

ment for any crime less than murder in the first degree would be a distinct step backward. The tendency everywhere is just the other way. Instead of increasing the number of crimes punishable by death the movement is to abolish the death penalty altogether. I have no sympathy with kidnaping or kidnapers, but believe they should be promptly and effectively dealt with by means of a good stiff punishment sentence, but with a death penalty attached it would be impossible to convict them before a jury if they were apprehended. Even the optional death penalty, to be determined by the jury, would not accord with modern ideas. I expect to see some legislation enacted on kidnaping, but the death penalty will be cut out."

IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT BILLS.

The apportionment bills that have already been introduced by various members of their own accord as the product either of their own figuring or of some mathematical constituent all strike terror to the representatives in various districts that are being shifted around like pawns on a chessboard. The apportionment committee will have to take these bills and work them out anew into some practicable scheme. In all probability the apportionment bill, when it comes up for final action, will have to be brought before the caucus and made a caucus measure.

"A great many people want to know," said Chairman Lindsay of the republican state committee, "when the bill favored by the committee will be forthcoming, and have taken it as a matter of course that the committee or its officers will prepare an apportionment bill. I do not believe this is one of the duties of the committee, but if we did prepare one, we could have no more claim for support of the republicans than any of them. I believe, however, that the matter is so important that it should be delegated to a committee of representative men familiar with all parts of the state and with the political complexion in various counties. They might be members of the legislature or might be outsiders called in to assist with advice, but they should proceed only after the most careful investigation and consultation with the interests of every section. The trouble with most of the bills prepared by the individual member is, that while they strike all right in their immediate localities, they fly wide of the mark in more distant parts of the state. The next apportionment will have to hold good for at least three legislatures and it is of great importance to the party and to the people generally."

H. E. STEWART AS SUPERINTENDENT

Governor Ditcher to Appoint Him to Head of State Institution.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special)—It is learned that Governor Ditcher has about decided to appoint H. E. Stewart of Omaha to the position of superintendent of the State Institute for the Deaf and Blind in that city.

Mr. Stewart served several terms as a teacher in the Omaha institute and is now engaged in a similar school in the Iowa State Deaf and Blind school at Council Bluffs, although he maintains his residence in the Nebraska metropolis. He was highly recommended to Governor Ditcher, among his endorsers being former Superintendent Gilless.

Governor Ditcher entertained a small party of friends at dinner at the executive mansion today. The guests were Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Savage, Senator and Mrs. Steele and Edward Rosewater.

To Foreclose Tax Lien.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special)—The case of the County of Cass against Mary Fitzgerald and others has been on trial in the district court for several days. The suit sought to foreclose tax lien and involves nearly all the property in the city belonging to the estate of John Fitzgerald, including the Fitzgerald block, which was assessed for taxes at over \$1,000 a year for several years. The attorneys, County Attorney J. L. Root for the plaintiff and James Manahan, D. O. Dwyer, Clark & Rawles and S. M. Chapman for the defendants, will submit their arguments by briefs and Judge Jessen will give a decision at the next term of court in this city, which will open March 4.

The case of D. O. Dwyer, trustee for the Tourteau bankrupt stock, against the Western Mercantile association of Omaha and others, the court decided in favor of the plaintiff.

Claims He is Innocent.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special)—George Thomas, the young colored man who was arrested in Omaha while attempting to dispose of an overcoat which belonged to Conductor J. W. White, was arraigned before Police Judge Archer last evening and pleaded not guilty to the charge of burglary. At the request of the prisoner the case was continued until January 25 to allow him time to secure an attorney and witnesses. He claims that he can prove that the car on the freight train of the Missouri Pacific was not broken open at Weppe Water and that the coat was not taken from the caboose, as charged in the complaint by Detective John DeLong.

Medal from the Emperor.

TECUMSEH, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special)—George P. Klem of Tecumseh was a soldier in the German army from 1854 to 1871, serving during the Franco-Prussian war, and he has received a medal from Emperor William of Germany in recognition of his services. William I, who was the emperor at the close of Mr. Klem's service, made a request that on the one hundredth anniversary of his birth these medals be given, one to each of the soldiers who served in that war. The medal is of bronze and was made from a cannon captured from the French in 1871. Mr. Klem is proud of the recognition of his services.

Johnson County Mortgages.

TECUMSEH, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special)—During the year 1900 there were 223 farm mortgages, aggregating \$351,140.77, filed with the county clerk of Johnson county. During the same period there were 296 release of farm mortgages, amounting to \$35,046.81. Of town property there were 71 mortgages filed, amounting to \$35,056.55. Of real estate there were 112 real property, representing \$36,799.85. Nine hundred and fifteen chattel mortgages were filed during the year, amounting to \$451,421.90, and 292 released went on record, aggregating \$24,006.69.

Hood's Pills

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ART DEPARTMENT.

CRETE, Neb., Jan. 13.—At a meeting of citizens in the city hall last night the gift of \$10,000 by F. H. Miller for a public library building was formally accepted by the city. Two committees were appointed,

GERING HAS A BAD FIRE

Half of an Extensive Block is Wiped Out, Involving Several Business Houses.

GRAHAM AND COCHRAN BUILDINGS GO

Flames Set Toward Business Center and Only Frenzied Efforts of the Citizens Saves the Town from Destruction.

GERING (Via Scotts Bluffs), Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special Telegram.)

Half of an extensive block of Gering's business buildings is a smoldering, smoking mass of ruins. The Graham building, Cochran building, Charles Stewart barber shop and residence building, were totally wiped out by fire early this morning. A heavy wind prevailed during the time the flames were raging, but by strenuous labor the citizen volunteers prevented the destruction of the principal business part of the city lying southeast and the Commercial hotel just north.

The officers of the Women's Relief corps were installed by Mrs. Amanda J. Marble, past president, and are as follows: Mrs. Allie Fisher, president; Mrs. Maria Shaw, senior vice; Mrs. Lucetta Fisher, junior vice; Mrs. Gabriella Barnes, chaplain; Mrs. Allie Gamichael, treasurer; Mrs. Lizzie C. Fellen, secretary; Mrs. Julia Gold, conductor; Mrs. Lizzie Thompson, assistant conductor; Mrs. Elvina Bush, guide; Mrs. C. E. Green, assistant guide; Mrs. Elvina Baker, first color bearer; Mrs. Minnie Taylor, second color bearer; Mrs. Catharine Baker, third color bearer; Mrs. Elvina Stevens, fourth color bearer.

Girl Hurt While Coasting.

WEPPING WATER, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special) Gladys, daughter of Frank Warner, while coasting down a steep hill last evening, was thrown off the sled and struck her head on a sharp rock, making an ugly wound of several inches on her scalp, and bruising her head in several places, requiring a number of stitches.

Modern Wooden Delegates.

O'NEILL, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special) At the county convention of Modern Woodmen in this city Thursday to elect two delegates to attend the state convention at Keosau, Neb., next month, D. H. Cronin of O'Neill and F. W. Phillips of Star were elected delegates and E. L. Lackard of Ewing and M. L. Wintermute of Chambers, alternates.

Lutherans Grow in Benedict.

BENEDICT, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special) The Lutherans are experiencing a wonderful growth, due to gospel meetings. Last week over forty new members joined the Lutheran church. The good work is still going on and it is expected that a large number more will join.

Nebraska News Notes.

Thirty-seven people were taken into the Lutheran church at Benedict on a recent Sunday.

A new Catholic church, costing about \$10,000, has been completed at South creek, Dixon county.

A local telephone company has been incorporated at Neligh and the town expects soon to have a telephone.

The business men of Bennington have organized a society to promote the creamy interests of Franklin county.

The Postal Telegraph company is removing its wires from the top of the Blue Springs and Wymore Horsethieves one night recently stole a team and harness from one man at Falls City and completed their outfit by taking a team from another.

The city marshal of Chadron has served notice on the youth of that town that all of them found with air guns in their possession will be fined.

Several parties were convicted of illegally selling liquor at Holdrege during the recent term of the district court at that place. They were fined sums ranging from \$10 to \$50.

MATERIAL FOR ROMANCE.

Last Wills and Testaments Afford an Abundance.

Much material for romance has been heretofore extracted from the last wills and testaments of persons deceased, who had no particular history excepting that of the future, and there is no prospect that the supply will fail, says the New York Evening Post. The author of the book, in his introduction, states that he has collected from Shanghae and the character of the people, and I presume he has been deceived away by rascals for some bad purpose. The author of the book, in his introduction, states that he had control of my wrath and bitterness. My loved one has it plain, been enticed away by this rascal's deceit. How, however, can a mere tattler like him, who has no law of justice before his eyes, it is on this account that I am advertising, to give any kind of information, that he is not entitled to my love. His kindness and benevolence for a myriad generations, to all eternity, will be forgotten.

If you delay longer and do not return I cannot control my wrath and bitterness. My loved one has it plain, been enticed away by this rascal's deceit. How, however, can a mere tattler like him, who has no law of justice before his eyes, it is on this account that I am advertising, to give any kind of information, that he is not entitled to my love. His kindness and benevolence for a myriad generations, to all eternity, will be forgotten.

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