

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

FAITHFUL CHRONICLE OF ALL IMPORTANT ITEMS.

BABEL AT PRETORIA

CONFUSION OF TONGUES AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Dutch and English Mixed—Dramatic Scenes in Old Oom Paul's Hall—Large Crowds Assemble at Home of Parliament.

The first parliament of the Transvaal under the newly granted constitution met at Pretoria Thursday morning in the hall in which the late President Kruger presided for so many years over the sittings of the upper Volksraad of the erstwhile South African republic. The stage setting was the same as in the old days of the dutch republic, but the characters in the drama were a mixture of British imperialists and burghers. A large crowd assembled in front of the house of parliament, where two regiments of British infantry were drawn up. For the benefit of the throng the members of the lower house took the oath on the historic balcony where it was the custom of President Kruger to deliver his biblical exhortations when sworn into the presidency.

In the upper chamber the earl of Selbourne, the high commissioner, who was in full uniform and attended by his military and personal staff, was seated on the throne, flanked by black gowned judges and foreign consuls.

Lord Selbourne ordered the members of the lower house to retire and elect a speaker. As soon as they had assembled in their hall a language controversy sprang up, the Afrikaans persisting in the use of Dutch.

Mr. Hofmeyr took the chair and, speaking in English, explained the method of electing a speaker, whereupon Gen. Schalkburg, the former vice president of old times, shouted: "Speak Dutch."

The general's intervention was greeted with cheers by the Boers, and Hofmeyr complied, flashing his explanation in Dutch.

BREAKS OIL MONOPOLY.

Standard Oil Hit by Decision of Oklahoma Official.

The monopoly of the Standard Oil company in the sale of kerosene for illuminating purposes in Oklahoma has been broken by an opinion by W. O. Cromwell, the territorial attorney general. Mr. Cromwell holds that the territory has power to prescribe such flash tests as afford safety to consumers, but that the legislature has no authority to regulate the quality of any article of merchandise shipped into the territory and bought by the people. The restrictions which the attorney general's opinion remove are contained in the act of the legislature of 1903. When in Washington several weeks ago Gov. Frantz submitted the law and his proposal to James Garfield, secretary of the interior. Secretary Garfield said that his impression was that the law was valid.

JAPAN WANTS ISLANDS.

May Have Trouble in Keeping the Philippines.

United States Senator William J. Stone, in the course of a speech in Kansas City Tuesday night, said: "If we are ever to have serious trouble with any nation it will be Japan. Japan wants the Philippines. I am not sure whether it would not be best for all concerned if she should get them, but one thing is certain, she will never get them with our consent. But we may have trouble in keeping them. Japan could seize the archipelago in a week, and we could only send over a big enough fleet to wipe Japan from the sea. That would be a costly task."

Lumber Trust Case.

In the case against the alleged lumber trust, Attorney General Thompson, of Nebraska, attempted to prove discriminations in Ragan and Holdrege. He summoned dealers and demanded papers. Referee Post ruled that all documents be submitted.

Twenty-Five Years for Kidnaping.

Joshua Harrison was Thursday at Elizabeth City, N. C., sentenced to twenty-five years' imprisonment for the kidnaping and murder of a boy, Kenneth Bresley, 2 years old.

Galveston Bill is Passed.

The Iowa senate passed the Galveston municipal government bill at 2:30 o'clock Thursday by a vote of 43 to 0.

Sioux City Live Stock Market.

Thursday's quotations on the Sioux City live stock market follow: Top beefs, \$5.20. Top hogs, \$6.30.

Negro Banker Assassinated.

Edward Howell, president of the People's bank, a negro institution of Hattiesburg, Miss., was shot in the bank and killed on his way home Wednesday night. The shooting is a mystery. Howell stood well with the white people there.

Shoots Wife; Kills Himself.

John Blake, of Boston, met his wife, Mary, on Carson street, in South Boston, shot her, and then committed suicide. The woman may live.

FEDERAL SLEUTHS AT DOVER.

Roosevelt Believed to Have Faked Action.

Two federal secret service agents arrived at Dover, Del., Wednesday night, and members of the legislature who are still in the city interpret this as meaning that President Roosevelt has taken personal cognizance of the resolution adopted last week by the house of representatives requesting him to extend federal aid to the searchers for Dr. Marvin's kidnaped boy. This resolution had not reached the senate and it asked, in fact, only that the president instruct all postmasters to place the Marvin kidnaping posters conspicuously in all postoffices in the country.

But at Senator Dapont's dinner to the Republican members of the legislature it was further suggested that the Delaware senators ask the president to assign a revenue cutter to search sloops in the Delaware bay for the child. It is supposed that the secret service men have been sent there by order of the president to confer with Dr. Marvin and to offer him the service of the revenue cutter if such is desired.

Other developments of Wednesday's search was an inspection of the hermit quarters of William O. Howe, near Cedar Beach, and a raid on a gypsy camp about six miles out of town. State Detective Hawkins found the strongly fortified log hut of Howe deserted. On it was a sign reading: "Trespassers, beware of the strict Delaware laws, and beware of the third, fifteenth, seventeenth and nineteenth."

PAY OF RURAL CARRIERS.

Department Adjusting Salaries Under the New Law.

Under the recent act of congress making appropriations for the postal service for the ensuing year the postmaster general may fix the salaries of carriers in the rural delivery service at a rate not exceeding \$900 per annum after July 1, 1907. The highest rate now paid is \$720 per annum. The readjustment of salaries under the new law has not been fully determined, but it is proposed to allow the maximum rate, \$900, to all carriers on routes 24 or more miles in length, as shown by the records of the department. This will give approximately \$2,800, or about 60 per cent of the carriers, an advance in salary of \$780 per annum.

A substantial increase in pay for other carriers is contemplated, but the chief beneficiaries of the new law will be those serving the longer routes, upon whom the greater hardships of the service fall. Carriers on the shorter routes, ranging from 12 to 14 and from 14 to 16 miles in length, now receive \$504 and \$540 per annum respectively, being proportionately better paid than carriers on routes of twenty or more miles.

The pay of substitute rural carriers will also be increased in many cases. This advance in pay for carriers and substitutes, it is estimated, will result in an approximate increase of \$1,900,000 in the cost of rural delivery service.

FLOOD LOSS IS GREAT.

Conditions are Still Serious in California.

Flood conditions at many points throughout California are still serious. Many lives have been lost and the damage to property will be enormous. Seven persons were drowned by the capsizing of a boat at the village of Dredendul, near Oroville, and the whole town practically destroyed. The loss in Oroville, which is almost entirely flooded, exceeds \$500,000. Twenty Chinese were drowned there. Two persons were drowned at Venice Island, in the San Joaquin river.

At San Martin, a boy was drowned, and at Santa Clara many families driven from their homes. There is hardly a dry spot in Stockton. Washouts are seriously interfering with traffic on some railroads. Fruit growers fear great damage will be done to crops, as the rains are believed to have washed away much of the pollen, thus preventing the blooms from maturing.

Assassinated in His Home.

Frank Smith, a merchant, was called to the door of his home at Estill, Howard county, O., by an unidentified person and shot to death. No motive is known and there is no clue to the assassin.

Six Killed in Explosion.

An explosion occurred Wednesday in the Emporium powder mill, located two miles from Emporium, Pa., which caused the death of six men, three Americans and three unknown Italian laborers.

Two Workmen Crushed to Death.

Jacob Baijnn and Louis Elenoff were killed and Louis Baijnn was injured by the collapse of a wall of the house at 263 North High street, Baltimore, Md.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich Dead.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich, the author, died at his home in Boston, Tuesday. He failed to rally from a surgical operation performed about a month ago.

Mob Kills Two Women.

Charged with having used a razor with probably fatal effects on Mrs. Ella Rheton (white) and daughter, and kicking her son, a small child, about the road, two colored women were shot to death at McKamee, near Wamps, Ark., Tuesday night by a mob.

Flood Danger is Past.

Clearing weather and a cold wind have checked the rising streams at the head waters and all danger of another flood has passed at Pittsburgh.

TRAINMEN NEAR BIG STRIKE.

Votes to Reject Offer of Western Lines.

Trainmen and conductors on all railroad lines west of Chicago have rejected the recent offer of the general managers of the systems for an increase in wages according to information received. The official canvass of the referendum vote, which has been in progress for a fortnight, began Wednesday. It is stated further that the trainmen have voted to strike if their demands are not granted. Unless the managers offer further concessions a strike of 50,000 men is likely to result.

When the conference between representatives of the employees and the companies adjourned Feb. 27 it was the understanding that another conference would be held after the men had voted upon the manager's offer. This second meeting is expected to be had next week.

The officers have already offered to submit the entire controversy to arbitration, but it is stated that this proposition has also been rejected by the voting members of the union.

The offer which the men are said to have rejected was for an increase of 10 per cent to men in the freight service and of 110 a month to conductors, \$6 a month to baggage-men and \$6 a month to brakemen and flagmen in the passenger service.

WALL STREET UNSTEADY.

Prices Crumble Rapidly at Opening Tuesday.

Opening prices in the New York stock market Tuesday showed declines generally which were wide in some of the most active stocks. There was a sprinkling of gains, a rise of a point in Southern Pacific being the most conspicuous. Heavy liquidation was resumed, however, and prices crumbled away rapidly. Reading, Union Pacific, St. Paul, Hill stocks and Amalgamated Copper broke in precipitate fashion, and the entire market became sensationally weak.

Selling for foreign account was an important element in the weakness, and fears were entertained that trouble was impending in some foreign financial markets. It was believed also that there was selling out of accounts that were helped through the slump of last week on condition that opportunity should be taken of the first recovery of the market to reduce holdings.

The break in the first hour was ascribed to a variety of causes, chief among them being a persistent rumor that one or more failures are eminent. The excitement Tuesday was quite as great as that of last Thursday. Considerable stock was thrown on the market at any price it might bring.

SMALLPOX ALARMS PARIS.

Many Thousands of People Are Being Vaccinated.

The appearance of a few cases of smallpox in Paris has greatly alarmed the people. Thousands of persons have been vaccinated during the last few days, and the hospitals and academy of medicine hospitals are besieged by crowds of people anxious to be vaccinated. The authorities believe there is no real danger of an epidemic.

Dr. Mesureur, director general of public assistance, said Tuesday that the reports that the situation had grown worse were untrue. He said there had only been two deaths and that there were about six cases under treatment. He added that the cases in Paris, which are of a particularly virulent type, had all been traced to Tunis and Tripoli.

HITS TICKET SCALPERS.

Radical Action is Taken by Chicago City Council.

Theater ticket scalpers have been so numerous in Chicago that the council, in response to a demand from the theater-going public, passed an ordinance making it an unlawful act for tickets to be sold at any place but in the box office of the playhouse. The ordinance also prohibits the selling of tickets to any sort of entertainment in the city for a sum in excess of the amount printed on the ticket. The ordinance goes into full force at once.

Labor for Canal.

LeRoy Parke, agent for the war department, has been in Europe for some months soliciting foreign labor for work on the Panama canal, and, although he has encountered much opposition, he has succeeded since October in shipping 4,500 men, nearly all Spaniards or Italians.

Japanese Students Admitted.

Late Thursday nine little Japanese girls who had applied for admission to the Redding primary schools in San Francisco that morning were admitted after an examination as to their knowledge of the English language.

Russian Railroad Disaster.

As the result of a collision Tuesday between passenger and freight trains at Turushiche station, Russia, seventeen persons were killed and thirty-five injured.

Effect Range Agreement.

At a meeting of cattlemen and sheepmen at Laramie, Wyo., Tuesday a compromise was effected as to grazing on the Medicine Bow forest reserves. A dividing line was marked out which both sides agree to observe.

Mayflower for Taft Party.

Secretary Taft and the party which is to accompany him to Panama, Cuba and Porto Rico will go on the Mayflower, which the navy department has placed at their disposal.

News of Nebraska

CAN CUT RAILROAD RATES.

Bill Giving Commission Power is Sent to the Governor.

In the senate Wednesday morning the bill empowering the Nebraska railway commission to lower railroad rates was passed by a vote of 21 to 9. It will now go to the governor. The commission has power to alter the schedules after giving the railroads a hearing and after publishing the new rates for thirty days.

The senate passed the Burn pure food bill. The measure, however, among other things, that all packages be labeled with the net weight.

On two test votes the house declared itself in favor of the railroad terminal taxation bill and finally just before adjournment it was reported to the house by the committee of the whole. Friends of the bill say this is equivalent to making it a law and it has passed the senate and Gov. Sheldon favors it. It is admitted, however, that the vote on final passage in the house will be close.

BIG TEACHERS' MEETING.

Expected 500 Will Attend Convention at Norfolk.

The Norfolk Commercial club has appointed a committee to raise funds among the business men of the city toward defraying expenses of the annual meeting of the Northern Nebraska Teachers' association, which goes to that city April 3, 4 and 5.

President F. S. Perdue, of Madison county, to whose untiring efforts the enthusiasm of the approaching meeting is largely due, estimates that the annual meeting will be larger this year than it has ever been before, and he expects 500 pedagogues or more in Norfolk.

Among the special features will be a declamatory contest in which 23 aspirants for honors will take part. Senator Dooliver, of Iowa, will be there one night.

OMAHA COAL MEN TO JAIL.

President of the Exchange to Serve Six Months.

Judge Sutton, in the district court at Omaha, sentenced Samuel E. Howell, president of the Omaha Coal Exchange, to six months in the county jail and to pay a fine of \$1,000 and costs.

Howell was convicted of violating the Nebraska anti-trust law in connection with the regulation of coal prices in the city of Omaha. Howell's attorneys made a plea for suspension of the sentence, but the court declared he should be given the term of an ordinary criminal, and remanded him to the custody of the sheriff, who at once took him to the county jail.

HIS CATTLE POISONED.

Some Enemy Believed to Have Killed Herd of Fifty Head.

When Emmett Nutter, of Seneca, in Custer county, saw fifty-two of his fine steers die in four days he became almost frantic in his loss. He wrote Dr. McKim to the state veterinarian, and wired him to come at once. He believed the cause was "stark disease," and so did a veterinarian from Broken Bow who examined the dead animals. Dr. McKim asked for a sample of the contents of the stomachs of the dead animals, and when he examined it found large quantities of strychnine. Evidently some enemy of Nutter had put strychnine in the salt that was given to the cattle.

Brink Jury Incomplete.

The jury in the case of Frank Brink for the murder of Miss Bessie Newton, his former sweetheart, was still incomplete when court adjourned for the day at 6 o'clock Wednesday evening. It is practically certain, however, that the panel will be filled before long, as both sides have nearly exhausted their peremptory challenges, only one remaining to each.

Pulled Out Horse's Tongue.

William Draper, of Norfolk, was \$5 and costs and ordered to kill the horse when brought to court charged on a writ of habeas corpus. The horse stood because it balked. Mr. Degner pleaded guilty, but stated that the separation of the animal's tongue from its throat was accidental.

Girl Complains of Father.

J. H. Hoyer, the butcher of Alinsworth, has been tried before a board of insanity and declared sane. Complaint was made by his 16-year-old daughter, who alleges he attempted to criminally assault her. His wife left him some time ago. He says he has lived in Omaha and South Omaha.

District Court at Sidney.

District court opened at Sidney with Judge Z. L. Grimes presiding. There is a large number of visiting attorneys present. Clyde Waugh pleaded guilty to attempted criminal assault on a Bridgport woman and was sentenced on Wednesday. The young man is 18 years of age.

Witness Fee After Many Years.

County Judge Leavens, of Seward, received notice from Tama county, Ia., that a witness fee of \$1. in a case in that county in which he testified thirty-seven years ago, is awaiting him. The judge has sent for the dollar.

Railroad Constructors Active.

Barnes Bros, railroad contractors, who have wintered at Herman, have begun getting their machinery in shape for another year's work. They expect to move about April 1 and begin building new lines of railroad regardless of the Nebraska 3-cent a mile rate.

Gun Used to Secure Quiet.

John Burger was brought before the commissioners of insanity at Fremont and adjudged a fit subject for confinement in an asylum.

A THIRTIETH NEBRASKAN.

Makes Land Pay by Growing Catalpa Trees.

A 20-acre tract of Nebraska land supposed to be "good for nothing" because of its location and the nature of the soil, has been made by C. D. Robinson, of Pawnee City, to yield a profit of \$6.24 per acre a year for twenty years. Mr. Robinson has sent a report of his interesting experiment with catalpa trees to Prof. Frank Miller, of the department of forestry of the University of Nebraska.

In 1889 twenty acres of Mr. Robinson's land near Pawnee City was considered absolutely worthless. During that year, however, he set out catalpa trees in three acres of the tract. He watched them closely during the next year, and seeing that the young trees were inclined to grow, in 1890 he had the remaining seventeen acres planted to catalpa trees. He hired all the work done, the total expense for twenty years amounting to \$109.83 per acre.

Recently Mr. Robinson had the trees cut down, selling the tops for fire wood and the trunks for fence posts, the catalpa being superior to almost any other wood for the latter purpose. He realized \$5,238.10 from the sale, his net profit amounting to \$152.17 an acre for twenty years, or \$6.24 an acre a year.

Prof. Miller is planning to publish a pamphlet giving a detailed report of this experiment and advising the planting of catalpas in order to fill the constant demand for fence posts.

KILLED BY TRAIN AT BLAIR.

Victim in Anti-Mortem Statement Blamed a Brakeman.

Henry Cress, of Craig, Mo., aged 25 years, fell from a freight train bound for Omaha early Saturday morning and had both legs cut off. He died five hours later, having retained consciousness to the last.

An inquest was held and the jury at 6 o'clock returned a verdict of accidental death. After being told he could not live the man made a statement to the physicians to the effect that the brakeman ordered him off the train, but he could not say whether the brakeman shoved him off or not.

He was beating his way to Omaha after visiting for a week with a Mr. Burnett, who lives two miles north of Blair.

IN STRANGE MISHAP.

Walthill Man Found Dazed, Unable to Tell How He Got Hurt.

Charles Taylor, one of the firm of Taylor & Taylor, of Walthill, and who also has some farming interests two miles east of Walthill, was the victim of a peculiar accident which occurred near his farm about 9 o'clock Saturday morning. He left the farm at that time leading three horses and about an hour later returned in a dazed condition and with a large gash in his chin and more or less covered with blood. He was brought to town and attended by Dr. Ream, who found several teeth knocked loose and found it necessary to take several stitches in the chin. On being questioned he was unable to tell how it happened, but it is supposed he was kicked by one of the horses.

Pierce Teachers Named.

At a meeting of the school board the following teachers were re-elected for the ensuing year at Pierce: Superintendent, O. R. Bowen; Miss Virginia L. Eyerly, assistant principal; Miss Nancy Conely, assistant principal; Miss Elsie Simmons, intermediate; Miss Edith Derry, primary; Miss Ella Crubaugh, primary; Mrs. Grace Montross, primary.

Stolen Money Recovered.

The lost sack of money stolen from Butte postoffice last May has been found underneath a heap of cobs in a coal shed. It contained \$20. A oug \$1,000 was stolen and all the rest had been found. A printer was arrested for alleged complicity in the matter last summer, but no conviction resulted.

Arrested for Arson.

Fred Bazelman, a lumberman at Bristow, has been arrested charged with setting fire to his own and other buildings at Bristow last week. The fire burned half the town and caused a loss of \$50,000. Seven stores and business buildings burned.

Verdict Against Saloon Men.

Mrs. Hugo Frey, of Stuart, has been awarded \$2,000 by a jury because her husband, a saloonkeeper, died. She claimed wholesale liquor men, who sold him liquor, caused the death. The firm are included in the count.

Wedding at Alinsworth.

June Lambly, son of Dr. Lambly, was married at Alinsworth to Miss Marian C. Herre, daughter of the late Fred Herre, formerly of Hooper, and now of West Side, Ia.

Oil Inspection is Profitable.

State Oil Inspector Ed A. Church filed his report for the month of February, as follows: Receipts, \$2,008.20; expenses, \$1,001.03; paid treasurer, \$1,007.17.

Court at Pierce.

District court at Pierce has been in session since Monday, with Judge A. A. Welch, of Wayne, on the bench. Thus far the cases have been those tried to the court. Next week the jury will be called and the jury cases will be tried.

Citizens' Ticket at Chadron.

A citizens' ticket was put in the field at the city hall in Chadron. The nominees are: For mayor, Duncan McMillan; clerk, George Merritt; treasurer, F. B. Carty.



DOVER'S KIDNAPING CASE.

The Four-Year-Old Son of Dr. Marvin Probably Stolen.

No crime is more despicable than is kidnaping. It is an offense which preys upon the hearts as well as upon the purses of its victims and those who are victimized.

It should be punished most severely. Even cold-blooded murder is tame compared to the suffering attending the stealing of a child and holding it for ransom. Unfortunately, like the doings of the Black Hand, the despicable work of child-stealers is increasing.

The latest crime of kidnaping to attract attention is that perpetrated at Dover, Del. A fortnight ago Horace N. Marvin, the 4-year-old son

of Dr. H. N. Marvin of Dover, disappeared. For a time it was supposed he had wandered away and become lost, but the conviction was soon forced upon the distracted family that he had been kidnaped.

Rewards were offered and detectives undertook the search for the boy. A ship captain was arrested on suspicion, but he was speedily discharged. Meanwhile the State increased the fervor of the search by adding to the personal offers of reward until the sum now amounts to \$27,000 for the recovery of the boy and the capture of his abductors.

Philadelphia detectives believed the child had been carried to that city and they made a careful search of the negro quarters. This belief was based on the statements of Walter Winner that he saw such a child on Market street in charge of two negro women. At that time he had not read the kidnaping story, but he was struck by the beauty of the child and wondered that he should be in such company.

Then the State authorities received a demand for pay for returning the boy. This demand came through a New York detective agency to whom it was mailed from the Canadian border near Detroit. The name signed to the letter is that of a big negro with a bad reputation in New York. While the letter may be a fake so much attention was paid to it that detectives have been sent to the neighborhood from which it came.

The disappearance of little Horace was remarkable. Dr. Marvin with his family had recently moved upon a farm which he has purchased from Charles Goodell. On the day of the disappearance Mr. Goodell was drawing away effects not included in the sale. The Marvin children and their cousins were playing hide-and-seek and as Goodell was driving away a number of them ran to him and asked if Horace was in the wagon. Mr. Goodell had seen the boy sitting atop of a haystack as he drove by. He told the children so and they ran back. But they could not find the boy and finally gave the alarm. That was the last seen of the child.

Eels spawn at sea. The fact that biologists have been all at sea about the whereabouts of the sea family's breeding comes to light through the announcement that Danish marine scientists have just completed investigations showing that the eels spawn at a depth of 3,300 feet in the Atlantic ocean to the southwest. According to the cabled account, from innumerable eggs there appear tiny larvae called leptocephali, which are transparent, jelly-like and flat, having something of the contour of a tailless herring. It is not known how long the eggs take to develop the leptocephali, but the latter occupy six months in transition to familiar eelers, which are about 2 inches long. The eelers then migrate in countless swarms to the shores of western Europe, traveling in columns sometimes several yards wide and miles long. Nothing stops their progress. If they encounter a ship they separate to the right and left and rejoin in the vessel's wake. They invade every river and waterway on the coast, ascending steadily landward. They even ascend small waterfalls, penetrate streams and wriggle over swamp grounds into ponds and ditches.

Nebraska Wins Tax Cases.

The United States Supreme Court, in a decision announced by Justice Holmes, rules that the Union Pacific and Burlington railroads must pay the tax on their property in the State of Nebraska, to the amount of \$3,100,000. This includes the taxes of 1904-05-06, with penalties for non-payment. The railroads had offered to settle for \$2,500,000. The objection to payment had been made originally on the plea that the equalization board, acting under the influence of valuations, had so increased the valuation of property as to almost double the aggregate payment of railroads in previous years. It was charged that the board took into consideration interstate business and property of the railroads located outside of the State, but on those points the court decided otherwise.

Favor Simplified Spelling.

On the ground that they depreciate the hardship and waste entailed upon children by our illogical spelling and the process of its mastery, and because they appreciate the importance of intelligent citizenship, and see how our spelling handicaps foreign-born children in learning our language and in understanding our institutions, the Teachers' Association of Illinois has pronounced itself unopposedly in favor of the adoption of the simplified spelling board's recommendations.