

## CURRENT NEWS OF IOWA

## COUNCIL BLUFFS

Office, 10 Pearl St. Tel. 45.

## WATER ORDINANCE STANDS

Council in Executive Session Decides to Make No More Changes.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE FILES ITS REPORT

No Bids Received for Widening and Deepening Indian Creek and City Will Do the Work by Day Labor.

The ordinance fixing the water rates is to go into effect at once, the city council having decided not to amend it so that the new schedule would become operative until April 1. This decision was evidently reached at an "executive" session of the councilmen last night before the regular meeting, as not the slightest mention of the ordinance was made at the open meeting. That some understanding, however, had been reached by the councilmen of the ordinance was evident when at the close of the council meeting City Clerk Zarnuehien started off at double trot, ordinance in hand, toward the office of the local paper, with the announcement that it would be published in the morning issue. At the same time the clerk volunteered the information that by publishing the ordinance at once the city would save \$1,000 hydrant rentals between this and April 1.

On his way from the city council meeting Mayor Macrae made this significant remark: "Well, (referring to the publication of the water rates ordinance at this time) will bring the matter to a test, anyhow, and the sooner the better."

At the meeting last Thursday night when the water rates ordinance, after being amended, was passed, Councilman Weaver, chairman of the special committee on water rates, stated that his committee would present a written report which it desired entered in the council records. This report, a voluminous affair and evidently prepared in the office of the special counsel and retained by the committee, was filed last night, but City Clerk Zarnuehien refrained from reading it at the council meeting, and it will be duly entered on the records.

**Report of Committee.**

In this report the committee, consisting of Mayor Macrae and Councilmen Weaver, Gilbert and McMillen, set forth at length the investigations they made to arrive at the rates which they originally embodied in the ordinance. They later cut pieces by the city council. Correspondence, as the report states, was had with 12 cities relative to rates, etc. The figures and other data referred to in the report have already been made public through the hearing held before Judge Thornhill, and from such information as leaked out from the star chamber sessions held by the special committee and the councilmen in committee of the whole.

In conclusion, the report, in referring to the proposed municipal ownership by the city of the water works plant, has this to say:

"This council, by ordinance, had declared in favor of the acquisition by the city of the water plant and its construction. The water company made to the council a proposition to sell to the city its existing plant for cash at a price to be fixed by three disinterested arbitrators, and this proposition was accepted by the city council. We have been unable to secure a contract with the water company on the lines of that offer and acceptance for the reason that the city is unable to pay the value of the plant under the proposition as outlined, and an arbitration of the city. We then entered into negotiations with the company for modification of that contract, and the city council has accepted the plan at its actual value as fixed by competent disinterested hydraulic engineers, and the city council has introduced in the state legislature increasing the power of the city to acquire the plant. To that end bills have been introduced to municipal ownership. To this legislation the company has been unable to fully agree upon the terms of this proposed contract."

**Financial.**

What, if any, effect the action of this council on the rate ordinance may have on these pending negotiations we are, of course, not advised. We understand a contract and a franchise with the existing company expired January 31, 1906, but the water company has claimed that by reason of an amendment to its original franchise it was extended to December 31, 1906. While we are advised by the city solicitor and our special counsel that this contract is not binding, we are not yet convinced, and we are also advised that if the water company should make that claim they could probably get a court injunction to restrain the enforcement of an ordinance which would be in violation of their contract, and it would be several months before the question could be determined. In fixing rates under the ordinance passed by the city council we have been ordered to fix rates that would be fair and reasonable to the city and private consumers under the flat rate and meter rate, and at the same time to make no change in the city toward municipal ownership and avoid legislation that might suspend the operation of the rate ordinance while the city is in the process of acquiring the plant. The city should pass and keep in force the existing hydrant rentals which the city has heretofore paid.

**No Bids on Deepening Creek.**

The city council last night was not troubled with opening any bids for the improvement of Indian Creek from Sixteenth avenue to Eighth street. Contractors have apparently fought shy of bidding on the work, as the second attempt to secure bids again failed to elicit the slightest response. Councilman Maloney reported that there was \$2,000 in sight for the work and it was decided that the city should do the work. A committee consisting of Councilmen Maloney, Finley and Olson was appointed to act in conjunction with the city engineer and to go ahead and have the work done according to the plans and specifications.

The ordinance vacating a portion of Thirtieth street for the Union Pacific railroad tracks, the snow was falling heavily at the time and this, it is supposed, prevented him from noticing the train backing down on him. When the car struck him young Hunt was thrown clear of the tracks and thus probably escaped being ground to death beneath the wheels. He suffered a fracture of the

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## DEBATE ON PRIMARY BILL

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## Vote on Amendment Indicates Measure Will Pass the Senate.

## SAUNDERS OFFERS HIS SUBSTITUTE

Legislature Takes Action on Death of Former Speaker Henderson and Will Send Committee to Funeral.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

DES MOINES, Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—By a vote of 23 to 16 the senate adopted the committee amendment to the Croswell primary bill. It was a vote of the democrats and Cummins people for the bill and every standstill for two, Bleckley and Jackson voted against it. Every democrat and Cummins man voted for it. It is believed by some that the vote forecasts the passage of the bill by the senate. There were absentees on voting and of these two are Cummins men. Senator Saunders did not vote on the amendment.

At 2:30 this afternoon, on special order, Senator Croswell called up the primary election bill, senate file No. 2. He moved the adoption of the committee substitute which simplifies the matter of registration of voters and party affiliation requirements. The substitute bill by the committee was adopted and Senator Lyons moved to amend by providing that where there is a failure under the primary to select or nominate a candidate the convention shall be held by the committee. Senator Lyons is a democrat and the amendment is for the benefit of the minority party. After the offering of the amendment Senator Croswell got the floor and consumed the rest of the afternoon with his address favoring the passage of the bill, of which he had the authorship.

At the conclusion of Croswell's speech Saunders offered a substitute providing for primaries in counties, cities of 5,000 or over and districts when district and county are co-existent. It has an optional provision for the counties of 5,000 or over on the floor and he will be the first to speak tomorrow.

**Anti-Pass Bill Formulated.**

The subcommittee of the senate railroad committee which has in hand the matter of reporting to the committee an anti-pass bill reported today, and while the committee has not yet acted on the matter, it is understood that the Hughes bill is used as the basis for the bill recommended to the committee. The bill as reported by the subcommittee prohibits giving passes to state officers and other public officials, including state and federal jurors and city and county officials. The bill, however, excepts railroad commissioners.

**Resolutions for Henderson.**

Resolutions for the funeral of the late Senator Henderson were introduced in the senate today by Senator Crawford of Dubuque and in the house by Representative Prudden of Dubuque respecting the death of ex-Speaker David B. Henderson. The resolutions call for the appointment of committees to attend the funeral services, which will be held Thursday at the residence of the late senator, and for the appointment of a committee to draft suitable resolutions expressing the high appreciation of the people of the state for his distinguished services.

**Manufacturers Oppose Bureau.**

Circular letters, signed by A. C. Hutchins, as secretary of the Iowa State Manufacturers' association, in order of its legislative committee, and on the letterhead of the association, have been sent out to the members of the association opposing the state employment agency bill which was drafted and introduced by Senator Hayward. The circular letters state that the members of the association are opposed to the proposed state employment office which will be appointed by the state labor commissioner, who is a union labor man, and hence all the superintendents will be union labor men. The letter asserts that the offices will thus become recruiting offices for the labor union, and that the unions have been favorable to the bill, they have not taken any active interest in the measure.

**Report on Official Terms.**

The special committee of the house to whom has been referred all matters pertaining to changes in the laws because of the change to the biennial session system reported this afternoon. The committee is agreed on leaving all state offices as at present—two-year terms. Railroad commissioners and township trustees are changed to six-year terms, and a change is recommended in the fiscal year so as to bring all reports on the old number years before the change in the meetings of the legislature. On the rest the committee is divided. The majority recommends that county officers' terms remain two years, but the minority recommends that clerks, auditors and recorders be made for four-year terms.

**Council Bluffs Man Elected.**

In the house today Assistant Chief Clerk W. C. Ramsey of Bellemond, who has lately been appointed postmaster there, resigned, and the house elected P. O. Leary of Council Bluffs to fill the position.

**Consolidation of Rates.**

The railroad commission today issued an announcement of changes in rates in eighteen items, the changes being based on the recent hearings. The most important change is in crushed stone, which will hereafter go at soft lump coal, meaning a reduction of 10 or 12 per cent.

**Assessment Notices Served.**

LOGAN, Ia., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—The Harrison county sheriff and his deputy are about to begin serving the assessment notices in the Harrison-Pottawattamie drainage district. There are about 3,000 of these notices.

**Improvement Club Federation.**

At the meeting of the Federation of Improvement Clubs last night at the office of the president, C. C. Clifton, considerable discussion was had over the proposed constitution and bylaws, and the committee having this in charge was given further time.

**Change in Train Service.**

Commencing yesterday, Burlington passenger train No. 11, the local train from Creston, will come right through, without laying over at Pacific Junction to connect with the train for St. Louis. Heretofore No. 11 laid over at Pacific Junction forty minutes to await the arrival of No. 27 from St. Louis, to which it was coupled and then brought to Council Bluffs, reaching here at 11:30 a. m. Now No. 11 will reach Council Bluffs at 10:30 a. m.

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## WOMAN IN CLUB AND CHARITY

In answer to the petition of the Omaha Women's club to the Nebraska legislature in congress asking support for the bill providing for an appropriation for the industrial conditions of women, letters were read at Monday afternoon's meeting of the club from Senators Millard and Burkett and Congressman Keene, endorsing consideration of the matter. In another letter Senator Millard inclosed a communication from Director S. N. D. North of the census bureau, outlining the work being done in that department with reference to women and children in industry. It stated, however, that it was not within the province of the department to make the full investigation asked by the women, but that acting in conjunction with the labor bureau it might be secured.

Announcement was made of the women's property rights meeting to be held under the auspices of the social science department of the club at 2:30 o'clock next Monday afternoon, when Hon. C. H. Epperson, chairman of the senate judiciary committee of the last legislature, will speak of "The Right of Dower, a Relic of Barbarism." The club women will make another attempt next year to secure the passage of a decedent law that they will outline.

The remainder of the afternoon was given over to a program by the art department of the club. The department has been following Powers' outline of early Christian art and, while much of the work would scarcely be of interest to others than art students, selections were made from these and presented by stereopticon to illustrate the method of study rather than the subjects.

The press committee of the local biennial board of St. Paul has commenced its issue of information to the club women who expect to attend the eighth biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's clubs next June. Following are the items of interest from the first bulletin.

**Bureau of Information.**—Miss Clara Somers, 9 South St. Alban street, chairman. Press Committee.—Miss Lily A. Long, 44 Carroll street, chairman.

**Program.**—Announcements will be made as to the good things to be provided for the convention and matters of interest and importance are before the club women. The program cannot fail to merit sympathetic attention.

**Social Functions.**—These will not be neglected. The club women are expected to be helpful and interesting personal acquaintances are among the most valued opportunities for meeting and conversing. The discussion of abstract questions is of high importance to a representative body of club women. "Human touch" is hardly secondary. Besides the incidental opportunities which every convention affords, the club women will be given details of which will be duly announced.

**Places of Meeting.**—Mrs. J. W. Edgerly, 1001 Grand street, has been selected for the convention hall. It is a large, new building, picturesque on the outside and very conveniently arranged within. The hotel, on the other side of the street, is an excellent place for the convention. The discussion of abstract questions is of high importance to a representative body of club women. "Human touch" is hardly secondary. Besides the incidental opportunities which every convention affords, the club women will be given details of which will be duly announced.

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## GERMANY IS FOR PEACE

Will Grant Further Concessions to France at Algeiras Conference.

DESIRE RIVAL TO YIELD SOME POINTS

Kaiser Prefers to Make Another Effort at Reconciliation Rather Than Let Affairs of Morocco Drift Along.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—The German government has decided to make a further concession to the French views on the Moroccan question, provided France will also yield some.

The extent of Germany's proposals will become known only at Algeiras, where they will be communicated to the French delegates. Emperor William and Chancellor von Buelow, it is understood, would rather make another effort to reconcile the French aims and Germany's interests than allow the serious situation to drift.

Some effort has been made here by certain small financiers to create a war scare out of the emperor's reply to the congressional address of the generals yesterday on the occasion of his majesty's silver wedding, in which the emperor remarked that he prayed God that war would not come, but if it came he was convinced that the army would acquire itself as efficiently as it did thirty-five years ago.

The tension of the House was not affected today, but the market was weak, owing to the uncertainty of the effect of the new German tariff and the commercial treaties going into effect March 1.

**France Balks at Bank Proposal.**

ALGERIAS, Feb. 26.—M. Revault, the principal French delegate, this afternoon handed to Herr von Radwizky, the first German delegate, a short note from the French government relating to the proposed Moroccan bank, pointing out that it was not for the conference to discuss and decide the question, and expressing the view that the French scheme did not prejudice commercial and economic equality.

The nature of this reply has caused an increase of pessimism in quarters already inclined to predict the failure of the conference; but impartial delegates retain their hope of the success of the mediatory efforts between Berlin and Paris.

**Russians Expect a Conflict.**

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 26.—Most alarming views with reference to the relations between Germany and France prevail in certain diplomatic quarters, where the situation is considered to be extremely tense, and a conflict by no means unlikely. The ambassador of one great European power told the Associated Press today that war, in his opinion, was inevitable, and had, in fact, already been decided upon. "It is sad," added the diplomat, who is not ranked among the admirers of Emperor William, "that for the whims of one man Europe must be plunged into the horrors of war."

At the French embassy opinion as to the situation is frankly pessimistic, and the outlook is regarded as serious, the view that there is no telling what trouble may be in store if the conference should break off and France and Germany be left face to face in uncompromising opposition. The abandonment of the French position is regarded as impossible.

Russian officials personally take a gloomy view of the outlook, and especially of the prospects of securing a new loan abroad, but the foreign office is officially on record as trusting that the dispute ultimately will work out satisfactorily.

**TRIAL OF JOE LEITER BEGINS**

Millionaire Mine Owner of Zeigler, Ill., Is Charged with Criminal Negligence.

DUQUOIN, Ill., Feb. 26.—The trial of Joseph Leiter, the owner of the Zeigler coal mines, where some sixty lives were lost in an explosion last April, on a charge of criminal negligence was begun here today.

The prosecution in behalf of the state was brought by Mine Inspector James Taylor and Attorney General Smith. Assistant Attorney General Gillespie of Springfield will conduct the prosecution for the state while former Attorney General Hamlin of Chicago and Judge Hart and Judge Cantrell of Benton will defend Mr. Leiter. The case is attracting widespread interest.

**Where Funston Didn't Swim.**

We crossed the Bagbag river, which Fred Funston didn't swim. The Bagbag feeds a good deal like Independence creek at the place where you cross it on the Dougan road. Two privates in the Kansas regiment really swam the river, under fire, but Funston received the credit. Afterward the incident, as applying to Funston, was taken out of the Kansas school readers. I do not know whether Funston claimed the credit of swimming the river or not, possibly he denied it all the time and he was made a hero in spite of his screams. You may remember that Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for vice president as the hero of San Juan hill, although he distinctly stated in his book on the war that he was not in the action on the hill. But when the Americans start in to praise or abuse a man, they overdo it—Maudie Letter of Editor Howe in *Atchison Globe*.

**Blain Butter Market.**

ELGIN, Ill., Feb. 26.—BUTTER.—Firm at 25¢. Salt for the week \$4.50 per lb.

**Robbers in New Jersey.**

MILLVILLE, N. J., Feb. 26.—Two masked men, one white and one colored, today seized Frederick Radel, a baker, while he was in the stable near his house, and after gagging the baker, reached him into his home at the point of a pistol. The men compelled Radel to open his safe, from which they took nearly \$4,000 in cash. The robbers escaped.

**Beemer Wants Enright Held**

Warden Asks His Detention and He May Be Returned to the State Penitentiary.

Mike Enright, who was acquitted of the charge of holding up the saloon of Adam Burkis at South Omaha, probably will be taken back to the penitentiary at Lincoln today to serve out the remainder of his sentence for burglary. He had served three years of his former sentence when he was released on parole. Warden Beemer notified Sheriff McDonald to hold Enright in the event of his acquittal and he would take him back to the penitentiary. Whether or not his parole has been broken will be a question for Governor Miller to decide. It is said the governor promised not to revoke his parole in case he was acquitted of the holdup charge.

**Chinese in America.**

The Imperial Chinese commission, consisting of thirty-nine, appointed by the emperor to study the government of the United States, Japan, Germany, Austria, France and England, arrived in Seattle upon the Great Northern steamship, Dakota, February 25. They will spend a few days in the Puget Sound investigating the resources of that section and then proceed eastward via the Great Northern to the heart of the Great Northwest.

**PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.**

James P. English has returned from a business trip to Kenosha, Wis.

United States Judge Smith B. McPherson of Iowa was an Omaha visitor Monday afternoon.

Mrs. J. H. McIntosh of New York has arrived in the city in response to reports of the dangerous illness of her brother, Henry Rustin.

Mrs. E. W. Worthington, superintendent of schools of Sheridan county, Wyoming, is the guest of Mrs. and Miss Campbell, 704 South Twenty-eighth street.

Ernest B. Erwin, for the last two years ticket agent at the Union Pacific headquarters, has been appointed city passenger agent of the Union Pacific at Los Angeles. He will assume the duties of his new position March 1.

George O. Somers, assistant to Darling Miller, first vice president of the Burlington, was in the city in response to reports of the dangerous illness of her brother, Henry Rustin.

Superintendent of Schools Davidson has gone to Louisville, Ky., to attend a meeting of the department of superintendence of the National Educational association. Mr. Davidson is on the program for a paper on Advantages and Limitations of Public Government in High Schools. He will return to Omaha Saturday.

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BERLIN, Feb. 26.—The German government has decided to make a further concession to the French views on the Moroccan question, provided France will also yield some.

The extent of Germany's proposals will become known only at Algeiras, where they will be communicated to the French delegates. Emperor William and Chancellor von Buelow, it is understood, would rather make another effort to reconcile the French aims and Germany's interests than allow the serious situation to drift.

Some effort has been made here by certain small financiers to create a war scare out of the emperor's reply to the congressional address of the generals yesterday on the occasion of his majesty's silver wedding, in which the emperor remarked that he prayed God that war would not come, but if it came he was convinced that the army would acquire itself as efficiently as it did thirty-five years ago.

The tension of the House was not affected today, but the market was weak, owing to the uncertainty of the effect of the new German tariff and the commercial treaties going into effect March 1.

**France Balks at Bank Proposal.**

ALGERIAS, Feb. 26.—M. Revault, the principal French delegate, this afternoon handed to Herr von Radwizky, the first German delegate, a short note from the French government relating to the proposed Moroccan bank, pointing out that it was not for the conference to discuss and decide the question, and expressing the view that the French scheme did not prejudice commercial and economic equality.

The nature of this reply has caused an increase of pessimism in quarters already inclined to predict the failure of the conference; but impartial delegates retain their hope of the success of the mediatory efforts between Berlin and Paris.

**Russians Expect a Conflict.**

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 26.—Most alarming views with reference to the relations between Germany and France prevail in certain diplomatic quarters, where the situation is considered to be extremely tense, and a conflict by no means unlikely. The ambassador of one great European power told the Associated Press today that war, in his opinion, was inevitable, and had, in fact, already been decided upon. "It is sad," added the diplomat, who is not ranked among the admirers of Emperor William, "that for the whims of one man Europe must be plunged into the horrors of war."

At the French embassy opinion as to the situation is frankly pessimistic, and the outlook is regarded as serious, the view that there is no telling what trouble may be in store if the conference should break off and France and Germany be left face to face in uncompromising opposition. The abandonment of the French position is regarded as impossible.

Russian officials personally take a gloomy view of the outlook, and especially of the prospects of securing a new loan abroad, but the foreign office is officially on record as trusting that the dispute ultimately will work out satisfactorily.

**TRIAL OF JOE LEITER BEGINS**

Millionaire Mine Owner of Zeigler, Ill., Is Charged with Criminal Negligence.

DUQUOIN, Ill., Feb. 26.—The trial of Joseph Leiter, the owner of the Zeigler coal mines, where some sixty lives were lost in an explosion last April, on a charge of criminal negligence was begun here today.

The prosecution in behalf of the state was brought by Mine Inspector James Taylor and Attorney General Smith. Assistant Attorney General Gillespie of Springfield will conduct the prosecution for the state while former Attorney General Hamlin of Chicago and Judge Hart and Judge Cantrell of Benton will defend Mr. Leiter. The case is attracting widespread interest.

**Where Funston Didn't Swim.**

We crossed the Bagbag river, which Fred Funston didn't swim. The Bagbag feeds a good deal like Independence creek at the place where you cross it on the Dougan road. Two privates in the Kansas regiment really swam the river, under fire, but Funston received the credit. Afterward the incident, as applying to Funston, was taken out of the Kansas school readers. I do not know whether Funston claimed the credit of swimming the river or not, possibly he denied it all the time and he was made a hero in spite of his screams. You may remember that Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for vice president as the hero of San Juan hill, although he distinctly stated in his book on the war that he was not in the action on the hill. But when the Americans start in to praise or abuse a man, they overdo it—Maudie Letter of Editor Howe in *Atchison Globe*.

**Blain Butter Market.**

ELGIN, Ill., Feb. 26.—BUTTER.—Firm at 25¢. Salt for the week \$4.50 per lb.

**Robbers in New Jersey.**

MILLVILLE, N. J., Feb. 26.—Two masked men, one white and one colored, today seized Frederick Radel, a baker, while he was in the stable near his house, and after gagging the baker, reached him into his home at the point of a pistol. The men compelled Radel to open his safe, from which they took nearly \$4,000 in cash. The robbers escaped.

**Beemer Wants Enright Held**

Warden Asks His Detention and