

NEBRASKA NEWS.

Silas Springer, thirty-seven years a resident of Douglas county, and for thirty-four years in one precinct, died last week.

Morgan Rice, a young man formerly residing at Dixon, but now of Wakefield, attempted suicide by taking a dose of poison.

Tom Smith, foreman of the Lavery cattle ranch, four miles northeast of Ashland, was accidentally thrown into a feed grinder and had his left leg terribly mangled.

Exceter proposes having an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration, with as good an orator as can be found in the west.

While breaking a colt Jesse Foster, residing ten miles north of St. Francis, aged 27 years, was violently thrown to the ground and sustained injuries which will undoubtedly prove fatal. His spine was dislocated and an arm broken.

The city council of Kearney by a vote of 5 to 3 rejected the business men's petition to grant a saloon license, also the petition of the citizens to call a special election and take another vote on the question of license or no license.

At the last regular session of the Platte county court the most important business transacted was the passing by a unanimous vote an ordinance providing that all telephone wires on Main street be carried in cables under the sidewalks.

Eighteen years ago Sunday the little village of Wynora was incorporated. At that time there was little more than the name to indicate that a town was located on the site.

Nebraska county has at last forever settled a long and vexatious question. It was repeatedly voted on a question of a court house. By a majority vote of about 800 the citizens of the county voted bonds, according to the provisions of the county constitution, to the amount of \$40,000, 4 1/2 per cent, running five years, with option to pay the principal in two, three, four or five years.

Much comment has been occasioned by the recent newspaper dispatches to the effect that the entire winter wheat crop was a failure in Platte county. Diligent inquiries of reliable farmers show that while there is an absolute failure in certain localities not to exceed 45 per cent of the winter wheat crop of Platte county should come in.

A reception and banquet was given the boys of company H, Third Nebraska, at Stromberg. A musical and literary program was rendered at the opera house. The banquet was held in the spacious dining room of the Park hotel. A number of the boys had not arrived home, but about sixty of the bronzed young soldiers sat around the tables and went through an elaborate bill of fare.

The three-year-old daughter of S. Carson, living at Eden, was instantly killed by being stepped upon by a heavy horse. The horses had been turned loose in an open field on the highway to the barnyard to feed upon the grass. Towards night the boys went to drive them out to feed them again. In so frolicking and out of the control of the driver, the girl with results already given.

John Singer, who lives south of Webster City, died last week. He was wrestling in a spirit of fun with his brother and sister on a vacant ground in such a way that his ankle was so wrenched that it produced lockjaw. The actions of the injured man were something terrible. He would throw his head back and finally in great misery, with a convulsive movement, every muscle and bone set, and he died.

A trip of about four hundred miles overland through Nebraska, from Creighton, revealed the fact that winter wheat is almost an absolute failure. Nearly every field sown to wheat last fall is being plowed and planted to corn. The pieces are still standing, but look as though they would hardly yield the amount of seed sown to the acre. Other crops are looking very prosperous, corn mostly planted and some fields coming up.

The Commercial club of Tekamah has in form a definite proposition to take the proposed Sioux City & Omaha railroad, with the Chicago & Northwestern system.

Sheriff Simmering of Adams county and an officer from Webster county have succeeded in unearthing a robbery roost near Rosemont and recovered about \$1,200 worth of stolen goods. The officers placed Bill Leveh, a Rosemont merchant, under arrest, and have strong evidence which implicates him with the gang. It is thought he is one of the head men of the organization and that he simply ran the store to dispose of the stolen goods.

Morgan Rice of Wakefield committed suicide by drinking concentrated cyanide. He had been in ill health some time and was despondent. Deceased was aged about 35 years and unmarried.

A well developed case of smallpox was discovered in the Union Pacific yards at Columbus. A man about 22 years of age was found in a private car suffering with the dread disease. Permission was obtained from the railroad company to use a vacant section house located in the east of town, where the patient was taken and also a couple who were found with him. The strictest quarantine has been established and the premises guarded by two soldiers.

Ames J. Miller, a farmer living near Brushaw, is a firm believer that it pays to farm in York county. He sold a 14-months-old calf for \$32.

Contractor C. R. Cushman, of Omaha, began last week excavating for the new \$12,000 school building last week at Wakefield. It is to be completed in time for the fall term of school. It will be a two-story, eight-room building with central tower, and finished in the most modern style. The grounds comprise a handsome block in the center of town, and with the new structure completed Wakefield will have the best school facilities of any town in northeast Nebraska.

PENSION BUREAU WORK

Nebraska's Junior Senator Seeks Information.

COMMISSIONER EVANS RESPONDS.

Work of the Department Explained in All Its Details—Modes Operated of Service Rates—Expense Operated of Obtaining Pensions—Fees of Attorneys and Rating for Disabled.

Senator M. L. Hayward has received a lengthy communication from Commissioner H. Clay Evans of the pension bureau at Washington concerning the work of the pension department, the people employed there and the manner in which the pension claims are handled.

The commissioner explains in detail the work of the department and gives much information of value to Grand Army men. The Nebraska department of the Grand Army of the Republic will have the letter published in the official organ and distributed among all the old soldiers of the state.

Commissioner Evans tells first, the people employed in the bureau. There are 1,741 employees in the department of which 566 are ex-union soldiers, and of these 482 are drawing pensions in addition to the salaries. The board of review is now organized in compliance of one chief, two assistant chiefs, five chiefs of sections and 110 reviewers. The chief of the board is Colonel F. S. Stephenson, who served during the entire war of the rebellion as captain in the Forty-eighth Illinois and later in the Twenty-third and Fifty-second Illinois infantry. He was severely wounded and is a pensioner for that reason.

Of the 110 reviewers seventy are ex-union soldiers. A large proportion of the men employed on the board of review have been connected with the pension department in different capacities for from twenty to thirty-five years.

The medical division, whose work is to settle all medical questions, especially rates of pension, consists of a medical referee, an assistant medical referee and two qualified surgeons. Two principal examiners and forty-three medical examiners. The board of review in connection with the medical division is charged with the adjustment and settlement of all claims and their action is generally final on all questions involved. The commissioner does not see one in a hundred of the claims that receive the attention of the legal and medical boards.

During the first nine months of the present fiscal year 61,000 pension certificates have been issued, divided as follows: Original under the act of 1890, 4,594; original under the act of 1890, 22,227; increase and reissue, 9,747; restoration and renewal, 1,577; under the act of 1890, increase and reissue, 10,855; restoration and renewal, 1,556; accrued pensions, 8,661; duplicates, 2,902.

All of the employees of the pension department are under the protection of the civil service law. The majority of them are known to be republicans. There are about 33 employees who are known to be democrats.

Commissioner Evans adds the following additional information bearing upon the subject of Senator Hayward's line of inquiry. There are no doubt aware of the fact that order No. 164, which was promulgated October 15, 1890, was substantially revoked by Assistant Secretary Bussey on January 7, 1893, in very positive terms, and that all disabilities under the act of 1890 were rated the same as those of service origin. Your attention is also invited to the act of 1890 with reference to claims for disability which grants pensions only to those who are without other means of support than their manual labor. In cases of invalid claimants it is held by the department that disabilities under the act of 1890 are placed by that act upon a different basis for rating than those under the general law. Under the general law disabilities are pensionable without regard to the date of the act of 1890 and are graded without reference to this condition, while disabilities under the act of 1890 are only pensionable when the disability is labor joined with incapacity to earn support, and the grades of rating are dependent upon these two conditions. The bureau has been extensively criticized for adhering to the act of 1890 in cases where disabilities are confined strictly to the execution of the law as I find it impossible to grant relief in cases that do not come within the rule.

Greedy Center dispatch: Yesterday evening between 4 and 6 o'clock John Gannon, the 17-year-old son of Thomas Gannon, residing near this town, went out into the field about a quarter of a mile from the home to dig out a badge that was buried in his hole, taking with him two large dogs.

After 6 o'clock his two brothers went after the badge and passed near the place where Gannon got the badge and scratching the hole. Reach the spot they found their brother's hole larger than it was and the hole larger than it was and the dirt from off his body and head and had it completely removed when found by his brothers, but life was extinct.

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Elliot C. Brown, manager of the National Sheep and Cattle company, one of the best known stockmen of Nebraska and Wyoming, was drowned in Indian creek near Harrison, Neb., while attempting to ford it on horseback. Mr. Brown was one of the famous Rough Riders under Colonel Grigsby, and distinguished himself in the Mississippi wreck last summer, when he saved many lives.

THE LAWS OF WARFARE

They Are Considered by The Peace Conference.

CAN EVILS OF WAR BE CURED?

A Revision of Geneva Convention Possible—Morgner Scheme for Its Modification May Be Submitted—Conference May Be Limited to Eight Points of Original Circular—Plan Considers Treatment of Wounded.

THE HAGUE, May 26.—Both sections of the committee on the laws of warfare of the peace conference met separately today and began the examination of the subject of the Geneva convention, the Red Cross section discussing paragraph No. 5, and paragraph No. 4 of the circular of Count Muraviev, Russian minister of foreign affairs, and the Morgner scheme, known as the Morgner scheme.

Both sections met subsequently and discussed the question of competence as regards the scheme for the revision of the Geneva convention, known as the Morgner scheme.

The Morgner scheme comprises modification of the Geneva convention in connection with wounded and sick prisoners, members of the military hospital service, convalescents for the wounded, ambulances, hospitals, property belonging to neutral persons, religious and medical staffs and all other persons connected with the military service equally to land and sea warfare.

It was proposed to submit the scheme to another committee for revision and question was then raised as to the scope of the conference. The committee took with the matter. Those who took a negative view argued that the conference had decided in principle and all the governments represented in the conference should be submitted to the conference beyond the eight points in the circular of Count Muraviev. They contended that if the conference once intruded this rule, a precedent would be created, leading to numerous difficulties, including probably the springing of the Armenian, Macedonian and similar questions upon the conference.

As a matter of fact, there is no man who enlisted in the war with Spain. He was drawing a pension under the act of 1890 at \$10—he had formerly drawn a pension for slight disability under the general law, but he fell into the hands of an attorney and made application for reinstatement under the general law and took a claim for disability incurred in the war with Spain. A check was made as he was pensioned for under the act of 1890. This would have given the attorney the man the \$10 pension that he was drawing when he enlisted.

Under what is known as the general law the attorney gets a fee of \$25. Under the act of 1890 his fee is only \$10. It has got to be quite a custom with attorneys to file a claim under the act of 1890, get the pension allowed under that law and then file a claim under the general law, so they will get two fees. I had a case, for instance, the other day regarding a man who enlisted in the war with Spain. He was drawing a pension under the act of 1890 at \$10—he had formerly drawn a pension for slight disability under the general law, but he fell into the hands of an attorney and made application for reinstatement under the general law and took a claim for disability incurred in the war with Spain. A check was made as he was pensioned for under the act of 1890. This would have given the attorney the man the \$10 pension that he was drawing when he enlisted.

The citizens of Hastings gave a public reception and banquet at the court house in honor of the boys of company K, Third Nebraska volunteer infantry, who have returned home from service in Cuba. The demonstration was gotten up for the purpose of showing the appreciation of the people for their loyalty to the government in time of need and devotion to their country's flag. At 2:30 p. m. the members of company K formed in line at Grand Army hall and headed by the Second regiment band and escorted by the Hastings high school band and members of the Grand Army marched through the principal business streets, stopping finally at the court house, which had been prepared for the occasion.

The guests were welcomed and served with a repast.

The address of welcome was delivered by Dr. Abbott, of the M. E. church, and the M. E. church responded on behalf of his soldiers' organization. Hon. R. A. Batty acted as toastmaster. The toast to be given to the boys was as follows: "The Western Soldier." Hon. J. N. Hart, secretary of the Governor General Brooke at El Velez today that 200 Cubans of the command of General Rodriguez, near Havana, dispersed yesterday, after resolving not to take the \$750,000. Some of them sold their arms and others took them to their homes.

Telegrams from different points say the Cuban army of the western provinces will adopt the idea of the troops in the orient, declining to give up their arms or to accept American money for their services. The government employees will contribute a percentage of their salaries in order to give the soldiers an idea of a badge that was buried in his hole, taking with him two large dogs.

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The News Briefly Told.

Michigan yesterday welcomed her last home coming regiment, the Forty-first volunteer infantry, at Detroit.

News of the wreck of a sloop, with three passengers for Juncau, was received from the coast of Alaska, near southeastern Alaska, is reported.

Carnegie & Co. have bought 50,000 tons of pig iron from the Associated blast furnaces of the Mahoning and Shenango valleys, paying \$16 per ton.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. McClernand (assistant adjutant general) has been ordered to Matanzas, Cuba, as adjutant general of that department.

The house of the Texas legislature passed its bill levying 1 per cent tax on all personal incomes in excess of \$2,000 a year. It is believed it will pass the senate.

The national grand lodge of the Masonic Templars of America, the leading colored fraternal organization of the south, has been called to convene at Newburg, Miss., July 11, in seventeenth annual session.

William Rockefeller, William G. Rockefeller, H. H. Rogers and A. C. Burrage have been elected trustees of the Anacosta Copper Company. They represent the Standard Oil interests in that corporation.

The American Glass company, the combination of window glass concerns, has issued a new list, advancing the price of its product 5 per cent to take effect June 1. This is the second advance in window glass recently.

Lieutenant Colonel Marion F. Maus, inspector general, has been relieved from further duty in Washington and ordered to San Francisco for assignment to duty as inspector of that department. Colonel Maus has been on the staff of General Miles for several years.

It is understood that among those under consideration for membership on the new isthmian canal commission are engineers from civil life are Messrs. Bogue of New York, formerly chief engineer of the Union Pacific railway; Morrison of New York, a prominent bridge engineer, and one of Chicago, at present a member of the deep water way commission.

Ex-Congressman Francis Smith Edwards, aged 82, died at his home, Dunbar, N. Y., yesterday.

Three companies of the signal corps encamped at Savannah, Ga., were mustered out of service.

The American section of theologians will begin their thirteenth annual convention today at Chicago.

William H. Thompson, Lynn, Mass.; hotelkeeper, has filed a petition in bankruptcy liabilities, \$97,000; assets, \$150.

The Cubans are dissatisfied with the present system of making laws, contending that Senor Capote and Lanuza have too much influence.

Wealthy Cubans will send a delegation to Washington to seek cancellation of the mortgage decree extending time of payment.

Major Ladd, treasurer of the customs funds at Havana, intends to begin a new system of disbursements by check, and in the United States.

David J. Field, the retired St. Louis capitalist, who on Thursday last shot and killed his negro man servant, was exonerated by the coroner's jury and discharged.

Bids were opened at the navy department Saturday for 100,000 six-pound steel shells, 12,000 three-pound and 20,000 one-pound. Awards have not yet been made.

Instead of the usual annual convention in July, the executive committee of the window glass association has decided that the wage committee shall meet in July to formulate a wage scale.

Today a horseless carriage containing the inventor, Alex. Wilson, and a companion will leave Cleveland for New York, a distance of 800 miles. The trip is expected to be made in five days.

Efforts are being made in Boston to form a corps among the prominent citizens, including all the prominent concerns east of St. Louis. Several firms have given options which expire July 1 on their plants.

Senor Domingo Mender Capote, secretary of the government at Havana, will report to General Brooke recommending general suffrage in Cuba, with certain limitations, finding educational and moral progress necessary. The deadlock over railroad taxation continues in the Michigan legislature. The senate contemplates an annual increase of \$22,000 for the honor for a \$500,000 increase. Governor Pingree thinks the senate will be forced to come to the house terms.

Monday. The big troop transports on the Pacific coast are being rapidly fitted with refrigerators.

Colonel Alfred E. Bates has reported for duty as assistant paymaster general.

President and Mrs. McKinley entertained Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair McElwain of the Brooklyn Eagle at dinner last night.

Director of Posts Vallejo at Manila has notified the postoffice department that he has established the railway post service between Manila and Malolos, the former Filipino capital. This is the initial move in the direction of building up a railway mail service in the Philippines.

It is probable that Colonel Alfred E. Bates will succeed Paymaster General Carey July 10, when Carey retires.

The Baptist annual meeting will be held at San Francisco today, and will celebrate the semi-centennial of missionary work in California.

Charles F. Brush, the inventor of the arc electric light, has been voted the Rufford medal by the American Academy of Art and Sciences.

The Cumberland Presbyterians, in session at Denver, have appointed a committee to raise \$1,000,000 for Cleveland educational institutions.

General Otis notified the war department of the death yesterday at Manila of Lieutenant Pearce C. Forester, Third infantry, of typhoid fever.

Secretary Alger has given authority to the West Point military academy to permit the resumption of football games between that institution and the naval cadets.

The navy department has called an inquiry to Admiral Dewey regarding the itinerary of the homeward cruise of the Olympia. The admiral will not leave Hong Kong much before June. Spending a part of the time in dry dock getting in shape for her 14,000 mile trip.

E. Mitchell, deputy comptroller of the treasury, has decided that retired naval officers cannot be appointed and paid as expert aid in the preparation of designs for new ships, etc., under the act of June 1. This is the second advance in window glass recently.

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