THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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FEWER CARS IDLE

Strong Indications that Business Situation is Improving.

OTHER FACTORS ENCOURAGING

Many Iron and Steel Mills Are Resuming Work.

MONEY RATES ARE DECLINING

Foreign Funds Are Sent [illegible] York for Investment.

PRICES OF STOCKS [illegible]R

Upward Movement is Made Fea[illegible] by the Practical Conclusion o[illegible] Liquidation—Short Interest at Disadvantage.

NEW YORK, March 15.—The prevailing opinion reflected in the financial district last week was of increased confidence that the condition of affairs was mending. Evidences were not universal that contraction had run its course, but from fields that were considered most significant the signs of betterment were accepted as testimony that the situation was shaping towards improvement. Figures compiled by the American Railway association of the number of idle freight cars showed a progressive reduction for the last two fortnightly returns. These figures were highly influential in shaping opinion on the general situation. Scattering reports of resumption of work by factories which had suspended or largely reduced operations during the depth of the depression, although mixed with evidence of further curtailment in other directions, were a cheering factor. Especially in the iron and steel trade the reports of reopenings were notable. A recovery from the price of copper, which had been falling since the decision to reopen the Butte copper production, gave some reassurance to the confidence in improvement in that trade, which was expressed in the reopening in Montana.

Money Rates Decline.

The declining money rates here and abroad were an element in the situation and the discrepancy in money rates here and in Europe induced some investment of foreign funds in New York. This was mostly confined to high-grade mortgage securities and to some takings of mercantile paper.

Buying for foreign account was perceptible, however, in the stock market and the presence in foreign capitals of some of the most influential American financiers revived the supposition that foreign buying of stocks were not unrelated to this circumstance. The easing of the money market and the stirring of activity in stocks brought into consideration the subject of financial needs of the great corporations which remain unsupplied and which insure attempts to float new issues of securities in the near future. The market for existing bonds was studied to discern a reflection of this movement in the general bond market, but resulted somewhat disappointing. The bond market lacked breadth and the prices at which seasoned bonds are still selling do not make a propitious condition for the offering of new securities.

Stock Market Rises.

The upward movement inaugurated in the stock market was under some suspicion of being fostered by the larger banking and financial powers for the purpose of preparing the way for contemplated new issues. This did not deprive the movement of a cheering influence on financial sentiment. The advance in stocks was made feasible by the evident completion of liquidation and a consequent scarcity of stocks offering, which removed obstacles to the operations for an advance. An obstinate short interest also was left at a disadvantage by the cessation of liquidation, and the necessity of this element offered a bar for raising prices with assurance that some demand would be met on which to resell at a profit. Outside of this demand from the uncovered shorts the absorption of stocks by outsiders and investors was reported small.

The stimulating effect of the rise in stocks was unabated up to the close of the week. Rumors that the Union Pacific investments segregation plan was imminent with an extra stock dividend involved, were active influences in the speculation. Reports of a governmental investigation of stock trading to decide the expediency of laws to prevent stock gambling had a rather chilling effect on the aggressiveness of the speculation, but the official denial of the report helped to a sharp rebound in stocks.

IOWA STUDENTS IN SPOKANE

Seventy-Five from Hawkeye University Will Organize Club in Washington City.

SPOKANE, Wash., March 15.—(Special.)—Seventy-five graduates and former students of the University of Iowa, now residents of Spokane, will organize an Iowa University club at a banquet to be given Saturday evening, March 21. Alumni in all parts of the Inland Empire of the Pacific Northwest, composed of 150,000 square miles of territory in eastern Washington, northern Idaho, northeastern Oregon, western Montana and southeastern British Columbia have been invited to participate in the festivities and join the society.

The preliminary meeting was held in the offices of A. M. Craven, Traders bank building, a few night ago, when it was decided to form a permanent organization. Those at the meeting were: Constant L. Gillis, Hon. Samuel C. Hyde, Kate B. Reed, George M. Thompson, M. C. King, Arthur M. Davis, L. J. Birdseye, Joseph McCarthy, L. M. Curtiss, C. C. Langtry, C. C. Upton, W. O. Bradley and Frank W. Clark.

Mr. Craven was named chairman of a committee to register all former students of the Iowa university now in this part of the country and invite them to take part in the reunion. Invitations are also to be extended to officials of the Iowa club of Spokane, headed by R. B. Paterson, president. John E. Paul of Des Moines, supreme president of The Homesteaders, is expected to reach Spokane in time for the banquet.

James Whalen Dies.

HURON, S. D., March 15.—(Special.)—Saturday morning death came to the relief of James Whalen, injured by being caught in the flywheel of a gasoline engine at his blacksmith shop, Friday morning, resulting in fracturing of the skull. Mr. Whalen and family came here four or five years ago from Mason City, Ia., and established a blacksmith and iron working shop.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

FOR NEBRASKA—Fair in east, rain in west portion Monday; Tuesday, fair.
FOR IOWA—Fair Monday and Tuesday.
Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	40
6 a. m.	39
7 a. m.	35
8 a. m.	36
9 a. m.	41
10 a. m.	43
11 a. m.	46
12 m.	48
1 p. m.	49
2 p. m.	51
3 p. m.	53
4 p. m.	51
5 p. m.	47
6 p. m.	44
7 p. m.	42
8 p. m.	40
9 p. m.	39

ORCHARD TO BE SENTENCED

Slayer of Frank Steunenberg Will Appear Before Judge Wood Wednesday Morning.

BOISE, Idaho, March 15.—On the morning of his 42d birthday, next Wednesday, in the district court of Canyon county, Harry Orchard, the self-confessed murderer of former Governor Steunenberg, who was killed by the explosion of a bomb at the gate to his residence in Caldwell on the evening of December 30, 1905, will face Judge Fremont Wood, prepared to hear the death sentence meted out to him. Harry Orchard of his own volition and against the urgent pleadings of his attorney and others, refused when arraigned March 10 to let his previous plea of "not guilty" stand. He also refused to plead to a lesser degree of murder than first degree. He said:

"I am guilty and am ready to take my punishment. I have told the truth. I understand fully what must be the consequences."

Among some expressions are made that they believe Orchard has been guaranteed immunity of some sort. This is denied by those in authority and by Orchard himself. Those who have been in close communication with Orchard, prison authorities and those who have administered spiritual comfort to the man express the opinion that after being sentenced, should an effort be made to commute his sentence or pardon him, Orchard will refuse to accept it. It is the general belief that Orchard expects to die and that he wishes to receive the extreme penalty for his crimes. Orchard refuses to be interviewed or to make any statement for publication. He is very quiet and spends much time with his books, the Bible and works of a religious nature.

That he earnestly wishes his confession to be believed is known, and it is thought that he believes his own punishment in full for the crime he committed will tend to prove the truth of his confession.

ENGLISH VIEW OF AMERICA

Governor of Gold Coast Visits South and Panama and Secures Valuable Ideas.

LONDON, March 15.—An English view of the Panama canal and other American institutions is given in an interview by Sir John Rodger, governor of the Gold Coast, who has just returned to England after a three months' tour in the United States, Panama and Cuba. During his tour Sir John had interviews with the president, Mr. Root and Mr. Taft. He spent some time at Havana and also inspected the works in progress in connection with the Panama canal. Sir John was greatly impressed with the excellence of the engineering and sanitation works on the isthmus.

The progress of the canal work was remarkable. In February no less than 3,000,000 cubic yards had been excavated and it was estimated that the canal itself would be completed before 1914.

On the question of sanitation Sir John found that the information acquired, which was likely to be of importance in West Africa, is the design and construction of the mosquito houses which he saw at Panama and which, in his opinion, are admirably designed for the requirements of the tropics.

The other important question which the governor studied was that of the industrial education of negroes—a matter of the greatest possible interest in West Africa. His excellency was greatly impressed with the system of industrial education for negroes and Indians which he found in the United States. During his visit he stayed for some time at the Normal and Industrial institute at Hampton, Va.

"The system is admirable and should form a solution of the difficult question of the education of the negroes. In the Gold coast we are establishing two schools, one for training teachers and the other for industrial training on similar lines to those followed at Hampton."

MORSE WILL PAY ALL DEBTS

Indicted Banker Says with Co-operation of Creditors He Can Meet Obligations.

NEW YORK, March 15.—In a statement issued tonight by Eugene P. Carver, counsel for Charles W. Morse, declaration is made that the indicted banker believes that he is able, and, with the co-operation of his creditors, proposes to pay all of his just debts. Morse's counsel further states that all legal rights and remedies will be invoked to accomplish the settlement of obligations and that all pending criminal matters before the state and federal courts will be urged for a quick determination as to matters of law and facts. Counsel for Mr. Morse contends, in the statement, that the banker is solvent, and adds that all attempts to petition him into bankruptcy will be fought.

TAFT STARTS FOR NEW YORK

Secretary Will Attend Meeting of Yale Corporation and Make Two Addresses.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Secretary of War Taft left here today for New York, where he will spend tonight with his brother, C. W. Taft. Tomorrow he will go to New Haven, Conn., to attend a meeting of the Yale corporation. Tomorrow night, in Plymouth church, Brooklyn, he will address the Hampton Society for the Education of the Negro and the Indian. Tuesday night the secretary will address the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick at the St. Patrick's day banquet in New York.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

Port.	Arrived.	Sailed.
NEW YORK	Baltic	Koenigin Luise.
NEW YORK		Columbia.
NEW YORK		Finland.
NEW YORK		Lucania.
NEW YORK		Minneapolis.
NEW YORK		St. Paul.
SOUTHAMPTON	Philadelphia	St. Louis.
LIVERPOOL	Celtic	Devonian.
LIVERPOOL	Empress Ireland	
NAPLES	San Giorgio	Roma.
PALERMO	Algeria	
HALIFAX	Tunisian	
COPENHAGEN	Lofoten	Helig Olav.
ST. JOHNS	Empress Britain	
ANTWERP		Zeeland.
HAVRE		La Touraine.

TAFT AND HUGHES TO SPEAK

Candidates for President to Address Sons of St. Patrick in New York.

BUSY WEEK IN ALL LINES

Senator La Follette Will Make Two Days' Speech on Aldrich Bill—Labor Conferences in Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Politics, sports and industrial affairs will share pretty evenly in the newsmaking for the present week, so far as events are foreshadowed. Two state, one territorial and nine district political conventions are scheduled. There will be also considerable political speech-making and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in New York have arranged to bring together two candidates for the presidential nomination of the republican party. No other celebration of St. Patrick's day is likely to eclipse in interest the dinner of the Friendly Sons in New York, whose guests of honor and principal speakers will be Secretary Taft and Governor Hughes.

The Iowa republican state convention will be held in Des Moines on Wednesday. Rhode Island democrats will meet in convention at Providence on Saturday, and on the same day the New Mexican republican territorial convention will be held at Silver City. The New York democratic state committee will meet in New York Thursday to fix the date for the convention.

Aldrich Bill in Senate.

The date of the vote in the senate on the Aldrich bill depends on Senator La Follette. By his illness it has been postponed from time to time in order to give him opportunity to present his views. Senator La Follette will be heard on Tuesday, and it is believed his address will extend over into Wednesday, and possibly Thursday. He has prepared an exhaustive argument in favor of his amendment on the physical valuation of railroads whose bonds are to be accepted as security for emergency bank issues.

From the best information now obtainable it is not likely the Aldrich bill will reach the final stages during the present week.

The house will give its entire time after Monday to the appropriation bills. Monday will be given up to the consideration of bills to which there is general assent under the suspension rule. Both houses are counting confidently on final adjournment in May.

Taft and Hughes.

Secretary Taft will attend a meeting of the Yale corporation at New Haven, Conn., on Monday, going from there to New York.

Governor Hughes, following the St. Patrick's dinner, will address the Delta Epsilon society in New York. He will return to Albany Wednesday. Later he expects to attend the dinner of the Iowa society in New York City, at which the governor of Iowa is expected to be present.

The American battleship fleet at Magdalena bay will put in a busy week at target practice. At Panama, where the torpedo boat flotilla arrived Saturday, preparations have been made for a series of entertainments for the officers and men during the week. The vessels are scheduled to leave Panama Saturday for Acapulco, Mex.

The ninth annual convention of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way association will open in Chicago on Tuesday, continuing Wednesday and Thursday. Railroad presidents and vice presidents, operating officials and constructing engineers, representing approximately 180,000 of the 220,000 miles of railroad in the United States, and instructors and engineering experts of Cornell university and the University of Wisconsin will attend.

An important conference of representatives of labor organizations will be held at Washington Wednesday, President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor having issued a call for a meeting at the time of the executive officials of the International Trades Union of America, with the executive council of the federation. One of the chief topics discussed will be the decisions of the courts which have been adverse to organized labor.

In Foreign Lands.

Further progress in the negotiations for a settlement of the difficulty between China and Japan growing out of the seizure by China of the steamer Tatsu Maru is expected during this week.

Emperor William is planning to leave Berlin for his villa on the island of Corfu on Saturday. He goes in the hope of securing a period of uninterrupted rest.

The fistic world has its interest centered on the fight between Tommy Burns, the American heavyweight fighter, and Jem Roche of Dublin on Tuesday. The bout is scheduled to go twenty rounds for $2,500 a side and a purse of $7,500.

Billy Papke and Hugo Kelly, both of Chicago, are training hard for their bout which will take place Monday night at Milwaukee.

PANTHEON TO BE DISMANTLED

Reminder of Spain's Vanished Colonial Greatness to Be Removed.

MADRID, March 15.—The Pantheon of the Spanish colonies, a pavilion in the Retiro of Madrid, which holds the memories of Spain's vanished greatness, is to be dismantled and the collection of books and paintings and vast archaeological, geological, anthropological, mineralogical and botanical treasuries it contains are to be scattered and buried among the libraries and museums of the capital. This action is taken upon the ground that the building is needed for other purposes and, besides, the collections are no longer visited. But it is in reality a decision to disperse from the sight of the people the ocular evidence of the empire dissipated by Spanish misrule. The most interesting part of the exhibit related to the Philippines.

FRATERNITIES ARE ABOLISHED

Muskegon School Board Says They Breed Snobbishness and Lawlessness.

MUSKEGON, Mich., March 15.—The Board of Education last night voted that all high school fraternities and sororities must be abolished from the public schools of Muskegon before March 29. The three fraternities and two sororities in the schools have a membership of about 100. Opposition to the societies on the ground that they breed snobbishness and lawlessness and lower the standard of scholarship was brought to a climax by the action of one fraternity in harboring a skeleton and bell stolen from the schools.

IOWA MAN DROPS BIG WAD

J. E. Cavanaugh of Davenport Bets $37,500 on Wrestling Match in New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, March 14.—J. E. Cavanaugh, a wealthy lumberman of Davenport, Ia., reported to the police here today that he had been fleeced out of $37,500 by a party of men in New Orleans, who posed as representatives of prominent local sporting clubs. He displayed the stubs in his check book and offered to furnish the police with any evidence they might desire.

Mr. Cavanaugh said he was recently approached in the middle west by a man who told him that there was a crowd of wealthy men in New Orleans who were willing to risk all they had on a wrestler here, but that he knew of a man named Marsh from Seattle, Wash., who could throw the New Orleans wrestler and that an opportunity was presented to make a lot of money.

Kavanaugh came to New Orleans and says he met by appointment several well groomed men, who said they had a wrestler named Gorman who could beat the world. A match was arranged and Mr. Cavanaugh bet $37,500 on Marsh. The match was held in secret, Marsh winning the first fall, but when the men went to the mat a second time Marsh suddenly bled profusely from the nose and mouth. A man who said he was a doctor declared Marsh was dying. Mr. Cavanaugh was advised that if he did not want to go to jail he had better get out of the way, and he went to Memphis, Tenn. He waited some time for news about Marsh, but seeing nothing about it in the newspapers, he came back to New Orleans for his $37,500. He could find neither men or money, so placed the whole matter in the hands of the police.

FIRE IN ST. LOUIS STATION

Part of Train Shed and Eight Passenger Coaches Are Destroyed.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 15.—St. Louis Union station, said to be one of the finest in the world, was threatened with destruction by fire last night, resulting from an explosion of a gas tank under a parlor car and only quick work by firemen saved the great train shed. As it was eight passenger coaches, three Pennsylvania, two Chicago & Alton, two 'Frisco and one Wabash, were ruined and a section of the shed was destroyed, the total damage being estimated at from $50,000 to $75,000.

Trains were preparing for departure on several of the station's twenty-seven tracks when the wooden ceiling of the train shed caught fire and scores of passengers, many of them women, became panic-stricken and leaped from the cars. As they ran from the blazing arc behind them they found the gates leading to the midway closed. A squad of policemen held the frightened passengers back while a train caller standing near the burning cars with a megaphone assured them there was no danger.

The fire started from an explosion of an illuminating gas tank under one of the coaches of Vandalia train No. 21, which had backed into the station but a short time before and was being prepared for another trip. The explosion ignited the roof of the shed and the fire spread with remarkable rapidity over the south end, filling the midway and shed with smoke.

The coaches burned were, for the most part, combination baggage and mail cars.

BIDWELLS ARE CONVICTED

Promoters of Cold Motor Concern Found Guilty of Operating Confidence Game.

CHICAGO, March 15.—Benson Bidwell and his son, Charles F., promoters of the Bidwell Electric company, the so-called "cold motor concern," were found guilty Saturday of operating a confidence game.

Benson Bidwell, who is a brother of George and Austin Bidwell—who defrauded the Bank of England out of $5,000,000—started the electric company in 1906. He declared that he had invented an electric motor that would not burn out. He also claimed that he was the inventor of the trolley car and the electric fan. Inventors from all parts of the United States answered these advertisements, sending into the company $225,000, according to the books of the concern.

Charles Bidwell was appointed secretary and general manager of the company and given 365,000 shares of the $2,500,000 stock of the concern.

It was claimed by the prosecution that the Bidwell's sold their private stock in the company to persons who thought that they were buying treasury stock.

When the jury first reported it returned verdicts of guilty on two counts alone, for obtaining money by false pretenses, and the other for operating a confidence game. This amounted to two verdicts of guilty against each defendant, and over the objections of the defense, the court instructed the jury that it could find the Bidwells guilty of one offense. A half hour later a verdict finding the aged inventor and his son guilty of operating a confidence game was returned.

JOHNSON SENTIMENT GROWS

Chairman Connors of New York Says Delegation Will Be Uninstructed.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 15.—William J. Conners, chairman of the state democratic committee, spent several hours in the lobby of the Hotel Iroquois tonight talking to democratic leaders of Erie county.

Informed that headquarters for Governor Johnson of Minnesota would be opened in New York, Mr. Connors said:

"I found considerable sentiment for Governor Johnson in the east. I am of the opinion that either Johnson or Harmon would make a stronger run in New York state than Mr. Bryan.

"It is almost certain that New York state's delegation will go to the Denver convention without instructions. They likely will vote under the unit rule. But whoever gets the nomination, New York will give the convention's choice its hearty support. There will be no holters."

DETECTIVE KILLS SUSPECT

Kansas City Officer Shoots Thomas King, Wanted for Murder in New Mexico.

KANSAS CITY, March 15.—Thomas King, alias C. H. Wilson, wanted in New Mexico on the charge of murder and in St. Joseph, Mo., for robbery, was shot and killed by Ralph Truman, a city detective, here tonight, while trying to escape arrest. Truman ordered King to stop and when he refused Truman fired. The police say that King was a desperate man. King's description had been sent to the police department here and the officers were looking for him. Truman recognized him on the street to-

SOME AFTERMATH POLITICS

Nebraska is Early Through with Its Preliminary Conventions.

WHAT WILL POPS DO AT ST. LOUIS?

Inside Light on Several Mooted Points Involved in the Work of the Republican State Convention.

All the preliminary conventions in Nebraska have now been held by all political parties, except possibly the prohibitionists and socialists, who may possibly send representatives to their national nominating conventions. In this respect Nebraska is far ahead of most of its sister states, which are still embroiled in presidential politics.

The conclusion of the republican convention last week makes known the identity of the delegation which will go from this state to Chicago, that which will go to Denver for the democrats and to St. Louis for the populists having been made up the week before.

At Chicago, Nebraska will be for Taft and at Denver Nebraska will be for Bryan. The program of the populist delegation which goes to St. Louis is not so plain because, while the Nebraska crowd is for Bryan, a premature nomination by the populists, even if it could be brought about, might be embarrassing at Denver and the plan most probably to be pursued will be to seek adjournment of the St. Louis meeting without making any nomination, and to hold up a promised endorsement of Bryan as an additional argument for his nomination by the democrats. Whether the populists will insist again on having a tail of their own to the kite, as they did in 1896, is uncertain. The disposition is plain to continue the old game of fusion, for proof of which the selection of several old line populists for places on the democratic electoral ticket from Nebraska is conclusive.

Everybody remarked upon the good feeling that pervaded the republican state convention and the absence of sharp factional lines. The Platte county contest, which alone brought to the surface an unhealed dissension, was speedily adjudicated by the executive committee of the state committee charged with making up the temporary roll of delegates. The committee-appointed delegation practically allowed its case to go by default and on the evidence the only possible conclusion was that the contesting delegation had derived its authority from a convention irregularly called, but still representing the expressed wishes of the majority of the rank and file of the party in Platte county. The state committeemen undertook to bring the factions together with a view to securing full co-operation of all republicans for the coming campaign and, while not completely successful, felt satisfied that some headway was made.

The republican convention, in contrast with the democratic convention, agreed upon the delegates-at-large without a personal competition, whereas the delegates-at-large to Denver were chosen only after a contest on the floor and the turning down of one of the time-tried party war-horses, with charges of trickery and bad faith. The only roll call of the republican delegations came on the tabling of a motion to vote on a choice of national committeeman, and the vote was so decisive that there could be no question as to the wishes of the convention. The fact is that Mr. McLoud, in whose interest the motion to proceed to vote for committeeman was made, had entered into an agreement not to bring the question up. But his followers either did not understand it or refused to acquiesce, and insisted up a test vote. The test came on the motion to table and was quite sufficient to satisfy them, as it had previously satisfied Mr. McLoud that he could not hope to be made committeeman in that convention.

The Lincoln Star, Lincoln News, Lincoln Journal and Fremont Tribune are engaged in a debate as to where the republican state platform was drafted and by whom. Just for the truth of history it should be known that it was outlined in the rough by the chairman of the resolutions committee, Mr. Coupland, in his room in the Rome hotel, and later rewritten and revised and amplified by Mr. Coupland, with the assistance of other members of the committee in the editorial rooms of The Bee. Two newspaper men, who were both rank outsiders, also had a hand in the work of smoothing out the phraseology.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Edgar Howard, speaking as a member of the resolutions committee of the democratic state convention in his paper, verifies the assertion that the democratic platform was, in the main, written by Mr. Bryan; that it was submitted to him before adoption and that it suited him to a "t," otherwise it would have been changed in any word or phrase to which he might have entered objection.

The new rule adopted by the republican state committee requiring the filing of credentials five days before the convention, worked out reasonably well, almost every county having reported within the time limit. The purpose of this rule is to prevent the juggling of the credentials and the substitution of names at the convention which were not authorized by the counties at the time the delegations were made up. In certifying the temporary roll, the executive committee approved the lists as they were filed, where no contests were made. Several attempts were made later to substitute names and, in all probability, some few in this way sat in the convention and participated in it who were not duly acredited delegates. Had there been a close vote on any question, with a polling of delegations, they would have discovered that they were there simply as spectators.

The democrats are about to hang out a sign, "Wanted—Candidates for Congress." It looks as if a drafting officer would have to be sent out in some quarters, although in nearly each district efforts are already being made to lure out a victim. In the First district the bait is being thrown to H. H. Hanks, who has been beaten once or twice already. In the Second district Congressman Hitchcock is the only patriot in sight. In the Third the call is for Editor Richmond of the Fremont Herald. The Fourth district is yet a blank, while the Fifth district is squinting at ex-Congressman R. D. Sutherland and the Sixth district tiptoeing up to Arthur F. Mullen of O'Neill.

On the republican side the Second and Fourth districts seem to be the only ones that are surely in for a primary contest over congressional nominations. If the sitting congressmen in the other districts should have to fight for their places on the ticket the entries against them have yet to come.

MANY NEBRASKANS MOVING

Movement of People the Greatest Ever, Says D. Clem Deaver.

"Nebraska is having the greatest moving day in its history," says D. Clem Deaver, head of the homeseekers' information bureau of the Burlington road. Mr. Deaver has just returned from an extensive trip to the Big Horn basin country and through western Nebraska. "At every station along the road were indications of people moving to some other section of the country. At York we saw twenty-five carloads of household goods of people moving to western Nebraska. The train men all tell me they have never seen such a movement of people before.

"These people are moving not only to the irrigated sections, but to all parts of western Nebraska. The product exhibit car of the Burlington road has been showing all winter in eastern Nebraska, and the people in this section seem to be more interested in the western Nebraska lands than in the lands of the irrigated sections.

"A meeting is being held at Garland, Wyo., between the people of that section and a representative of the Department of the Interior to see if some arrangement can be made whereby the first payment on homestead land might be deferred until after the crops of the first year are harvested.

"More interest is being shown in homestead lands of the west this spring than in any previous year, and my desk is flooded with inquiries every day. The greatest demand is for government homestead lands under the government irrigation schemes and under the private ditches built under the Carey act. People are beginning to realize that they have to move quickly when an announcement is made of the opening of one of those irrigated districts because the demand is so great. It will not be a question of twenty-five years in settling up the Big Horn basin, but rather a question of three years, because the land is there and the water is there waiting for settlers."

GET FINE FRUIT FROM CUBA

Omahans Enjoy Grap Fruit Produced on Their Own Plantation.

A number of Omaha citizens are enjoying the novelty of eating grape fruit and tangerines from their own trees in Cuba. During the last week several boxes of the fruit grown on the Bueraventura plantation in Cuba were forwarded to Omaha from Chicago, with the compliments of J. Warren Floyd, secretary of the company as a sample of what Cuba can do. The fruit has been distributed among the stockholders. The Buenaventura plantation contains 1,000 acres and is under the management of W. A. Page, formerly of Omaha, as is also the Redencion plantation, which adjoins the other and is of the same size. Quite a large block of stock in both plantations is held in Omaha. The Buenaventura is now marketing the first crop, the fruit going mostly to Chicago. The fruit is said to be the equal in point of quality of the very best Florida fruit, while by some it is considered superior. The grape fruit, especially, is of fine flavor and very sweet and juicy. The package in which the fruit was shipped was something of a novelty, but as the fruit arrived in fine condition, it may be regarded as a success. In place of a plain wooden box, such as is used by California and Florida fruit growers, the Cuban fruit was put up in boxes having corners or a frame work of wood, with sides and ends of heavy perforated strawboard or pasteboard. As freight rates to Chicago and eastern market points are lower than to Omaha, while the eastern fruit market is generally higher there is not much prospect of any great amount of Cuban fruit coming to this market.

FUNERAL OF ALEX. G. CHARLTON

Private Service Held at Quarantined Home and a Memorial Service Will Be Held Later.

The funeral of Alexander G. Charlton, leading Omaha business man, was held from the residence, 2222 Miami street, yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. On account of the illness of Mr. Charlton's youngest son, Hugh, with scarlet fever, the services were strictly private.

Rev. T. B. Kendall, pastor of the First United Presbyterian church, officiated, owing to the illness of Rev. Dr. R. B. A. McBride, pastor of the Central United Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Charlton was a leading member.

The pallbearers were William Baird, W. T. Graham, George W. Henry, John L. McCague, John Howard and Charles E. Reynolds.

At the grave in Prospect Hill cemetery a crowd of more than 100 had gathered to show their respect and love for the deceased. The floral offerings were many.

A memorial service will be held for Mr. Charlton some Sunday in the near future, at which those words will be said in the presence of his many friends which could not be said at the funeral because of the fact that the house is quarantined. This service will be held in the church of which he was a member, the Central United Presbyterian, and will be conducted by his pastor, Rev. R. B. A. McBride.

FIRE CAUSES ACCIDENTS

Assistant Chief at St. Louis Badly Hurt and Driver Killed—House Collapses.

ST. LOUIS, March 15.—Assistant Fire Chief Thomas W. Rucker is in a critical condition, and his driver, Harry Doerr, is dead as the result of a collision tonight between Rucker's buggy and a street car at the intersection of Broadway and Cass avenue.

Chief Rucker was making a run to a fire that proved to be of minor importance. Practically at the same time as the collision with the street car, and while hurrying to the same fire, the wagon of Engine company No. 11, collided with a telephone pole at Ninth and Carr streets, seriously injuring two firemen and killing a horse.

The jarring made on the pavement by the passage of the rear guard of the fire-fighting apparatus, while the two accidents were happening to the van, wrecked a two-story house on Eleventh street. Excavations had been made on each side of the house. The family of six has been accounted for.

Russian Labor Leader Coming.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 15.—Father Gregory Petroff, the noted labor leader and constitutional democrat deputy, who recently has been applying himself to the study of the English language, announces that he will visit the United States, where he will give a number of lectures.

TIES TO ANTIPODES

Australia and United States Have Many Common Interests.

WARM WELCOME FOR FLEET

Premier's Announcement of Its Coming Greeted with Cheers.

CABINET MINISTERS DELIGHTED

Americans Nearest Caucasian Neighbors of the Island Federation.

FUTURE OF THE PACIFIC

Vast International Problems in Which Governments Have Identical Interests—Many Reasons for Friendship.

SYDNEY, March 15.—There was a dramatic scene today at a great gathering of citizens, when at the conclusion of an address on the subject of national defense, the premier, Alfred Deakin, read a cablegram announcing that the American fleet of battleships would visit Sydney and Melbourne. He called for three cheers for the United States, and the audience rose en masse and responded with deafening hurrahs. The prime minister said that he was sure that such a welcome that an American fleet had never known outside of its own country would be accorded it by Australia, and the cheering that followed this statement seemed evidence of the fact that the Australians, one and all, have a feeling stronger than mere friendship for the American people and their navy.

Premier Deakin in his speech advocated greater expenditures for national defense. He said that the burden imposed upon the people of Great Britain for the maintenance of their naval and military forces was beginning to tell, and that wealthy Australians could not expect to enjoy the privileges of the protection against invasion without bearing their share of the cost. The expenditure recommended is $9,000,000 annually for an army of 20,000 men and fifteen coast defense vessels.

Federal Ministers Delighted.

MELBOURNE March 15.—The Australian commonwealth, officially and generally, hails with pleasure the announcement from Washington that the American battleship fleet will visit the antipodes next July or August. The federal ministers are delighted with the idea of such a visit, the minister of defense, Thomas Ewing, saying that the presence of America's fleet would be most gratifying to all Australians.

"We feel that our future in the Pacific," he said, "is bound up with that of the United States."

There are several reasons for the satisfaction experienced by Australians. Premier Alfred Deakin was not flattering the American people in the communication he addressed to their government through Consul General John P. Bray here last December, to have the warships come to this quarter of the globe. In his invitation, he said:

No other federation in the world possesses so many features of likeness to that of the United States as does the commonwealth of Australia, and I doubt whether any two peoples could be found who are in nearer touch with each other and are likely to benefit more by anything that tends to knit their relations more closely.

Many Things in Common.

Australians of all classes, indeed, have decided liking and admiration for Americans, due to sentimental, commercial and even political causes. In the first place, as Australian newspapers and orators not infrequently observe, whenever the question of Asiatic immigration to Australia comes up, or that of Australian defense, America is the nearest Caucasian neighbor and friend that the commonwealth has. This fact is given added strength because, speaking broadly, Australians are almost supersensative over Asiatic proximity, prestige and influence; and, whether there is ground for such feeling, they are apprehensively mindful of their great physical separation from any cognate people. This feeling, it may be added, is fostered by leading politicians, especially those in the powerful labor party, and it includes the Japanese, although regardless of the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

In brief, the United States is the only foreign power in the territory of the Pacific for which Australia has a distinct liking.

Governments Are Alike.

But there are other considerations than these. Aside from the cardinal one that the commonwealth's whole scheme of government is patterned after that of the United States, there are strong commercial and other ties. Australian coal is shipped in large quantities to the Pacific coast, and Australian meat goes to the Philippines. Australia's irrigation experts study the immense schemes for watering the arid tracts in the American western states, and Australian students and educators go to America to learn American methods and systems. Mr. Deakin himself is an enthusiast over the United States. He visited America for the Victorian government in the '80s to inspect its irrigation works, and he has never forgotten the country or its greatness. Hence the American fleet will surely have a lavish welcome in Australian waters. The Australian people are notably hospitable and they will outdo themselves in entertaining the American officers and sailors.

CREIGHTON LOSES DEBATE

South Dakota University Gets the Decision by Two to One Vote.

VERMILION, S. D., March 15.—(Special Telegram.)—South Dakota university won the debate over Creighton university tonight by a two to one vote of the judges. South Dakota was represented by M. W. Murphy, A. L. Shering and R. G. Driesbach. Creighton debaters were H. L. Moraman, H. J. Boyle, A. W. Proctor. The judges were D. C. Shull and E. M. Corbett of Sioux City and Raymond Robins of Chicago.

DEATH RECORD.

Brigadier General Frank.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Brigadier General Royal Thaxter Frank, U. S. A., retired, died at his residence here yesterday in his 76th year. He was graduated from the military academy in the class of '58 and fought throughout the civil war. General Frank was brevetted lieutenant colonel for gallantry in battle, from which he rose after the war to the rank of brigadier general in 1899, retiring a few months afterward. He was born in Gray, Me. General Frank's body will be interred in Arlington National cemetery on Tuesday.