

FUTILE ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE

Felix Blankenfeld, Aged Musician, Takes Poison and Lives.

WRITES TO FRIEND ABOUT IT

Descendant of Noble German Family, an Exile from His Native Land, Prefers Death to Poverty.

Felix Blankenfeld, 66 years of age, of noble German parentage, an exile from his native land, tried to end his life by taking poison, and is now in a serious condition.

He had spent his life in the most wretched street. He is without relatives or family, so far as known here, and is being looked after by the friends he has made in Omaha during his thirty-two years' residence.

For many years Felix Blankenfeld has taught music in Omaha and he has numbered among his pupils the society people of this city. He was eminently successful, socially and financially, but a year ago he became ill and was unable to attend to his teaching, until finally he became dependent upon the charity of his friends.

His proud spirit rebelled, and he sought to end his life. For some years he had been using digitalis as a heart stimulant. One of his friends protested that some day he would take an overdose and kill himself. He walked into the Hoega Art store on Douglas street Tuesday afternoon and announced to his friend, Lucius Pryor, of the store:

"I have taken 100 digitalis pills, and it will not kill me. What will I do?" Pryor calls a doctor. At this time the man's heart was beating rapidly and he was in a serious condition. Pryor called a physician and Blankenfeld was sent home and treated.

Though he has lived in Omaha for thirty-two years and has scores of intimate friends, not one of them ever heard him speak of his immediate family. It was known that he was of noble parentage and that he was sent to America as a remittance man, after having had trouble in the army.

Many years ago the remittance was stopped and Blankenfeld began to teach music and from the first he was successful. Since he reached Omaha he inherited one fortune of \$50,000 and one of \$30,000. He belonged to the old school of "openers" and a short time in New York won for him the title of the "Champagne Prince," and lost to him his fortune.

But he was a good loser and never complained. He never asked for help, until he was completely down and out financially, and then when help came to him rather than accept it he took poison.

Refused to Say a Word. Blankenfeld lives in one room at the flat 211 South Twentieth street and Saturday morning, though able to sit up and talk, he refused to say a word regarding his own affairs. He had talked for several months of taking his own life because he was too proud to be a dependent, so his action was not a surprise to his friends.

At 10 o'clock Blankenfeld was sick and the fact became known that he was without funds. Friends hurried to help him and his old pupils raised a fund of over \$100.

Friends of Blankenfeld expect now to have him removed to a sanitarium where he may regain his health and spirits and once more take his place among the advanced music instructors of the city.

Rev. Frank L. Loveland, D. D., pastor of the First Methodist church, who visited the old man at his rooms and secured a promise from him that he would not repeat the effort to destroy his life, has taken an interest in him and has expressed a willingness to receive and care for him. Contributions which generous people might wish to make toward raising a fund to enable the man to go to a sanitarium and receive treatment that will restore him mentally and physically.

NOTES OF BELLEVUE COLLEGE Debating Club is Organized and Literary Societies Are Getting Down to Work.

The Debating club of Bellevue college was organized last week with a large membership, much enthusiasm and a certainty of hard work ahead.

In the college year of '07-'08 the debating club made a noteworthy record. That club took up debating work and forced the recognition of its worth upon everybody—faculty, students and, lastly, upon their opponents in matched debate. Two good men were lost by graduation—James C. Quinsley and Raymond Crossman.

These officers were elected for this year: President, James L. Phelps; vice president, Stuart H. Humbert; secretary, Leigh Oshman; treasurer, William H. Brown.

A secondary club is being organized to accommodate the sophomore and freshmen, as the college club proper is open only to juniors and seniors. The members of the second society, however, are always eligible to try for positions upon the debating teams, when the trying for places occurs. Negotiations are now under way for a debate to be held probably in Omaha between Bellevue and Creighton. There are other plans for tri-college debates in Iowa and Nebraska.

The Philomathean Literary society, one of the oldest and most exclusive literary societies in the college, has organized and is under way for another year of work. The membership is limited and will soon be filled. The Philomathean society has made itself most prominent and popular by the attention always accorded to live, wide-awake subjects for its programs. Clearness, logic and force are raised above all else in the society, draws many of the more consistent thinkers from among the student body. The new members will not have opportunity for half-hearted work in this society. With James G. Phelps as temporary chairman, the following officers were elected to serve one semester: President, George Graham; vice president, Abbe Robinson; secretary and treasurer, Homer Block; critics, Albert O'Kane and Donald Enfield; sergeant-at-arms, Glen Rice.

LOBECK LANDS AN OFFICE City Comptroller is Elected Vice President of Association at Louisville.

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KILLING FROST FOR STATE Omaha, Which Gets Rain After Twenty-Six Days, is Exempt. TOO CLOUDY HERE FOR THAT Temperature Drops Friday Night and the Rain Sets In, Accompanied by Cold, Raw Atmosphere. The two most notable facts about this rain are these: It was the first rain Omaha has had in twenty-six days, and it was to be followed by killing frost. The rain came Friday night and Saturday morning. The precipitation was about one-tenth of an inch up to noon of Saturday, and it was steadily falling. Colonel Welsh will do his level best to keep the moisture back until after the electrical parade, coronation and Cinderella balls. The rain was the first Omaha has had since August 31, when during that forenoon about a third of an inch of moisture managed to permeate through the ambient atmosphere heretofore. The exact meteorological measurement of the rain at that time was .27 of an inch. The rain of Saturday was general over the state and of immeasurable benefit. The precipitation was generally light. Cover your tomato, squash and cucumber vines. The weather department gave out the signal that a killing frost was liable to visit Nebraska Saturday night. The gloomy prediction applied to other portions of the state than Omaha. Omaha's immunity lay in the fact that a cloudy condition prevails that might prevent the frost corpuscles from penetrating through in sufficient quantity to do any material damage. The most conservative estimate that the weather bureau can put on the matter was "Colder in this vicinity Saturday night with probable frost and consequent cool, with fair Saturday night and Sunday." Snow is reported in the mountain districts and temperatures prevailed Friday night in the Yellowstone park of 21, Wyoming, at Cheyenne 26, and 32 at Denver. There is a prospect of warmer out in the state Sunday, and from this fact it is probable that Omaha may escape any serious excesses of low temperature with the cloudy conditions now existing.

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FOURTEEN PERSONS KILLED Collision on Elevated Road in Berlin Results in Many Fatalities. BERLIN, Sept. 26.—Two trains on the Berlin elevated railroad were in collision early this afternoon. As a result fourteen persons are dead, while many sustained injuries. The accident was caused by a misplaced signal. One of the cars, which was crowded with passengers, was thrown to the street forty feet below and shattered. The greatest mortality was in this car. The police were quickly at the scene and the work of extricating the dead and wounded was begun. Engineer and Fireman Hurt. MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., Sept. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—In a head-on collision on the Iowa Central at Abbott, Ia., this morning, when two freight trains came together, James Elmer of Oskaloosa, engineer, was slightly injured, and F. S. Ellis, engineer of Marshall, Mo., was seriously hurt. Both engines were wrecked and seven loaded cars were demolished.

YOUR FRIENDS Will want to take home with them some remembrance of their visit to Omaha—We have an elegant line of Sterling Silver Spoons, Toilet Pieces, novelties and lots of pretty things in the jewelry line. Look for the name. S. W. LINDSAY Jeweler 1212 DOUGLAS STREET.

LOBECK LANDS AN OFFICE City Comptroller is Elected Vice President of Association at Louisville. Louisville, Ky., papers report the election of C. O. Lobock, city comptroller of Omaha, as vice president for the west central states of the Comptrollers' Association of America. Mr. Lobock has been at Louisville all week attending the convention. He is expected home Sunday. On his way to the convention the city comptroller was in a railroad wreck, the Louisville Times making the following reference to it: "To be on a train when the engineer was killed by the crash of the boiler blowing out without knowing anything wrong had occurred, was the experience of C. O. Lobock, comptroller of Omaha, Neb., and Martin T. Rudgers, city clerk of Rock Island, Ill., who are attending the convention. They were on the train that was wrecked at Lafayette, Ind., and arrived four hours late in Louisville."

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