

PRACTICAL JOKERS' DEEDS

How Two Eastern Tenderfoots Amused the Citizens of Deadwood.

FOUND WHAT THEY SEARCHED FOR

Pronounced "Dead Easy" by the Reception Committee and Treated Accordingly—An Amazing Change of Base.

The old congressman had listened attentively throughout the evening to the usual number of stories, jokes and adventures which had been related by the group in the lobby of the hotel, relates the Washington Star, and finally, after the capitalist had spun a yarn, remarked:

"That story of yours reminds me of the capers of two young eastern capitalists whom I know during the Black Hills boom some years ago. Although it was a common occurrence for capitalists to come to the little mining town, such marvelous stories concerning these two had preceded them that the whole assemblage of corner loafers decided to break up their accustomed camp near the 'Rocket' saloon in order to go down to the station for the purpose of subjecting the newcomers to a critical examination.

When the train finally pulled in, two hours behind time, as usual, the crowd gazed with awe and ill-concealed admiration upon the immaculately dressed young men.

"They're easy," said 'Long Kid,' the bar-keeper.

"Well, I should say so," echoed the others.

"The two young men from the east, who had come to Deadwood in search of fortune and adventure, found a plenty of the latter, but the fact that they were separated from more money than they could ever earn in a lifetime seemed to make no impression upon them. They were known as 'Bill and Tom, the partners.' Few knew anything about their lineage or wealthy relatives and none cared to know. They posed as partners, but it could never be learned just why such a term had been bestowed upon them, as they made no pretensions toward anything like business. It was true that they had bought a salient mine the day after their arrival in town, but as this venture resulted so disastrously they had abandoned the idea of carrying on in business, preferring to remain in Deadwood and enjoy life in their own sweet way. Everyone liked them; some because they spent money lavishly, others because they were genial and confidant. Their social occupation was to play practical jokes on each other. Some months later a horrible murder was committed in a miner's cabin in Bear gulch. Soon after this a second murder, more atrocious than the first, was committed in the same vicinity, and it was developed that the murderer was a maniac of the most ferocious type. Stories of his wild deeds were told with bated breath in every section of the Black Hills. Finally he was committed to jail in one of the upper mining towns to await his incarceration in the asylum, the one located at Pierre, the capital of the state.

Partners Go to Pierre.

"The legislature was in session that winter, and as the parties grew growing tired of the monotonous life in Deadwood they decided to make a visit to Pierre. After a few preliminary jokes, they took the old rickety stage across the cattle country rather than attempt the long, circuitous trip by rail. When the stage was in the vicinity of Bear Gulch, Tom decided to appease his appetite at a wayside ranch house. While he was within a sudden inspiration seized Partner Bill. He passed in to the stage driver, who did as instructed, and began to lash the horses madly with his whip. Of course Partner Tom tried to run through the gate a mile before he overtook the stage. Reaching the vehicle at last, he calmly took his seat and made some joking remark about the weather. This aroused Partner Bill's suspicions, as he surmised that something was in the wind, for he knew by past experience that this fellow was a practical joker to the part of his friend foreboded evil. When the stage finally pulled up before the hotel at Pierre, and the benumbed passengers alighted in about six feet of snow, the usual hotel loafers greeted them, notwithstanding the fact that it was long past midnight.

Tom Gets Even.

"By this time Partner Tom understood the entire situation, since the man had let the cat out of the bag. He remembered that the sheriff was expected the night before with the celebrated maniac from Bear Gulch. So, seized with an inspiration, he began to explain with unobtrusive but had no desire to deceive the public, but for prudential reasons did not think it wise to disclose his identity on account of the great notoriety of the maniac in his charge. He continued further, that, as he had been discovered, it was perhaps as well for him to explain all.

"You must remember, gentlemen," he said to the crowd in a mysterious tone, "have one of these boxes of food. He is subject to whims and caprices of the most extraordinary character. Coming over on the stage he tried to eat all the cushions, but I regret to say that I have not been able to induce him to eat any food for two weeks. I

WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MANY MEN WILL VOTE TO ASSIST IN THE WORK OF CHAINING HIM DOWN AND COMPELLING HIM TO REST.

"Not a man moves. Finally the hotel proprietor came forward and suggested that he would place three negro porters at the service of the pseudo sheriff.

"Very well," said Partner Tom, looking with scorn upon the great, strapping men who would have to assist him. "Boys," he said, addressing the swarthy porters, "I want you to go upstairs and place these on the wild man," at the same time handing forward some handcuffs and manacles that he had found on the desk. "And I also want you to take up bowls of hot grease and pour it down his throat. He will kick and say that he is not crazy and that he is a mining man from Deadwood and will give you a whole lot of rot about coming from the east, but don't listen to a word he tells you. He says the same thing every time. It's some delusion of his. Just go ahead and tie him down and pour in the grease."

"All right, boss," said the porter, who disappeared up the stairway.

Porters Proceed to Business.

"Presently there was heard the most unearthly noise coming from the floor above. Loud roars, screams and the sounds of falling chairs and furniture rent the air. There could be heard such sentences as 'Get out of here! I'm not crazy any more than you are.' Then some one would say savagely, 'You in. You in. You got to eat this stuff. Lie down!' After another struggle the victim would say:

"I'm a mining man from Deadwood and lived originally in the east. Let me alone, I say. If ever I get loose I will kill you and I will burn your partner of mine at the stake. See if I don't."

"Then, after another struggle, all was quiet. Thinking that it was all over, Partner Tom continued telling stories of the wild man, much to the detestation of the audience in the office of the hotel. He had remained at his post all the time, and the riot which was taking place upstairs and was attempting to light a fresh cigar, when another awful yell seemed to tear the tympanum of every man in the room. Then appeared at the top of the stairway a most terrific sight. It was dressed in the remains of what had once been pyjamas, a manacle was dangling from one bare ankle, and it held a revolver high in the air. Suddenly recognizing the flying figure of Partner Tom disappearing through the window Partner Bill came down the stairs four steps at a time and shouting at every step.

"About an hour afterward the spectators of the excitement of the early morning were surprised to see the partners playing billiards together, just as though nothing unusual had happened.

"A long, lank cowboy looked in the billiard room and, turning to the crowd, said with emphasis:

"You kin think what you please, but I believe both of them fellers is crazy!"

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, regularly taken, wards off attacks of asthma. 25 cts.

STORIES TOLD THE POLICE

William Henry Briscoe, an Expressman, in Trouble Over a Missing Package of Goods.

William Henry, whose right name appears to be William Henry Briscoe, was arrested on the charge of larceny as he is alleged to have stolen a package of goods from the expressman in South Omaha. He also took a paper box which the consignee had not opened and which has disappeared. It contained an astrakhan cape and other articles of considerable value. Briscoe's home was searched, but the goods were not found. He says he remembers having loaded the box, but does not know what became of it, as he did not see it after it was taken from him.

CORNELL ON WRONG TRACK

Opinion of Tax Commissioner Sackett on the State Auditor's Letter.

STATUTORY DEMAND SEEMS ABSURD

Provisions of the Nebraska Law Do Not Equally Affect the Insurance Companies and Cannot Therefore Be Enforced.

State Auditor Cornell, as state insurance commissioner, seems to have placed himself in a rather awkward position in sending out to foreign life insurance companies who do business in this state, notification that they must pay into the state treasury as an additional tax the difference between the tax they pay under the Nebraska law and the tax they are required to pay into the treasury of the state under whose laws they are incorporated in accordance with the insurance laws of that state. That is the opinion formed by those who have investigated the provisions of the reciprocal feature in our law passed in 1895. It peremptorily orders that this department collect the higher fees and taxes from companies coming from other states and countries, provided in the laws of other states. I notice that the state of Pennsylvania imposes a tax of 2 per cent on premiums; therefore I herewith send you a bill for tax on 1897 premiums. Taxes paid on premiums in this state can be deducted from this bill. * * * Bear in mind I say only taxes on premiums can be deducted. Taxes paid to departments in the various cities in this state and money paid as occupation tax anywhere cannot be deducted.

City Tax Commissioner Sackett gave it as his unqualified belief that the action of the state auditor and the law under which he is acting are entirely illegal and that the insurance companies can never be required to comply with them. He says: "When I first read the letter I came to the conclusion that it was a holdup scheme because it was of such a startling character. When I read the statute upon which it was based I reached the conclusion that the law is unconstitutional and illegal."

Fatal Defects in the Law.

"In the first place, the law cannot stand because it does not levy a uniform tax. It states in the auditor's letter the state of Pennsylvania imposed a tax of 2 per cent on all excess premiums. But there are other states which levy only a tax of 1 per cent, others 1 1/2 per cent, and so on and still others who employ an entirely different system of insurance taxation. It does not levy upon the excess premiums. Consequently the insurance company incorporated under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania would have to pay a greater tax than the insurance company incorporated under the laws of another state in which they are required to pay but one cent. Then the insurance companies who pay in their home states taxes exactly equivalent to the amount paid in Nebraska would not be subject to additional taxation at all. This system is manifestly unjust, for taxes on insurance companies become or less than that of other states.

"The law goes further and declares that these companies shall pay to Nebraska the excess difference between the taxes, fees, penalties, etc., imposed by the Nebraska law and the same items they must pay in their home state. If this is done, the company must pay to Nebraska a tax which is in excess of the tax they pay in their home state. This is a violation of the equal protection clause of the constitution of the United States. The law also declares that the company who must pay \$500 both in Nebraska and in their home state, does not have to pay an additional fee.

"In one point Auditor Cornell is mistaken. He states that this law applies to companies coming from other states and countries, whereas the law specifies the companies from other states only. This being so, an insurance company from Germany, which pays an enormous tax at home, would not be required to pay any tax whatever on excess premiums such as American companies are called upon to pay. This statement discloses the second objection to the law.

Tax Collected in Nebraska.

The Nebraska law provides for local taxation of insurance companies in excess premiums; that is, the excess premium is taxed in each county in which the company does business and not by the state generally. The section goes on to state that the insurance companies shall be subject to no other tax, fees or license except those on real estate and taxes. It is an act that Auditor Cornell quotes as legal, certainly it is the insurance law of the state, since it is the latest passed by the legislature, and repeals the section in which the local taxation is provided and which declares that the state shall impose no other tax.

"The resulting situation is interesting. Pennsylvania insurance companies will be taxed under the laws of that state. Ohio companies will be taxed under the laws of Ohio, and so on with all the states of the Union. And insurance companies from foreign countries will be totally exempt from all taxation on excess premiums because Mr. Cornell's law does not include them."

PUTS THE POLICE CASE OVER

Mandamus Matter Before Judge Keyser Postponed to Some Day to Be Designated.

At the hour of the hearing by Judge Keyser of the seven mandamus cases brought against the fire and police commission by ex-Police Captains Haze and Sigart, ex-Sergeants King and Halter, Detective Ormsby and Payolman Fay and Walter Wolfe for the board to reinstate them, there was nobody present to appear for the board, City Attorney Cornell being engaged in the trial of the Omaha National bank case upstairs, and Attorney E. H. Scott being in New York.

It was necessary, therefore, to take a continuance. No service has yet been made of the alternative writ of mandamus upon Mayor Moore, as ex-officio president of the board, owing to his absence from the city, and Commissioner Birkhauser is also away. By consent the matter was put off until some day next week, to be yet designated.

ORDERS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Officers of the Twentieth Infantry Directed to Join Their Regiment at Once.

Officers of the Twentieth Infantry on detached service have been ordered to join their regiment at once.

First Lieutenant Peter W. Davison, Twentieth Infantry, who has been absent on sick leave, has reported to the commanding officer of the post for duty. Captains Balance and Sharpe, on detached service, have sent word that they will be at the fort within a few days.

It is estimated that about 150 men in the Twentieth will have to be discharged before the regiment leaves for Manila under the rule against married men and those whose term of enlistment will soon expire. Recruits, however, continue to arrive and it is believed the regiment will have its full quota by the first of the next month.

Christmas at Fort Crook will be a month of its festivities this year owing to the unsettled condition of affairs there. This applies to the games and amusements usually engaged in by the enlisted men on this holiday. An extra dinner will be served on Christmas day, and the officers will have their customary social affairs. The club at the fort will have a big blowout as a farewell entertainment before the regiment's removal. Christmas trees will be numerous in the homes of the officers and there will be many dinner parties among them.

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Private Burgess B. Briggs, Troop B, First Cavalry, is reduced to the ranks and forfeits \$8 of his pay; Corporal Thomas Britton, Company I, Twelfth Infantry, is reduced to the ranks and forfeits \$10 of his pay; Private Burgess B. Briggs, Troop B, First Cavalry, is reduced to the ranks and forfeits \$8 of his pay; Corporal Thomas Britton, Company I, Twelfth Infantry, is reduced to the ranks and forfeits \$10 of his pay; Private Burgess B. Briggs, Troop B, First Cavalry, is reduced to the ranks and forfeits \$8 of his pay; Corporal Thomas Britton, Company I, Twelfth Infantry, is reduced to the ranks and forfeits \$10 of his pay.

DIVIDEND ON GERMAN SAVINGS

Receiver McCague Hands Out a Small Christmas Present to the Waiting Depositors.

Yesterday Thomas H. McCague, receiver of the German Savings bank, that closed its doors a couple of years ago, took to the most popular men in the city, as he was giving out Christmas presents to 2,000 individuals, all of whom were depositors in the defunct financial institution. While these presents are of small value, they are of dollars, there are enough of them so that the aggregate reaches the sum of \$16,000, which is the fourth dividend that has been declared since the bank went to the wall.

When the German Savings bank failed it left the depositors the sum of \$225,000 in round numbers. The articles of incorporation aggregating 55 per cent have been paid. When the next dividend will be distributed is uncertain, but it is safe to predict that it will not come before next spring, as it will require until then to get the assets in shape to be made available.

There is no opium or other harmful substance in Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is not the least dangerous in giving it to children. It is pleasant to take, and what is more, has an established reputation of twenty-five years as the most successful medicine in use for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. It always cures. Try it.

Under a Falling Plank.

William Wainwright went to the police station with a gas cut in the back of his head about two inches long. He was working in a building at Tenth and Harney streets when a board above him became misplaced and fell, striking him on the crown of the head in its descent. Dr. Spaulding took three stitches in the cut. While the scalp was opened his soft part contained no mark so that he had been injured.

NEED OF A NEW TAX MEASURE

Officials and Citizens Discuss the Proposed Revenue Law Reform.

LOCAL COMMISSION TO PREPARE A BILL

Necessity of Change Freely Admitted and Importance of Early Beginning Urged to Support the Meeting's Action.

At a meeting held in the county commissioners' room in the court house last night another movement in the direction of a reform in the revenue laws of Nebraska was actively begun. The meeting was called by Commissioner Kierstead at the request of Senator J. H. VanDusen for the purpose of appointing a committee to consider whether it would be advisable to attempt to formulate an entirely new bill at this time or to recommend some of the most essential amendments to the present law, leaving the reform to be completed two years hence. All the county commissioners except Hector, Senator Van Dusen, Representatives Olmsted, Detweiler and Houck and a number of other officials and citizens were present and after some preliminary discussion a committee was selected which will meet daily during the first five days of next week and report at another general meeting which will be held next Friday night.

The discussion last night was largely based on the bill which was introduced two years ago as a substitute for the Pollard and other revenue bills and which has received the approval of the state organization of county commissioners. It is expected that the committee will make any changes that may be desirable during its daily sittings and that the new bill will be substantially similar to the substitute of two years ago.

Commissioner Kierstead called the meeting to order and called on Senator Van Dusen, who said that there is no question that the revenue laws of the state need amendment. He suggested that if the legislature should pass a satisfactory revenue law and then adjourn without accomplishing any other object it would be of more real benefit to the state than any legislation that has been passed in ten years. He decried some doubts whether a bill that would be satisfactory in all respects could be formulated in the brief time that is available and suggested that a committee be appointed to take the matter in hand with the assistance of the members of the advisory board and other interested citizens and decide what course was most desirable.

Judge Stenberg declared that a reform in the revenue system is one of the greatest needs of Nebraska. Under the present system taxes are practically a voluntary contribution. There is no effective method of collecting them as no one is willing to buy property at a tax sale unless they happen to have a mortgage on it and find it necessary to make the purchase in order to protect their interests. He also condemned the present system of assessment. Commissioner Kierstead called attention to the necessity for some reform that would put the valuation where it belongs. As it is the valuation of Douglas county has gradually decreased from \$28,000,000 to \$21,000,000 in spite of the immense additional improvements that have been added. The result is that the limit of 9 mills for the general fund will not pay the running expenses of the courts and charities and the county is piling up obligations in spite of the closest economy that will eventually become an issue of funding bonds to dispose of.

Short speeches by M. H. Redfield, J. L. Kaley, Mr. Olmsted and Commissioner Harie expressed very similar sentiments and it seems to be the unanimous feeling that immediate action should be taken to secure some relief at the coming legislative session. On motion of A. C. Harie a committee, consisting of E. M. Stenberg, A. C. Harie, H. E. Ostrom, M. H. Redfield and H. A. Scammon, was appointed, which will meet in the court house every day next week. The Douglas county legislators will also be represented and a number of prominent attorneys and citizens who have given special attention to the subject will be requested to assist the committee in formulating a bill that will hold water and which will meet all requirements. It is expected to have the bill practically completed by the end of the week.

When you ask for De Witt's Witch-Hazel Salve don't accept a counterfeit or imitation. There are more cases of piles being cured by this than all others combined.

Mortality Statistics.

The following births and deaths were reported to the health commissioner during the twenty-four hours ending at noon yesterday:

Births—Joe Axman, 1026 South Eighteenth, boy; A. E. Garst, 527 South Twenty-seventh, boy; A. L. Howard, 2222 Charles, boy.

Deaths—Lizzie Dutton, 1729 South Twenty-seventh, 10 months; Elsie Broderson, 1611 Oak, 9 months; M. Ewing, 5312 North Sixteenth, 5 years; Kiralen L. Hansen, 955 North Twenty-fifth avenue, 3 years; Charles Wilson, 1612 Isard, 1 year; Clarence J. Murphy, 2016 North Eighteenth, 1 month.

Meeting Place of N. E. A. Superintendent Pearce has been notified that Los Angeles has been selected as the place for holding next year's session of the National Educational Association. Three cities were after the meeting—Salt Lake, Los Angeles and Portland. This year's meeting was held in Washington.

For Constipation USE ANAL-AMALGAM AND BE SURE YOU GET THE GENUINE

HOLIDAY RETAIL BUSINESS

Omaha Merchants Congratulate Themselves on an Excessive Trade.

LARGE STOCKS ALREADY DEPLETED

Local Buyers Are Spending More Money Than Common and Many Country People Here Purchasing Presents.

Notwithstanding the fact that during the last two weeks the downtown streets of the city have been veritable seas of mud, slush and filth they have been thronged with shoppers buying holiday goods. While this condition and the unseasonable weather has kept many people at home, the Omaha merchants have no cause for complaint on account of the trade which they have enjoyed, as the stores have been filled with buyers from early morning until late at night.

While the holiday trade is not over, the Omaha merchants are realizing that they have had the best trade in years and the stocks of goods laid in for the occasion have been practically depleted. People have bought more holiness than ever before and they have also bought a better and more expensive quality of goods. There has been less lagging over prices than heretofore, all indicating that money is more plentiful.

Speaking of the holiday trade, one of the local merchants said: "This year our trade has been enormous, and the same can be said with relation to all of the stores in the city. Our trade from the country has been larger than ever before, which to my mind can be attributed largely to the exposition. Last summer people from the towns within a radius of from 100 to 200 miles came here and priced goods. Most of them bought largely and a great many have returned during the last two weeks. When they were here last summer they discovered that the Omaha merchants carry large stocks and that they sell at a small profit. The result of this has been that people who had from \$25 to \$50 to spend come here, pay their railroad fare, hotel bills and other incidental expenses and make money by buying their goods here. The out-of-town trade has been the heaviest in years. This trade has come from both the people of the smaller towns and the farmers. Of course we realize that this may have been hard upon the merchants in the small towns, but we could not refuse to take the money of these people and give them our goods in return. The business is legitimate and there has been nothing for us to do but to sell goods to all who came. We have not asked questions regarding the location of the buyers; what we have been seeking to do has been to give the people good values for their money and this we have done."

"It is the best medicine we ever had in the house." That is what A. J. Spaulding, a prominent merchant at Center Road, Pa., says of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "It is the only remedy," he says, "that ever gave my little boy in croupous attacks permanent relief. I would not think of being without it, as it is worth many times its cost in saving needless doctor bills."

SUCCESSFUL BEAN GUESSERS

Results of Yesterday's Contest—Six Hucanjarites Who Knew Beans Pretty Well.

The successful guessers in the bean jar contests ending last night are as follows: Bean jar No. 16—Nearest estimate, 679, by Max Wines, 3857 Seward. Actual count, 681. Club member, T. L. Coombs & Co., 1579 Douglas. Award, \$4 set ring.

Bean jar No. 27—Correct estimate, 2,078, by W. H. Wigman, 1816 Dodge. Club member, Milton Rogers & Son, corner Farnam and Fourteenth streets. Award, \$46 Monitor steel range.

Bean jar No. 29—Correct estimate, 6,656, by John Beaton, 209 South Twenty-eighth street, and by George W. Roberts, Jr., 4223 Miami. Next nearest, 6,556, by Cora Ricker, 913 South Thirtieth street. Club member, Guarantee Clothing Co., Capitol avenue, near Sixteenth. Awards, \$38 fur overcoat, silk umbrella, eight silk handkerchiefs.

Bean jar No. 31—Correct estimate, 733, by Ed Jensen, 1764 Leavenworth. Club member, Robert Dempster Co., 1215 Farnam. Award, \$34 3/4 tourist pocket camera.

Backlin's Arnica Salve. THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Retter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Kuhn & Co.

County Judge Baxter issued the following marriage licenses yesterday: Name and Residence. Age. Rasmus P. Nelson, Omaha, 25. Holman, Omaha, 25. John Sund, Omaha, 25. Anna Jefferson, Omaha, 25.

LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT

MONEY FOR THE EXPOSITION

Charged with Stealing a Bicycle.

There Are Many Things

Kodaks, Cameras, Gold Spectacles and Eye Glasses for Christmas Gifts.

The Night Before Christmas—Drexel Shoe Co., 1419 FARNAM STREET.

A. HOSPE'S ART DEPT.