

BANK'S ASSETS NEAR ZERO

Examination Shows Believable Depositors May Not Get Five Per Cent.

MUCH CROOKED WORK IS UNEARTHED

Forged Notes and Mortgages Are Identified—Whole Town Aroused and Defianters Are Threatened with Violence.

DAVID CITY, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—As the examination of the books of the Platte Valley State bank at Bellwood progresses the condition of the bank becomes more deplorable. Bank Examiner Hartwell has expressed the opinion that the assets will not pay 5 per cent to the depositors. Up to this time about 150 notes have been presented and found in the bank that are forgeries.

During the last two days holders of notes and securities resting easy, have been arriving, and so far without a single exception their paper is all forged.

Some of those forged apparently were secured by mortgages on Butler county real estate, which show on their face that they were filed, indexed and recorded, giving the book and page, all in the regular way with the name of the county clerk attached to the certificate of record.

All of those that have examined the records discovered that the mortgages and certificate of filing and recording are also forged. Certificates of deposit are being presented every day that the bank records do not show that any such certificates were ever issued, but the holders deposited the money and all they have is a worthless piece of paper.

Many Debits Protested.

In addition to forged notes and mortgages a large number of drafts are being reported protested.

Several poor widows residing in and near Bellwood, who had a few dollars, perhaps left them by their husbands as life insurance, have lost every cent of their money.

Some of them had left their money with A. H. Gould, for investment for them, which he failed to do, but agitated on the Board of Trade, and the widows' wife is now in the Chicago wheat pit.

R. C. Gould, brother of A. H. Gould, and who is assistant cashier of the defunct bank, was arrested yesterday afternoon and brought to this city and lodged in jail. The complaint filed against him is similar to the one filed against the cashier, with the addition of making and verifying false statements to the State Banking Board, and with having knowledge of all the forgeries committed by the cashier, A. H. Gould, and as being an accomplice in all of the crooked transactions. He has confessed his guilt and now occupies a cell in the county jail.

From the best information obtainable, one or two more arrests will follow in a very short time.

Yesterday afternoon when R. C. Gould was arrested in Bellwood, a large crowd gathered, and loud calls were made for a rope and only by the hard work of the officer and the persuasive argument of Bank Examiner Hartwell, did Mr. Gould escape being lynched.

Excitement is at fever heat and threats are being made against the prisoners. Sheriff West had a large force of deputies guarding the jail last night, but no attempt was made to molest the prisoners.

POOR MAN NEEDS PROTECTION

Household Correspondent Declares Land Leasing Bill Would Benefit Large Ranch Companies.

HYANNIS, Neb., Jan. 31, 1902.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am pleased to see the fight you are making against the land leasing outrage, which, if it passes, will equal the Bartley pardon outrage. That bill was drawn for the benefit of the large ranch companies only. It would be better and cheaper for them to lease the land than to have the government give them the land.

Now, there are thousands of acres of valley land in the hands of the land that will raise alfalfa without irrigation, land that is used for grazing what never was grass land. Homesteaders by the thousand can settle in here and raise alfalfa and make homes.

If that bill goes through it will stop the settlement of western Nebraska, while if this bill will protect the homesteader. It is not so. They have the country all fenced and do not allow a hoof of stock on the public land. If the land is leased and a man takes a homestead in one of these ranches, they will eat him out and starve him out. What can a poor man do before a jury of cattlemen?

Next it will drive the business men out of the small towns in this country. When the cattlemen get control of the range they will ship all their own supplies, and there will be no one but ranch owners and their hired men. There is no reason in the world why the government should protect the wealthy cattlemen. They are able to protect themselves. It is the poor man that needs protection.

The fences should come down on government land and make it free.

Please withhold my name as it would ruin my business. SUBSCRIBER.

New Companies at Bellwood.

BEATRICE, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—The Kees Hardware company, with a paid up capital of \$10,000, with F. D. Kees as president and Robert A. Smith as secretary, and the Union State bank, with \$50,000 paid capital, Hon. Jacob Klein as president and J. H. Penner as cashier, began business this week. The Beatrice Creamery company has amended its articles of incorporation, increasing its capital stock from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

The mortgage record of the county for January shows a net reduction on farm and city mortgages of \$25,483, there being twenty-three farm mortgages, amounting to \$33,114, filed for record, and fifty-one, amounting to \$64,103, released. Twenty-one city mortgages, amounting to \$13,390, were filed, and twenty-three, amounting to \$7,864, were released, showing a small increase on city property.

Fined for Disturbing Peace.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—John Ryan and Frank Thompson arrested the night of the Oelrich cutlery robbery on suspicion of connection with it, were arraigned in police court on charges of disturbing the peace by being intoxicated and fighting on the public streets. Each went to jail in default of \$15 fine pending the possible filing of a more serious charge against them. Both are strangers.

Many Rabbits Killed in Wolf Hunt.

HENDERSON, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—A large circle wolf hunt came off here yesterday and in the round-up over 150 jack rabbits were killed and one wolf.

STATE QUITS STARCH CASE

Attorney General Frownt Satisfied Consolidation is Not Illegal.

CASE AGAINST THE BARTLEY BONDSMEN

Argument Before the Supreme Court is Expected This Week—Central Irrigation Company Wants More Water from Loup.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—A motion to dismiss the case of the State against the Argo Manufacturing company was filed in the supreme court this morning by Attorney General Frownt. This is the suit brought under the anti-trust law by former Attorney General Smith. Frownt asks for the dismissal because of the following reasons, which he sets forth in his motion to the court:

"The depositions of the officers of the defendant company and the books of the United Starch company and the National Starch company, copies of which are on file in the supreme court, disclose the plan and method of said company's organization. They also disclose the fact that the said United Starch company was organized and incorporated for the purpose of buying certain other starch manufacturing plants, and of operating them, and that in pursuance of said purpose several starch plants were purchased by said company, by absolute deed of conveyance of the real estate and bills of sale of the personal property, including the machinery, fixtures, etc., payment being made therefor largely by the issue of stock in the new company, only a small payment in cash being made. Under this plan the Argo Manufacturing company was purchased, together with the others. The evidence further discloses that all of the said properties are owned and operated in the simple by the defendant, the National Starch company, which purchased all of the stock of the United Starch company.

Seek to Explain Increase. The officers of said company admitted that the price of the product had been advanced since their organization, but explained it by testifying to a still greater advance in the cost of the raw material. It was further shown by the evidence that the defendant, the National Starch company, is in competition with other starch manufacturing concerns under an entirely different, separate and independent control, and does not produce 50 per cent of the starch output of the United States. On investigation of my own I find this last fact to be true. Such being the fact, it occurs to me that the Argo plant and the United Starch company and the National Starch company are none of them trusts as defined by the law. I reach this conclusion because they are powerless to create or carry out restrictions in trade or to limit the production or to prevent competition or fix prices regardless of the law of supply and demand. Not having control of the output of manufactured starch and therefore being unable to fix prices arbitrarily, and being operated entirely independent of other companies in competition with them, the operations, the provisions of the law directed against trusts and are not subject to the penalties therein provided."

Mr. Frownt says he recently examined the books and records of the defendant in New York, and became convinced that there had been no violation of law in the consolidation of the various starch companies. The evidence obtained has been filed in the court and is subject for review along the motion to dismiss.

School Superintendent's Convention.

State Superintendent Fowler is urging city school boards throughout the state to send their superintendents to the annual convention of city superintendents in Chicago, February 25, 26 and 27, and to provide for the payment of their expenses.

"The school boards in many of the cities in the eastern and central states, and in some of the western ones, pay all or a part of their superintendents' expenses to these meetings," says Mr. Fowler. "This is customary in other lines of business and the practice cannot be criticized in public school work. The school boards of several Nebraska cities do this and quite a number this year will vote from \$25 to \$50 for the purpose. It pays the benefit to the superintendent is a direct gain to the schools and the community. The railroad rate for this meeting is one and one-third fare for the round trip, on the certificate plan.

"An excellent program has been arranged, including lectures, papers and discussions by the leading school men and women of the country on the most important and vital educational topics of the day. Among the subjects discussed will be the county institute from the practical standpoint, the real value of examination as determining the teacher's fitness for work; the tenure of office of teachers and superintendents; the sociological aspect of the school; the high school as a people's college versus the existing schools; the educational needs of a democracy, and the teaching of American history in the schools. Every city superintendent in the state should attend the convention."

Case Against Bartley Bondsmen.

The case of the state against the bondsmen of former Treasurer Bartley will be argued before the supreme court next week. The action as originally begun has been divided into two branches, but it is likely both will be argued the same day. From the last decision in the district court of Douglas county the state appealed as to Bondsmen W. A. Paxton, Thomas Swobe and Cadet Taylor, who were released from liability on the bond, which Bondsmen C. C. McNiel, E. E. Brown and J. H. Ames, against whom a judgment was given, appealed as to the state. Paxton, Swobe and Taylor are seeking to be released on the ground that as they signed the bond after it had been approved they cannot be held liable with the others. Judge Frank Irvine, now a member of the faculty of Cornell Law college, will return to Nebraska to participate in the argument in behalf of the bondsmen.

Validity of Peddlers' License Law.

The validity of the peddlers' license law, which was passed by the last legislature, is again questioned in legal proceedings, this time brought to the supreme court by Max Rosenblum, who was convicted and fined \$50 by Judge Grimsom in Platte county for peddling without a license. He contends through his attorney that the act is purely a revenue measure, as evidenced by its title, and that the terms under consideration are unconstitutional and void for four reasons, which he cites as follows:

"It is a revenue measure for the purpose of raising taxes, and non-payment of taxes cannot be punished criminally.

"The title of the act is not broad enough to embrace a criminal provision.

"The law is too indefinite and uncertain in its provisions to be valid as a criminal measure.

"The law exempts certain persons from the payment of taxes and is therefore not uniform in its operations and is unconstitutional."

Central Irrigation Company.

The Nebraska Central Irrigation company of Columbus today filed an application with the secretary of the State Board of Irrigation for an increase in its allowance of water from the Loup river for power

and irrigation purposes of from 1,500 cubic feet per second to 2,000 cubic feet per second. The last claim, if granted, would require practically the entire flow of the stream at its ordinary stages and might affect the prior claims for water from the Platte river below the point where it is joined by the Loup. Various claims have been filed by Fremont, Omaha and Platte mouth power plant companies for water from the Platte and they will likely protest against any increase in the allowance for the Columbus company. The Nebraska Central company proposes to complete a canal about eighty-one miles in length with a power plant so situated that a drop of eighty feet might be obtained. It will offer to furnish electric power to users in Omaha, Fremont, Lincoln and intermediate points.

Bank of Bellwood Chartered.

Secretary Royle of the State Banking Board today issued a charter to the Bank of Bellwood, whose incorporators are George W. Vost, Nathaniel A. Bueh, E. J. Wightman and A. Zimm. The institution is organized to succeed the Platte Valley bank, which was ordered to close several days ago because of the embezzlement by Cashier A. H. Gould. It is capitalized for \$20,000.

Articles of incorporation of the Federal Printing company of Omaha were recorded today in the secretary of state's office. It is capitalized for \$50,000 and its incorporators are F. Nagl, F. B. Feister and Bertha Getzschmann.

The John B. Heavis Quick Account System company of Omaha has filed an amendment to its articles of incorporation changing its name to the Three in One Quick Account System company.

The Ganoung's Pharmacy of this city has incorporated with a capital stock of \$15,000. The incorporators are D. W. Ganoung, I. S. Ganoung, W. T. Edge and Roy S. Shepstock.

The Midland Glass and Paint company of Omaha has increased its capitalization from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

The State Board of Public Lands and Buildings this morning gave the Monarch Scale company of Des Moines a contract for installing track scales at the hospitals for insane in this city and Hastings. They will cost \$25 each, including labor and trackage.

A marriage license was given today to James M. Brady of Omaha and Gertrude Moore of Lincoln.

State Superintendent Fowler today issued a circular to principals and superintendents emphasizing their power under the law to suppress the sale or gift of cigarettes or tobacco to minors under 15 years of age.

HUSTLE TO GET OUT GRAIN

Shippers at Winside Handicapped by Discontinuance of Western Freight Service.

WINSIDE, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—Considerable hustling was manifest among the grain men here yesterday, caused by the order issued Thursday night discontinuing the running of Union Pacific trains through here to Sioux City. All grain for Des Moines and other points had to be loaded out by last night. This arrangement is considered a great hardship by shippers, as they were only given twenty-four hours' notice. They have been buying on Denver bids, which are from 8 to 10 cents higher than those from eastern points, and not having the benefit of the Chicago market on Thursday 50 cents for corn which they could not realize over 40 cents upon if they shipped it to Minneapolis. Yesterday they paid 45 cents, although they could not get out on it if shipped, but they were compelled to compete with the feeders.

The claim made by a Sioux City paper Thursday night that the change was caused by a lack of business, is considered ridiculous, as it is a fact that they have had to run special trains often to clear up the sidings, and seldom in the last four months has a car been taken out of the yard. The grain loaders some even lying here for ten days or longer, while nearly every train with a single engine had to set out cars here, and double-headers were at almost daily occurrence.

The western market, opened up by the running of the Union Pacific trains over the tracks of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, from Norfolk to Sioux City, has put thousands of dollars into the pockets of the farmers, who market their grain at Hoskins, Winside, Wayne and Wakefield, as the prices paid by the western buyers have been about 10 cents higher than the Minneapolis market would warrant local grain men paying, and for the last year and a half not one car of oats or corn has been shipped east out of this place. It is owing to this that the change is being made. The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha officials have been here often to try to arrange to get up a share of the coarse grains, and about a year ago did succeed in getting the eastern bid raised, but it was never equal to the western. One cause for this is the grades in Minneapolis. Not a car of corn from Nebraska of the crop of 1901-2 has been sent to that point which will grade better than No. 1 and it mostly grades N. G., while the western feeders only ask for corn.

Of course, the loss falls as usual upon the farmer. One elevator here was caught with 8,000 bushels upon which the owners lose about 8 cents a bushel. The other three had not so much on hand.

MUST ACCOUNT FOR FEES

Gage County Treasurer Ordered to Make Full Statement of Receipts of Office.

BEATRICE, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—The county board of supervisors adopted this report in the case against ex-County Treasurer George W. Maurer prior to adjournment Thursday.

"That after an investigation of various reports returned to the county and county treasurer of Gage county, Nebraska, and account for the sum retained by him during his term of office, the funds of the county are found to be short by the amount of the fees of said office, as is shown by an examination of the books of the office of said county treasurer and his reports on file in the office of the county clerk of Gage county, Nebraska."

SAMUEL BIVENS, G. W. CAMPBELL, J. E. MCCORMACK, Committee.

The board appointed a committee of three to act in conjunction with the county attorney in examining the books of that suit for the amount claimed by the county. Mr. Maurer says he will carry the case to the supreme court if necessary.

Mr. Maurer called at the office of County Clerk Plasters yesterday and offered to deposit with the clerk certificates of deposit for the amount claimed to be due the county from him by the board, and the same to become the property of the county in case the courts decided against him, and in case the decision be in his favor the clerk to return the certificates. County Clerk Plasters refused to accept the certificates, saying he had no authority to receive them.

Four Inches of Snow at Plattsmouth.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—Four inches of snow fell in this vicinity yesterday, which makes the best sleighing here for years. The icebreakers are employing all teams obtainable.

SAFE IN THE CASPER JAIL

Charles Woodward Escapes Mob Violence for Murder of Sheriff Ricker.

QUICK TRIAL BY LAW IS ANTICIPATED

Prisoner Now Denies His Former Confession—Bears the Marks of the Struggle Made to Capture Him.

DOUGLASS, Wyo., Feb. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Charles Woodward, alleged murderer of Sheriff Ricker, passed through Douglas tonight with Sheriff Tubbs. They were met at Orin Junction by several deputies, who accompanied them to Casper. All declare that no attempt will be made to lynch Woodward, who is now safely confined in the Casper jail. He will be tried quickly and if found guilty will be executed with expediency. Woodward was cheerful and said he was not afraid to go to Casper. He laughed at the talk of lynching and denied that he ever admitted the murder of Ricker or that he is guilty.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Feb. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—G. L. Blake, a western Nebraska sheepman, arrived in Cheyenne today from Chadron. He says he came east to Chadron from Billings on the same train with Sheriff Tubbs of Casper and Charles Woodward, alleged murderer of Sheriff Ricker, and had a long talk with the prisoner.

Blake says Woodward is a hard-looking object, but he was badly beaten up by Ratchman William Owens and his hired man, Sheriff Tubbs, when they effected his capture, thirteen miles east of Billings, last Monday. Both his eyes were black, his face was cut and bruised and one arm rested in a sling.

Blake heard the story of Woodward's capture from the prisoner himself. Woodward said he was beaten up by Owens and remained several days. Owens suspected his identity and laid a trap to catch him. Owens and his hired man made Woodward believe they were fugitives from justice, having murdered several men, and in this manner led up to the killing of Sheriff Ricker. Owens said he would like to meet the man that was brave enough to do a job of that kind, whereupon Woodward confessed that he was the murderer and even went so far as to detail the manner of killing the sheriff, taking his weapons and then beating his head with the butt of a revolver.

For two days Owens watched for an opportunity to catch Woodward away from his weapons, and when the time finally came the murderer was attacked.

Woodward was killed by the sheriff's men. He fought desperately, and he told Blake that if he could have only reached his gun he would have killed Owens and Berkebeiner.

Woodward was taken from the train at Chadron last night and locked up. Sheriff Tubbs wanted to give the people of Casper a little more time in which to cool off. He sent several messages to Acting Governor Chatterton and the authorities at Casper concerning the feeling of the people and to learn if proper steps had been taken to protect the prisoner.

At the time of locking up his prisoner at Chadron last night, Sheriff Tubbs intended to leave there today and take Woodward to Casper tonight. A report from Casper this evening says the train is over three hours late and will not reach there until after midnight. It is believed that Sheriff Tubbs fears a lynching and will hold Woodward at Chadron for several days or until he can conduct him to Casper in safety.

After Arrest Proffers Ignorance. CRAWFORD, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Sheriff W. E. Tubbs of Casper, Wyo., transferred his prisoner, Charles Woodward from the Burlington to the Elkhorn railway here this morning. Woodward says he is 28 years old and was born at Dixon, Ill. He says he never heard of the death and shooting of Sheriff Ricker until about three days before he was arrested near Billings; that Ricker was good to him while in prison and he was simply sleeping about under cover to avoid re-arrest.

When asked "Were you not present when Sheriff Ricker was shot?" he said, with a sickly smile: "I refuse to talk on that subject" and would say no more.

Woodward presents the appearance of having just emerged from a free fight, both eyes are blackened and his face is cut in several places.

Sheriff Tubbs says that Woodward told the complete story about the way it was reported in the press, of Wilson and Henry Owens' brothers, who discovered him and gained his confidence, but in the attempt to arrest him he fought until he was bruised up as he now appears. Sheriff Tubbs has with him only one deputy, and will take Woodward directly through to Casper, where he is satisfied that there will be no violence attempted. If there is an attempt to lynch he says he is prepared for and can certainly resist it, but Woodward thinks there is no danger.

CASPER, Wyo., Feb. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Woodward is expected to arrive in Casper tonight. The outcome no one can tell. Everybody that is not a deputy wants to hang him, and the deputies, about one-half the male population, say give him a show. If he had Ricker's belt and gun on when captured, he may be hung. If he did not, the crowd may let him alone. All kinds of people are in town. Twenty-five deputies went to Douglas to meet Sheriff Tubbs and Woodward.

FILES A SENSATIONAL SUIT

Charles Bartels Charges Wealthy Land Owner with Alienation of Wife's Affections.

WEST POINT, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—A sensational lawsuit was filed in the district court late Thursday evening. The plaintiff is Charles Bartels, an old citizen and formerly a leading business man of this place. The defendant is Charles C. Doeschler, owner of the Doeschler steam roller mills and one of the largest landowners in Gage county. The suit is for \$25,000 damages for alienation of the affections of plaintiff's wife. The petition contains serious allegations. Owing to the prominence of the parties the case excites great interest. Doeschler is a widower. The woman is the care of the mother of a large family and is Bartels' second wife.

Turned Loose and Re-arrested.

OSCEOLA, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special.)—Polk county's jail has had an inmate for the last three weeks, Benjamin C. Muddell and Fred Lamb, who were charged with stealing a horse and at the present term of court held here they were up for trial. They were bound over and for lack of bonds stayed in jail. On the trial every inch of the ground was contested, the court furnishing E. L. King as the jury. They were tried by separate trials. They were tried by jury and the verdict was guilty. Judge Sornborger set the verdict aside and granted a new trial. County Attorney Beebe nolle prossed the cases, the boys were turned loose and immediately arrested and taken to York. It is alleged they stole the horse in Polk county, the buggy in York county and the harness and robes in Hamilton county. One of the instructions to the jury by the judge was that if they had not premeditated the stealing before they got drunk, and that they were drunk, and unconscious of what they were doing, then the jury should bring in a verdict of not guilty.

Kelley, Stiger & Co.

We have decided to continue our Fifty Per Cent Discount Sale on Long Cloaks, Raglans and Jackets another week. Just half price for any Long Cloak, Raglan or Jacket we have in stock.

20 per cent Discount on Women's and Children's Winter Underwear, Union Suits and Pants and Vests.

20 per cent Discount on Men's and Boys' Winter Underwear.

Corner Farnam and Fifteenth Streets

Advertisement for Senator Thomas H. Benton, featuring a portrait and text: "An American road to the Orient, 'The Overland Route'—central and natural—for ourselves and our posterity, now and hereafter for thousands of years to come."

Advertisement for Herbert Spencer Cigar, featuring a portrait and text: "EASE YOUR MIND BY SMOKING THE HERBERT SPENCER CIGAR. A. J. Sherrett Cigar Company, Distributors, 1302 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska."

Large advertisement for Omaha Petroleum, Gas & Coal Co., featuring text: "OMAHA PETROLEUM, GAS & COAL CO. THERE IS NOTHING THAT SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS. We have come before the people with a strictly business proposition. We have told them that they need not take our word for this, but to examine for themselves. A number have taken us at our word and their verdict is recorded upon the books of this company, as they have all returned more than pleased and have invested in stock."

Advertisement for Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, featuring text: "It Hangs On. You think you can wear it out. The chances are, it will wear you out. Simple home remedies will not answer here. Neither will ordinary cough medicines. The grasp is too tight, the hold is too strong. Better consult your doctor and get a prescription. He knows, you know, we know it will be: 'One bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.' All good druggists keep it."

Advertisement for Dr. Bennett's Great Free Offer, featuring text: "Dr. Bennett's Great Free Offer. A Death Blow to My Imitators—Read the Remarkable Offer Dr. Bennett Makes to the Multitude of Afflicted. My Electric Belts or ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE for the radical and permanent cure of every form of Nervousness, Rheumatism, and Kidney Ailments and for Restoring Lost Vigor, Vitality and Power, as well as for the permanent alleviation of Rheumatism in any grade of Kidney, Liver and Bladder troubles. Convulsions, Spasms and Disorders, etc., are known throughout the civilized world and recognized by physicians and scientists as the ONE APPLIANCE to be relied upon to effect a perfect cure, and the exclusively patented feature of the BURNING and HISTERICAL. The only Electric Belt which can be renewed when burned out. The cost of renewing is only 75c."