

WHY IS GRAND JURY CALLED?

"Blind Pig" and irregularities in Reports. It is Reported.

Norfolk citizens are looking each other in the face and asking the question, "What is the grand jury called for, and who called it?"

From the various conversations and discussions on the subject by prominent county officials, business men and city officials it is plain that there are a number of cases to be investigated and probed into by the grand jury.

These discussions bring out the probable fact that County Attorney Nichols is about the most persecuted official in the county.

Hundreds of people have asked him recently why something is not done with the blind pig on East Norfolk avenue, and many have also asked him to look into certain reported irregular affairs at certain resorts in the east portion of the city.

Other cases are also hinted at, but what they are is only guesswork. However, it is believed that the fact that the county attorney was tired of many complaints on which he was powerless to act because of lack of evidence, caused him to be behind the movement to call the grand jury and let that body ascertain whether or not there is any truth in the reported irregularities.

The blind pig is charged by many with selling liquor not only to minors but to habitual drunkards who are on the saloon men's "blacklist."

Many cases of "free-for-all" fights have been reported from the vicinity of this place, and reports of shooting have also reached the ears of the county authorities.

There have also come reports from the resorts east of town that minors are allowed the freedom of the houses and a number of cases of robbery, gun plays and knifing have been reported.

"All this has much to do in the way of work for the grand jury," says one official. The county attorney at the present time cannot probe into these affairs as a grand jury can. This body can subpoena as many witnesses as it wishes and these witnesses, if found testifying falsely, can be prosecuted.

**Bride Claims Self Defense.** Aberdeen, S. D., Feb. 22.—According to the story of Mrs. Eva May Kreiter, a bride of six weeks, in jail here charged with the murder of her husband, the killing of Philip Kreiter was in self defense.

Mrs. Kreiter, who claims to be but 29 years old, asserts that she was married to the dead man at Topeka, Kan., six weeks ago against her will, as she was in love with another man, but her parents insisted upon her marrying Kreiter, who was fifteen years her senior.

Kreiter had purchased a farm near Hecla and after the wedding took his bride to that town, she remaining at a hotel in the town most of the time, while Kreiter stayed on the farm getting the house in readiness for occupancy. She went to a dance last Friday night, which she claimed aroused her husband's jealousy. On Sunday she went out to the farm and the day passed peacefully, but at night as they were about to go to bed they got to quarreling and she claims Kreiter attacked her with a butcher knife, threatening to kill her. She says she grabbed the knife and in the struggle it was plunged into Kreiter's body, penetrating the lungs.

The couple rushed to a next door neighbor, who wanted to take Kreiter to a doctor in town, but Kreiter refused, saying he wanted to die. A doctor was telephoned for, but Kreiter was dead when he arrived.

**Mrs. Caroline Bare.** Neligh, Neb., Feb. 21.—Special to The News: Another one of Antelope county's old settlers passed away Monday morning in the person of Mrs. Caroline Bare, who died at the home of her son, Abe Bare, at Greelan Bend, being 78 years of age. Funeral services were held at the First Congregational church in this city. Rev. Dr. Beach officiated. Burial was held in Laurel Hill cemetery.

**Rebels Kill a Police Chief.** Andrade, Calif., Feb. 22.—Twenty-six insurgents from Mexico began shooting up Algodones, a small town in Mexico opposite this place. The chief of police was killed and a Mexican customs officer seriously wounded. The rebel bullets caused a panic among the inhabitants.

**"BILLY" KEARNEY IS DEAD.** Sioux City Journal: "Billy," the 2-year-old son of Edward T. Kearney of Jackson, Neb., died at St. Joseph hospital Tuesday morning at 1:40. The child had been in the hospital for some time. Mr. Kearney is a banker at Jackson and "Billy" was his only boy. The body will be held at the hospital until Wednesday morning, when the funeral will be held in the hospital chapel at 8:15 o'clock, after which the remains will be sent to Jackson for interment.

the result that Carl Teske came out a winner by a good portion of the land. After the father's death one sister received a quarter section of the land and the other sister, who previously refused the land and wanted the cash \$1,000, found that the land was more valuable and is now claiming that Carl Teske promised her a quarter section of the land. This is the case Teske was to have testified in, and this case will probably wind up the Teske estate cases.

Carl Teske was taken to the hospital some time ago. Monday Attorney Tyler visited Teske in his room at the hospital. He was accompanied by Dr. Dishong, Mr. Teske failed to recognize Mr. Tyler, who seemed greatly surprised when Teske asked him whether or not he knew the captain of the ship on which he had crossed the Atlantic. Of course the attorney did not, and this seemed a great joke to Teske, who laughed and said he didn't either. It was soon evident from other ramblings of the farmer that his testimony on the stand would be of no value and the attorney left the hospital.

WEDNESDAY WRINKLES.

D. D. Brunson of Ewing was here. A. D. Fellers of Fullerton was here. H. E. Stormont of Oakland was in the city.

F. J. Webb of Emerson was a visitor in the city.

M. H. Leahy of Pierce was a visitor in the city.

Misses Lenora Hans and Mabel Brecher of Battle Creek were visitors in the city.

George Krumm of Tilden was a visitor in the city.

Joseph Skaley of Madison was a visitor in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Bishop of Fairfax were in the city.

J. L. Everett of Nebraska City was in the city on business.

J. H. Beemer and J. E. James of Wakefield were in the city.

Miss Minnie Brausch went to Valentine to visit with friends.

William Ahlman went to Omaha to attend the automobile show.

Mrs. Otto Maurer of Spencer was in the city visiting with Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Christiansen.

Miss Emma Brausch went to Lincoln and Omaha to spend a few days' visit with friends.

Mrs. C. P. Christiansen returned from Madison, where she spent a short visit with relatives.

Mrs. F. I. Russell and children of Livingston, Mont., are in the city visiting with her daughter, Mrs. Millard Green.

Rev. D. C. Colgrove went to Omaha to attend a committee meeting of the Episcopal diocesan commission which meets in Omaha today.

New gum slot machines are to be installed in several stores in the city. The Presbyterian Aid society will meet with Mrs. Percy all day tomorrow for work. A full attendance is desired.

Members of the Christ Lutheran church will give an entertainment at the school house on South Fifth street Friday night.

A mandolin club has been organized by a number of firemen who have surprised their brother firemen by entertaining them at a rehearsal Tuesday evening.

Ed Monroe, the fire driver, has organized a quartet among the fire fighters and the practice of these singers kept a number of the councilmen on pinpoints Monday evening.

John Robinson, after being able to be out of bed for one day after a week's illness, found it again necessary to take to his bed Tuesday on account of a second attack of the grip.

Fred Boche, Nebraska's giant who is suffering from an attack of appendicitis, was visited by a number of friends Tuesday, who report that Mr. Boche's condition is somewhat improved and that an operation will not be necessary.

Organizer C. A. Pray of the Owls reports that he now has sufficient applications for membership and will "dopt" a class in the Sons of Hermann hall Thursday night. The public is invited to be present at this meeting when he will deliver a lecture.

Veget's Beethoven quartette returned from Plainview, where they gave a concert. Among the quartet were: Professor Otto Veget, Misses Marion Gow, Carrie Thompson and Ruth Beebe. Miss Laura Durland accompanied the young ladies and acted as chaperone. The party were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Correll.

The Norfolk Board of Charity directors held their first annual meeting Tuesday night in the office of the Durland Trust company. Permanent officers were elected, but the public announcement of these officers is being temporarily withheld on account of their not yet being confirmed by several members of the directors' committee.

William Smith, who was taken seriously ill with rheumatism when he entered the Keleher saloon at the Junction, where he is employed as bartender, is reported no better. A large number of friends have decided that Mr. Smith should go to Excelsior Springs, Mo., for treatment, and they are endeavoring to make preparations to take him there.

Tramps in Norfolk do not go hungry when calling for food at the back door of some Norfolk residences. Mrs. Charles Rice fed one of this class Tuesday and before the weary Willie finished his attack on the hospitable table he had made a record. An enormous amount of meat and bread, three bowls of soup and five cups of coffee constituted this man's meal. This did not include the "trimmings."

C. B. Durland has received word from Yankton, S. D., reporting the death at Washington, D. C., of Mrs. John Nichol, jr. Funeral services and interment took place at Yankton, the home of Mrs. Nichol. Mr. Nichol is well known in Norfolk, having attended the public schools. He is now employed in the navy department at Washington. Mrs. Nichol before marrying attended the Yankton college.

"About the time The News came out last night telling about my knowing who stole my dog," says Ed Hans, the artist, "the dog suddenly appeared in my yard. I am glad it's back. It cost me \$25." This valuable dog was brought from Schuyler by the artist a few days ago and was greatly admired by many people. The day after its arrival it was stolen and Mr. Hans declared he had a clue to its whereabouts. When this became public the dog was returned.

A man arrived in the city with a crutch and a supply of shoe strings and lead pencils. He is selling the latter two articles and the crutch he is endeavoring to use with much difficulty. A number of citizens were surprised to see him forget to use the crutch at various times, and one declares he was surprised at hearing a man in this gentleman's position remark that he lost more money at a card party Tuesday night than any Norfolk native has seen.

Many exceptions are being taken to Mayor Friday's speech before the council Monday night. One Norfolk citizen who was quoted by the mayor in his harangue as paying but \$75 taxes declares his taxes reach the \$600 mark and others who were misrepresented in the matter of tax payments by the mayor feel indignant that they should be. The mayor's information on these taxes is probably without foundation, according to one councilman, who says the mayor's every quotation on this subject was wrong.

City Physician J. H. Mackay would come back to Norfolk if he could be assured that he would not meet a blizzard here. According to a letter received from that official by City Clerk Ed Harter, Dr. and Mrs. Mackay are enjoying their visit in Texas, and from the doctor's letter it is not probable that he will return here for some time. "Everything is strictly cash here," he says in his letter, "so send me what the city owes me. After going around in my shirt sleeves for so long I am afraid to come back for fear of sticking my head into a blizzard."

Rev. John Melmaker of the Baptist church held short services at the Sessions & Bell undertaking parlors at 10:20 Wednesday morning over the remains of George Loan, who died here Tuesday morning. Many floral tributes were brought by friends and both the Masons and Odd Fellows acted as pallbearers. After the services the remains were put aboard a Union Pacific train and taken to Grand Island, where services and interment will take place. Mrs. Loan, her son George Loan, Jr., Miss Loan, a sister of Mr. Loan, and M. C. Hazen, master of the local Masonic lodge, accompanied the remains to Grand Island. The pallbearers were: S. H. Grant, M. P. Suter, D. Rees, M. L. Ogden, J. W. White, O. Rish.

"Lost" Ad Finds Dog. A want ad came to the rescue of another dog owner. V. V. Light lost a terrier pup last Friday. Yesterday he put a "lost" ad in The News and within an hour the little dog was restored to its rightful owner.

Smile at Friday Talk. The ridiculous self-promoting political harangue delivered by Mayor Friday to the city council on Monday night, is the political topic of the day in Norfolk, the brazen self-praise of the mayor in a city council meeting calling forth smiles upon all sides.

The "speech" is characterized by both democrats and republicans as a little bit of "best farce comedy" that ever held the boards at a city council meeting. Not only is it laughed at as an outrageous violation of all ethics governing political office, but the inflated egotism expressed in the whole ungrammatical effort gives cause for considerable merriment.

The idea of the mayor that he is indispensable in his present capacity to the city of Norfolk, and that Norfolk never made any progress until he became its executive head, and can not now ambly along without him as its guiding hand, has caused no end of comment.

thing and another, in his speech, caused some consternation. The idea that a city's mayor should belittle himself and humiliate his community by this kind of political tactics, did not meet with favor, even among members of his own party.

**The Eagles May Build This Year.** At a meeting of the Eagles held Monday night the construction of a \$20,000 building on that order's property on Norfolk avenue and Third street was discussed. It is reported that the outcome of the meeting was that the order would start the construction of this building early this coming summer. The Eagles thought seriously last year of commencing operations on this building, but there is no doubt in the minds of several members that the building will go up this year.

**A Clyde Fitch Comedy Coming.** Clyde Fitch's best comedy, "Girls," will on Tuesday of next week introduce to Norfolk theatergoers a new kind of stage girl.

Unlike many we have seen who, no matter how natural they may seem, are never quite able to make the audience lose sight of the grease paint and glamor of footlights, these girls—there are three of them—are said to be the real thing. They do not act, they do not speak lines and do things arranged by someone else; they simply live in public the private life of a trio of bachelor girls who swear frequently to be independent of men, and whose oaths are broken since the first woman made up her mind she could live without the first man, and then found she couldn't.

The play opens in a studio shared by the three independent manhaters. It gives the spectator a graphic picture of how it is possible to live and keep up appearances on a small and uncertain income. Even the way in which a studio—which is also a living room, dining room and kitchen—is converted into a sleeping apartment for three by the making up of a folding bed, a sofa and a Morris chair, is depicted with a realism that includes not only the donning of night robes, but a glimpse of pink toes peeping from beneath the coverlet. It is at this rather inopportune moment that the man who afterwards causes all the trouble appears on the scene. He enters hotly from the hall for the purpose of escaping a jealous husband, who, as the young man is really the hero of the play, is of course to have no grounds for his jealousy. Before this comes out, however, the young man escapes across an air-shaft on a bridge hastily improvised from a mantel board, but his brief stay is longer than he intended, and he is obliged to remain long enough to witness the future of the delightful Adamless Eden. A theatrical manager and a law clerk complete the work begun by the hero, and at the end of the third act it is very evident that the "To Let" sign will replace the belongings of the bachelor ladies almost immediately. Clyde Fitch has always known how to transplant real women from the various grades of life to the stage where his plays have been seen, but in "Girls" it is said he has outdone himself in this, his best line.

This is a high grade attraction and will play at prices from 50c to \$1.50.

**Friday's Hobby is Put to Sleep.** Mayor Friday's pet scheme to establish a municipal electric light plant with which to illuminate the streets of Norfolk, by calling a special election to vote \$55,000 bonds, was put to sleep at a meeting of the city council last night.

Councilman Dolin, whose absence two weeks ago was given as the mayor's excuse for delaying action at that time, was present and voted against the proposition. Those voting against it were: Blakeman, Coleman, Dolin and Kauffman. Those voting for it were: Wintor, Fuesler, Fischer and Koerber.

This is the measure which the mayor or personally championed, circulating the petition in favor of the proposition himself and bringing all his official influence to bear upon those he solicited to sign, many of whom afterwards withdrew their names from the document when they had given the matter serious consideration and first declared it necessary for the first step.

This is probably the most strenuous effort ever made by the mayor, and its utter failure to meet the approval of the council or the city, shows a lack of confidence in the business judgment of the mayor that will probably give that gentleman cause for reflection for some time.

**Move for Better Street Lighting.** A movement for better street lighting was set on foot when the council adopted Kauffman's motion that the public works committee should go over the situation and formulate plans for lighting the streets, reporting at the next meeting.

Before putting the light plant resolution to a vote, the mayor indulged in a political speech by which he apparently hoped to get votes for his hobby. In the course of this address he gave expression to these ideas:

"I'm the Only Real Mayor." That no other mayor of Norfolk had ever done anything for the city excepting himself.

He took exception to the published story that he would seek re-election on an independent ticket if the democrats failed to renominate him. He declared that the democrats would renominate him and that he would be elected. But he was incidentally if they fail to select him as their candidate.

The reason why he wants to be mayor again, he said, is to get municipal ownership of the light plant.

**Attacks New Norfolk Industry.** He attacked a new Norfolk industry, the Norfolk Oil & Chemical works, which enterprise he continually dubbed "a grease box." He was against it, he said, because it would "take business away from local business men" (which, of course, is a ridiculously untrue statement, and all the

more ridiculous when coming from the mayor of the city in a political speech to the council). He declared with some gusto that he had subscribed \$10 to the Commercial club's fund for buying a site for this industry, forgetting to mention that he at first flatly refused to give a penny and then some time afterward concluded to sign (perhaps for political reasons) but not until various business men had pleaded with him.

**Raps Commercial Club.** He attacked the present Commercial club, declaring that three years ago the club had the best president it ever had or ever will have and that the present "ring" so discouraged that president that he left the city.

As more argument why he must be re-elected mayor, he declared: "I know more about city business than old man Huse or the whole Huse family."

He said he knew where the blind pig east of town is, but that it was outside the city limits and up to the county attorney.

"What improvements have been done in this town besides those under my administration? There were none.

"My ambition to be mayor was to get gutters on Norfolk avenue. We needed them bad and we got them. The man that put them in beat us on them by not putting them in right."

"I'm accused of trying to drive a new industry out of town. I only done what people asked me to do.

"I guarantee the democrats will renominate me for mayor. I am going to run and I will be nominated."

—Extracts from Mayor Friday's political speech made to the city council.

Before the municipal light resolution was put to a vote a number of the councilmen kept a fire of questions going at the mayor as to whether or not the passage of this resolution would mean that the council would call a special election to vote bonds for the plant. The mayor declared not, and it looked as if he wished to railroad the resolution through and to smooth it over by making the council believe that it had nothing to do whatever with the starting of the municipal plant. But the members of the council were not satisfied and they finally drew out of the city engineer that the passing of this resolution was the first step toward a municipal plant, and then Mayor Friday, looking about the room in search of some one, declared now was the time for any remarks on the plant, that the resolution was about to be voted upon.

E. A. Bullock in a few words declared that at present there was not room in Norfolk for two electric light plants and asked the mayor if the council did not pass the resolution could he (the mayor) mandamus that body.

"I can mandamus them to call a special election," said the mayor, "whether they pass this resolution or not." Then again differing with the city attorney's decision that the resolution was a first step in the way of a new light plant he said, "but this resolution has nothing to do with it whatever."

"Mr. Mayor," said Councilman Coleman, "I take exception to one remark you made in your talk. That's about people in my ward coming to me and protesting against the chemical plant. I did not know anything about the plant being built until one of my brother councilmen told me about it. And about the municipal lighting plant, I will say that at the present time I am opposed to it. Not because I belong to any certain clique, but because I think I am doing it for the good of the people. And for your information, Mr. Mayor, you will find me against it first, last, and all the time."

Councilman Dolin was also up in arms against the plant. When he asked why a resolution adopting a plant not yet built was necessary to be voted on before an election for bonds, the mayor then remarked it was for the purpose of "making it legal," and the city attorney again declared it necessary for the first step.

"Mr. Mayor," said Councilman Dolin, "I am not ready to vote on this question now. We are in no position for it at the present time, and I have to have more time before I can say yes or no. We are now in debt about \$99,000 and we have to accumulate a second fund to pay the interest and bonds. I would like the councilmen who started this resolution to withdraw and give us more time to consider the proposition. I am not going to either way."

Then a long pause followed before launching the resolution for a vote, during which Councilman Kauffman declared some action should be taken one way or the other toward getting better street lighting. Roll call followed with all councilmen voting against the mayor's pet resolution with the exception of Wintor, Fuesler, Fischer and Koerber.

"I guess the motion is lost, Mr. clerk," said the mayor to City Clerk Harter, who was "on the job" in spite of the fact that he underwent a very serious operation on his amputated leg a few days ago.

Then several of the councilmen took up the question of better lighting for the streets, and several motions to have certain committees of the council advertise for bids or investigate the situation with a view of reporting to the council what they could do in the way of securing better light were made. Councilman Kauffman finally withdrew some of his motions and made one to the effect that the public works committee should go over the situation and formulate and propose plans for lighting the streets and report at the next meeting. In favor of this the council voted in every member.

During the efforts on the part of the few councilmen to gain this point, the

mayor put obstruction in their way by remarking that they could not contract for over \$200 per month, which brought Councilman Blakeman out with a retort that if the council had power to spend \$250 for a set of light plants, why could they not make a contract for the lighting of the streets for over \$200.

E. A. Bullock made a statement before the council that he stood ready to furnish Norfolk with light for about cost if not at cost, and although he was about to expend \$3,000 by removing his poles from Norfolk avenue, he would do all he could for the city's welfare and he felt sure that competitors for the lighting of the streets would do the same.

He charged all other mayors of Norfolk, excepting himself, with doing nothing for the city. Nothing was done for the improvements of the town, he said, until he was elected. He took exception to the announcement made Monday that he would be a candidate on the independent ticket should the democrats fail to renominate him. He guaranteed that the democrats would renominate him, but he did not say he would not take an independent nomination. His ambition to be mayor, he said, was to get gutters placed on Norfolk avenue. The gutters were used but a few years and had to be torn out. He blamed this on the city engineer of that time. The blind pig on East Norfolk avenue, he said, should be looked after by the county attorney. His explanation of the coming of the Norfolk Oil and Chemical factory here was received with smiles by several councilmen and spectators. He accused the factory of taking business away from local business men, which is not true, and declared he did not see why we should put up with a company which competes with people here. He declared he subscribed with the Commercial club \$10 to buy a lot for this factory, but he did not say that he was probably the last to sign and once he had refused to sign and did so after several attempts and arguments were made with him by several boarders.

In his speech the mayor attacked Mr. Kauffman who, he said, made a statement to the effect that the people living in the territory of the first proposed site of the oil factory should move out if they did not like it. This brought a protest from Mr. Kauffman's corner and he demanded an apology, saying he had made no such remark.

The party at Montague is orderly. Fresno, Calif., Feb. 21.—In a conference at the county jail with city officials members of the Industrial Workers of the World sent there for violating the speaking ordinance, rejected a compromise offered them. It was proposed that they should be released if they would confine their speech-making to county property within the city and refrain from congregating and speaking on the streets. They refused to accede to this and announced that they would continue their crusade.

**Fly Twelve Miles, Five Minutes.** Tampa, Fla., Feb. 21.—In a twelve-mile speed test between Lincoln Beachy and J. A. D. McCurdy in which the new Belmont seventy-horsepower machines were tried, Beachy defeated McCurdy about half a mile.

The time was a fraction over five minutes, unofficial.

**HE OBEYED THE BURGLAR.** Railroad President Tells Why He Lay Still, as Commanded. Cleveland, Feb. 21.—"I couldn't say that I was terrified that I felt that discretion was the better part of valor, so I lay perfectly still as I was commanded to do," said President W. H. Canfield of the Nickel Plate railroad in relating his experience with a burglar at his home at 2:45 o'clock a. m.

President Canfield awoke just in time to see the burglar, with a revolver and electric flashlight, enter the room. Simultaneously with the awakening, the burglar threw the flashlight onto Mr. Canfield and jumped toward him with revolver pointed at his head.

The burglar cut the wire of the telephone and kept on backing to a dresser on which stood a jewel case, from which he took several rings valued at \$150. He then backed out of the room and disappeared.

**Manila Carnival Is On.** Manila, Feb. 21.—Manila's annual carnival opened today. Thousands came in from the provinces and as usual there were many visitors from China and Japan. The most novel feature was the first flight in the orient made by J. C. Mars, the New York aviator who sailed aloft in a Baldwin biplane. The exhibition excited the keenest interest. The spectacular military and civic pageant has never been surpassed here. The industrial exhibits are creditable to the promoters and the illuminations tonight were on a large scale and pleasing.

**Russia Mobilizing Troops.** St. Petersburg, Feb. 21.—A dispatch from Harbin says that Russian troops are being concentrated at Kikhta, a settlement in Siberia close to the Chinese frontier and opposite the Chinese town of Miamachin. Orders have been issued to strengthen the watch on the frontier.

The Chinese residents of Mongolia have received orders from Peking to mobilize the banner troops.

**Train in a Ditch.** Pullsada, Nev., Feb. 21.—Southern Pacific train No. 10, eastbound, known as the China-Japanese fast mail, which left San Francisco at 9 o'clock last night, went into the ditch shortly after 9 o'clock and a half miles west of here. No one was killed but a number of passengers are reported injured.

**Must be Labor Party.** Indianapolis, Feb. 21.—"A constructive progressives, radical labor party must soon enter the field of politics against the republican and democratic

parties," said Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a speech to members of the Indiana legislature. "The republican party if it remains as it is now, will represent power of wealth," continued Mr. Gompers, "and the democratic party will compete with it for the same leadership unless the democrats turn to the people to lead them out of bondage."

**Death of Vac Tomek.** Niobrara, Neb., Feb. 21.—Special to The News: Vac Tomek, one of the early Bohemian settlers of Knox county, died Sunday morning after an illness of several months' duration. Since the death of his wife some years ago he has made his home in Niobrara with his daughter, Mrs. Vac Vlasnik. He is survived by two sons, Vac Tomek of Lynch, Neb.; two daughters, Mrs. Vac Vlasnik and Mrs. F. Opocensky of this place, and several grand children. The funeral will be held Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock from the Z. C. B. T. hall.

**NOW BURNING THE BODIES.** Fatalism of Chinese Regarding Cremation, Has Been Overcome. Pekin, Feb. 21.—There is noticeable activity by the Chinese government to stave the spread of the plague and sanitary measures are being strictly enforced in all the towns where a few weeks ago the disease was allowed full swing. Instructions have been issued that every village burns its dead.

The panic and fear of the plague have overridden the Chinese superstition over the cremation of the bodies of the victims and now almost daily the torch is applied to piles of hastily constructed coffins among which are often seen bodies wrapped only in shrouds. In Kwang-Changting, near the Manchurian railway, where the daily death list has numbered more than 100, masked men go about with sleds and pick up the bodies lying in the streets where they have been placed by relatives. The sleds transport them to the west gate and from there they are removed in carts to the cremation grounds.

A correspondent who visited Hulan, thirty miles north of Harbin found that the town was sorely afflicted. For many weeks the governor, with the customary fatalism, was indifferent to the awful work of the plague. He has now been suddenly aroused into activity and, clad in mask and bandages, personally supervises the cremation of the accumulated bodies.

In one village near by, where formerly seventy people lived, there are now thirty-four, the other thirty-six having died of the plague and been cremated.

**MORE HOBSON WAR TALK.** Merrimac Hero Paints Gloomy Picture of Our Unpreparedness. Washington, Feb. 21.—Saying Japan is now "hard up" because that government has already financed her next war, Representative Hobson in the house drew a gloomy picture of the unpreparedness of the United States for war.

He said the government was in such a state of unreadiness that it would have to fight the equivalent of three wars before really beginning war on a prepared basis.

Mr. Hobson predicted that the Panama canal would never be used by this government in war time because it would either not become completed and adequate means would be found to violate its use instantly upon a declaration of war. He pictured Japanese occupancy of the Philippines, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, Alutian islands, Alaska, Puget Sound and other parts of the United States and its possessions.

**Alfalfa Show for Creighton.** Creighton, Neb., Feb. 21.—Special to The News: Under the joint auspices of the C. & N. W. and the Creighton Commercial club, the alfalfa model farm, which was on exhibition at the Omaha land show, will be on exhibition at Green's hall Wednesday, February 22. The Northwestern will bring the exhibit here on a special train, and Creighton will be the only point between Norfolk and Bonesteel which will be favored with the exhibit.

The excursion will be in charge of Prof. Hunt of the University of Nebraska, who will deliver a series of lectures on the preparation of the soil, seeding, growing and harvesting, and the many ways in which a crop of alfalfa may be utilized to the advantage of the farmer.

**REPORT MEXICAN BATTLE.** Ninety Rebels Reported to Have Been Killed—No Confirmation. Mexico City, Feb. 21.—El Diario published a special under El Paso date that in an encounter between revolutionists led by Enrique Flores Magon and a force under General Navarro near Guadalupe more than ninety rebels were killed and many wounded. No mention was made of federal losses.

The fighting was said to have continued all morning, the rebels retreating when they found themselves nearly surrounded by Navarro's men. No confirmation of the news was to be had here. Guadalupe is twelve miles south of Juarez. At the office of the national railway it was said that the through railway train service via Juarez has been resumed.

San Diego, Calif., Feb. 21.—A telephone message from Tia Juana on the American side of the international line says that an American, suspected of being an insurgent, was arrested and thrown into the cuartel at Tia Juana on the Mexican side. Sylvio Blanco, a Mexican resident of the place, protested without avail to the police against the arrest. The name of the prisoner cannot be learned.