidently was dictated by my wife."

To Change Course of Elkhorn.

Arlington, Neb., Jan. 25.—To change the course of the Elkhorn river in this vicinity, cutting out five or six miles of river bed and making several thousand acres of additional land tillable is the object of the farmers of this county. They are preparing to bring the matter to the attention of the government engineers and surveyors, a body of whom are expected to be in Nebraska within a short time.

Cook and Assistant Injured in Accident in Columbus Hostelery.

Columbus, Neb., Jan. 26.—An explosion of gas in the basement of the Thurston hotel badly wrecked the building and seriously injured J. L. Hunter, the cook, and Mrs. Hunter, his assistant. The woman is so badly hurt she may not recover. James O'Brien, a workman, who was in the basement, was blown out of the room, but is not seriously hurt. Fifteen traveling men in the dining room escaped with minor injuries. Windows of a store building across the street were shattered. The rear part of the hotel is torn to pieces. Fire, which broke out in the wreckage, was extinguished after a hard fight.

FATAL FLOODS IN TRANSVAAL.

One Hundred and Seventy-Three Persons Known to Have Perished.

Johannesburg, Jan. 23.—One hundred and seventy-three persons are known to have lost their lives as a result of the floods which are general throughout the Transvaal colony and northern Natal.

Great damage also has been done to property, mining plants having suffered heavily, and houses and railway bridges being swept away or inundated. The floods are the results of heavy rains.

By the bursting of Knight's dam the Witwatersrand gold mine, in the southwestern part of the Transvaal, was flooded and ten white men and 150 natives were drowned. The water from this dam also flooded the lower section of the town of Elsburg, where a number of houses were swept away and thirteen persons perished. A gold dredger, valued at \$60,000, broke adrift on the Kaap river and was wrecked.

NEW AIRSHIP FOR ZEPPELIN.

Device for Discharging Gas Insures Safety of Craft Now Building.

Friedrichshafen, Jan. 23.—Count Zeppelin is building another airship which will bear the name of Zepppelin III and which he expects to be finished by the end of March. He is also constructing a floating tent for housing the new airship. The count has introduced a new method for discharging gas from balloons. Heretofore the gas has been discharged within the cigar-shaped covering, but with the new airship tubes will reach upward, discharging it into the open air, thus minimizing danger from explosion.

BRYAN ISSUES STATEMENT.

Explains Attitude Toward State University Measure.

INSPIRED ITS INTRODUCTION.

Says He Has No Pecuniary Interest in Proposition to Establish College of Citizenship and Will Deliver Lectures Without Compensation.

Lincoln, Jan. 25.—V. J. Bryan, in a statement, explained his attitude toward and connection with a joint resolution introduced last week in the Nebraska legislature providing for a school of citizenship in the University of Nebraska. The resolution was introduced by Senator Miller of Lancaster county and Mr. Bryan says he inspired its introduction, but adds that he has no pecuniary interest in the matter, and that whatever lectures he may deliver will be without compensation.

Mr. Bryan said, in part: "During the past few years increasing attention has been given all over the country to the study of government, sociology and citizenship. Nebraska has kept abreast of the times, but our state should take the lead and focus attention upon the studies that especially prepare the students for the proper discharge of the duties of citizenship. We ought to be able to attract students from other countries, and how can we better help the Orient, and the republics to the south of us than by educating the more ambitious of their young men and sending them back to apply American ideas and ideals in the working out of the problems that confront their people?"

MOTHER KILLS BABES AND SELF.

Father Returns From Trip to Town and Discovers Bodies.

Hastings, Neb., Jan. 25.—Mrs. Charles Mock, wife of a farmer living about six miles south of Glenville, in Clay county, killed herself and three children during the absence of her husband. Mr. Mock, who had been at Fairfield with his oldest child, returned during the afternoon to find the bodies. The mother had been in poor health of late, which is ascribed as a cause for her action. The oldest child killed was about four years of age and the youngest was a babe of one month. The child left alive is a daughter of six years. She killed the children by giving them wood alcohol and then committed suicide by drinking a quantity of the same liquid.

Fleet to Resume Homeward Journey.

Nice, Jan. 27.—The entire American fleet of sixteen battleships will be plowing the Mediterranean westward tomorrow, headed for Tetuan bay, on the north coast of Morocco, where it will reassemble on Jan. 31 to coal and provision for the homeward journey.

Kills Actress and Self.

Philadelphia, Jan. 27.—Mazie Kenney, a burlesque actress twenty years old, was shot and killed by an unidentified man, who was infatuated with her. He then fired a bullet into his own brain and died shortly after his removal to a hospital.

Root Refuses to Return Refugee.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Secretary Root has refused to extradite Christian Rudowitz, the Russian, for whose possession the Russian government has made vigorous representations.

Prepare to Blast Ice Gorges.

Freemont, Neb., Jan. 25.—Railroads and others interested in preventing a flood in the Platte bottoms when the weather breaks up the ice in the river have laid in a large supply of dynamite, with which they expect to blast the ice gorges and keep the ice moving. The warm weather has already softened the ice and a number of men have been stationed along the stream to watch it.

HERMAN BILLIK NOT TO HANG.

Governor Deneen Commutes Death Sentence to Life Term.

VZRAL RECANTS TESTIMONY.

Brother of Alleged Victim Appears Before Board of Pardons and Testifies That He Swore Falsely at Trial of Prisoner.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 23.—Governor Charles S. Deneen commuted to life imprisonment the sentence of death which had been pronounced on Herman Billik of Chicago, who was condemned to hang for the murder of Mary Vzral, whom he was alleged to have poisoned, with other members of the family.

The commutation is made on recommendation of the state board of pardons, after the supreme court had refused to interfere, saying that the records showed no reversible error and affirming the judgment of the criminal court of Cook county. The state board of pardons in making the recommendations to Governor Deneen for commutation of sentence says that after the final action of the supreme court, Jerry Vzral, brother of Mary Vzral, and one of the principal witnesses of the state at the trial of Billik, appeared before the state board of pardons at the hearing of the petition for Billik's pardon and swore that all his testimony at the trial against Billik was false, except as to unimportant facts.

The state board of pardons in its recommendation said that that body was of the opinion that owing to the statement of juror that they were influenced to inflict the death penalty by the testimony of Jerry Vzral not testified to by other witnesses, that they would not have inflicted the death penalty if Jerry Vzral's testimony had been eliminated at the trial.

The trial judge, in a communication to the state board of pardons, recommended a commutation of the sentence, saying that the enforcement of the death penalty, under the circumstance of Jerry Vzral recanting his testimony at the trial, would not, in his judgment, meet with general approval. Six times Billik was granted respites.

BANK PRESIDENT IS CAUGHT.

Embezzlement Charges Involving \$750,000 Made Against Taber.

Los Angeles, Jan. 23.—Homer G. Taber, former president of the United States bank of Los Angeles, former president of the International bank of Searchlight, Nev., and now president of San Diego Bank and Trust company, was taken into custody in San Diego, according to word received by the sheriff, and will be brought here and then taken to Pioche, the seat of Lincoln county, Nevada, to answer to nineteen indictments found by the grand jury and said to involve the embezzlement of approximately \$750,000. At the same time Taber was taken into custody, S. K. Williamson, former cashier of the Lincoln National bank of Searchlight, was arrested in Pasadena and brought to this city and locked up in the county jail.

"HELLO" MEN IN SESSION.

Meeting of independent telephone interests in Boston Today.

Boston, Jan. 23.—An important meeting of the independent telephone interests is that of the conference committee of the independent telephone companies, scheduled for today. The committee is made up of officials of the independent companies of the country, representing capital of more than \$400,000,000.

The conference committee's membership represents the country as far west as Nebraska, as far south as the gulf and as far north as Minnesota.

The independent telephone organizations comprise 12,000 separate companies, large and small, with about 500,000 security holders. The companies are said to give service through 20,000 exchanges.

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