

WANTED TO FIRE THE PRISON

Origin of the Penitentiary Blaze Believed to Have Been Solved.

CONVICT MILLER DETECTED IN THE ACT

Made an Effort to Repent the Offense and is Now in Close Confinement—Contract for Furnishing Supplies to State Institutions Awarded.

Lincoln, Jan. 4.—(Special to The Bee.)—The warden at the penitentiary believes that he has at last, after many weeks of watching, located the convict who has started the fire in the workshops during the past two or three months. The man is named Miller and he was sent up from Douglas county about two years ago for a term of three years for burglary committed in Omaha. Ever since the disastrous fire last fall the warden has kept a close watch upon the men. Several weeks ago a second fire was started in the cooper shop just as the men were quitting work for the night. At that time an effort was made to locate the man who started the blaze, but it was unsuccessful. Tuesday night another fire was started, this time also in the cooper shop.

Just as the men were marching out of the shop to the cell block Miller was seen to light a fuse and drop it in a pile of rubbish. He had evidently calculated that the fuse would burn long enough to permit the men and their guards to get out of the shop before the fire was discovered. In this, however, he was mistaken, for the warden had set a man to watch for just such a move. Miller was at once placed in close confinement. He is now believed to be the man who started the fire in the laundry last fall, which resulted in the destruction of the workshops occupied by the Western Manufacturing company and other concerns.

Undertaker Roberts this morning received a telegram from the mother of W. H. A. way, the Omaha man who committed suicide in a corn field near Lincoln on New Year's day, requesting that the remains be shipped to Mt. Carroll, Ill. They were accordingly sent today. It is learned today that some three or four years ago A. H. way inherited a fortune of \$10,000 from a deceased uncle. With the money he started a bank here in Grand Island. Dissipation soon lost him his money and his business. He had friends in this city as well as in Omaha, who state that they would willingly have supplied him with funds had they been aware of his necessities.

Contracts for State Supplies.

At its meetings this week the Board of Purchase of Supplies let the contracts for supplies for the state institutions as follows: Lincoln Hospital for the Insane; Drugs, McArthur & Son; paints and oils, Western Glass and Paint; flour, W. D. Redinger; Kendall & Tefft; meats, S. W. Gettler & Bro.; coal, Whitehead Coal company; shoes, Sanderson, Schumann & Thayer; clothing, Mayer Bros.; dry goods, Miller & Paine.

Soldiers and Sailors Home at Grand Island; Meats, P. J. George; groceries, Bartenbach; groceries, Raymond Brock & Co. of Lincoln; drugs, A. J. Wilson; hardware, George D. Hertz; flour, J. F. Fredrick of St. Paul; feed, Grand Island Milling company; coal, C. H. Bogus; shoes, dry goods and clothing, S. N. Wolbach.

Institute for the Feeble Minded Youth at Beatrice; groceries, Emil Lohr, bread, Brenker Bros.; meat, J. C. Malin; coal, M. T. Cummings.

Home for the Friendless at Lincoln; Steam Fitting, W. J. Cooper and Cole Bros. oils, C. H. Mann; printing, Farnes Mickel Printing company; feed, C. C. White; bread, Knick bakery; drugs, W. D. Redinger; meat, M. L. Truster; meat, S. W. Gettler & Bro.; dry goods, Miller & Paine; coal, R. H. Oakley; all bids on better and eggs received and superintendent authorized to buy in the open market.

Industrial Home at Milford; Meats, D. A. Hark; groceries, C. J. Decker; shoes, J. Engelhaupt; shoes and dry goods, W. T. A. Cunt. All bids on flour were rejected and new proposals ordered.

Lincoln in Debt.

A young man named Frank Moore was arrested in this city this morning on a telegraphic warrant from the sheriff of Polk county, Iowa, where he is wanted for the crime of seduction. He declines to say anything about his case or intimate whether or not the charge against him was true.

GREELY COUNTY'S TREASURY.

Paper of the Retiring Official is Only Resources at Present.

CHELEBY CLEVELAND, Neb., Jan. 4.—(Special Telegram to The Bee.)—The county commissioners have brought suit against E. F. Cashman, ex-county treasurer, for the alleged embezzlement of \$24,000 of the county's money. Cashman has been standing the commissioners off with excuses for two months. The commissioners have also brought suit against Cashman's bondman to recover the amount. Cashman will be arrested tomorrow and held to answer to the charge of embezzlement. The present treasurer, H. A. Martin, who took charge of the office today, would not accept any of Cashman's paper in settlement and consequently starts out with an empty vault. This shortage, if not recovered from Cashman or his bondman, will be keenly felt by the taxpayers. This is not the first shortage in the history of Greeley county.

HIG BLAZE AT VALENTINE.

Forty-seven Thousand Dollars Worth of Merchandise Destroyed, Partly Insured.

VALENTINE, Neb., Jan. 4.—(Special Telegram to The Bee.)—About 10 o'clock last night the general merchandise store of Bryan & Jackson was discovered to be on fire and was totally destroyed in very few minutes. Mr. Jackson, who sleeps in the office, was awakened by a light explosion, when he discovered the whole rear end of the building in flames and had great difficulty in escaping. No sooner had he gotten outside than a heavy explosion took place, which blew the sides of the building out and the roof fell. This explosion was heard for several miles. Prompt action of the fire company kept the fire from spreading. Loss, \$75,000; insurance, \$2,800.

Raising Insurance Rates.

HASTINGS, Jan. 4.—(Special Telegram to The Bee.)—The local board of underwriters held a meeting this afternoon to consult in regard to the proposed raise to be made in the rates of insurance in the city. A letter from the general board was read, purporting to be signed by representatives of all the companies doing business in Hastings, making a blanket rate of 20 per cent on all

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The baptismal services were held within Hill's cell at county jail and were conducted by Rev. Father Conroy of St. John's Catholic church of this city. Hill's step of a Catholic matriculation for the past two or three weeks has thus borne fruit. A Dan representative saw the prisoner at the jail tonight and the man really seemed in better spirits than at any time since his incarceration. He stoutly asserted that he had taken this latest step in all sincerity and believed that his Maker would forgive him for killing the old farmer, Matthew Alkison. He appeared truly repentant and said that he had never contemplated such a step. A pocketknife which he smuggled into his cell was to have been the instrument used, but he gave to the priest yesterday. A small steel saw which had been secured in his shoes was also handed over.

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The hall and dining room were tastefully decorated with flags, evergreens, shields, and the regimental coat-of-arms. An elaborate supper was served at 12 and the company of men spread out hands in joyfully accommodating their guests. The commendable manner in which First Sergeant Crowley, with his assistants, Bridget, Rosebud and intervening points the hall was crowded long before the hour designated for the grand march.

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We never carry over any goods, and now that inventory is over and we know what to do, we have cut down the prices to close out the suits, overcoats and in fact everything. We show here just three samples. When you come to the store we'll show you thousands like them, not only in men's suits, but overcoats, ulsters, boys' and children's long and short pant suits, overcoats, hats, furnishings, etc.

Our \$10.00 and \$12.50 men's suits are now \$8.50. Our \$15.00 men's suits are now \$10.00. Our \$20.00 men's suits are now \$16.50. A \$1.50 Hat for \$1.00. Neckties now 75 cents. S. W. Corner 15th and Douglas Sts.

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