THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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FICTION OUTDONE BY FACT

Strange Story Concerning an Escaped Nebraska Convict.

HID TWO YEARS UNDER A SCHOOL HOUSE

Presence of the Man Had Never Been Suspected—Lived by Foraging at Night in Surrounding Country.

CHAMBERLAIN, S. D., Nov. 8.—(Special.)—In novels it is nothing strange to read of heroes or outlaws, as the case may be, living for years without detection in caves in the heart of thickly settled communities, but such cases in real life are extremely rare. Therefore interest is added to the story of Cyrus B. Miller, who escaped from the Lincoln, Neb., penitentiary, and for two years lived under a school house in the most populous portion of Blue Earth county Minnesota, without detection. His strange rendezvous would not have been discovered even then had he not for a moment lost his customary nerve and given the matter away himself. A federal official and members of his family who have returned here from a visit with relatives at Mankato, Minn., furnish the writer the details of this most remarkable case, which will come before the grand jury which convenes in that city on the 10th inst. One day last summer while Sheriff D. T. Bowen of Blue Earth county was on his way to town from a business trip in the country, while crossing a bridge some miles out, discovered a bicycle in some undergrowth near the road, its position indicating that an effort had been made to conceal it. Inquiry in town proved that the bicycle had been stolen. To discover the thief a watch was placed over it to see who would come to take it away. This resulted in the arrest of a man who gave his name as Cyrus Gray, but whose correct name has since been ascertained to be Cyrus B. Miller.

When placed in the "sweat box" he told a story that surprised the officers and which, when it became known throughout that region, attracted intense interest. His confession was in substance to the effect that for a period of two years he had secretly made his home under a school house about eight miles from Mankato. Such a story was difficult of belief, and the authorities were incredulous until the school house was visited and it was seen that the man's story was indeed correct. The structure is one-story in height and is constructed of brick. At the rear is an old-fashioned brick chimney, which, as examination proved, was of great value to Miller in successfully hiding and living for the period of two years under a public building in a thickly settled community.

DISPLAYS GREAT CUNNING.

The cunning displayed by him proves that he is one of the shrewdest criminals with whom western officers have ever had to deal. Securing access to the interior of the school house after it had been deserted by the pupils and teacher, he had skillfully removed a section of the wainscoting on the inside of the building directly opposite the chimney. The boards were sawed very carefully just under the molding, along the top and across the bottom on a level with the floor. Then, by sawing downward along the grooves between the boards, a small door was formed, which escaped detection by the pupils or other parties. The door had hooks on the inside, with which to fasten it and prevent it being opened from the school room side in the event that it was discovered while Miller was in the cave. He then dug down inside the lower part of the chimney and by this means tunneled under the school house. Here he excavated a large room and the ingenuity of this really remarkable man was again demonstrated by the method adopted to get rid of the dirt removed in order to form the room. The earth was packed between the joists holding the floor and held by boards nailed on the under side, and thus made a receptacle for the surplus dirt, as well as formed a dead wall through which no sound could penetrate to give warning to those in the room above of the presence of the fugitive.

MADE HOME-LIKE.

The room was well finished on the sides, ceiling and floor and had been neatly papered. On the walls were pasted a number of sketches made by Miller on ordinary white paper, dark strips of paint having been ran around the edges to represent frames. A large stock of books and magazines was found in this strange abode and the fact that they were all of first-class character proved that Miller was a man of some education and refinement. A stove, bed and bedding, table and other furniture and articles, as well as a full supply of cooking utensils, had been taken to the underground room to add to the comfort of the occupant. Smoke from the stove was conveyed by a stove pipe to the chimney at the rear of the school house and was thus carried away without exciting curiosity. The larger articles, such as the bed, stove, table, etc., had been lowered into the room through an opening from the school room, which had been made for the express purpose. The stove in the school room sat a short distance in front of the platform upon which the teacher had her desk. The stove had under it a large sheet of zinc. The boards forming the floor of the school room ran from the platform toward the stove. Miller sawed the boards off just under the edge of the platform and under the edge of the zinc, then sawed along the cracks at each end to connect with the former cuts and by this means made a trap door which during the two years escaped detection. This was used solely for lowering large articles into the cavern below and when not in use was securely fastened underneath. The opening through the wainscoting served for ordinary uses.

Probably the most surprised person when the subterranean retreat was discovered was the young woman who filled the position of teacher in the school. Frequently she remained alone in the school room as late as 6 o'clock in the evening waiting for a team to take her home, or to look over the lessons for the next day, and often passed the interval playing on the organ, little dreaming of the presence of a stranger within a few feet of her. During these times Miller could have ascended to a position just behind at the door through the wainscoting and listen unobserved to the music.

FORAGED HIS LIVING.

Miller obtained food by prowling through the surrounding farming country at night and robbing henroosts, taking vegetables and fruits from gardens and orchards; by taking produce from wagons found hitched anywhere in the vicinity, and by the many means which in a well settled and rich farming region makes it so easy for the person so disposed to obtain large quantities of provisions of various kinds. Frequently farmers who had at night hitched their teams in front of some country store or other place would find them missing. A day or two later they would be surprised by receiving anonymous letters telling them that if they would call at a certain place they could recover their team and wagon. Compliance with the instructions in these letters always resulted in the recovery of the missing teams and wagons. Miller's purpose in thus temporarily confiscating the teams and wagons of farmers was to haul to his retreat articles which he had secured on his foraging expeditions, but which were too large or bulky to be carried by himself. Sacks of flour and other provisions disappeared regularly from cellars and from farmers' wagons which had at night been left alone for even a minute or two in the vicinity of Miller's abode. Farmers' cows were found milked in the morning, but these depredations were laid on the tramps constantly wandering through the country and no one suspected for an instant that there was a room under the school house and that the occupant of the curious quarters was the party who was the cause of all the earnest swearing because of the disappearance of articles, provisions and chickens, the milking of cows and the numberless other depredations which were committed nearly every night.

KEPT VERY SHADY.

During the day Miller remained quietly in his retreat, only emerging after nightfall. So careful was he in his movements that a farmer and his family who lived only a short distance away from the school house never observed anything out of the way there or noted any suspicious movements. The teacher of the school never noticed a track in the school house. Miller must have been very careful in entering his cave through the school, or going from it, for there was never a track or other mark in the vicinity of the trap door, or near the opening into the chimney, that would arouse the slightest suspicion.

After the confession of Miller all the people for miles around came to see the wonderful underground home, and after a time, so intense became the curiosity of the people, the officers of the school district determined to charge a small admission fee to those wishing to inspect the strange retreat. Finally the crush of sightseers grew to such proportions that the school officers decided to fill in and destroy all trace of the cave. Since Miller's arrest it has been ascertained that he is a fugitive from the Nebraska authorities, having made his escape from the penitentiary at Lincoln by climbing up through a hollow wall by removing brick after brick as he proceeded upward to freedom. It is said that for some days he had saved a small portion of his rations, and these were carefully preserved to sustain him during his desperate but patient effort to escape. Progress in the wall was necessarily slow, and for three days after his disappearance from his cell, while the surrounding country was being searched for him, he was in the penitentiary wall slowly working his way out. He is certainly a remarkable man.

The Nebraska authorities have been advised of his capture by the Minnesota officers, and have been striving to secure custody of him, but the Blue Earth county authorities are not disposed to give him up, as there are a total of fifteen different charges against him there.

RICH GOLD STRIKE IN MONTANA.

Valuable Quartz Turned Up by Common Plows.

CHICAGO, Nov. 8.—A special to the Tribune from Butte, Mont., says: A great gold strike has been made on Upper Sage creek. A ledge extending for many miles and the quartz running $100 to the ton has been discovered, and the people in that part of the state are wild with excitement. The little town of Utica has been almost deserted by the male inhabitants, who have staked out the whole surrounding country. It is reported that from any part of the great ledge rock can be broken that runs $100 and more to the ton. Some of the excited prospectors have gone to work with plows and scrapers to uncover the vein.

Another report of the discovery of a rich placer was brought from Elk City, Idaho, where Judge Lindsay and other Butte parties have been interested in mining. A $170 cleanup has been made and the deposits are richer than anything yet discovered in that state.

HOLDS THE EXPOSITION LIABLE.

Must Pay for Valuable Goods Destroyed by Fire.

CHICAGO, Nov. 8.—Judge Grosscup of the federal bench today handed down an opinion holding the World's Columbian Exposition company responsible for the loss to the French republic and the French exhibitors by reason of the fire of the night of January 8, 1894. The loss to the French republic consisted of some fine Beauvais and Gobelin tapestries, and two magnificent Sevres vases made for ornaments at the entrance to the Chamber of Deputies. The French republic claimed $50,000 on its direct loss and $10,000 more by reason of delay and extra expenses attending the fire. Half a dozen private exhibitors from France had a loss of $15,000 combined. The court did not fix the amount of damages to be paid by reason of the fact that it appeared that some of the private exhibitors had collected insurance and the court desires it to appear that the suits were brought in the interest of the insurance company and be limited to the amount of insurance.

GRAIN EXPORTS CONTINUE HEAVY.

Twenty-Seven Ships Now Chartered at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 8.—There are twenty-seven steamships now in port or under charter to load grain for European ports. Most of the grain will be shipped during the next few weeks. These steamers will carry an aggregate of 6,100,000 bushels of corn and wheat. So far this year the shipments of corn have aggregated nearly 22,000,000 bushels, as against less than 7,000,000 bushels in 1896; and of wheat, 3,993,889 bushels, compared with 3,840,616 last year. The export petroleum trade was also unusually heavy last week and today shows a gain of over 45,000,000 gallons over last year.

Relief for Icebound Whalers.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 8.—A determined effort is being made to aid the 300 whalers now imprisoned by ice in the Arctic. All the California representatives in congress have appealed to the secretary of the navy asking that the government at once send a relief ship to their rescue. The Call has offered to provision the vessel and $5,000 in cash has been promised by the Examiner and the managers of the base ball tournament. If no government vessel is available it is possible that a private steamer may be chartered. Many experienced men are of the opinion that a relief ship will not be able to get within several hundred miles of the suffering men, but it is hoped that provisions may be taken by reindeer overland to Point Barrow. The success of this project will depend largely on the weather, though it is thought to be feasible. The Chamber of Commerce favors immediate relief, and the indications are that some plan of succor will soon be carried into effect.

Demand Recognition of Home Labor.

CHICAGO, Nov. 8.—As the result of a conference between National Secretary James F. McHugh of the Stonecutters' union and the heads of all the central bodies of Chicago, including the Buildings Trades council and the Chicago Federation of Labor and many prominent local labor leaders, it has been decided to formulate a demand in the name of organized labor that a clause be inserted in all contracts and sub-contracts for cut stone work for the new postoffice requiring that the stone be cut in Chicago. The amount involved will be $1,250,000. It is urged that this will prevent contractors from having the stone cut by cheap labor and shipped here in competition with union wages. Should the demand be successful, the plan will be extended to keep if possible the entire government expenditure, amounting to about $4,000,000, in Chicago.

Miners Will Continue the Strike.

SPRING VALLEY, Ill., Nov. 8.—Steps have been taken at a mass meeting of miners held at Marquette to continue the coal strike through the winter by creating a sub-district board consisting of miners from Spring Valley, La Salle, Peru, Ladd, Seatonville and Marquette. The management of the strike is to be put in their hands. The meeting was largely attended by miners from all these places. Devlin's mines at Marquette and Cahill's at Peru are the only mines working in this district and they are paying the scale.

Croker Will Recuperate.

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Nov. 8.—Richard Croker, Rudolph Guggenheimer, Thomas F. Grady, Asa Bird Gardner and Miles O'Brien, leaders in Tammy hall, arrived here Sunday. Mr. Croker looks well, notwithstanding his recent illness, but will make an extended visit at Hot Springs in order to fully restore his health. His family will join him during the coming week.

Shoots Father and Son.

BELTON, Mo., Nov. 8.—At noon yesterday, nine miles east of here, Arthur Wright killed John Hess and shot the latter's father, William S. Hess, at their home. All those involved are farmers, but no reason is given for the shooting. The murderer passed here this afternoon and is making his way south.

Read "Simon Dale" in the Sunday Bee.

WONG CHING FOO HAS PLANS

Making Final Arrangements for His Great Oriental Display.

CHINESE EXHIBIT AT THE EXPOSITION

Resources and Processes of Northern China Intended to Astonish Visitors Who Come to the Great Omaha Show.

Wong Chin Foo, Chinese commissioner of the Transmississippi Exposition, is in the city making the final arangements for the exhibit which he proposes to install in a pagoda to be erected on the bluff tract. He spent the morning in consultation with Superintendent Hardt of the Department of Exhibits and C. F. Beindorff, the architect who has designed the pagoda in which the Chinese exhibit will be housed. The general plan of the pagoda was agreed upon and it was decided that it should be a two-story building, 62x80 feet in size, with the gracefully sloping roof characteristic of the architecture of the Flowery kingdom. The tall pavilion which will adorn the building will be filled with a chime of Chinese bells.

Mr. Foo is a naturalized citizen of the United States, having come to this country from northern China twenty-four years ago. He is thoroughly Americanized and imbued with a love for American institutions that is rather unusual in natives of China. He promises that the Chinese exhibit shall be an instructive lesson to Americans, showing the wonderful resources of the northern districts of China and introducing to the American public a source of supply which has, heretofore, been altogether neglected. He is most enthusiastic over the outlook for an exhibit and has organized a company, known as the North China Trading and Manufacturing company, and agents are already in the field in China, selecting the people and paraphernalia which will make up the exhibit showing the resources of this part of the world.

NORTHERN CHINA'S RESOURCES.

"The principal industries of northern China," says Commissioner Foo, "are the making of silk and the growing of tea. The agricultural resources of the country will be surprising to many Americans and our methods of manufacturing food products for immediate consumption, as well as for preservation, are, in many respects, far superior to the methods in use in this country. I shall have a section of the Chinese exhibit showing the manufacture of silk in all its stages, and I shall also illustrate the tea industry by having a huge tank in which will be brewed a kind of tea which has never been imported into this country. It is superior to anything here in the usual course of trade and possesses properties which are entirely new to tea drinkers in America. This tea will be given away. It is quite high in price and the entire crop is usually consumed in China.

"In the agricultural section I shall have implements for tilling the soil which will be a revelation to farmers and manufacturers of agricultural implements in this country. The people of America are very proud of the cereal they call 'Indian corn,' but in my country we cultivated this same corn 2,000 years before England was discovered. We make a great many dishes of corn in various forms which people in this country never heard of. We also have methods for preparing other food which are conceded by gourmets to be far superior to the methods practiced by any other nation. In the various manufacturing lines, the Chinese exhibit will be comprehensive. We have methods of manufacturing which produce results which have never been reached in this country. It is true we have no labor-saving machinery, nor do we want any, as our immense population must be kept employed, but the methods of manufacture, which would be utterly impracticable in this country, result in the production of articles of all kinds which are very desirable in America and here, again, the commercial aspect of the matter is presented.

"I can assure the people interested in the exposition," said Foo, in conclusion, "that the Chinese exhibit will be one of the most satisfactory of any on the grounds."

CALL FOR A FISHERY CONGRESS.

Governor of Florida Invites Delegates to Assemble at Tampa.

A call for a national fishery congress has been issued by Governor W. D. Bloxham of Florida, the congress to be held at Tampa, Fla., commencing January 19, 1898. At the same time an exposition will be held at Tampa, designed to show all varities of food fishes, their propagation and preservation. In his call for the congress, Governor Bloxham states that it is called for the purpose of considering the importance of propagating and protecting the fish in the waters of the United States, and the necessity of devising ways and means and formulating methods to save from total extinction many varities of valuable food fish. The governors of states and the fish commissions of the same are requested to appoint delegates to the congress.

The United States Fish commission is taking an active interest in this congress and in a circular sent out by the government commission occurs the following paragraph:

This congress is called in the interest of earth's highest civilization, believing that every effort made to increase the food supply of mankind and to suggest new fields for labor and new industries should be commended, hence the object and aim of this National Fishery congress will be to discuss and formulate plans for the propagation and preservation of fish and all water products of commercial value. It is also designed to have an exhibit of same. Parties thus interested are requested to make exhibits of dried and canned fish, turtles, crustaceans, sponges, oysters, oils, skins and all appliances for catching and curing same; also nets, rods, hooks, etc. A modern, commodious and attractive exposition building will be arranged for this exhibition. No charge will be made for space. Exhibitors are required to prepay freight charges and mark packages, A. FICHE, Fishery Exhibition, Tampa, Florida. No responsibility will be assumed by management for exhibits other than watchful care.

Invitations have been extended by the national government to all the civilized governments of the world and a reply has been received from Japan indicating a purpose to be present. It is proposed to organize an International Fishery association at the close of the congress, to hold a session at Paris during the exposition and probably at Omaha during the exposition next year.

Nebraska Commission Notes.

Members of the Nebraska Exposition commission will meet with the members of the executive committee of the exposition at dinner at the Millard hotel tonight. The gathering will be purely social in its character.

Some of the members of the commission will attend the meeting of the Commercial club tonight, where Chairman Neville is billed for a response to a toast.

It is probable that the commission will hold a business session tomorrow, that being the regular day for the semi-monthly meeting. It is expected that the secretary will be directed to advertise for bids for the staff work and the roofing of the Nebraska building.

Williams Goes to Utah.

George T. Williams of Ida Grove, Ia., has been appointed commercial agent to represent the Departments of Exhibits and Concessions in Utah, and is in the city today in consultation with the managers of these departments before leaving for his field of labor among the people of Utah. Mr. Williams is the editor of the Ida County Pioneer, one of the representative newspapers of that section. He has been the active manager, as well as proprietor, of the Pioneer for the last twenty-four years, and during that time has attracted considerable attention by his hustling ability and his brilliant descriptive articles. He will visit the manufacturers, farmers and fruit growers of Utah and aid the Utah commission in increasing the interest of the people of that section in the Transmississippi Exposition.

Teachers Show Much Interest.

The list of Nebraska teachers who are willing to become members of the National Educational association on condition that the next annual convention is held in Omaha is constantly growing. It has been increased by the signatures of the Grand Island teachers, about forty in number, a similar number from Fremont and about a dozen from St. Paul. The entire list now numbers over 600 teachers and the returns from Iowa and most of the Nebraska cities have not been received.

Women Come to Omaha.

Mrs. F. M. Ford, secretary of the Woman's Board of Managers of the Exposition, has received official confirmation of the news that the National Council of Women, recently in session in Nashville had selected Omaha as the place for the meeting of the body in 1898. This confirmation comes in the shape of a letter from May Wright Sewell, president of the council, announcing the action of the body. This congress is composed of delegates from all the national bodies of women, and is usually attended by 1,000 or 1,500 delegates.

Notes of the Exposition.

J. Chrysander of New York has applied for space in the Swedish section.

The Selle Gear company of Akron, O. has applied for 200 feet of space for an exhibit of wagon gears.

Maison Chopard of Paris, France, has applied for 260 feet of space for an exhibit of high class jewelry.

The exhibit of the Singer Manufacturing company will be operated by motors made by the Diehl Electric company.

Prof. Albert Desher, commissioner of the exposition to Belgium, has opened offices in Ghent on the Rue Des Foulons.

The Pecos Valley Railway company has applied for a space of 2,500 square feet in both the Agriculture and Horticulture buildings.

The Woman's college of Baltimore has written to Secretary Ford of the Woman's board to make inquiry regarding the rules which will govern the educational exhibits in the exposition.

Captain Henry C. Werd of the Sixteenth infantry, U. S. A., the representative of the War department of the government board of control for the Transmississippi Exposition, has notified President Wattles of his appointment and also of his instructions from the War department to proceed to Omaha as soon as may be deemed necessary in order to take charge of the exhibit. The captain writes to President Wattles from Nashville and his letter leaves the impression that he will arrive in Omaha very shortly.

CAUSE OF JIM TREYNOR'S END.

Taking Off of a Well Known Ex-Fireman Provokes Inquiry.

There is considerable mystery surrounding the death of James Traynor, who died suddenly in the county jail Sunday morning, which may lead to an inquest being held by Coroner Burket. Traynor was picked up by the police in a hallway at 311 South Twelfth street about 8 o'clock Saturday morning. When taken to the city jail he was found to be suffering from severe nervous prostration, being then in a state of collapse. He was charged with being drunk, but his condition was so serious he was sent to the county jail that he might recuperate.

Jailer George Shand gives the following version of what happened at the county jail: "Traynor was exceedingly nervous and asked me for some nervine to brace him up. I handed him a small dose of the medicine, and as he took it through the bars he keeled over backward to the hard stone pavement. We picked him up, but the fall seemed to have injured him quite badly. He recovered afterward to some extent, and he was placed on a cot in the general cell. Joseph Kastner and Frank B. Gee, who is a physician, attended him during Saturday night, and up to the time of his death, which occurred about 5 o'clock Sunday morning. I was told by Dr. Blythin, the county physician, that Traynor died of alcoholism. It is possible, however, that that fall he received may have had something to do with his death."

When taken to the morgue Traynor's body was closely examined. The right eye of the deceased was found to be badly discolored, as if from the effects of a powerful blow. The back of his head, which should have been badly contused according to the statements made by the inmates of the jail, was found free from any bruise. It was the opinion of the coroner that Traynor's death might have been caused by a blood clot due to some blow.

George Shand, Frank B. Gee and Louis Kastner all deny that Traynor was struck by any one while he was in the jail. They, however, give no reasons for the discoloration of the deceased eye, except that the fall to the stone pavement may have caused it. Dr. Blythin said this morning that it was possible that the discoloration resulted from a rupture of a blood vessel in the skull, the blood flowing, after rigor mortis had set in, to the eye.

Traynor left the fire department, after several years' service, about nine months ago. Since then he has been employed as a hackman. The dead man was very strong physically, and his friends discredit the idea that the amount of liquor he was known to have drank caused his death. Traynor's father and uncle, who are employed by the Union Pacific Railway company, will interest themselves in finding out the cause of death. Traynor's funeral will take place from St. Philomena's church tomorrow morning at 9 Philomena's church this morning at 9 o'clock, with interment in Holy Sepulcher cemetery.

BURKET ACCEPTS IT AS SUICIDE.

Coroner's Investigation of the Death of James Nichols.

The identity of the floater found by Fisherman Simms on a sandbar near Gibson station Thursday night has been cleared up. As conjectured at the time of the finding, he is known now to have been James Nichols, a colored man from Hamburg, Ia. Coroner Burket located an old acquaintance of Nichols' yesterday in the person of Caleb Sykes, a negro porter for Tom Rock. Sykes says that Nichols boarded with him for about a month at 2028 Farnam street. This was last September. Nichols told Sykes that he formerly lived in Hamburg, and that he was the proprietor of a small store there. He did not appear to have much money and did odd jobs around the city.

Sykes says that shortly before the state fair opened Nichols stole $7 from his wife's trunk and that he was then at their house. Previous to this occurrence Nichols was known to have gambled his money away as soon as he earned it, and also to have been addicted to the use of opium and laudanum. At one time he attempted to take a large dose of laudunum, but was prevented from so doing by Sykes. Nichols had often remarked to both Sykes and his wife that life was not worth living and that he was not afraid to die. It is the opinion of Sykes that Nichols committed suicide by jumping in the river. Sykes' story was corroborated by Fred Jackson, another negro, who lived with him. Coroner Burket also came to the conclusion that Nichols came to his death from suicide by drowning.

New Counterfeit Note Out.

A new counterfeit $10 bill has made its appearance in the northwest and the secret service authorities are trying to run it down to its origin. A number of the notes have been put in circulation in Chicago and some have appeared in the north and west. So far as known, none have been passed yet in this city, but they are expected.

The bill is a photographic copy well executed, requiring some examination to detect its worthlessness. The original color of the photograph, however, can be discerned beneath the applied colors on the numbers and the seal. The back of the bill is a blue print, over which green ink has been poorly applied with a brush, leaving some places uncovered. The bill is made of two pieces of thin bond paper pasted together. The silk fiber is imitated by means of pink and blue ink lines.

BIG BONUS FOR CITY BONDS

Omaha Securities Fetch a Higher Price Than Expected.

NEARLY SEVEN PER CENT PREMIUM IS PAID

Intersection Twenty-Year Four and One-Half Per Cent Issue Tops the Record for Local Sales.

The sale of the $25,000 intersection and $66,000 special street improvement bonds in the office of City Treasurer Edwards at noon yesterday was the most remarkable transaction of the kind that has occurred in Omaha in years. It is doubtful whether such prices have been ever previously offered here on similar bonds and the competition was sharper than ordinary. When the recent issue of renewal bonds sold at a premium of over 3 per cent the figure was considered remarkable, but today there were half a dozen bids on the intersection bonds which approximated doubt that figure. These bonds run for twenty years and draw interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. The highest bid was par and accrued interest and a premium of $0.6432, or $1,608., an there were a number of other bids that nearly reached the same figure.

The offers for the $66,000 special district bonds were almost as satisfactory when the character of the bonds is considered. These bonds run only from one to nine years at 4½ per cent and are usually almost unsalable at a premium. Several offers of more than 1 per cent premium were received in this case, however, and the city authorities are more than satisfied with the prospect for an advantageous sale.

There were nearly twenty bids on the two blocks of bonds and among the bidders were several big establishments that have never previously appeared as buyers of Omaha bonds. The following are the bids in full:

Intersection Bonds—W. J. Hayes & Son, Cleveland, $1,467; Adams & Co., Boston, $1.0591, or $1,477.50; Blake, Bruce & Co., Boston, $1.0585, or $1,462.50; Estabrooke & Co., Boston, $1.0577, or $1,442.50; R. L. Dey & Co., Boston, $1.06059, or $1,514.75; J. W. Longstreet & Co., Boston, $1.0325, or $812.50; Mason, Lewis & Co., Chicago, $613.87; Spitzer & Co., Toledo, $1.0525, or $1,312.50; Omaha National bank, $887.50; N. W. Harris & Co., Chicago, $1.06432, or $1,608.

Special District Bonds—Adams & Co., Boston, $1.0105, or $693; Blake, Bruce & Co., Boston, $1.081, or $1,194.60; R. L. Dey & Co., Boston, $1.01397, or $992.02; S. A. Keene & Co., Chicago, $1.0060, or $396; J. W. Longstreet & Co., Boston, $1.0076, or $501.60; Spitzer & Co., Toledo, $1.0113, or $667.45; Omaha National bank, $100.

BOND PROPOSITIONS BOTH CARRY.

Majorities Overwhelmingly in Favor of the Issues.

The county commissioners figure that both the bond propositions submitted at the recent election carried by good majorities. The men appointed to canvass the returns completed their labors, so far as the bond propositions are concerned, and submitted their figures yesterday afternoon. With the Sixth precinct of the Ninth ward missing, the result is as follows: For the exposition bonds, 12,081; against, 3,686. For the refunding bonds, 11,879; against, 3,728.

The total vote cast at the recent election aggregated 18,762, of which the commissioners figure 10,512 would be the necessary two-thirds to carry the bond propositions.

The books of the Sixth precinct of the Ninth ward have been returned, but they do not show that there were any votes cast for or against the bond propositions. The judges and clerks of election of this precinct have been sent for that the canvassers may ascertain just what the facts are in the premises.

This afternoon the canvassers will complete the work of canvassing the returns on the vote cast for state, county and township officers, but it is certain that there will be little change in the figures as heretofore published in The Bee.

BOXCAR BURGLARS EASILY CAUGHT.

Pair Wanted in Iowa Arrested at the Postoffice.

R. H. Williamson and Charles Harvey were arrested by the police yesterday while asking for some mail at the postoffice. The men are supposed to be wanted at Alton, Ia., for the robbery of a Northwestern car of about $100 worth of dry goods and notions. From instructions sent out by the Alton authorities the police located a box of notions in a local express office which was consigned to Williamson. The men deny that they are the persons wanted for the job, and assert that they are pedolers on their way west and that the goods were purchased in Chicago. The case will be investigated.

Silent Cosmos Club.

The Silent Cosmos club met at the residence of C. E. Comp, 4600 Boulevard avenue, last Friday evening. Mr. Comp's discourse on the origin of Thanksgiving day was interesting as well as a revelation, as few of the members had any clear idea of the preliminary events of the first Thanksgiving day. An hour was devoted to discussing the leading question of the world. The members, especially the women, who either had no time or fondness for newspaper reading, were greatly enlightened by these talks. They showed understanding and interest by the nature of the questions they asked. The next question taken up was the "National Convention of the Deaf." The club is very desirous of securing it for next summer. It has about 500 members. Steps will immediately taken to secure it. The club meets at the home of Miss Ella Cornish, 348 North Thirty-eighth street, on November 19. "Romeo and Juliet" and "Cuba" will be the interesting topics for the next meeting.

Object to Alternating Circuit Lights.

There is some doubt whether the new alternating current arc light will be adopted in this city. One of the lamps has been in use at Thirteenth and Farnam streets for some time, but while it gives excellent satisfaction in some respects, it is found unsatisfactory in others. The new light gives a much more steady and satisfactory illumination than the old as far as it goes. There is none of the flickering and occasional going out that constitutes the chief difficulty with the old-fashioned lamp, but the volume of illumination is not equal to that of the lamps now in use. This is largely due to the fact that in order to secure the steady light the carbons are burned in what is almost a vaccum. This requires two globes, and as fully 16 per cent of the light is neutralized by a single clear glass globe, the effect of the double globe is to shut off a considerable proportion of the light. The fusion of the carbons also creates a deposit of carbonic oxide on the inside of the interior globe, which also detracts from the illumination.

Toughs Assault an Officer.

Vincent McQuillan and Arthur Smith, a couple of North Omaha toughs, together with a gang of several of their kind, were in the act of "rushing the growler" in the rear of Nelson's saloon, Sixteenth and Chicago streets, Sunday afternoon, when Officer Ranney sought to disperse them. McQuillan struck the officer and knocked him down, while Smith took his part in the fracas by hammering the prostrate policeman with his fists. The men were each given thirty days in the county jail by Judge Gordon yesterday morning for the part they took in the festivities.

Calls for a Western Clergyman.

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 8.—Very Rev. Dean Duffy has resigned the rectorship of St. Paul's Episcopal church, Kansas City, Kan., and is considering calls from New York City and Brooklyn. It is very probable that eastern charges.

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT TERM.

Formal Opening Postponed and Jury Excused One Week.

The November term of the United States district court, which was to have commenced yesterday morning, will not be in formal session until Monday. The opening was necessarily postponed, since the court is now in session in Lincoln, and will not probably wind up the business of the October term there until the end of this week.

Judge Munger is in the city and was on the bench in the federal court room. Judge Woolson of Iowa is in charge of the Lincoln docket and is presiding over the Dorsey case, Judge Munger not caring to try it, as he was acquainted with the parties in the suit. As soon as the October term in Lincoln is finished by the conclusion of this case the November term can be opened in this city.

Judge Munger listened to motions and demurrers in pending cases and he will be engaged in such business only during the greater part of the week. This afternoon he called the docket and assigned the cases. He may go to Iowa for a couple of days this week to preside over Judge Woolson's docket.

The petit jury which was empanelled some weeks ago and which was to have reported for duty Wednesday has been excused until next Monday. The jury list is made up of the following: Mike Bauer, Nebraska City; Frank O. Alvertson, Omaha; Timothy C. Cronin, Spaulding; John Edelmaier, Hooper; E. S. Runyon, David City; A. J. Sexton, Arapahoe; Hugh E. Boyd, Falls City; M. A. Brown, Kearney; Frank Helvey, Nebraska City; J. B. Wood, David City; A. E. Cole, Lexington; Thomas P. Chapman, Plattsmouth; Hugh C. Minnix, Holstein; T. L. Fenton, David City; Charles Robinson, Midvale; James Kirby, David City; John W. Wertz, Stuart; Frank Smith, Haigler; William Samson, Republican City; George Colling, Hastings; Levy Hetzel, Nelson; Joseph McCaig, Wahoo; Ed Bexton, Hastings; D. S. C. Alexander, Octavia; Crighton Morris, Humboldt; E. H. Doland, Nelson; Art Huffman, Lamar; J. N. Coleman, Neligh; R. F. Williams, St. Edwards; J. W. Fadden, Harrisburg; Franz Adelmann, Omaha; F. Culner, Boone; William R. Adair, Omaha; R. P. Craig, Florence; Andrew Nelson, Florence; R. C. Hazlett, Lincoln.

Among the motions presented yesterday was one by City Attorney Connell in the Kingman case, asking a continuance of thirty days. It is practically settled that the continuance will be granted, although Judge Munger entered no order to that effect since the court is not in session. In this case Kingman & Co. bring action against the city for damages for grading the alley in the rear of their building in order to build the roadway to the new depot.

NEW PROBLEM IN ENGINEERING.

Remarkable Growth of Roots Taken from a Sewer.

City Engineer Rosewater has a curiosity which is interesting as an indication of one of the freaks of nature. It is an example of the remarkable growth of the roots of shade trees which constitutes a serious problem in sewer work in cities that are extensively shaded. This particular freak was secured by Sewer Inspector Mike Lee from the four-inch sewer which connects with the Jacobs residence at Twenty-first street and St. Mary's avenue. From a tiny root scarcely one-eighth of an inch in diameter has sprung a solid mass of smaller roots that filled the sewer as solidly as though they had been tamped in with a bar. The roots seek moisture underground just as the foliage seeks the sustenance of the sun and rain. This particular root found its way into the sewer through a slight imperfection in one of the joints. It was nourished by the sewer-age and shot out hundreds of tiny outgrowths which developed in luxurient profusion. The sewer was finally stopped and all efforts to flush it out were unavailing. When it was opened it was found that the immense number of infinitesimal roots had packed it from one end to the other. The pipe had to be broken in order to get the roots out and when they were removed they remained in a solid roll equal to the inside diameter of the sewer. Even the junctions were exactly reproduced and the roots were so tightly packed together that they could not be separated except by tearing them apart piecemeal. They looked almost like a roll of asbestos and this mass of underground vegetation was dependent on the single root that had crept through the joint in the sewer. Inspector Lee says that there are a number of similar cases in the sewers in the heavily shaded districts in the northern part of the city and it is only a question of a short time when several pieces of main sewer will have to be taken up to free them from these rank growths.

This is the first trouble of the sort that has occurred in Omaha, but in the older eastern cities it is of frequent occurrence. Washington is one of the most heavily shaded cities in the United States and there all sewers are constructed with a particular view to shutting out the roots. The lengths of pipe are not only cemented together, but the joints are completely encased in a solid hoop of cement, which leaves no aperture through which the roots can enter. At the meeting of the American Society of Municipal Improvements which was held in Chicago in 1896 a photograph was shown of a mass of roots about eight feet long which had solidly filled a twelve-inch main sewer.

Suit on a Brick Contract.

Park & Burness, who have the contract for doing the brick work on the Armour plant at South Omaha, have brought suit against Kritenbrink Brothers to recover alleged damages aggregating $4,125. In the petition filed in the district court the plaintiffs allege that they entered into a contract with the defendants, by which the latter were to furnish 1,500,000 brick at a stipulated price; that they furnished 203,000 and then quit. The plaintiffs now seek to recover the difference between the contract and the present price of brick, the price having advanced since the contract was made.

Sold Liquor to Indians.

Deputy United States Marshal Ackerman has brought to the city Jacob Honus and John Cramer from Niobrara for trial on the charge of selling liquor to Indians. The beer the men are charged with giving to the redskins so aroused their savage qualities that one badly slashed the other. The men were bound over by United States Commissioner Haze of Niobrara after a preliminary hearing. Cramer is in the county jail, but Honus succeeded in giving bonds. The men will have a trial at this term of the federal court.

White Eagle, a brave from the Winnebago agency, has been brought to the city by Deputy United States Marshal Allan for trial on the charge of introducing and selling liquor on the agency. He is a partner of the Indian, Priest, who was brought to this city Saturday on the same charge.

Sixty Days for Hitchcock.

Mrs. Hansen, who lives at 1910 Pierce street, suffered the loss of a boarder on November 6. He left in a very impulsive way and took with him several souvenirs, consisting of a pair of trousers, a suit of underwear and a pocketbook containing $7.10. His name is Ace Hitchcock and instead of shunning the dead past he was yesterday recognized by Officer Flynn not far from his previous quarters. In police court it was found that Hitchcock was appareled in the stolen garments, but that he had invested the money in pleasures that pass away. He was identified by Mrs. Hansen and made no denial of his guilt. Accordingly he received a term of twenty days in the county jail on each of three counts.

Endorses Nebraska as a Sugar State.

H. T. Fuehrman, consulting engineer and architect of the American Beet Sugar Factory Construction company, was a visitor in Omaha yesterday. Mr. Fuehrman has been making a tour of inspection through Nebraska in the interest of his company, which is located in Chicago. He reports that the factories at Norfolk and Grand Island are in a most satisfactory condition and are doing a large and profitable business. From an experience of twenty years in beet sugar conditions he states that the soil of Nebraska is especially suited to beet culture. Mr. Fuehrman's company is considering a location for the establishment of another plant.

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ON COMMON LAW MARRIAGES

New Ruling on a Point Which May Modify Popular Opinion.

JUDGE KEYSOR HOLDS THEM TO BE VAL'D

Decision in Bates Against McGuckin Turns on This Point—Estate of Garrigan Involves a Similar Issue.

According to the terms of a decision handed down by Judge Keysor there can be no question about the legality of a marriage at common law. This question was passed upon in the case of Elizabeth H. Bates against Daniel McGuckin and others and was brought up in a mortgage foreclosure.

Daniel McGuckin is the owner of property in South Omaha, including a hotel, upon which, some years ago he secured a loan from the Bates-Smith company of this city. He defaulted in his payments and some time ago foreclosure proceedings were instituted by Elizabeth H. Bates, to whom the mortgage had been assigned. Shortly after the commencement of the suit, Mrs. McGuckin filed an answer to the suit, alleging that she