

CURRENT NEWS OF IOWA COUNCIL BLUFFS.

Office 15 Scott Street. Both 'Phones 43.

THREAT FROM NIGHT RIDERS

Elmer Swanson Ordered to Leave \$400 in Rear of His Store.

LETTER GIVEN TO THE POLICE

Writing is Similar to that of Two Missives Recently Received by Farmers in Crescent Township.

Another case of a threatening letter to extort money, signed by "The Night Riders," and similar to the two recently received by Charles McKeown...

Elmer Swanson, proprietor of a grocery and meat market at 701 North Tenth street, who lives at 103 Avenue L...

The letter, which was signed "The Night Riders, per Sam Salvador," directed Mr. Swanson to deposit \$400...

The letter was turned over by the police to the postoffice inspector of this district. The handwriting, it is stated, of the letter received by Mr. Swanson is in every particular identical with that of the two threatening letters received by Charles McKeown...

Since his arrest about three weeks ago Wilding has been confined in the county jail, but has been visited by members of his family and friends. The local authorities feel confident that the same person wrote the letters received by McKeown and that received by Swanson.

At the county jail yesterday Jailer Gallup who asked if at any time since the man was placed there, he had mailed a letter for Wilding, said he had not. Jailer Gallup said further that he did not know of Wilding having written any letters since placed in the county jail, although he admitted that the prisoner had been provided with pen, ink and writing material.

Asked if Wilding could not have got some of those who had visited him at the jail to mail a letter for him, Jailer Gallup replied he did not think so, as he had always kept a close watch on any person visiting the prisoner.

From what members of Wilding's family have stated since his arrest, it is understood his defense will probably be that of insanity. If the letter received by Swanson should prove to have been written by Wilding, it could not possibly have been sent with any idea of securing any money, seeing that Wilding is still behind the bars of the county jail, and the police are inclined to the opinion that if he did write and send it, he did so for the purpose of aiding his anticipated defense of insanity.

ATTEMPT TO BURN DWELLING

House Occupied by Sylvester Stucker Damaged by Incendiary Fire.

When an alarm turned in by neighbors brought the fire department at 11 o'clock Saturday night to the cottage occupied by Sylvester Stucker and wife at the corner of Avenue C and Sixteenth street, Chief Nicholson discovered unmistakable evidence of an attempt to burn down the dwelling.

In the center room on the floor was found a candle, surrounded by cotton batting and pine chips. In another room, where Chief Nicholson said there were unmistakable signs of oil having been poured on the floor, the carpet was found to have been burned through in two separate places. The firemen also found that oil had been poured on the mophard and other woodwork.

When the fire department reached the place there was no one in the house, but shortly after both Stucker and his wife appeared on the scene. Both insisted that the fire was the work of an incendiary and accused a certain man who is well known to the police. This man is wanted by the authorities on another charge and could not be located yesterday.

The damage to the house, which consists of three rooms and a kitchen, and its contents was slight. Chief Nicholson learned yesterday that there was \$500 insurance on the furniture.

The candle, oil-soaked cotton batting, etc., are in possession of the police, who are investigating the circumstances surrounding the fire.

Funeral of Mrs. Allen.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Arvilla Freeman Allen, who died at a late hour Friday night at Mercy hospital, aged 80 years, was held yesterday afternoon from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Smith on Washington avenue and was private. The services were conducted by Rev. James M. Wilson, pastor of Broadway Methodist church. Burial was in Walnut Hill cemetery. The following acted as pallbearers: H. B. Watson, A. L. English, M. F. Rohrer, G. S. Davis, Spencer Smith and J. H. Arthur. Mrs. Allen is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Theodore Bray of this city.

James Doyle in City. James Doyle, plaintiff in the famous Cornudas mining suit against James F. Burns, former president of the Portland...

BIG BAGGINS in Christmas establish. We are now preparing to furnish you with all kinds of Woodward's candles, mixed nuts, Christmas trees, fine navel oranges, all prices low. We are also carrying New York apples from 40c peck up. Special price on lots to churches and lodges. Black walnuts, pecans, hickory nuts, per lb. 75c. We handle Trinity Church Ladies' mince-meat, and solid packed oysters, per quart. We handle fresh vegetables, we have lettuce, radishes, celery and cauliflower. Remember, we handle all kinds of poultry, turkeys, ducks and chickens. Get your Christmas order early and get the best. We deliver to West Omaha city. Leaving store at 2:30 p. m. L. Green, 134 Broadway.

Don't miss seeing the leather goods, pottery and art craft metal novelties at Alexander's.

Call for Omnes wester. MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Rev. Herbert W. Rehard, moderator of the Waterloo presbytery, has called a special meeting of that body, to be held in Mason City next Monday. The pastors and delegates are invited to be in Mason City Sunday to attend the dedication of the new Presbyterian church. Other business that will come before the presbytery will be to place in the hands of Rev. T. K. Hunter of Omaha the call from the church at Nevada and to arrange for his installation. Letters of admission to pastors who have left Iowa to join other presbyteries will be granted at this meeting.

Iowa News Notes. MARSHALLTOWN—Plans for the new \$40,000 Ellis club house and combination business block were accepted in part last night by the board and a building committee was authorized to organize and incorporate the Ellis Improvement company, which will push the building project. It was expected that building operations will be begun in the spring.

WOMAN ACCUSED OF FORGERY Mrs. Kiley of Rapid City Takes Poison When Detected, but Will Recover. RAPID CITY, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—A forged check for \$195 was passed on the Security Savings bank a few days ago by a well-dressed young woman, and a day or two later an attempt was made to pass a check for \$200 on the First National bank, but the cashier refused to cash it, as it was drawn on the Pennington bank and he was not acquainted with the party presenting the check. Suspicion as to who the forger was fell upon a young married woman, wife of Lee Kiley, who works for the firm whose name was signed to the checks. Realizing that she was being shadowed, Mrs. Kiley yesterday at

ECONOMY THE WATCHWORD

Iowa Legislature Will Make Special Effort to Reduce State Budget.

BUREAUS TO BE REARRANGED

General Shifting of Departments, it is Thought, Will Result in Better Service, Along with Decreased Cost.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) DES MOINES, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Economy and retrenchment is to be the watchword with the coming Iowa legislature, which meets in three weeks. The democrats in the last few campaigns in Iowa made much of the alleged extravagance of the republicans, who have been in full control of the affairs of the state, and while they did not make much headway with the voters in their accusations against the republican party, the fact remains that a number of republicans feel that the state ought to reduce rather than increase its running expenses. It is pointed out that in a great many ways there has been an increase of expenses in recent years, especially in the matter of examiners, boards and commissions. But the greatest increase in the running expenses of the state has been in the matter of the support and development of the three educational institutions, and it is claimed by members of the legislature that here is one place where the pruning knife will be applied.

The bill to establish a board of regents for the management of all three of these colleges will be introduced at the opening of the session by Senator J. Whipple, and he is very confident that the bill will this year be passed. It is claimed that at least there will not be this session any opposition from the executive office. An effort was made last spring to secure a pledge from the incoming governor that he would veto any bill for a change in the management of the colleges. It was more difficult to predict just what will be done. The house organization centers around the speakership. There are a goodly bunch of candidates—Marston, White, Darragh, Stillman, Lee, Haskler, Harding, Feeley and Sullivan. Any one would make a fair speaker, though perhaps not one has the exceptional capacity of the last four speakers—Clarke, Kendall, Byers and Eaton. It is almost certain the caucus will meet on January 9 with the winner in the dark.

It is settled, however, that C. R. Benedict of Shelby county will be unanimously re-elected clerk of the house. Dr. Newcomb of this city, who has been secretary of the senate for several terms, believes he has the position clinched again, but Senator Seelye is backing Captain William Neal of Washington county and a contest is probable. In the matter of arrangement of the committee nothing can be known in the house until a speaker is named and in the senate President Clarke is keeping very still about what he will do.

Technical School Teachers. Technical teachers from all the principal agricultural schools in America will probably gather at the new Columbia university and the year before at the University of Illinois. At this gathering of instructors will be some of the best speakers and educators in the world. It will be quite the largest meeting in an educational way Iowa has ever had.

Wants a Committee Chairmanship. It is understood that it is extremely likely that Lieutenant Governor Clarke, as president of the senate, will make chairman of the committee on military affairs Hon. John D. Brown of Leon, representing the Decatur-Ringgold-Union district. Recently Mr. Brown, who is 72 years old, was appointed aide to the national commander with the rank of colonel. This rare distinction entitles him to some recognition from a military standpoint, and it will probably be given him in this way.

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tempted suicide by taking carbolic acid. Prompt action by a physician saved her life. The president and cashier of the Security Savings bank both identified Mrs. Lee Kiley as the woman who presented the forged check to their bank. Officers are watching at the bedside and her arrest will follow soon as she is sufficiently recovered.

CHARGE AGAINST OPERATORS Western Union Telegraph Company Sued Out of Large Sums by Railroad Telegraphers. PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—An investigation by the Western Union Telegraph company carried on during the last six months, has disclosed an organized system of theft among railroad operators on the Pacific coast by the reason of which the telegraph company has been robbed of several hundred thousand dollars, according to a statement made tonight by an officer of the company who is in charge of the investigation.

Complaint is made in several instances that messages filed at certain stations had not been sent or delivered and the falling off of receipts at other places on railroad lines caused the Western Union officials to institute a thorough investigation. A secret service was organized and it was discovered that in some instances 60 per cent of the money received for messages filed at railroad offices never reached the telegraph company. In some instances, with but few exceptions, were properly transmitted and delivered, but all records of these dispatches, so far as reports and bookkeeping pertained, had been destroyed.

Following the discovery of the theft and the accumulation of proof warrants were obtained from the state and federal officials of the state of Washington and it is alleged by officials of the companies that at least one of the arrested men has confessed. They will all be brought to trial shortly. Only railroad operators are said to be involved in the alleged steal.

GENERAL SIMON TAKES OATH

New President of Republic of Haiti Inaugurated at Palace Sunday Morning.

PORT AU PRINCE, Dec. 21.—General Antoine Simon, the newly elected president of Haiti, took the oath of office at 10 o'clock this morning at the palace in the presence of foreign diplomats, the officers of the American and Italian warships and the Haitian officials of state. Senator Paulin, who presided at the session of congress which elected General Simon here, officiated and demanded the respect of the laws of the republic.

General Hyppolyte, minister of the interior, who responded in behalf of General Simon, promised every effort should be made to forward the agricultural and commercial interests of the country and to take measures to insure economies in carrying on the government.

Later at the reception which was held in the salon, M. Carteron, the French minister, addressed the president in behalf of the diplomatic corps and officially presented the keys of the city to the new president. M. Claude, minister of foreign affairs, gave assurance of the government's intention to maintain the most cordial relations with all the nations.

President Simon then attended a service at the cathedral, where the Te Deum was sung, afterwards going on horseback, accompanied by a brilliant escort, through the principal streets of the city, where he was acclaimed by all.

METEOR FALLS IN KANSAS

Comet Shaped Mass of Fire Passes Over St. Joe and Disappears Near Salina.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 21.—This strange comet ever seen in this part of the country was witnessed falling by a number of people here this afternoon between 5 and 6 o'clock. The meteor appeared to drop somewhere in Kansas, west of here. The comet itself seemed to be a ball of about the size of a street lamp. Its tail or stream of sparks was several feet in length. It was visible about thirty seconds.

A peculiar white streak, and what is regarded as a phenomenon, which the comet seemed to leave behind it as a path, was visible for fifteen minutes. It seemed then to waver, as if blown by the wind, and fade away.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 20.—Wichita and Salina, Kan., report having seen the meteor about 6 o'clock p. m. today. At Wichita the attention of persons outdoors was attracted by a sudden flash of light. It was thought the meteor fell to the northeast of that place. Friends in Salina report having seen two meteors at about the same hour.

PRIEST FALLS FROM STEAMER

Rev. Father Kelly of Paterson, N. J., Escapes his Frigate Iron-land, is Drowned.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 21.—When the steamer, Arabic, arrived here from New York, the captain reported that one of the passengers who was registered under the name of Father Kelly of Paterson, N. J., was drowned during the voyage. He fell overboard Thursday morning, but whether by accident or design is not known.

PATERSON, N. J., Dec. 21.—Rev. James Kelly was pastor of St. Agnes' Roman Catholic church in this city. A week ago he took passage on the steamer Arabic to visit relatives in Ireland. Father Kelly's friends here are convinced that his death must have been accidental as none can assign any reason for his wishing to take his own life.

MR. BRYAN AT PITTSBURG

Nebraska Declines to Comment on Selection of Senator Knox for Cabinet Position.

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Forty-three million pounds was the aggregate exportation of sugar from this country. The United States sugar record for 1907 was unique, in that the quantity of that product imported from foreign countries was larger than ever before, the quantity brought from our insular possessions was larger than any previous year, the quantity produced at home exceeded that of any other year, the quantity exported was larger than in any year of the past decade and the per capita consumption was the largest ever recorded, an average of 52 1/2 pounds for each man, woman and child of continental United States.

The production of beet sugar for the first time exceeded the production of cane sugar, the product of the year being, cane sugar, 344,000,000 pounds, while the production of beet sugar amounted to 367,000,000 pounds. The world's production has practically doubled in the last twenty years, having grown from 17,000,000,000 pounds in 1887 to 32,000,000,000 pounds in 1907, and while the United States consumed about 18 per cent of the total world's production in 1887, it consumed 22 per cent of the greatly increased production of 1907. Beets now supply one-half of the grand total produced, while twenty years ago they supplied but about one-third of the total product.

Panama Property Uninsured. On the many million dollars' worth of buildings owned by the United States government in the Panama canal zone not one cent of insurance is carried. The government has spent \$10,500,000 in buildings in the zone, which amount takes no account of the value of the buildings purchased from the French, both in the canal zone and the Republic of Panama, nor values property in all the buildings, including the large amount of stores. The only protection against fire the government has for these buildings, scattered along a line fifty miles in length, is in precautionary measures, and in the fire department which has been developed to a splendid state of efficiency. In every village companies for safeguarding the government's property against fire have been organized.

In all there are 3,338 buildings owned by the Isthmian Canal commission, and with but few exceptions these are of very light construction. Frequent inspection is made by firemen in all buildings and in public service buildings, such as hotels and clubhouses the inspection is made at least three times a week. Regulations forbidding the collection of inflammable material in or near buildings are strictly enforced. Heavy showers which fall almost daily from May to January are favorable to fire protection, but during the remaining four months there is little rain and the frame buildings become very dry. Fires are, however, not more frequent in the dry than the rainy season.

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The ruins at Casa Grande were found to be much more extensive than was anticipated and it was stated that their permanent preservation is of great architectural importance. In connection with special researches Dr. Waite states that although the resources of the institution are too limited to permit of large grants for extensive explorations or investigations as far as the income allows aid is given in various lines of research work.

A Steady Afloat. A lung hemorrhage. Stop it and cure weak lungs, coughs and cold with Dr. King's New Discovery. 50c and \$1.00. For sale by Beaton Drug Co.

Methodist Church Dedicated. TECUMSEH, Neb., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—This has been a day long to be remembered by the members and friends of the Methodist Episcopal church in Tecumseh. The new \$15,000 church building was dedicated free of debt. The weather was ideal and church services were held throughout the day and evening, the other churches giving away with their regular services and all Christian people of the city uniting in the services at the new church. Rev. T. C. Duff, D. D., of Baldwin, Kan., preached at the morning service, and the afternoon service was participated in by the several pastors of the city. Tonight there were speeches by former pastors of the church here, and the dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. Duff. At the close of the morning service a sum amounting to nearly \$5,000, the balance of the cost of erecting the church, and not provided for, was raised. The new edifice is a beautiful one, modern in its appointments and a great credit to the church people and to the city.

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A Steady Afloat. A lung hemorrhage. Stop it and cure weak lungs, coughs and cold with Dr. King's New Discovery. 50c and \$1.00. For sale by Beaton Drug Co.

Methodist Church Dedicated. TECUMSEH, Neb., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—This has been a day long to be remembered by the members and friends of the Methodist Episcopal church in Tecumseh. The new \$15,000 church building was dedicated free of debt. The weather was ideal and church services were held throughout the day and evening, the other churches giving away with their regular services and all Christian people of the city uniting in the services at the new church. Rev. T. C. Duff, D. D., of Baldwin, Kan., preached at the morning service, and the afternoon service was participated in by the several pastors of the city. Tonight there were speeches by former pastors of the church here, and the dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. Duff. At the close of the morning service a sum amounting to nearly \$5,000, the balance of the cost of erecting the church, and not provided for, was raised. The new edifice is a beautiful one, modern in its appointments and a great credit to the church people and to the city.

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