THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871. OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 23, 1897—TWELVE PAGES. SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

WALKED OUT IN FULL DRESS

It Took Lots of Nerve, but the Ordeal Was Passed Successfully.

COOPER'S ESCAPE FROM LIBBY PRISON

Story of a "Doggone Yankee Trick" Played by a Prisoner on the Prison Adjutant—The Roll Went, Too.

When General John Morgan, the famous confederate raider, visited Libby prison early in 1864, he said: "There is no undertaking in the world that you have not men in the prison qualified for; that's why it is strange that more of you fellows don't try to get away."

In Libby prison, at the time of Morgan's visit, relates the New York Sun, there were about 1,400 officers, from beardless second lieutenants, in their teens, to grizzled leaders of brigades and divisions. These men came not only from every state and territory in our own land, but they represented the armies of nearly every European nation. We had lawyers, doctors, clergymen, college professors, engineers, editors, and every variety of skilled mechanic. Among the craftsmen was Captain Cooper of Connecticut, who had learned the trade of tailor in his youth, and was conducting a clothing store at Hartford when patriotism dominated profit and sent him into the army.

"Where every man felt sick and mean" to use an expression common at the time, only the very sick and helpless were sent to the prison hospital, the eastern ground floor of Libby. Dr. Sabal, the confederate surgeon in charge of the prison hospital, was as generous and sympathetic as he was handsome and able, and that is saying much. This gentleman kept the hospital full and the fact that it was much warmer than the other quarters made it a desirable place.

There is one ailment which, at the front or in prison, "old soldiers" could assume without immediate fear of detection and that is rheumatism. Rheumatism of the affected character has kept many a man, with more cunning than courage, out of the range of the enemy's rifles. I was myself in hospital, recovering from typhoid pneumonia, when Captain Cooper was brought down from the lower east room. Rheumatism in the legs had so crippled the captain that he could hardly crawl, but his arms appeared to be all right. The nurses in the hospital were detailed union soldiers who had been confined in the Pemberton building, a warehouse lower down and across the street from Libby. Captain Cooper proved to be a jolly good fellow; but it was noticed that when the confederate authorities were not about his rheumatism did not seem to interfere with agile locomotion. Where Cooper got his needles and thread I cannot imagine, but he had those coveted appliances, and he used them to repair the damages in the old uniforms of his comrades.

THE CONTRACT.

One day while Cooper was sitting crosslegged on his cot repairing the rents in Captain Bohannan's trousers, La Touche, the prison adjutant, came in and watched the flying needle with unusual interest. La Touche was a stout man, whose thick neck and florid face bespoke a love for good living. He was very neat in his person, a bachelor, and no end of a gallant, as we afterward learned.

"See here, captain," called out Adjutant La Touche, after he had watched Cooper for some time, "are you a regular tailor?"

"That is my trade," replied Cooper.

"Think you could make me a full dress uniform if I furnished you the material?" was the next question.

"If I had your measure and a plate to go by."

"Oh, we have no plates, but I can give you the details; I know all about 'em." Then the confederate adjutant went on to say that he had secured all the materials, but that tailoring had become so expensive in the confederate capital as to preclude the making of the clothes.

"You see," continued La Touche, "there is to be a ball at the state house in two weeks and if I could have the suit made up at a reasonable price in time for that event it would take a great load off my mind."

Confederate money had depreciated very much at this time, so that the prices of articles, ordinarily plentiful, were fabulous. Knowing this the cautious Yankee said:

"What would you have to pay a Richmond tailor for making such a uniform?"

"About $400," blurted out La Touche.

"If I guaranteed you satisfaction and charged one-half would you give me the job?"

"Gladly," said the delighted adjutant, and the contract was closed. La Touche must have thought the transaction irregular, for there was much secrecy in his manner when the next day he came in alone, carrying a large bundle, in which was the material to be made up.

GUARANTY OF GOOD FAITH.

Cooper examined the goods after taking his customer's measure (the customer brought a tape line with him). When La Touche turned to leave Cooper called out:

"I don't want a deposit, adjutant, because I'm afraid you'll clear out and not come back to my shop for the goods, but, as you know, a hard working man needs more and better food than one who's doing nothing. So if you could let me have a little on account from time to time it would give me nerve for the work."

La Touche took the hint and left $100. As there were no dangerous cases in the hospital at this time, the visits of Dr. Sabal and his assistants were confined to the morning and evening. On such occasions Cooper had his work hidden away under his blanket, and his rheumatism was invariably "No better, sir."

With nothing to read, and only the old home or the present situation to think of, time hung like an ever-crushing weight on the hands of the prisoners. But as soon as Cooper started to work in the hospital every man who could crawl from his blanket gathered about to watch.

Every day, soon after noon, La Touche danced silently into the hospital to be fitted and to see how the work of art was proceeding. At each visit he grew more delighted. "I'll have it ready the day before the ball," said Cooper.

The night before this creation in gray, blue and gold was completed—it had already been paid for—Captain Singer of the Thirty-third Ohio, who had about recovered from a gunshot wound in the thigh received at Chickamauga, drew me to one side and said:

"I have a plan for escape and I want you to help me."

"Of course I'll do it," I said. "But why not let me in?"

"I can't."

"Why not?"

"Because, confound it, there is only one suit!"

MANY MINDS ON ESCAPE BENT.

Singer then went on to explain that he had planned to take La Touche's uniform from under Cooper's head, and, after putting it on, pass out when the guards were changed at daylight the next morning. Now, ever since the cloth had began to assume form, this idea had taken shape in my mind, and so I told Singer. We drew lots to see who should try it, and my companion won. In my anxiety to see how Singer made out I kept awake all night. On larceny intent he left my side about an hour before daylight. I watched him moving to where Cooper lay, about fifty feet away. Then followed a long silence. A half hour passed and I was wondering at Singer's slowness, when Cooper's angry voice broke the stillness.

"A man who'll try to steal from a fellow-soldier in prison is no man at all," he said, but he did not raise his voice so as to be heard by the guards outside.

"But the stuff isn't yours; it belongs to the enemy," Singer protested hotly.

"Belongs to the enemy, eh? Not by a long sight, it doesn't. That uniform's mine. Why, confound you, ever since La Touche left this afternoon I've been at work reducing the girth so that it'll fit myself."

"You are going to try it yourself?"

"I am, captain," chuckled Cooper. "Now old fellow, go back to your blanket, and if you keep your mouth closed and your eyes open you'll soon see one of the best dressed confederate officers in Richmond waltzing out of this prison, with $100 in graybacks in his pocket."

Singer came back, but there was no need to report, as I had overheard all.

Cooper's purpose was soon known to all the men in the hospital. It was also known that the doctors came in at 9 o'clock in the morning, and that La Touche would be on hand in his uniform at 12, and between these hours Cooper must make his attempt. The doctors went at 9:30, and the guards about the prison were changed at 10. As soon as the doctors went out Cooper, who kept on his old clothes, for he was a thin man—we were all thin then—slipped on the uniform, which included a gray cap with a perfect maze of gold lace on the crown. We had never seen such a transformation. The new guard had been on about five minutes when Cooper laid his hand on the door. He took no leave and made no fuss. He reasoned very properly that the new guard, seeing he was an officer, would suppose he had entered the hospital while the other guard was on, and had just completed his mission.

At this instant Cooper's coolness was superb. His eyes were clear and steady, and there was not the twitch of a muscle to betray the nervousness he must have felt. At length, to the great relief of all, he swung open the door and stepped out. Through the brief opening we saw the guard saluting and the officer returning it. Then the door closed with a bang and Cooper was free. The next we heard of him he was safe in Washington.

I have seen some apoplectic anger and have heard much fierce swearing in my time, but I never saw so angry a man as Adjutant La Touche when he came in for his clothes at noon and found the tailor had carried them off on his back. The last thing La Touche said as he bounced out of the hospital, was:

"If I catch that fellow Cooper I'll shoot him! I never heard of such a doggone Yankee trick!"

MUST ALLOW THE EXAMINATIONS.

Insurance Commissioner McNall Comes in for a Roast, However.

TOPEKA, Nov. 22.—In the United States circuit court today Webb McNall, state insurance commissioner, won a technical victory in the decision made by the United States circuit court, wherein Judge Foster refuses to allow the injunction prayed for by the Travelers' Insurance company of Hartford, Conn., asking that the commissioner be restrained from examining the company's books. Judge Foster, however, is severe in condemning the action of certain examinations already made, which the court says were superficial in character and charges for the same were extortionate, as shown by the evidence in this case.

"The conduct of some of these examinations," says the court, "has been so indefensible and repugnant to the mind of every right thinking man that it is difficult to give the insurance commissioner credit for an honest purpose in his proposed examination."

The court goes on to say that the rules must be applied, however, on the presumption that honest men will make the examinations from honest motives. The court also says that there is some reason to expect that the proposed examination is based on the presumption of good faith, as the company has listed certain real estate in Kansas largely in excess of its real value, and furthermore, that the statements of the company do not show what interest has been defaulted on the company's loans.

MAKERS OF MACHINERY COMBINE.

Large Portion of Output of Woodworkers' Machinery in the Deal.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 22.—A special from Williamsport, Pa., says: The American Woodworking Machinery company has just been organized and will control fourteen concerns manufacturing seven-eighths of the woodworking machinery produced in the United States. The men at the head of the combine have been working for a long time to reach the point that was attained. Saturday night the local companies of the combine closed their plants and no work will be done in any of them until next week. This week will be devoted to taking an inventory of the plants and stock on hand. The local members of the combine are Rowley & Hermance, the Williamsport Machine company, the Lehman Machine company, and Young Brothers. Levi Houston of Montgomery is also a member. The capital of the organization is $8,500,000. The nine other firms that have pooled their issues are: Goodell & Walters Philadelphia; Glencoe Machine company, Brooklyn; Hoyt Brothers, Aurora, Ill.; Globe Machine company, Chicago; Fague & Co., Cincinnati; E. & B. Hayes Machinery company, Oshkosh, Wis.; Frank Clements, Rochester, N. Y.; C. B. Rogers company, Norwich; Milwaukee Sander company, Green Bay, Wis.

ABANDON OLD COAL WORKINGS.

Pit Which Has Been in Operation Thirty-Four Years Closed Up.

MAHANOY CITY, Pa., Nov. 22.—Schuylkill colliery, a familiar landmark of the Mahanoy valley, which has been in operation since 1863, has been abandoned, and a large force of men today began the destruction of the breaker and other buildings around the entrance to the mine. For the last twenty years the Schuylkill colliery has been operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, and was one of the best paying in the state, but owing to the number of years it was in use it has become unsafe. North Mahanoy colliery has now been sufficiently equipped to prepare the coal from both openings and the underground chambers are so located that there is little inconvenience experienced in transferring the coal from one to the other, while the cost of preparation is materially decreased. The capacity of Schuylkill colliery was 500 tons daily, and the average production was nearly equal to the capacity.

Dismiss Cases Against McNall.

TOPEKA, Nov. 22.—At the opening of the United States federal court this afternoon Eugene Ware, attorney for the New York Life Insurance company, sprang a surprise by announcing to the court that he had received instructions to dismiss all the New York Life company's cases brought against Insurance Commissioner McNall. Upon being asked for the reasons for this unexpected action the attorney said regarding their damage case the company thought it might find it difficult to sustain any claim, as their business in Kansas had been better than at any time heretofore and that as Commissioner McNall was now treating them very fairly, they did not think they needed any injunction, so they decided to dismiss both the damage suit and the suit to prevent Commissioner McNall from revoking their charter.

From Convict to Preacher.

DENVER, Nov. 22.—Dr. O. E. Miller has organized a mission called the Co-operative Bible union in this city and is conducting daily religious services. Miller was recently released from the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., where he was serving a sentence of ten years' imprisonment for having defrauded the Commercial bank of this city of a large sum of money, thereby causing its failure in 1893. On appeal to the United States circuit court of appeals the judgment of the district court was reversed and a new trial was granted. Miller is now under bonds awaiting trial.

Strikers Threaten Trouble.

HOUGHTON, Mich., Nov. 22.—An outbreak seems imminent at the Atlantic mine. The company has seventy-five Italians from the Franklin mine on the ground ready to take the places of the striking Fins and the latter announce that bloodshed will ensue at the first attempt to set Italians to work. There are now nearly 200 Fins on a strike, all of them being strong and determined men. The Atlantic management will not give the strikers places again on any terms and will attempt to put the Italians at work on the night shift this evening.

Every penny tells—You can get Salvation Oil for 25 cents. Best liniment in the market.

BOLLN'S BANK BALANCE BOOK

Item'z Account of His Dealings with the City Depositories.

RECORD IS ADMITTED AS EVIDENCE

Fead Testifies to the Accuracy of the Figures as Showing the Standing Between the Treasury and the Banks.

The fifth day of the trial of the case of the city against the bondsmen of Henry Bolln, ex-city treasurer, was begun before Judge Slabaugh with John W. Fead of the city treasurer's office on the witness stand. Mr. Fead was called for the purpose of proving the accuracy of the bank balance book kept by Bolln in his office as city treasurer during his first term.

It had been stated that the bank balance book was full of errors and for this reason the defendants had objected to its introduction as evidence before the jury. In giving his testimony Fead pointed out numerous instances where withdrawals had been made and not entered in the book until some days later. There were also instances where sums of money had been charged to the wrong funds, but in all cases he said that they had been recharged at the end of the month in which the errors occurred, so that on the first day of the following month the book showed the exact condition of the funds, as compared with the bank balances.

The bank balance book concerning which Fead testifies is a record of several hundred pages and is being gone through item by item and page, which fact will necessitate the witness being on the stand for some time. When the evidence concerning this book is all in Expert Wettling will be recalled and will give testimony concerning his findings with reference to the bank balance and the deductions that he made from the record. He has some twenty or twenty-five schedules that will be introduced in evidence. Several of them show the balances in the city depositories for each month during Bolln's term of office.

At the afternoon session of court the attorneys for the city offered the bank balance book in evidence. The attorneys for the bondsmen objected and offered authorities to sustain their objection. Arguments upon this point consumed the balance of the day, the attorneys for the city contending that the book sought to be introduced in evidence was a part of the records of the city treasurer's office and therefore should go to the jury as such. The arguments were completed just at the hour of adjournment and the court took the question under advisement until this morning.

MATTERS IN FEDERAL COURT.

Work for a Grand Jury Is Accumulating Quite Rapidly.

The criminal business of the United States in this district is forging forward like other and more legitimate lines in the everspreading dawn of prosperity, and as a consequence a federal grand jury may be required before the May term of court. It was not believed that any would be needed until that term.

This is the conclusion of the United States marshals and it is based on the fact that prisoners are being bound over to the grand jury with considerable regularity. The marshals even hint of a possible necessity for the calling of this body during the present term, but Judge Munger is frowning down any such idea. He says that there will have to be a very great press of criminal business indeed before he can be induced to look at the matter in that light. He is even determined to put off the calling of the grand jury over the January term, if possible, and Assistant United States Attorney Rush is with him, but it is believed that a grand jury will be absolutely necessary then to clear off the criminal docket.

Another man has been held to the grand jury by United States Commissioner Anderson. His name is Fred Steffin and he is charged with cutting timber on some government land east of Calhoun on the river bottoms. He and two others were engaged in selling the timber to the exposition people for piling. The others are still hiding. Steffin will probably get out of the difficulty, as he did not know he was cutting on government land. The foreman of the outfit is still to be captured. The land upon which the timber stood is accretion from the Missouri river. Steffin's bond was fixed at $500, which he furnished.

There will be but little done in the federal court this week on the call. Judge Munger has decided, in fact, to make no call during the week. He will listen to any motions and similar matters that may be made, but will spend the greater part of the first three days of the week in going over the law and the testimony in the water works case. He expects to render his decision on Thursday.

On Friday the first criminal case to be tried during the term will be put on. The defendants are Lee and Harrington, now in the county jail charged with robbing the postoffice at Stromsburg about two months ago. Their spoils consisted of some $150 in money and a quantity of stamps.

Personal Damage Suit.

A $30,000 damage suit instituted by Joseph Gebell of South Omaha against Swift and Company has been transferred from the district court to the federal court for lack of jurisdiction in the former. Gebell believes that he was injured to that extent in two different accidents occurring while he was an employe of the packing firm. One occurred on December 4, 1895, when one of his arms was cut off by some of the machinery. On September 5 of this year some more machinery hit him and as a result the old wound in his arm was reopened, his head and mental faculties were injured and he sustained other injuries, all of which he alleges will make him a cripple and an invalid for life. He asserts that he was damaged to the extent of $15,000 in each accident.

Company Accepts the Lots.

Judge Munger has cleared away a $16,000 claim against the First National bank of Alma, which failed in the early part of the year. The bank mortgaged a couple of lots at Fourteenth and Leavenworth streets in this city for that amount of money to the National Life Insurance company of Montpelier. The company made application to wipe out its claim by bidding in the property and this was satisfactory to the comptroller of the currency. The application was granted and the lots were knocked down to the insurance company for $400. The sale was confirmed yesterday by Judge Munger.

Another Brandy Suit.

Another drug firm is to be called to account in the federal court for selling counterfeit Hennessey brandy. The alleged guilty party is the Lincoln Drug company of Lincoln. A suit has been started against it similar to the two already commenced against two drug companies of this city. It is alleged that the imitation is sold in the same bottles and under the same labels as the original stuff and the court is asked to compel the firm to turn over into court all the spurious article it has in its possession and all the profit it secured from the sale of it.

Mrs. Oster's Injunction.

Yesterday a number of the male residents of Valley occupied seats or hung around the edges in Judge Scott's court room, waiting to be called on to tell what they did or did not know in the matter wherein the village of Valley is plaintiff and Mary Oster is defendant. The trial of the case went over until this morning.

The village of Valley brings proceedings against Mrs. Oster for the purpose of causing her to vacate certain streets and alleys situated on property in the village and occupied by her. Mrs. Oster enjoined the village from interfering with her in any manner and the hearing before Judge Scott will be on the merits of this injunction proceeding.

Notes from the Courts.

Margaret Brown has sued her husband, David Brown. She asks for a divorce, alleging failure to support.

Judge Fawcett has returned to the city and has taken up the work of his division of the district court. He devoted a greater portion of the morning hour to a call of the docket.

Judge Baker had expected to take up some criminal business yesterday, but as there were no cases ready for trial he went up to Washington county, where he will remain for a couple of days.

N. C. Platt has filed a petition in the probate court asking that a special administrator be appointed to take charge of the affairs of the business of Daniel Farrell, deceased. Pratt is now guardian ad litem.

William McMasters has instituted divorce proceedings against his wife, Isabella, to whom he was married some thirty years ago. In his petition he alleges cruelty, carried to such an extent that he fears for his personal safety.

The state has subpoensed twenty-nine witnesses in the case against Joseph, August and Louis Kestner, who are charged with killing Police Officer Tiedeman and wounding Officer Glover on June 9 last. The case is set for trial next Monday morning before Judge Baker.

NATIONAL METHODIST CONGRESS.

Meeting Is Only for the Younger Members of the Church.

PITTSBURG, Nov. 22.—The national congress of the Methodist Episcopal church which began in Christ Methodist Episcopal church yesterday, was continued today. Between 300 and 400 prominent representatives of the church from all parts of the country were in attendance. The gathering is the first of its kind ever held by the Methodist Episcopal church, and is described in the call as a conference of the younger men in the church on the relation of Methodism to current social and intellectual conditions. Bishop Vincent of Chautauqua presided. After devotional exercises, John W. Thomas, Ph. D., of Allegheny college, Meadville, Pa., read a paper on "The Right Relation of Emotion and Reason in Religion." The speaker declared that the flippant remarks and higher criticisms found in the magazines of the present day upon religion were most harmful.

Addresses were also made on "the Revival, Its Powers and Perils," by Rev. Dr. Raymond of Middleton, Conn., D. A. Hayes Ph.D., of Evanston, Ill., and Rev. H. L. Jacobs of Tyrone, Pa.

GIVES FARM TO THE CHILDREN.

Deed to Valuable Property Set Aside by the Court.

OTTAWA, Ill., Nov. 22.—Judge Blanchard today decided that a deed to 160 acres of land in this county from E. S. Peddicord to Dr. John Kellogg of the Battle Creek, Mich., sanitarium was prima facie void. The deed was set aside, the property, valued at $13,000, reverting to the children. Mr. Peddicord who was 74 years of age, entered the sanitarium May 9, 1896. On June 13 he gave the deed to the property to Kellogg for the benefit of the sanitarium and on June 25 Peddicord died at that institution. The deed was filed here June 15. The children of Peddicord asserted that Kellogg had taken advantage of their father's enfeebled condition. The court held that the burden of proof rested with Kellogg and his associates to show that they had not exerted undue influence over their patient. Failing to do this the deed was set aside. Mr. Peddicord left an estate valued at $100,000.

GUARDING FILIBUSTERING SHIP.

Armed Government Deputies Keep Off Adventurers.

WILMINGTON, Del., Nov. 22.—There was much excitement occasioned here yesterday when it became known that fifteen fully armed government deputies are guarding the steamer Laurada, which has been in Hollingsworth's ship yard since its seizure by the United States authorities for filibustering. A rumor was abroad that a body of men intended to seize the vessel, presumably for the purpose of another Cuban expedition. Nothing definite was learned, but at midnight the deputies were still at their post and no person was permitted to pass the gates of the yard.

Carload of Cattle Burns.

TOPEKA, Nov. 22.—Sixteen head of cattle were roasted alive in a Santa Fe cattle car at Wakarusa station about 10 o'clock last night. As the train neared Wakarusa the bedding of the car was discovered to be on fire. All possible speed was made to reach the water tank at Wakarusa, but by the time the train stopped at the tank the flames were beyond control in one car, while the fire had spread to the stock cars on either side. The burning car was uncoupled from the rest of the train and the efforts of the trainmen directed to saving the other two cars and their animal contents. The cars were broken open and the cattle allowed to escape, while the fire in these two cars was extinguished. The sixteen head of cattle in the isolated car slowly roasted to death. The entire woodwork of the car was consumed.

Burned to Death in Fires.

BETHANY, Mo., Nov. 22.—James Barker and Elmer Fruit, young men of prominent local families, were burned to a crisp in a fire that destroyed Blackburn Bros.' livery barn yesterday morning. Two comrades tried to rescue them and were nearly suffocated. It is said the fire started from a lantern, by which the victims were playing cards.

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 22.—Mrs. M. A. Trigg, aged 52 years, and her 10-year-old daughter, Ethel, lost their lives in a fire that destroyed their residence in West Eleventh street yesterday morning. A son escaped with a broken leg, jumping from a second-story window. Mrs. Trigg had escaped, but returned to save the daughter, and fell exhausted at her bedside. Her body was burned to a crisp. The girl was suffocated.

Guatemala Does Not Want Chinese.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22.—A correspondent writing from Guatemala City, under date of November 6, says: The government of this country is taking steps tending to exclude the Chinese, who lately have been getting over the frontiers in large numbers. For this purpose the government has promulgated a decree, providing that within two months all persons of Chinese nationality within the limits of the republic will have to present themselves to be enrolled in a registry which will be opened for the purpose. After the expiration of the term fixed every Chinaman who, on being requested by the local authorities, does not present a certificate, will be expelled from the nation.

Dives from the Eads Bridge.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 22.—Paul J. Tustor, a professional high diver, rode out onto the Eads bridge today and near the center span stripped himself of all but swimming trunks and dived into the river below, a distance of 129 feet. He was accompanied onto the bridge by Manager Garen of Havlin's theater and two other men who fixed a spring board from which the dive was taken. The tug Ida Patton picked Tustor up when he came to the surface, none the worse for his jump. Tustor was arrested as soon as he reached shore and was taken to the Chestnut street station. Manager Garen bailed him out at once.

Refuse Goddard a Change of Venue.

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 22.—Before Judge Longan, in the criminal court today, a change of venue was refused Dr. Jefferson D. Goddard, whose first trial for the murder of Frederick J. Jackson ended October 31 in a hung jury. Goddard's lawyer asserted that the sentiment in this county is prejudiced against his client. The second trial will be set for an early day.

Ketcham's Death Due to Alcoholism.

CHICAGO, Nov. 22.—Dr. Noel submitted to the coroner today a report on the examination of the stomach and liver of John B. Ketcham, the wealthy clubman, whose sudden death under mysterious circumstances caused a sensation. The report states that death was caused from alcoholism and hardening of the liver.

No hotel larder is complete without a stock of Cook's Imperial Champagne. Always keep it for your guests.

TRY TO STOP THE STEALING

Crusade Starts Against the Robbery of Visitors to This City.

POLICE MAKE ANOTHER RAID ON THIEVES

Twenty-One Women of the Town Arrested on the General Charge of Vagrancy, to Be Vigorously Prosecuted.

The police have made another effort to stop the robbing of country visitors. Sunday night there were put under arrest twenty-one of the most notorious women of the town. Some were picked up upon the streets, while the others were taken out of their dives. All were charged with vagrancy under the state law.

Among the women arrested, Kittie Owens, Carrie Smith, Addie Frazer and Bertha Lewis are already charged in police court with larceny from the person and were out on bonds when taken into custody by the officers. Maud Miller, Gertie Brown, Dottie Smith and Alice Carey were arrested Friday night for the theft of $165 from the person of Adolph Lage, a western stockman. Owing to the fact, however, that the victim was badly confused from excessive drinking on the night in question no case was made against them and they were discharged by Judge Gordon. The women were among those arrested last night. Assistant County Attorney Winter, taking the last named as fair samples of the women represented in the tenderloin district, has filed complaints against them under the state laws. City Prosecutor Miller, using the complaint issued by the county attorney as a model, filed other informations against all the women locked up.

PLEAD NOT GUILTY.

As quickly as the proper papers were made out the prisoners were brought into the court room and arraigned. On the advice of their attorneys all pleaded not guilty, and a hearing in the case was set for Wednesday, November 24, at 2 o'clock.

Assistant County Attorney Winter says he will not have time to try all these women then, but that he will make a test case in the trial of the four women against whom he has filed papers. He says that City Prosecutor Miller is vested with the power to try misdemeanors under the state law, and as vagrancy comes under this head the police have the right to insist that these constant offenders be prosecuted to the limit. The limit of the penalty imposed in such cases is a fine of $100 or confinement in the county jail not to exceed ninety days. The police assert that if no convictions are made next Wednesday they will continue to arrest the female thieves of Omaha until justice is meted out to them.

In spite of the vigilance of the police a young farmer giving the name of P. W. Epham was decoyed into a den at 205 North Ninth street and while there was robbed of $20. He found his way to the station and caused the arrest of Ruby Smith, Beatrice Miller, Minnie Allen, Agnes Cleland and Peter Mack. Epham had a couple of friends with him at the time he visited the place, and all three positively identify the Smith woman as the one who had bereft him of his cash.

HOLDS THE SMITH WOMAN.

Ruby Smith was tried in police court yesterday afternoon and from the evidence adduced was bound over by Judge Gordon to appear in the district court and held in bonds of $800. Immediately following the decision of the court Attorney V. H. Walker, counsel for the prisoner, swore out information against the plaintiff and the two men. Oscar Williamson and J. F. Martin, who accompanied him to the home of the Smith woman, charging them with contributing to the support of a house of ill-fame. The men were locked up in default of funishing bonds. The complaints filed by Attorney Walker are based on a city ordinance covering this offense.

An information charging Arthur and Carrie Smith with the robbery of R. B. Randolph, an aged Grand Army veteran, who was dragged into their house, near Fifteenth and Webster streets, Saturday, and relieved of $26, was filed in police court by Assistant County Attorney Winter. Randolph, whose real name is Adams, called at the station and positively identified the Smiths and a woman named Ada Graves as the persons who had robbed him. For some reason no complaint was filed against the Graves woman. In view of the fact that cases of this description have not been handled satisfactorily in police court, Dr. R. M. Stone, in behalf of Adams, caused warrants to be issued from Justice Cockerell's court for the three prisoners, and they will be brought up before the justice upon the same charges as already filed in the police court.

The case against the trio in Justice Cockerell's court was continued to 10 o'clock this morning.

William Elliott, charged with the highway robbery of Michael Dowd, a miner of Telluride, Colo., has been bound over to the district court in $1,500 bonds. Elliott is alleged to have assaulted Dowd in a vacant building near Twelfth and Capitol avenue and to have taken $50 in cash and a draft of $150 from him.

FISH FOR MORE GUDGEONS.

Tempting Bait Cast Broadcast for the Festive Sucker.

New York green goods men are again fishing for suckers in this city. They may be the same parties who tried the game some time ago or they may be different ones. There are no names signed to the circulars that are being sent out wholesale in this city. These are arriving through the mails. Any number of them were brought yesterday morning to the postmaster by the persons who received them.

The circular is written in a "strictly confidential" manner and pats the recipient on the back with the title of "Friend." In the outset it is stated that no insult is intended by the circular, but that it presents "the chance of a lifetime to make money and plenty of it." If the receiver is inclined to pass up the opportunity offered he is requested not to abuse the confidence placed in him, and to tear up the circular. Then the sender says that he is ready to offer goods in "sizes of one's, five's and ten's," not counterfeits, but "duplicate bills," printed on exactly the same paper as the government uses. It is set out that the bills are the most dangerous yet issued and that they defy detection even by government experts, the only chance occurring when they reach the Treasury department, at which time they cannot be traced, because they have passed through many hands.

There is no signature to the circular, but in connection is sent a copy of a telegram to be sent, if the receiver feels inclined to accept this chance of a lifetime. The telegram is to be sent to "A. P. Gordon, Westchester depot, New York."

Boxes for Bulky Mail Matter.

The local postoffice is about to try an experiment, placing in the busy part of the city boxes to receive newspapers and large packages and bundles. A half dozen boxes will arrive in a few days and will be placed in the wholesale and business districts. They stand several feet in height. Similar boxes were tried in the city several years ago, but their use was discontinued.

Postmaster Martin is of the opinion that the boxes will be of great convenience. At present large bundles have to be carried to the postoffice or deposited on top of the small letter boxes. In the former case a good deal of inconvenience is caused. In the latter bundles are sometimes stolen, and even if they are not carried off the stamps are very often torn off. The postmaster says that the plan is used in other large cities and works well.

Reinstated as Chief Clerk.

Frank D. Johnston, a postal clerk who has been running between Council Bluffs and Ogden, has been reinstated as chief clerk of the postal service in the latter city. He succeeds D. C. Hudson, who has held the position for four years. Hudson will take the run vacated by Johnston.

Johnston held before the position to which he has been reappointed, but he was relieved four years ago. The cause is said to have been political, although charges were preferred against him. It is said that these charges have been investigated and found false and that therefore the reinstatement followed.

VAGRANTS, NOT TRAIN ROBBERS.

Slender Foundation for Old Sleuth's Latest Work of Fiction.

Sunday night the police of South Omaha arrested in the freight yards five hoboes who gave the names of John Edwards, Charles Edwards, Clarence Norris, Martin Dillon and William Cavanaugh. The men had an old rusty revolver and a pop bottle filled with a colorless fluid which an experienced detective-reporter on a local sheet immediately decided was dynamite. The men were charged with vagrancy.

On this slender foundation was reared a wonderful fabric of words giving exact details of how a plot to rob a Missouri Pacific passenger train had been frustrated and the local fake factory turned a few more nickels out of the pockets of the reading public.

Sunday night Captain Mostyn, Sergeant Her and a couple of detectives from this city visited South Omaha for the purpose of identifying the men. One of the detectives in a report made to the chief stated he thought Edwards was an Omaha petty thief whose real name was Charles Yancey. They failed to identify any of the other men. Captain Haze, after reading the article published in the local sheet yesterday to the effect that the men when caught intended holding up a Missouri Pacific train, went to South Omaha and had a look at the prisoners. He was of the opinion he had seen Cavanaugh before, but was not positive. He failed to recognize the other men.

FIRE AT SALISBURY'S HOUSE.

Roof Burned Off the Kitchen Annex—Two Minor Blazes.

Fire broke out in the residence of Harry Salisbury, 3048 Cass street, at 5 o'clock yesterday morning and before the firemen arrived about $300 damages had been sustained.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but is thought to have sprung from a lot of rubbish which was stored in the second floor of a kitchen annex. The fire was first discovered by the inmates of the place, who were awakened by smoke which filled the rooms. Nearly the whole roof of the annex was consumed and the furniture in the lower portion of the house was damaged by water and smoke to the extent of about $100. Both house and contents were fully insured.

An alarm was turned in from the house of E. A. Tucker about 7 o'clock, caused by a lamp which was accidentally upset. The damage, which was about $25, was confined to the carpet.

A chimney burned out at 415 North Fifteenth street and gave the department another run.

BUSINESS AT THE COUNTY STORE.

Prospect of Cold Weather Brings on a Revival.

The prospect of colder weather has started a run on the county store, and a number of persons who have not patronized the place since last winter were on hand yesterday morning to apply for supplies.

County Agent Askwith, in charge of the county store, anticipates that there will be a falling off of fully 25 per cent in the number who will receive aid, as compared with the number on the books last season. He says that many of the men who received assistance last winter have been employed during the summer and up to this time this fall. Many of them have saved enough money to carry them through the winter, while others, especially those with small families, have been able to accumulate quite a surplus. Those parties who are applying for aid at this time are principally cripples and old men who have not been in a physical condition to do much work.

Questions the Signature.

OMAHA, Nov. 20, 1897.—To the Editor of The Bee: In the issue of The Evening Bee of November 15 there appears an article with the superscription of "Knight of Labor." The drift of the letter is that the Union Pacific officials have violated a promise made to their employes that no new men should be hired until the old employes were working on full time. As the article appears in your paper it apparently bears the endorsement of the Knights of Labor, which was never given. In fact, I feel that the article did not emanate from a Knight of Labor. When the members of this organization have any grievance, complaint or dispute to settle they settle it and generally in a satisfactory manner by a committee empowered to arrange, arbitrate and settle all difficulties between an employer and his agents and never as yet found it necessary to resort to publicity. With anticipatory thanks.

KNIGHT OF LABOR IN GOOD STANDING.

He Helped a Stranger.

A young man of the name of Lockenolm was traveling from Lincoln to his home in Pekin, Ill., with $30. On the train he met a stranger with a tale of woe and a watch. The stranger now has Lockenolm's $30. Lockenolm has the watch and the tale of woe. The police have all of the facts in the case. The watch is worth fully 30 cents.

Wife Whips the Husband.

Emma Wellstruck, living with her husband at Thirteenth and California streets, grew jealous of him and Sunday the two engaged in a hair pulling match. After a time they aired their troubles out on the front sidewalk and as Wellstruck appeared to be getting the worst of the argument, a neighbor sent in a call to the police. The couple were charged with disturbing the peace by fighting. When the husband was brought into the police court he bore the appearance of a battle-scarred veteran, for his face was a mass of scratches and cuts where his irate wife had inflicted punishment. The case was continued.

Charges Against Mrs. Stewart.

Detective McNally arrived in Omaha from Kansas City yesterday in order to take charge of Mrs. Queenie Stewart, who was caught parading in this city in men's clothes. The detective stated that Mrs. Stewart is wanted in Kansas City for stealing the clothes she wore and a gold watch and chain from a former employer named Dickinson. When the woman was accused of the theft at the station she admitted the charges, but said she had taken the goods because she could not get her wages from her employer.

Omaha Boy in Oklahoma.

Chief Gallagher has received a letter from Mrs. Z. S. McNames of Guthrie, Okl., in which she states she has in her care a young lad who gives the names of Walter Hall. The young fellow came to her house a few days ago foot sore and disgusted with a tramp trip which he said he had taken in search of adventure. He said he had parents living in this city, but being ashamed of his conduct would not reveal their address. An effort will be made by the police to find the boy's parents.

Willie Messick Loses a Foot.

Willie Messick, 6-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Messick, who fell from a Sherman avenue motor last Saturday evening, was removed to St. Joseph's hospital, where his foot, which was crushed by being run over by the car wheels, was amputated yesterday morning. The little fellow is doing as well as could be expected, though he is very weak from the pain and loss of blood.

Drowned in a Water Barrel.

TOPEKA, Nov. 22.—Edward Buechner, a prominent citizen, aged 52, was found dead this morning at his shop, drowned in a barrel used to catch drip water from a refrigerator. The barrel was two-thirds full and contained some celery, which the butcher was evidently reaching for when attacked with heart failure, to which he was subject. His head was under the water, although his feet were on the floor.

WARRANTS WAIT FOR OWNERS

Thousands of Dollars' Worth Filed Away in City Hall Vaults.

MANY UNCLAIMED HELD BY COMPTROLLER

Orders Drawn Against the City's Exchequer Uncalled-For by the Persons to Whom They Rightfully Belong.

One of the curiosities that exists in the accumulated records of the city of Omaha is a huge file of warrants which represents debts which the city owes, but payment of which has never been demanded. Surprising as it may seem, there are warrants now stored away in the vaults of the city comptroller which aggregate thousands of dollars and which have been voluntarily left there by the individuals in whose favor they are drawn. Some of them have been in the vaults for nearly a decade. They have been slightly discolored by much handling and the action of time, but their financial value is the same today that it was when they were issued. They are all carefully filed away in a fireproof compartment and there are probably hundreds of men living who are creditors of the city and do not know it. About once in ten years the city officials make up a statement of these old warrants and an ordinance is passed by which they are cancelled and the amounts turned back into the funds on which they are drawn. This was done in 1895 and at that time all the general fund warrants up to and including 1891 were disposed of in this way. Since then a new supply has accumulated. Those of each year are placed in a separate envelope, marked and filed and in a few years the city will have another financial housecleaning and the present accumulation will be disposed of in the same way.

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT WARRANTS.

There are two distinct classes of these old warrants and they are carefully kept separate. One file contains the special fund warrants and in this case the failure of the creditors to call for their warrants is usually easily accounted for. Many of them represent awards for damages in favor of property owners, against whom special taxes on account of the same improvement were levied and are still unpaid. In these cases the taxes have amounted to more than the damages and as the warrants could not be issued until the taxes were paid the property owners have preferred to leave them alone. But unfortunately for the economical designs of the property owners the taxes are being compounded with a high rate of interest every year, while the warrants draw no interest, and the longer the property owner defers the settling up process the heavier the balance against him becomes.

Warrants issued on account of each improvement are kept in a separate envelope, on which the improvement is designated, and in most cases there is a memorandum which shows why the warrants have not been paid. One envelope contains a lot of warrants issued for damages on account of opening Twenty-sixth street from the north line of Nelson's addition to Caldwell street, which was done several years ago. The tax was contested in the courts and the property owners have neither paid the tax nor called for their warrants. A somewhat similar condition exists in regard to the warrants drawn on account of grading Seventeenth street from Vinton to Castellar. Here the property owners succeeded in getting the tax knocked out in the district court. The special levy against which the warrants were drawn was consequently knocked out and the warrants immediately become worthless. There are fully a score of cases in which very similar conditions exist.

One big envelope contains the warrants drawn to refund the special taxes levied on account of the construction of the Tenth street viaduct. This tax was successfully attacked in the courts. A number of the property owners had previously paid the special tax and after the levy was knocked out warrants were drawn on the general fund to reimburse them. But the comptroller refused to deliver the warrants until the tax receipts were surrendered and a number of the property owners having refused to surrender the receipts their warrants are still on file.

LEFT THROUGH CARELESSNESS.

The presence of the other class of warrants is not so easily accounted for. These are warrants drawn for services against which no offset exists and which have evidently been overlooked by the carelessness of the people who are entitled to them. They are all for small amounts ranging from fractions of a dollar up to $10. With a few exceptions they are drawn on account of services performed. A large number of men who have worked on the streets, for the park board and in the fire and police departments have warrants on file for small amounts, running as far back as 1892. Why they have never called for their money no one is able to explain. In most cases they are evidently people to whom a few dollars would be a consideration, but for some inexplicable reason they have never demanded the wages that they worked hard to earn. There are a vast number of warrants for labor ranging from $1 to $5, and any of these men could call at the city hall and get their money tomorrow if they so desired.

Quite a number of the larger warrants are for services as registrars and judges and clerks of election. As a rule these officials are promptly on hand to secure their pay, but there are a considerable number who have evidently gone on the proposition that $6 or $10 was not worth climbing the city hall stairs after. In the 1892 file there is one warrant for $10 in which the name is left blank. In the election of that year the city hired a voting place in the eleventh district of the First ward, but for some reason the name of the owner of the building was never reported. He never called to give the necessary information and the blank warrant properly signed by Mayor Cushing and Comptroller Goodrich is still waiting for him.

SCHWENK'S ACCOUNT IS CLOSED.

Ex-Clerk of Police Court Finally Turns Over Fines Collected.

Ex-Police Court Clerk Peter Schwenk has paid into the city treasury the fines and costs collected by him during last May, which amount to $258.25. This was the last month of Schwenk's official career and up to this time the city has been unable to secure a settlement. The fines are supposed to be turned over to the city treasurer at the end of each week, and once a month the accounts are checked by the comptroller. Schwenk failed to make any report whatever for the last month of his term and when he was pressed for a settlement he declared that he had the money on deposit at the bank, but did not want to pay it over until he had had an opportunity to check up his books and see that the amount was correct. He said his successor would not allow him to get at the books, and on this plea he continued to retain the money in his possession. Finally the comptroller notified him that no further delay would be permitted and that the May report and the balance due the city must be turned over at once. Schwenk made the same old excuse, and the comptroller at once went down to the police court with him, where Clerk Clancy allowed Schwenk to have the books without the slightest objection. The report and the balance due have now been turned in and the account is closed.

Preparing County Reports.

The county officers who retire on the first of next year are getting their books ready to make their final reports, showing their doings during the quarter that will end on December 31. Aside from some of the justices, assessors and constables none of the county officers-elect have filed their bonds. Most of them, however, are expected in during the next two weeks.