

### Store Purposely Destroyed. Says Fire Marshal

#### Officer Cites Extremely Low Prices at Which Goods Were Sold Immediately Before Fire at Duncan.

Columbus, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—State Fire Marshal Charles E. Hartford has completed an investigation into the mysterious destruction by fire of the Kozlowski general merchandise store at Duncan, Neb., at midnight, October 11. The fire marshal, in a statement following examination of witnesses at Columbus Monday declares that he is satisfied that the store was purposely destroyed. He states that he has made a formal complaint to the county attorney of Platte county. "The store was purposely destroyed, after most of the stock was sold out at a ridiculously low price. A 15-year-old clerk was left in charge of the store, our evidence shows, and the proprietor showed considerable neglect. The matter is in the hands of the county attorney."

The marshal said on his arrival in Norfolk Monday night. State subpoenas were issued for Kozlowski and his clerk, Albert Nowicki. Five or six other witnesses were examined. The evidence disclosed the fact, the state official declares, that woolen sweaters which cost \$4 and \$4.50 each were sold out for 50 to 75 cents. Other articles in the store sold at similar low prices. Kozlowski declared that he was short of funds and was selling at low prices in order to reduce his stock.

"The facts are," Hartford states, "that the store sold at any price people wanted to give. Evidence given us by purchasers showed this to be true. The store was about to be closed up by creditors. Then it was entirely destroyed by fire. It was insured for \$7,500. It was a brick affair and was one of the largest stores in the town, but business had been falling off, due to neglect. We made an investigation in connection with 125 gallons of gasoline which originally were stored in the building. After the fire, the tanks were found to be empty."

### Former Midland Students Will Meet at Homecoming

Fremont, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—Turkey day will be Homecoming day for the former students of Midland college. The Midland foot ball squad meet the Wesleyan Methodists at Fremont, followed by a banquet in honor of the foot ball team in the evening. A program has been arranged with several good speakers. The eats will be on the regular Thanksgiving plan. About 250 grads, former students and business men of Fremont have been invited to attend and help Midland celebrate.

### Hold Beatrice Couple on Charge of Robbing Man

Beatrice, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—"Era" Darwin was arrested by Sheriff Schiek on the charge of robbing George Hatesohl of \$140. According to the sheriff Darwin took Hatesohl to west Beatrice, got him drunk and then rifled his pockets. The sum of \$40 was recovered from Pearl Leland, 17, and she was also arrested. She states that Darwin gave her the money.

### John W. Burrows Appointed Scotts Bluff County Clerk

Gering, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—John W. Burrows has been appointed county clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of V. B. Kirkham. The new incumbent has been deputy for over a year. The former clerk has become vice president of the First National bank of this city.

### Charge Dance Promoter Wrote Worthless Checks

Beatrice, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—C. A. Hibbard, who has been conducting community dances here the past few weeks, was arrested in Lincoln on the charge of writing two worthless checks in this city, one for \$27 and the other for \$90.

### Remove Oil Rigging

Beatrice, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—The equipment of the Holledge Oil company, which secured leases on about 50,000 acres of land in Gage county, has been removed.

### Fined on Liquor Charge

Mook, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—William Farrell of Leonard was fined \$200 for having in his possession a quantity of intoxicating liquor.

### Union Outfitting Co. Offers Most Unusual Values in High Grade Living Room Furniture

Complete Suites as Well as Single Pieces Reduced to Rock Bottom Prices.

If you need any new furniture in your home for the holidays now is the time to buy, as the Union Outfitting Company is offering special reductions on Living Room Furniture this week.

There are complete suites as well as single pieces that you will be proud to own, as "honest quality" is more than a slogan at this store; beauty of design, grace and refinement marking every piece of furniture shown.

You will find many desirable pieces of furniture in oak, mahogany or walnut; and, as usual, you have the advantage of "easy-to-pay" terms.—Advertisement.

### Store Bandit, Killed By Fremont Police, Was Army Deserter

Fremont, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—The bandit killed here early Sunday morning, following the hold-up of the College Book store and the gun battle with the police, was Earnest A. Guest, a member of Troop 1, 15th Cavalry of Ft. Russell at Cheyenne, Wyo. He deserted that post some time in October.

In company with a pal, now sought by police, the two men entered the book store, 909 North Irving street, and at the point of a gun, held up and robbed the proprietor, F. A. Krumeacher. They left with about \$50. When the police located the gunmen near the Northwestern railroad yards, Guest was shot in the ensuing gun battle. The country has been thoroughly searched, but no evidence of the remaining thief has been found. A case, belonging to Guest, was located at the Union Pacific station, containing some underwear and a rifle picture, supposed to be the young man's fiancée. The commanding officer at Ft. Russell informed the local police that Guest had left unaccompanied and that his companion was not likely to be another deserter. The search has been carried to Omaha, where it is believed that the escaped man may be in hiding.

### Trial and Real Marriages Fail; Wife Gets Decree

#### Couple Live Together, Part-Are Married and Part—Her Fourth Petition for Divorce Goes Through.

Having tried both "trial" marriage and honest-to-goodness, license-and-preacher marriage and found them each a failure, Mrs. Grace Blum yesterday secured a decree of divorce from her husband, John Blum, in district court.

The Blums formerly lived on a farm near Springfield, a town southeast of Omaha. This was during the "trial" marriage. Mr. Blum was "tried" there and "found wanting" in the qualities which make a good, domesticated husband. Mrs. Blum filed suit in district court here June 9, 1919, asking a divorce. The court granted her an order restraining John from continuing the cruelty and threats which, she alleged, he had practiced. On June 25 Mrs. Blum came into court and dismissed her divorce action and on the same day they were

married in legal style and went back to live happily ever afterward. But the real marriage didn't succeed either. The bonds of matrimony weren't strong enough to hold them together and on April 7, 1920, Mrs. Blum again came into the district court asking a divorce. October 24, Mrs. Blum filed her fourth petition for divorce within 16 months. And this one "went through."

### Man Sues for \$15,000 Alleged Broken Contract

Fremont, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—Claude W. Wright is suing for \$15,000 damages in the Dodge county courts from Caleb A. Negus, whom he alleges broke a contract by which he was to sell for Negus 480 acres of Scottsbluffs land, the deal amounting to \$14,400. Wright alleges that Negus broke the contract, which was made by telegram, when he failed to deliver the deeds for the land. He also accuses Negus of violating the terms of the contract, by already selling the property in question to some one else, thus placing himself in a position where it is impossible to comply with the obligations of the contract.

### Melbeta Garage Burns

Gering, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—The Coal Valley garage at Melbeta, nine miles east of this place, was destroyed by fire. R. C. Williams was the owner of the stock and building and the loss, estimated at \$10,000, was not covered by insurance.

### Butter and Cream Of Omaha Cafes Tested by State

#### All Because Leo Stuhr, State Secretary of Agriculture, Didn't Like the Cream on His Oatmeal.

Leo Stuhr, state secretary of agriculture, was in Omaha several days ago. He ordered oatmeal for his breakfast in a downtown restaurant, and called for abundant cream and sugar. The cream didn't suit him. It tasted like it lacked the 18 per cent butter fat required by law.

He secured samples of cream from that restaurant—and from several other cafes and restaurants. These he took back to Lincoln with him, turning them over to the chemist for the department with instructions to test them for the amount of butter fat.

J. M. Anderson and Thomas Zacek, representatives of the state food department in Omaha, augmented his supply of samples to be tested. Didn't Taste Right. The result of these tests has not

been secured, as yet, but Mr. Stuhr yesterday announced that should any of them show insufficient butter fat, arrests and prosecution will follow. And all because the cream of Mr. Stuhr's oatmeal that morning in Omaha didn't taste just right.

### Kearney Phone Patrons Oppose Lincoln Hearing

Kearney, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—Patrons of the Kearney Telephone company are indignant over proposals to raise its rates without holding a hearing in this city. The phone company officials have laid their claims before the state railway commission—and that body called a hearing, to be held at Lincoln next Friday. The patrons are anxious to have this hearing transferred to Kearney, in order that a majority opinion may be expressed and the commission be thoroughly informed before acting. They have requested that the hearing be transferred to Kearney, instead. Riverside phone patrons, also affected, voice a like disapproval of the hearing plan.

### Organizer of Homemakers At McCook Resigns Job

McCook, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—Miss Mabel Webster, who organized and has been at the head of the Red Willow County Homemakers, has resigned to accept a position in Chehalis county, Washington. She will be located at Montesano on Gray's Harbor.

### Senators Will Take Up Matter Of Farm Credit

#### Farmers Forced to Sell Products at Very Low Prices, Says Hitchcock; Urges Action at Once.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Concerted action for improvement of the agricultural industry is to be taken by senators from Nebraska and other agricultural states early in the coming session of congress. Senator Hitchcock and Senator Norris, both have been giving the matter much consideration and already informal conferences have been held on the subject. A formal conference is to be called by Senator Cummins of Iowa early in the coming session of congress, where a definite program of legislation will be considered and outlined. The whole matter will probably come up in connection with the bill to regulate the packing industry introduced by Senator Kenyon of Iowa, which is slated for consideration at the opening of the session.

"There is no doubt about the seriousness of the situation confronting the farmers," said Senator Hitchcock today. "They are unable to obtain proper credit and in consequence are being forced to sell their products at ruinously low prices. Western senators and members are going to hold a formal conference at the earliest possible moment, in order to go over the whole situation and outline a comprehensive program to meet the situation adequately. The time is propitious for it now, because of the fact that the senate will have before it the so-called Kenyon-Kendrick bill for regulation of the packing industry, in which both farmers and livestock producers are much interested."

"Something should be done promptly," Senator Hitchcock continues, "so that farmers will not be at the mercy of the market when their products arrive. As it is now, shippers are unable at the time they make their initial shipments to know in advance what prices they may be able to obtain. The farmer's credit certainly ought to be improved, and his market stabilized, and the purpose of our conference will be to see if legislation may be framed to that end."

### Ravenna Woman Dies

Ravenna, Neb., Nov. 24.—(Special.)—Mrs. A. T. Shellenbarger, who has been prominent in social and church life of the community, died at her home here. She was a member of the Methodist church, and besides her husband, she leaves a baby daughter.










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