

# The Farmers' Leader

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## RANSOM PLAN FAILS

### ATTEMPT TO PAY \$10,000 FOR THE WHITIA BOY FUTILE.

Ashtabula, O., Police Learn of Scheme and Shadow Park Were Money Was Paid, Which Is Thought to Have Frightened the Kidnapers Away.

The full story of the frustrated attempt to pay over \$10,000 ransom for the return of Willie Whitia, the 8-year-old boy who was kidnaped from his school in Sharon, Pa., last Thursday, became known Sunday. J. F. Whitia, the father, was instructed in a letter from the kidnapers to leave the money in Flatiron park Saturday night. If no detectives were about the kidnapers promised they would secure the money and deliver the boy safely to the father in a hotel at Ashtabula at 3 o'clock Sunday morning. Whitia deposited the money as requested, but the Ashtabula police learned of the plan to pay the ransom and went to the park. The kidnapers are supposed to have seen them, for at 6 o'clock the money was intact and not a man had approached the spot at which it had been left.

Whitia had a score of detectives and twenty-three members of the Pennsylvania state constabulary in readiness to start a search for the kidnapers as soon as he had safely secured the boy. The detectives left for Sharon Sunday night. A conference was held at Sharon and plans laid to attempt to capture the kidnapers with the boy in their possession.

Whitia believes that the failure to effect a settlement with the kidnapers will frighten the kidnapers and they will not communicate with him again, but the police of Ashtabula are unwilling to believe that the kidnapers have left that section of the country.

### FIVE DEAD; TWENTY INJURED.

#### Gas Explodes in Mine Shafts at Evansville, Indiana.

Five people were killed and a score or more injured and many were overcome by an explosion of gas in the Sunnyside mines at Evansville, Ind., Saturday afternoon. The dead are William Schutte, Samuel Coomer, Nelson Willingham Sr., colored; Joseph Schenck; Nelson Willingham Jr., colored. The explosion was caused by a windy shot, due to an overcharge of powder said to have been placed by John Pettit. Pettit was burned over his entire body and will die. The dead were all killed by sulphuric fumes which followed the shot. The mine was swept as if by a whirlwind.

Twenty-nine men were in the mine when it exploded. The dead men were found in the west shaft of the mine as were all the injured.

### FIGHT ENDS IN DEATH.

#### Three New Mexico People Engage in a Mortal Combat.

Three persons are dead as the result of a fight Saturday night between two cousins, Antonio Dujillo, a coke worker, and a man named Bartole, at Raton, N. M. Dujillo shot Bartole, who took refuge in the home of his brother, Francisco Bartole whereupon Dujillo fired into the house and killed Francisco Bartole. Francisco Bartole then plunged a knife into Dujillo's body, killing him instantly. Francisco's brother died later in a hospital.

### TWO KILLED ON TRAIN.

#### Supposed That Men Were Attacked for Purpose of Robbery.

Two are dead as a result of a shooting affray aboard a fast moving Fort Worth and Denver freight train near Cleason, Tex., Saturday. According to Fred Garrett, of Fort Worth, a relative of Floyd Autrey, one of the men killed, the two were attacked by a third man, presumably for the purpose of robbery. The body of the other participant, which has not been identified, was found in Red river, where it had been thrown or had fallen.

### Mauretania Breaks Record.

Arriving at Liverpool at noon Friday the Cunard liner, Mauretania, set up a new record of 609 knots for a day's run eastward.

### Noted Russian Prince Is Dead.

Prince Michael Hilkoff, a member of the empire and formerly minister of communications, died suddenly in St. Petersburg Sunday.

### Sioux City Live Stock Market.

Saturday's stock market was as follows: Top hogs, \$6.60; top beefs \$5.70.

### Gap Labor Troubles Threatened.

Sioux City labor troubles are threatened as the beat feds near Oakland, Cal., over the attempt to collect county poll taxes from 450 Japanese employed in the fields.

### Old Indian Chief Dead.

Wolf Face, one of the most noted war chiefs of the Cheyennes, died at his home near Colony, Okla., Saturday. He was nearly 100 years old.

### Baby Drains a Price.

Josephine Lawrence Bennett Hopkins of St. Louis, the 3-month-old great-granddaughter of Dr. J. J. Lawrence, a former resident of St. Louis, has been made, together with her possible future sisters and brothers, the sole residuary legatees of the Lawrence estate, worth \$1,000,000.

### Drice Law for Utah.

Both branches of the Utah state legislature have passed a bill extending local option to cities of 12,000 population or more.

## SEARCH FOR KIDNAPED BOY.

### Wealthy Uncle of Whitia Led Assumes Charge.

A man said to answer the description of one of the kidnapers of Willie Whitia, of Sharon, Pa., was arrested at Cleveland, O., at 10 o'clock Friday night. It is reported that he has divulged the whereabouts of the boy, and detectives in an automobile have gone to the place designated.

At 11 o'clock the officers returned and reported that they had been unable to find the boy at the address given. According to the police the man who furnished them with the information is Henry Ball, a porter in a local restaurant. Ball told the officers that a friend who lived at the Hotel Benway, in Ontario street, met him in the street Thursday night. The friend had the boy with him, saying he was the son of a Mrs. Satchell, and asked Ball to take the child to a business place near the Erie depot, where the boy's father would meet him. Ball received \$2 as a remuneration, he says. He failed to find the father and then proceeded to visit all the hotels in the hope of locating him. Not locating him, Ball took the child back to the Hotel Benway and left him. It was at this hotel that the police went Friday night.

Frank H. Buhle, the millionaire uncle of Willie Whitia, arrived in Cleveland Friday night from Sharon and immediately assumed charge of the hunt for his nephew. Accompanied by a detective and Clerk Dougherty, they departed in an automobile in a continuance of the search.

When a search had been made for the lad at that address and he had not been located, Mr. Buhle insisted that all of the family hotels in the city be visited. For two hours his automobile whirled about the city. At midnight, thoroughly worn out by the long ride, he returned to the Hotel Euclid. He was unwilling to admit either that the boy seen here was or was not his nephew.

"I have hope," he said, "that the lad may be found. Every clew will be traced down at my expense, and, I believe, we will locate him tomorrow. Then we will be able to settle to a certainty whether the lad we are now trailing is his nephew."

"I am prepared now to pay the \$10,000 for the return of the child. There need be no questions asked about who stole him or how he was stolen."

### TWO BIG WATER TANKS BURST.

#### Many Homes Are Wrecked in Parkersburg, W. Va.

Two persons were killed, three others probably fatally injured, many more slightly hurt, ten or more houses completely wrecked and forty more badly damaged when two large water tanks which supplied the city of Parkersburg, W. Va., with water burst at 5:30 o'clock Friday morning.

When the tanks burst an immense stream of water rushed down Prospect hill, sweeping everything before it. Houses were swept into the streets and residents knocked from the beds. One whole family, while asleep in an upstairs room, were carried down the street seventy-five yards, their house being split almost into ribbons, yet all escaped, except one girl, who had a collar bone broken.

The two tanks contained the entire city supply of water and a famine now is imminent. The damage will amount to between \$200,000 and \$250,000. St. John's Lutheran church was almost completely demolished, but through its sacrifice many lives were spared and much damage prevented, as it was entirely in the path of the water.

The breaking of the tanks is believed to have been caused by some miscreant, who dynamited them, as there were two explosions heard.

### QUIET LYNCHING BY MOB.

#### Man Who Shot Chief of Police Taken from Jail and Hanged.

Joseph Brown, said to have been an ex-convict, who Thursday night shot and seriously wounded Chief of Police White, at Whitney, near Elkins, W. Va., was taken from jail by a crowd of men at 1:30 o'clock Friday morning and lynched. Brown was hanged to a telephone pole. There was little demonstration, but through its sacrifice many lives were spared and much damage prevented, as it was entirely in the path of the water.

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### Two Big Piers on Fire.

Two piers of the Lehigh Valley railroad in Jersey City, N. J., are on fire. It is reported the steamer Eastwood also is in flames.

### Bishop Gillespie Dead.

Bishop George D. Gillespie, of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of western Michigan, died Friday at Grand Rapids, Mich., after a long illness.

### Great Strike Keeps Spreading.

There was no material change Friday morning in the strike of the telegraphers' situation, excepting the fact that the number of strikers has been largely increased over night.

### Shoots the Wrong Man.

Policeman Alexander Scott, of the Twenty-second street station, Chicago, shot and killed Joseph Finn, a laborer, whom he mistook for "Pickles" Gilroy, a man being sought by the police.

### Nearly Cuts Wife's Head Off.

After murdering his wife by braining her with an ax, Henry C. Wheatley, of Culperville, Va., a farmer, formerly deputy county treasurer, placed her head on a block of wood and almost completely severed it from the body Friday. It is believed Wheatley is insane.

### Fire Does Heavy Damage.

Fire Friday did \$100,000 damage in the building of the Minnesota Drug company, Third street and First avenue, Minneapolis.

## \$10,000 RANSOM DEMANDED.

### Son of Lawyer Whitia, of Sharon, Pa., Kidnaped.

Ten thousand dollars' ransom is demanded for the return of Willie Whitia, Attorney James P. Whitia's 8-year-old son, who was spirited away from school at Sharon, Pa., Thursday morning by an unknown man and furnished a mystery which the detectives of the country are being asked to solve. Accompanying the demand for ransom is a covert threat that the boy will be killed unless the money is produced. Thursday night Chief of Police Crain received word that the rig in which the lad was taken away was recovered at Warren, O., with the child's hat on the buggy seat.

Attorney and Mrs. Whitia are among the town's leading residents. The former is a brother-in-law of Frank H. Buhle, the multimillionaire steel man. At 9:30 o'clock Thursday morning a stranger drove up to the East ward school house, in which young Whitia is a pupil, and told the janitor the lad was wanted at once at his father's office. Janitor Sloss conveyed the message to Mrs. Andrew Lewis, the boy's teacher, who dismissed the lad.

When Sloss appeared with the boy the stranger smiled and helped him up to the seat beside him. He then drove off in the direction of the law office. Several persons say a confederate joined the kidnaper before he left the town.

Little was thought of the incident, and there was no belief that a crime had been committed until the lad failed to appear at his noonday meal. At 1 o'clock a letter directed to the mother was delivered at the house by a mail carrier. Mrs. Whitia at once recognized the handwriting on the envelope as that of her son. Opening it she found a communication written in a strange hand and demanding \$10,000 for the boy's release.

A man said to answer the description of the one wanted at Sharon, Pa., on a charge of kidnaping the Whitia child was arrested.

### CIRCUS STOPS WAR DOGS.

#### Conflict Postponed When the Show Arrives in Town.

The steamship Acapulco brings news to San Francisco, Cal., that war between Salvador and Nicaragua was postponed for one day in order that the citizens of Acapulco might enjoy the circus which was billed to play in that town while the Acapulco was anchored in the harbor. When the vessel first arrived martial law had been declared, and no one was permitted to land. But the circus came to town and in less than an hour martial law was declared off so that the passengers might swell the attendance at the show. The passengers on board the Acapulco seem the idea that there will be no serious trouble in Central America.

### BLOWN UP BY ASSASSIN?

#### Powder Plant Near Wallace, Idaho, Is Destroyed.

That an assassin deliberately blew up the Coeur d'Alene powder works, near Wallace, Idaho, Wednesday afternoon, killing three men and injuring two, is the belief of the managers of the Coeur d'Alene Concentrating company, which owned the plant. All the buildings of the plant were destroyed except the nitro-glycerin house. Coeur d'Alene has been the scene of several serious labor disturbances.

### Seize Counterfeiters.

Secret service operatives returned to Chicago Thursday with a complete counterfeiting outfit, which was seized, it is alleged at the home of Fred Priddy, in the woods, seven miles from Chicago, and Priddy and his son, Galnes, were arrested Wednesday afternoon, falling, according to the police, to pass counterfeit money.

### Harriman Not to Retire.

E. H. Harriman Thursday at Los Angeles, Cal., stated there was absolutely no foundation for the assertion that he intended to retire from active business. He says his health is better now than for years past.

### Loss of Life by a Typhoon.

Much loss of life and several disasters to Japanese sailing craft as a result of a typhoon near Shimonoseki are reported by the steamer Tyro, arriving at Victoria, B. C., Thursday.

### Cuban Insurgents Surrender.

Sergeant Cortes, the leader of the Cuban insurgents, and his whole band surrendered Thursday night to the civil authorities of Remedios in Santa Clara province.

### Count Not Assassinated.

There is absolutely no truth in the report that Count Forgach, Austro-Hungarian minister in Serbia, has been assassinated.

### Naval Engineer Main Dead.

Chief Engineer Herschel Main, of the liner, retired, died Thursday at Washington, D. C. He was a native of Sterling, Ill.

### Former Court Clerk Arrested.

Louis Merrivether, former clerk of the circuit court of Chamberlain county, Ill., was arrested at Terra Haute, Ind., accused of embezzlement of \$1,400.

### Missouri After Gun Toters.

The Missouri senate passed a drastic measure against gun totting. There was only one "no" vote. Another bill was passed to prevent exhibits of guns in store windows.

### Children Burn to Death.

Four children of M. C. Palmer, near Newby, Okla., were burned to death in a prairie fire which destroyed the family residence. Palmer and his wife and one son escaped. The fire swept over a wide district and did such damage.

### Eye for Polluting Stream Affirmed.

Kentucky court of appeals has affirmed the \$10,000 fine rendered against the Indiana Refining company for polluting the waters of Elk Horn creek, near Frankfort, Ky., with oil.

# SOUTH DAKOTA STATE NEWS

INTERESTING HAPPENINGS From Day to Day Condensed FOR OUR BUSY READERS

### LEMMON DROPS HER CONTEST.

Bison Will Retain Court House of Perkins County. Bison will retain the county seat of Perkins county and the contest proceedings started by Lemmon will now be abandoned. This is due to the appointment of Lemmon as a member of the reorganizing of the vote of four contested precincts in the new county. The recount was made last week by Judge W. S. P. Sellers, of Butte county. Lemmon charged that the four precincts would show enough gain for Lemmon to overcome Bison's 13 majority, but when the recount was finished there was practically no material difference in the result. In all probability, however, the court and commissioner proceedings will continue to be held at Lemmon until the new county is organized. Bison can show buildings sufficient to establish his residence in the new county, so that Lemmon is expected to control official Lemmon of the board during the present year.

### CHICAGO ROSEBUD COLONY.

Commercial Club Hopes to Entertain These People at Presho. The business men of Presho are making preparations for the Chicago Rosebud colony that soon will take up its abode in the commercial club. The association of the advantages of coming to Presho to go onto the land. He expects to go back by a few days and submit prices to the business men. Contracts and agreements have been made to take care of all the people coming this way and to give them the very best rates.

In cases of homesteaders who establish their residence on the land before the expiration of the six months' constructive residence, which had in the past been considered in reference to commutation proofs is eliminated.

For instance, if a homesteader establishes a residence on the land covered by the entry just before the expiration of the six months' constructive residence, he will under the new ruling be necessary for the entryman or entrywoman to make their actual residence upon the land for a period of fourteen full months, dating from the day they actually established their residence on the land. In cases of this kind final commutation proof cannot be made until at least twenty months from date of entry have elapsed.

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### FARMER BOY FOUND DEAD.

Starting Circumstances Surround the Manner of His Death. Dwight Vinson, the 12-year-old son of George Vinson, a farmer living a mile east of Burbank, was found dead on the roadside early Sunday morning, where the body had lain all night. The boy had been to Burbank and was evidently returning home when he was found. It is alleged by a neighbor who lives near his home that he showed signs of intoxication. Citizens are aroused over the unfortunate circumstances and believe the boy was sold whisky at Burbank until he became intoxicated. The boy fell down on the roadside and became chilled, death following. Coroner McElmurry will have a chemical analysis made of the stomach and further investigate the charges.

### BOY AND A BOW AND ARROW.

#### Accidentally Shoots an Ashton Man, Causing a Serious Injury.

A small boy with a bow and arrow was the cause of a distressing accident to George Hurst, of Ashton, who was in Aberdeen Saturday to secure surgery for an eye which he had injured. The boy just behind the eye with the arrow a few weeks ago. The wound caused him serious pain, although it had apparently healed. An examination by a surgeon revealed the fact that a piece of wood more than a half inch long and a quarter of an inch thick had broken off and lodged behind the eyeball, causing the pain and creating a condition which would have ultimately caused Mr. Hurst to lose his eyesight.

### MAY BUILD OWN RAILWAY.

Citizens of Buffalo County Hope to Secure a Line. The people of Buffalo county are in earnest about a railroad and are holding meetings which are largely attended. They hope to induce some road to extend that way, but if they do not succeed they talk of building one themselves. There are many rich men there, and as they have been without rail facilities for many years they are now in a frame of mind to spend money liberally in order to gain railroad connection with the outside world.

### ENTERS PLEA OF GUILTY.

A. J. Moore to Serve Time at Sioux Falls Penitentiary. Albert J. Moore, alias J. L. Ferguson, who was charged with being brought from Deadwood to Sioux Falls by the United States marshal, Seth Bullock, appeared before Judge Carland of the United States court in Sioux Falls and entered a plea of guilty to the charge of using the United States mail with intent to defraud. Judge Carlin imposed a fine of \$100 and sentenced Moore to a term of one and one-half years in the Sioux Falls penitentiary.

### Plans for Home Coming Week.

The Aberdeen Commercial club has commenced active work on preparations for the Dakota homecoming week to be held in Aberdeen June 23 to 28, inclusive, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the admission of the Dakotas to statehood.

### Authorities Searching for Erickke.

The authorities of Aurora county are very anxious to locate one Fred Erickke who disappeared from Plankinton a few days ago and deserted a wife and 4-month-old child, he also passed several worthless checks.

### Aberdeen Angus Bull Brings \$3,500.

The big J. W. Reedy dispersion sale of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, held at the Reedy farm near Beresford, proved a hotpotch. In that Black Sign, the herd bull, was sold for \$3,500.

### Larkin Returned to Sioux Falls.

Deputy Sheriff Eugene Reilly arrived in Sioux Falls Sunday with John R. Larkin, former and embezzler, who after an exciting chase of some days following his flight from Sioux Falls, was captured a few days ago at New Orleans.

### Commission Plan for Pierre.

At a special meeting of the city council of Pierre a special election was called for the 29th of March for a vote on the question of changing from the present form of city government to the commission plan.

### Yankton Man Fatally Hurt.

Fred Gates, night foreman at the cement work at Yankton, was struck by a steel bar on a revolving shaft while making repairs, and is reported to be fatally injured.

# CONGRESS CONVENES; GANNON RE-ELECTED

Illinoisian Chosen Speaker of House When Extra Session Begins Work.

## NEW MEMBERS ARE SWORN IN.

### Lively Scenes at the Nation's Capitol When Lawmakers Gather for Tariff Revision.

Washington correspondence: The extraordinary session of the Sixty-first Congress, called by the President to enact tariff legislation, began at noon Monday. Great crowds were attracted to the capitol, but only a few were able to gain admission to either chamber. The Senate being a continuous body, its organization was already complete, although interest in the proceedings centered on the new Vice-President, Mr. Sherman, and the swearing in of Senator Stephenson of Wisconsin, who has been re-elected after a bitter fight in the Legislature of his State. At the other end of the capitol, however, a different situation was presented. The House, with its seventy-seven new members, had to organize, which took considerable time. It was necessary first to swear in the entire membership by States. The various groups of members marched down the aisles and, standing in the well in front of the rostrum, took the oath of office. The President's proclamation was read to both bodies, after which business proceeded.

### Mythical Western Jobs.

To test the reported demand for 1,000 men at road wages in Kansas, the House Education of New York some time ago wrote to the parties who had circulated the report, namely, two Omaha newspapers, which had quoted Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Mathew of Nebraska. The latter had given the names of several farmers said to be in need of help. The secretary of the mission corresponded with these people, but in every case told that they had got all the help they needed. He says that there are now in New York 20,000 men who are being assisted by friends and relatives. The bread line now averages 2,000 a night. As fast as work can be found for them in other places, free transportation is furnished.

### To Test Magnetic Problems.

The keel of a steamer laid at a Brooklyn yard for the auxiliary steamer Carnegie which the Carnegie Institute is fitting out to investigate the magnetic phenomena of the earth. It has been especially designed with a minimum of steel and iron, less than 400 pounds in all. What is not out of work is out of Victor vanadium bronze. This is to prevent interference with the accuracy of her magnetic instruments. The purpose of the investigation is to ascertain the law, which governs certain deflections of the compass, especially noticeable on the coast of Oregon and Washington, where the variations amount to from twenty to twenty-five degrees. A trip to the north pole itself is also contemplated with this ship.

### Business Men Organize.

Local business men at Wolsley have organized a stock company, and will build a flouring mill with a capacity of 100 barrels a day, and an elevator. Later on is expected an electric light plant will be added. Work on the mill and elevator will be started as soon as spring opens.

### Appointed by President Taft.

R. H. Sands, of Murdo, has been appointed by President Taft as government stock inspector and detective on the Rosebud Indian reservation. Mr. Sands is a prominent merchant of Murdo, and his appointment to this position is pleasing to his many friends throughout the entire country.

### Farmers Form a Combine.

A number of the representative farmers of Potter county held a meeting, and made preliminary arrangements for the organization of a stock company, the intention of the farmers being to engage in the elevator business, probably at Gettysburg, and in future handle their own grain and coal.

### Leg Broken in Scuffle.

W. E. Fisher, a prominent stock buyer of Draper, indulged in a friendly buffet and came out with a broken leg.

### Oldham Commercial Club.

The people of Oldham are quite proud of a new commercial club which has been organized there. The officers of the organization are as follows: President, Earlman Johnson; secretary, I. C. Bradbury; treasurer, B. E. Adkins. All are energetic boosters.

### INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS.

George and Jerry Peterson, brothers, who were imprisoned in a mine near Salt Lake, Utah, for almost fifty hours, were rescued unharmed.

### Diamonds and jewelry valued at \$10,000 have been stolen from Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Chapman, of Greenwich, Conn., at the Hotel Gotham in New York.

By Lord Guthrie's decision in the Stirling divorce case in Edinburgh Mrs. Stirling is allowed the expenses of the suit and Lord Northland is ordered to pay the cost of her husband's action.

### August Menandzitz, the principal organizer of the revolt of 1906-6 in the Baltic province of Russia, has been arrested at Riga. Since 1906 he has been in hiding in the forests.

Ambassador White has communicated to the French government Washington's invitation to send a delegate to the international congress on natural resources to be held at The Hague next September.

### Julian H. Arnold, the American consul at Amoy, China, has started a shipment of pomelo or grapefruit trees to the farm of the University of California for experimental purposes. The Amoy pomelos are reputed to be the best in the orient.

## TOWN WILL MOVE.

### Because County Where Haubstadt, Ind., Is Located Has Gone Dry.

The town of Haubstadt, Gibson county, Indiana, will take wheels and itself shortly and move away from where it is. Haubstadt proposes to roll itself out of Gibson county on account of the anti-liquor law. Gibson county recently went "dry," but Vanderburg county, which adjoins it, is still as "sober" as which admits it. The town of Haubstadt will begin the work of moving their town. It is only a few hundred feet from the Vanderburg county line, and it is figured that house movers can transport the entire town within a month. The resolution to move Haubstadt was passed at a town meeting attended by every householder in the town limits. There were about seven hundred men at the meeting and the resolution passed without a dissenting voice.

### New Bell Airship Record.

At Baddeck, Cape Breton, a new record for the Aerial Experiment Association, which is continuing a series of flights made in the general direction of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, was made by A. D. McCurdy in his airship, the Silver Dart. He made five successful flights over the ice on the Bras d'Or lakes, remaining in the air one time for eleven minutes and fifteen seconds. The Dart was in full control throughout its flight and its fifty-horse-power motor was in splendid working shape. After running a distance of seventy-five yards on the ice the machine ascended into the air to a height of twenty feet. A distance of over two and one-half miles was covered. To win the Scientific American cup, for which he is trying, the Dart will be required to sail twice this distance. Additional short flights were made on Tuesday, when in each case the landing was effected safely and without any accident to the machine. The weather would not permit of long flights.

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