

BIG BLIZZARD IS RECALLED

Twenty-Four Years Ago Forty-One Perished in This State.

BIG SLEIGHING PARTY CAUGHT

Eight Hundred Omaha People Overtaken by the Blizzard While at a Dance at Council Bluffs.

Yesterday was the twenty-fourth anniversary of the big blizzard, which due to its severity, marked an epoch in the history of Nebraska. It was a storm that left death and suffering in its wake, not only in this state, but up and down the Missouri valley for hundreds of miles and from the lakes to the mountains.

The deaths in Nebraska, attributed to the blizzard, according to reports, numbered forty-one, with nearly as many more in Iowa, a large number in the Dakotas and several in Minnesota. Even as far south as Texas people were reported to have frozen to death.

In 1888 Nebraska was more sparsely settled than now and in those days the telephone was in its infancy. Telegraph lines were few and scattering and as a result, people were not apprised of the coming of the storm and were not kept advised as to its movements.

The winter of 1887-88 had been a severe one. There had been numerous severe storms, but about January 1, 1888, there was what was supposed to be a break in the back-bone of winter. During the first few days of the month, the weather was ideal; this continued until January 11. That day there was a heavy fall of snow, continuing all night and well into the next day. The snow lay twelve inches on a level.

Big Sleighting Party. Early in January the people of Omaha organized a sleighing carnival, Council Bluffs being the terminating point of the ride. People took to the idea, and January 12 was the date agreed upon. At about noon of that day, nearly 800 people of Omaha, in 25 sleighs of about every description, started across the river. At the time it was snowing hard, but the weather was mild, being about 25 degrees above zero.

January, 1888, was before the construction of the wagon bridge across the Missouri river and consequently the Omaha sleighing party, accompanied by a band, crossed the stream on the ice, going direct from the foot of Douglas street. On the opposite side the Omaha contingent was met by a delegation of 50 citizens of Council Bluffs, all in sleighs, and accompanied by a band of their own. The mayors of the two cities led the procession across the bottoms and up into Council Bluffs, through the streets and finally stopped at the Ogden house, which at that time was one of the best hotels in the west. Dinner was served and then in one of the halls of the city, a dance was arranged for.

Blizzard Starts. Late in the afternoon while the dancing was in progress, some one entered the hall and announced that the wind had changed from the southwest to the northwest and that a blizzard was raging.

Little did the dancers care for the storm, for it was to be a night of undisturbed joy and pleasure—a union of the best people of the two cities. However, their pleasure was soon disturbed, for about 5 o'clock the wind began to blow with the velocity of a hurricane; the air became laden with fine particles of ice, the atmosphere being so completely filled that it was impossible to see buildings across the street. As the hours passed, the wind increased in velocity and the storm grew more severe.

Storm Raged All Night. The storm raged all night and until nearly noon the next day. Then it was that people began to make a survey of the havoc wrought by the storm. All of the railroad trains were snow bound and the telegraph lines were down. It was a long time before news commenced

to filter in from the rural districts. In Omaha the report became current that a number of people were missing and that they had frozen to death. These, however, proved to be but rumors, for in the city while there were many frozen ears, feet and hands, there was but one death as a result of the storm. Fred Eller, a cigar maker, in going to his home, some place out in the neighborhood of Hanscom park, lost his way, became exhausted and lay down in the snow at Twenty-third and Leavenworth streets and died.

Many School Children Die. Out in the state the greatest loss of life was among school children. When the storm broke, schools were dismissed for the day and the boys and girls, starting for home, became bewildered and lost, freezing to death before they found a refuge.

In South Dakota, the storm broke about a clock in the morning, at an hour before people had started for their work and before the children were on the way to school. As a result, there the death list was not so large as in Nebraska.

The losses to the ranchmen of the northwest was terrific. In those days the whole of northern and western Nebraska was a range country. The cattle drifted with the storm and when it abated, the carcasses of thousands of animals were found frozen solid in the ravines and on the prairie. The same was true throughout the Dakotas and all over Wyoming.

Many heroic deeds were recorded where school children were saved from perishing.

French Premiership Offered to Bourgeois

PARIS, Jan. 12.—President Fallieres has decided to offer the premiership to Leon Bourgeois tomorrow, but as M. Bourgeois undoubtedly will decline for reasons of health, the president must look elsewhere for a man capable of forming a cabinet and insuring a republican majority.

M. Bourgeois is at present in the senate. He has held the positions of premier, minister of foreign affairs, minister of public instruction, minister of the interior, minister of justice and president of the chamber of deputies. Others mentioned as most likely to receive the call for the premiership are M. Esprit-Randiand, M. Doumergue, who was minister of colonies in the Combes cabinet, and Raymond Poincare, senator for Meuse, who has held numerous ministerial positions.

It is doubtful whether M. Delcasse who yesterday was appointed foreign minister prior to the resignation of the cabinet, would accept the premiership if it were offered to him.

Five Deaths from Meningitis in Dallas

DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 12.—Five deaths from meningitis and eight new cases were reported here today by the city Board of Health. Unofficial reports from other points in the state did not indicate a material increase in the number of new cases.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okl., Jan. 12.—Dr. A. J. Maher, state health officer, today said there have been no deaths from meningitis at McAlester, as was reported last night. He said there have been six cases at Love county and four deaths. Besides, there have been ten other deaths in the state.

SHREVEPORT, La., Jan. 12.—The commissioners of Shreveport today passed an ordinance putting into effect a rigid quarantine against all points in Texas where cerebro spinal meningitis is known to be prevalent.

SEARCH FOR FALSE TEETH KEEPS GOVERNOR IN ROOM

STOUX FALLS, S. D., Jan. 12.—Gov. Robert S. Vessey of South Dakota, who came here today to attend the state La Follette conference, lost his false teeth in his room in his hotel and for several hours was forced to remain in his room while the missing teeth were being sought. The teeth were finally located in a laundry, having been wrapped up in the sheets taken from the governor's bed.

Death from Blood Poison. Was prevented by G. W. Floyd, Plunk, Mo., who heisted his dangerous wound with Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Only 25c. For sale by Beston Drug Co.



25% Discount on all Winter Underwear 33 1/3% Discount on all Fancy Vests Men's all wool sweaters that sold for \$2.50 and \$3.00. Now at \$1.65

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Table listing clothing items and prices: \$10.00 Suits or Overcoats \$5.00, \$20.00 Suits or Overcoats \$10.00, \$30.00 Suits or Overcoats \$15.00, \$40.00 Suits or Overcoats \$20.00. Also includes Men's Furnishings and Boys' Clothing prices.

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Store Closes 9 P. M. Saturdays



POWER OF COURT IN ISSUE

Conflict Between Commerce Judges and Interstate Commission Up.

SUPREME JUSTICES TO DECIDE

Interest of Washington Officials Exhibited in First Case from New Court Made Subject to Final Review.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The unsettled conflict of jurisdiction between the new commerce court and the Interstate Commerce commission today overshadowed other intricate problems of governmental rate-making considered by the supreme court of the United States.

The tense situation existing in Washington was shown by the fact that ostensibly over a question of class ratings between Cincinnati and Chattanooga on a single road, the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific, there appeared to address the court not only attorneys for the railroad and the shipper interested, but the legal representatives of the Interstate Commerce commission and the first department of Justice.

The court itself was the first to suggest a question about the jurisdiction of the commerce court. Francis H. James, representing Cincinnati shippers, was detailing to the court an account of how the shippers had failed to get a reduction of the 5-cent schedule of rates over the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific to a 4-cent basis. He told how the commission reduced the schedule to 3 cents and then how the shippers appealed to the commerce court to annul the commission's order.

Justice Vandeventer inquired about the power of the commerce court to review the refusal of the commission to grant relief to a shipper. Mr. James replied that the act creating the commerce court opened that court to the shipper as well as to the railroad.

Plotner's Body Buried at Marshalltown, Iowa

MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—The body of Luther Plotner, the former Woonsocket, S. D., sheriff, who is alleged to have killed himself by taking cyanide while his trial was in progress, was brought to this city and secretly buried last Sunday. It was learned here today, an attorney, representing himself to have had charge of Plotner's case, and George Crawford of Mason City, a relative of Plotner, accompanied the body to this city and witnessed the burial in Riverside cemetery. There was no ceremony.

Assistant Attorney General Denison then addressed the court and the jurisdiction of the commerce court came squarely in issue. "In a narrow, literal view," said Mr. Denison, "these words 'any order' of the statute creating the commerce court of the commission which the commerce court has jurisdiction to annul or set aside, might be construed to apply even to negative orders such as those denying relief or dismissing complaints, but the context and spirit and purpose of the act show that such could not have been the intention."

FIRE RECORD.

Residence in Nebraska City. NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—The home of Zara L. Gouldsmith, situated in the northern part of the city, caught fire yesterday afternoon and was destroyed with its contents. Mrs. Gouldsmith was at home with her children and did not discover the fire until the house was all on fire through the second story. She had barely time to make her escape with what clothes she could gather up and get out with her children. There was only \$50 insurance on the house and the loss is something over \$250.

Farm Home in Oter County. NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—The fine country home of ex-Sheriff John M. Williams, west of this city, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night. A stiff wind was blowing and so quick did the home burn that nothing

WOMAN AND GIRL KILLED BY GAS FROM WATER HEATER

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 12.—Carbon monoxide caused the death of Mrs. Edith Phillips and her daughter Grace, whose bodies were found yesterday in the home by Jay Phillips, the husband and father, a fireman. This statement was made today by Dean George Frankforter of the University of Minnesota. Dean Frankforter attributed the carbon monoxide to a water heater which was in the room. The bodies were taken today to Pioneer, Ia., where Mrs. Phillips' parents reside.

HYMENEAL.

Canarsky-Zimmerman. WEST POINT, Neb., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—Rev. William Harris, pastor of the German Lutheran church in Neligh township, performed the ceremony which united Henry Canarsky and Mrs. Bertha Zimmerman, residents of eastern Cumming county. The couple was attended by John Canarsky and Alton Zimmerman. The young people are natives of this county and the children of old and pioneer settlers.

All the Tone-quality of the \$200 Instruments in this one at \$59

—which is the spot-cash price, but which includes an outfit of 12 double-disc records (24 selections) And you can pay for it at the rate of \$5 a month.



The Offer: We agree to deliver to any address in Omaha, one of these Grafonols, together with an assortment of 12 double-disc records (24 selections) to be selected by us, or by you if you prefer. In addition we include, free, one "Demonstration" double-disc record. The machine and the records will be sent on three days' free trial to any home in the city. So confident are we that the instrument will please even the most critical, that we agree to refund all money paid by any purchaser who may not in every way be satisfied with the instrument. An unconditional guarantee as to material and workmanship accompanies each instrument sold, the guarantee being signed by the manufacturers and countersigned by us. This is the first offer of this sort we ever made. We do it now because we intend either to place a Grafonola in every home in Omaha, or at least give every householder in Omaha an opportunity to own one.

The Instrument: This beautiful Grafonola "Favorite," the first instrument of this latest improved type to be offered at anything like its price, is probably the best that its price will ever buy. It seems pretty clear that the limit has been reached. As a musical instrument, it is all that any musical instrument can be, and all that those costing \$200 can claim to be. The cabinet is built of the choicest mahogany (or of beautiful quarter-oak) polished like the finest piano. The "Favorite" plays any size of record—three at one winding, and can be rewound while running, the motor being a powerful triple-spring drive absolutely silent and always positive and reliable. The tone arm leads the sound waves from the reproducer in amplified and poured out through the front, subject to reduction in volume by the partial or complete closing of the double doors. The start-and-stop lever is combined with a speed regulator lever, all in handy reach. The turntable stands above the top of the cabinet when the lid is raised, admitting easy access to the record and needle. It is an instrument that any man, of any means, may be proud to own and use for a lifetime. The outfit of records we have selected from the best selling and most popular of all classes, and includes the famous Sextette from "Lucia" and the equally famous Quartette from "Rigoletto," which ought to be extremely interesting to any of your friends who own talking machines and have paid \$15 for those two selections alone. You are at liberty to make your own selection of records if you prefer. They will outwear any other make of records almost two to one. Call, write or telephone any dealer, or COLUMBIA PHONOGRAPH CO. Gen'l Distributors Telephone Doug. 1955; Ind. A-2185 1311 FARNAM STREET OMAHA

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At the Theaters

Attractions in Omaha. American: "When We Were Twenty One." Boys: "The Love Tales of Hoffmann." Brundets: "The Smari Set." Gayety: "Burlesque." Krug: "Burlesque." Orpheum: "Vanderella." Managers today at the Gayety, Krug and Orpheum.

"The Smari Set" at the Brundets. The arrival at the Brundets last night of S. H. Dudley, the capable colored comedian, with a supporting company of large numbers, was the occasion for a large gathering of a cosmopolitan audience. It was an appreciative audience, too, and the Brundets has not heard so much laughter in many months as echoed within its walls last night, when the pungent wit of "Dr. Beans from Boston" flowed over the footlights and struck a responsive chord in nearly every occupied seat.

Stunt Bert Williams abandoned stage work with his own company, S. H. Dudley has become the most prominent colored comedian in this country. He is a good comedian, without any doubt, and far surpasses many of the white actors who claim a hold on the American public because of achievement as a humorist. There are several excellent singing voices in the Dudley chorus, and excellent harmony was maintained in all the songs of the show. The chorus is a large, having twenty or more girls and ten men.

Mr. Dudley takes the part of an out-of-job minstrel. He "falls into" \$5,000, a sum with which he purchases a drug-store, wherein is laid the scene of many merry times between the new proprietor and several customers. The piece has three acts in all, each well and effectively staged. The costumes are sumptuous and prettily designed. The show is to remain until after Saturday night with a matinee Saturday.

Local Stage Notes. It has been some time since Omaha has had the pleasure of hearing the golden voice of Mr. Joseph Sheehan, the greatest of all American tenors, and all music lovers appreciate the opportunity of hearing the famous tenor and his excellent company once more. This brief engagement opens tonight at the Boyd theater in the original English version of Offen-

bach's beautiful opera "The Love Tales of Hoffmann" which will give to-night and tomorrow matinee. Tomorrow night Mr. Sheehan will present Verdi's "Traviata," appearing in the role of Manrico. The company at the American has had a strenuous time this week in presenting the charming comedy, "When We Were Twenty-One," and getting ready for the big production of "The Man of the Hour" which begins Sunday afternoon. The unique humor of the farce comedy and the tenor's own vigorous and original performance have kept the house packed up all the time. The closing performance of "When We Were Twenty-One," will be given today and Saturday.

Matchmakers should not fail to see Alice Lloyd in "Miss Pixie" when she comes to the Brundets theater for one matinee and four evening performances beginning Thursday, January 11. The bright, amusing comedy with music shows the difficulties that beset even the best meaning persons when they attempt to adjust the matrimonial affairs of the men and women of their acquaintance. Loretta Walsh, James C. Lane, Frank Shannon, Frederick Santley, Grace Egan, Nellie Alaboin, Grace Brown and others assist the star.

While Odette, the "Water Queen" is giving exhibitions of swimming and diving at the Orpheum next week, thirty or forty feet, will also be frolicking about the big tank acting as if they were furnishing the entertainment. The fish are all sizes and colors, gold, black, red and white predominating. They are carried about from town to town in a small tank and are always healthy.

Messenger boys of the Western Union Telegraph company were guests of Manager Charles Franke at the Big Theater last night occupying and filling the two lower boxes. The youngsters made merry over "The New Day Review" and enjoyed the antics of Harry LeVann as the red-haired kid about the town. They also applauded freely the songs by Miss Frankie Heath, who has been a hit with all women at the matinee.

If you would win a little easy money this week just get some one to bet you that nine out of every ten delegates to the Nebraska Farmers' convention will not attend the performance of Hurring & Seaman's "Social Affairs" at the popular Gayety some afternoon or evening this week. The starship of the current attraction is nothing short of gorgeous and is of great interest to the ladies, who always appreciate costly raiment. Ladies' matinee daily.