

LAST EDITION.

SATURDAY EVENING.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FEBRUARY 20, 1904.

SATURDAY EVENING.

THREE CENTS.

GRASS IN RACE.

Has Decided to Contest for Nomination for Treasurer.

Deferred Announcement on Account of Bank Business.

AN OLD TIME KANSAN.

Settled in Ellis County in the Year 1877.

Has Been Short Grass Citizen Ever Since.

The Kelly organs are making a desperate attempt to keep anybody from running against Kelly for state treasurer and are attempting to discredit anyone who is mentioned against him.

paper writer on duty in the house last winter signed such a request, which Mr. Pringle makes public. It was as follows:

"To the Honorable Speaker of the House: We, the undersigned members of the daily press on duty in the house, respectfully ask you to appoint Mr. B. P. Waggener to be chairman of the Judiciary committee.

Mr. Pringle stated at the time that he proposed to give the chairmanship to Judge Barker of Lawrence, but when it was offered him Judge Barker said he did not like to undertake the great amount of work which the place involved.

Mr. Pringle says further that the representative of one of the papers which is now circulating him said he signed the endorsement with the

FIRST LAID FIGHT

Cossacks Attack a Small Body of Japanese.

Encounter Took Place in Korean Territory.

KOREA IS DISTURBED.

Foreigners Are in Danger of Riotous Natives.

Russia Issues a New Story About the Negotiations.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—A dispatch from Port Arthur today says the first land encounter occurred yesterday. A small detachment of Japanese troops on Korean territory. The cossacks captured some Japanese prisoners, on whom they found maps and papers.

The coast artillery has been ordered to be in readiness, warships are being sent to Gotland island and the coast defense battalions and torpedo boats have been ordered to be prepared for active service.

RUSSIA'S LATEST.

Makes Public Another Story of the Beginning of the War.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—A Russian account of the events immediately preceding the rupture with Japan is published in the Official Messenger today with "the object of rectifying certain statements from Japan based on this account it is stated that on receipt of the last Japanese proposals, January 1, the government immediately proceeded to consider the Japanese demands and on January 25 M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, was informed in reply to his inquiry that the czar had authorized the receipt of proposals.

Native reports say that the Japanese Emperor Nicholas ordered the preparation of a draft of definitive instructions to Baron De Rosen, the Russian minister, to be presented to the deliberations of this conference.

PEOPLE PAY BILLS

Their Taxes Increased—The Railroads' Decreased.

Facts About Action of State Board of Equalization.

OVER \$22,800,000 MORE

That Is What Increase in Valuation Amounts To.

Boosts the State Taxes Almost \$500,000.

LESS FOR RAILROADS.

They Pay on Nearly Half Million Less Valuation.

Mr. Kelly's Board Saved Them \$182,819.18.

State taxes in Kansas were raised last year. Who raised them?

In the first place, taxes are levied to meet the appropriations made by the legislature. The last legislature was Republican in both branches, but one body, the senate, was controlled by one faction and the other body, the house, by the other. The records show that every appropriation bill was passed by a unanimous or practically a unanimous vote in each house.

But the increase in taxes last year was peculiar in that it was made by a raise in the assessment of property. That is to say, the state board of equalization increased the taxable valuation of the counties as returned by the clerks. The state board says this raise was necessary. Other state officers say it was not.

WHO MADE THE INCREASE?

The state board of equalization is composed of State Treasurer Kelly, Secretary of State Burrow, and Auditor Wells. This board took the assessment of the property in the counties as reported by the county clerks and raised it about 7 per cent, making a net increase of \$22,800,000, and increasing the total state tax to be paid into the state treasury from \$1,997,354 in 1902 to \$2,480,446 in 1903, an increase of \$483,111, or 24.1 per cent.

Why was this increase? It brought into the state treasury, and under the control of the state treasurer, nearly a half million dollars. Remember, in this connection, that a bill to provide that the state should receive interest on the bonds of the members of the county treasurers to retain state taxes at home, where counties get the interest, until needed by the state, were passed by the house, and were vetoed by the senate by the efforts of Treasurer Kelly in the branch which was controlled by his faction.

But if this tax were fairly and equitably distributed over the state there might be no serious objection in the long run. For, if the money were not needed next year it would still be in the hands of the members of the board of equalization, and the only loss would be the difference between the money being in the county treasurers or the taxpayers' pockets instead of to the state treasury. And there might also be less criticism if all parts of the state and all classes of property were dealt with equitably.

HOW THE RAILROADS FARED.

But look at this: The valuation of the railroad property was made by the board of railroad assessors, composed of the members of the board of equalization and of the lieutenant governor and the attorney general. The property of the farmer, the merchant and the working man was assessed in assessment by the board of equalization. The assessed value of the railroad property in the state was actually increased by the board of railroad assessors. Both boards were made up of state officers who belonged to the faction with Treasurer Kelly and the senate.

The comparative statement of the assessment of railroad property in the state for 1902 and 1903, as shown by the printed reports of the auditor of state, taking into consideration the railroad property reported in 1903, is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Value. 1902, including Pullman cars, \$59,492,087.00. 1903, including Pullman cars, \$59,492,087.00. Total railroad assessment, 1902, including Pullman cars, \$59,492,087.00. Reduction 1903 over 1902, \$440,097.37.

That is a question between the taxpayer and the board of railroad assessors.

Why was the assessment of other property increased while the assessment of railroad property was actually decreased?

It was easier to do this way than to decrease considerably the railroad assessment. For the same reason, when reached, in 1892 a board of railroad assessors decreased the railroad assessment. In the state conventions of both parties the members of the board who were in the majority were re-nominated—Treasurer Stover and Auditor Hovey by the Republican party, and Attorney General Ives by the Populist party.

As it was shown that in the legislature both Republican factions were

(Continued on Page Six.)

WOOD BRANCHES OUT.

Topoka Hotel Man Gets Big Wood's Fair Hostelry.

Topoka people who visit the world's fair at St. Louis may put up at a first class hotel managed by a Topoka man. The Wood Epworth hotel will be opened April 26 and ready to receive guests. It is owned by the Epworth Hotel company and will be run on strictly temperance lines, with no bar or liquors of any kind.

TO KILL DEWEY.

Witness Testifies of a Threat Made by D. P. Berry.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20.—A special to the Star from Norton, Kan., says: Andrew F. Habercamp, testifying today for the defense in the trial of Chauncey Dewey and his cowboys, McBride and Wilson, charged with the murder of Burch Berry, said that Daniel P. Berry had told him that he intended to kill Dewey and that he always went armed.

Habercamp, who lived near the Dewey ranch, said that Dan Berry had in 1901 told him that Dewey's cattle had gone into his cane and that Chauncey Dewey had paid him for the cane destroyed, paying more than it was worth.

Others testified as to the good character of the defendants.

Norton, Kas., Feb. 20.—During the session of the trial of Chauncey Dewey and his two employes Friday Constable Charles Fritchett of Bird City and Washington Hatcher, sheriff of Norton county, went to the Grier hotel and arrested seven other Dewey cowboys, one at a time, who were with Chauncey Dewey on the night of the shooting of the Berrys occurred.

The men arrested were Thomas O'Neil, Charles Wilson, Ben Slater, Edward Tucker, Albert Winslow, James Armentrout and Fred Dye. Each was served with three warrants, issued by a justice of the peace in Cheyenne county, for the killing of Burch Berry, Daniel P. Berry and Albertus Berry, making 21 warrants in all. All of these men are in town at witnesses for the defense.

The judge immediately issued an order that the men should not be removed from here until allowed to testify in the present trial. Each man furnished \$1,000 bond and was released.

That this move on the part of the state is unpopular is evidenced by expressions heard over the telephone office was terrific. Everything within a radius of half a mile was wrecked. The town of Terrace is 15 miles to the north, was hit as by an earthquake, window panes in the station at Colon, 15 miles away, were shattered and the sound of the explosion was heard in Wichita, 41 miles away.

The ground upon which the train was standing was torn up for a hundred feet, leaving a great excavation 30 feet in depth, fragments of a dozen freight cars and two engines were thrown for considerable distances over the surrounding country, the station building was blown to splinters and the roof and injured and killed for hundreds of feet in all directions, most of them having their clothing torn off. Telegraph wires and poles were torn down for a thousand feet in all directions and the first knowledge of the disaster came from Terrace, 15 miles away, the operator at that point reporting that a thousand feet of smoke ascend from Jackson and spread out at a great height.

A relief train with doctors, nurses and stretchers of a dozen freight cars and two engines were thrown for considerable distances over the surrounding country, the station building was blown to splinters and the roof and injured and killed for hundreds of feet in all directions, most of them having their clothing torn off. Telegraph wires and poles were torn down for a thousand feet in all directions and the first knowledge of the disaster came from Terrace, 15 miles away, the operator at that point reporting that a thousand feet of smoke ascend from Jackson and spread out at a great height.

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SUICIDE IN BERTH.

Mormon Elder Shoots Himself Twice in a Pullman.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20.—Lorenzo Crosby, said to be an elder in the Mormon church, while en route from Atlanta, Ga., where he had been stationed until recently to Holbrook, Ariz., shot and fatally wounded himself in a berth in a Pullman on the southbound Chicago & Alton train today near Higbee, Mo. He was brought to Kansas City and placed in the city hospital, where it is expected he can not live longer than 24 hours. Until 1902, Crosby was stationed at Richmond, Va., where he was a member of the Virginia conference of the Mormon church. Later he was transferred to Atlanta, where he has lived until recently. Crosby was unconscious when brought to the city. In his pockets were found two letters, one signed Mollie Crosby, from Greer, Ariz., apparently from his wife and which indicated domestic troubles, and another signed Olive, from 353 West Fifth street south, Salt Lake City. Crosby, who is 35 years old, shot himself twice, one bullet penetrating his brain. He was treated by a railway surgeon, who occupied a berth in the same car with him but little could be done for the man.

The trainmen said that there had been nothing unusual in the conduct of Crosby. He retired late last night. Crosby wore clothes of a clerical cut, and carried with him the report book used by elders in the Mormon church, besides some memorandum books. His report book indicated active work for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but there is no record of his work in Atlanta and there are indications that his stay there was brief.

NOT FOR ROOSEVELT.

Fifth Ohio Delegates Will Go to Convention Uninstructed.

Defiance, O., Feb. 20.—The Republican congressional convention of the Fifth Ohio district nominated W. W. Campbell of Napoleon for representative, and by a vote of 32 to 25 decided not to instruct its delegates to vote for President Roosevelt at the national convention.

Women Spill Campaign Whisky. Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 20.—A supply of whisky smuggled into Colfax to be used in a political celebration was discovered by the temperance women. They marched into a restaurant where the intoxicant was stored, seized the supply and emptied it into the gutter. Colfax is a prohibition community.



Photo by Colville.

H. W. Grass, of La Crosse, Candidate for the Republican Nomination as State Treasurer.

for any one of three reasons—his record in Miami county, his action as chairman of the board of equalization, and his defeat of all measures in the legislature which would deprive him of the opportunity to get the rake-off from the interest on the money in the state treasury.

Since Secretary of State Burrow and Clark A. Smith have persuaded J. O. Laffer of Jewell City not to run, after his county instructed for him, because it would challenge the chances of all three, the Kelly organs are trying to discredit the candidacy of H. W. Grass of La Crosse. They are printing over and over again a letter written by Mr. Grass to his former partner, Hill P. Wilson, assistant secretary of state, Rush county "drafted" Mr. Grass for state treasurer, but at first Mr. Grass received little thought to the matter. He wrote the following letter to Mr. Wilson, which is the one the Kelly organs are publishing to prove that Mr. Grass is not running:

LaCrosse, Kan., Feb. 4, 1904. "Dear Mr. Wilson: Your favor of the first received. The resolution recommending my nomination for state treasurer was passed by the Rush county central committee without consulting me, it being the opinion of a number that if the Republicans were cleaning house they had better make a clean sweep of it, or especially remove those whom we, as Republicans, have had or will have to defeat. I have received several letters of inquiry, but I realize that the political fight has been made and won, and that it will not go beyond defeating a governor, and Albaugh for chairman.

"H. W. GRASS." Since that time Mr. Grass has heard from other localities. There is growing demand that he make the race against Mr. Kelly and he has consented to do so. He announced in his visit to Topeka on Friday that he will now make an active campaign for the nomination as his business will permit.

"Up to this time I have been tied up in my own pocket, but now I am able to get away a little. I do not wish to make any claim, but from what I hear there seems to be a widespread inclination to defeat Mr. Kelly because of his past record, and since I have gone into the race, I would, of course like the nomination.

Mr. Grass is a native of Blair county, Pa. He came to Kansas in 1877 and settled on a homestead in Ellis county. Later he served as county superintendent, and in 1882 he entered the banking business at Hays City, remaining with it until 1896, four years after Mr. Wilson sold out. At that time a national bank at LaCrosse needed a new manager, and the directors secured Mr. Grass. He reorganized the institution, put it on a solid foundation, and now it is recognized as one of the leading financial institutions in that part of the state. Mr. Grass is its president and cashier.

These facts concerning Mr. Grass are secured from Mr. Wilson, who has nothing but the words of highest praise to say of Mr. Grass as a man, although Mr. Wilson as assistant to Secretary of State Burrow, would like to see Mr. Grass stay out of the race for state treasurer because Mr. Burrow is tied up with Kelly.

A few newspapers are now criticizing Speaker Pringle because he appointed B. P. Waggener chairman of the judiciary committee in the house last winter, and yet representatives of these very papers requested Speaker Pringle to make the appointment. Every news-

express sanction of the publisher of the paper.

This simply illustrates the unfairness of some of those who are now making a fight on Mr. Pringle and the friends of Governor Bailey in general.

The indications are that Judge J. T. Dickerson, E. W. Hoch's brother-in-law, whom Governor Bailey appointed to the eighth judicial district, composed of Marion, Morris, Dickinson and Geary counties, is already defeated for nomination, but at first Mr. Grass received little thought to the matter. He wrote the following letter to Mr. Wilson, which is the one the Kelly organs are publishing to prove that Mr. Grass is not running:

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PERRY HEATH OUT

Resigns Position of Secretary to National Committee.

Says His Action Is Due to the Death of Hanna.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 20.—Perry S. Heath, former first assistant postmaster general, and secretary of the Republican national committee, wired his resignation of the latter position from here today to Acting Chairman Payne at Washington, as follows:

"Due to the death of Chairman Hanna, I tender to you my resignation as secretary of the Republican national committee, effective immediately. Mr. Heath stated that the telegram told the entire story and he had nothing to add to it.

A dispatch from Seoul says an American mining company, which has been operating a valuable concession 60 miles from Seoul, fronted at Wiju and employed over 70 American and Chinese and Korean bandits infesting that region, which is rough and mountainous. The local manager has been ordered to return to Cronstadt.

Baron de Rosen, Russian minister at Tokio, and his staff, have sailed for home, says a Times dispatch from Shanghai. M. Faxon, Russian minister to Korea, who left Seoul a few days ago, remains at Shanghai awaiting instructions.

RUSSIAN SQUADRON ORDERED HOME.

Paris, Feb. 20.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Figaro cables that the Russian squadron at Jibuti, French Somaliland, has been ordered to return to Cronstadt.

JEWELS GO INTO WAR FUND.

Tokio, Feb. 20.—The Bank of Japan today decided to accept a donation of plate and jewels in aid of the war fund. President Sonoda and the nobles of the bank recently offered to melt the plate and gold gifts made by the emperor to the war fund.

SUSPECTS CAN ENLIST.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—According to the terms of an imperial order issued political suspects under police surveillance are permitted to enter the army in the field as privates and the minister of interior and the minister of justice can order the withdrawal of police supervision over such persons.

Another decree appoints a special commission under the presidency of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, brother of the czar to arrange for the most speedy construction of submarine boats, cruisers and other vessels, to meet the emergency which a public subscription has been started by the press.

SPAIN PREPARES FOR TROUBLE.

Madrid, Feb. 20.—Two regiments of infantry at San Sebastian and two regiments at Pampeluna are held in readiness to start for the Balearic islands. War Minister Linares has also sent a circular to the military authorities ordering the recall of all soldiers on furlough and to retain with the colors men whose services terminate March 1. These measures caused considerable excitement, which was not diminished by the rumors which continued to circulate in spite of official denials that this military activity was connected with a European power to the effect that in the event of a continental war Great Britain intended to setze points on the Spanish coast.

CHINESE TROOPS MOVING.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—Major Pleux, the chief of staff of Viceroy Alexieff, telegraphed from Port Arthur today as follows: "The situation at Port Arthur is unchanged. A sotinia of Cossacks marching from Wiju captured a Japanese soldier, Tataru, with five soldiers and two civilians. "The reports regarding the enemy are generally contradictory and scarce. It is confirmed that troops of Yuan Shai Kai, commander-in-chief of the Chinese army, are being dispatched to Tsin Chou and Kupaize. "All is quiet in Manchuria."

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SWEDEN.

Stockholm, Sweden, Feb. 20.—Unusual naval and military activity is displayed in connection with neutrality measures.

WAVE OF PATRIOTISM

Is Reported to Be Sweeping Over Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—The wave of patriotism sweeping over the empire is reported to be sweeping over Russia. The wild tribes of the Caucasus, the discontented Finns and sullen Poles forgetting their grievances and coming forward to volunteer for other citizens of the common fatherland. An instance of devotion among the czar's Hebrew subjects is afforded by the act of 46 Jewish rabbis, who have signed a petition to go to the front. Before leaving they attended a service held in a synagogue here. Rabbi Drabkin made a fervent appeal to volunteer for the czar's army. Included Baron Ginzburg and other Jewish notables. He said: "Our fatherland is passing through a difficult epoch. A moment has come when we are called upon to sacrifice ourselves for the fatherland. Remember that Russia is strong not only in arms, but in God's blessings."

After the service all the congregation sang the national hymn. The czarina, who continues to take great personal interest in the work of providing for the sick and wounded of the war, presided today at a special meeting of the patriotic society. A tender by several grand duchesses and others of the highest ladies in the land and presided at a service held at the imperial palace, which was characterized by the imperial schools acted as choristers.

During a discussion in regard to utilizing the services unparapherally offered by the girlhood and womanhood of Russia for the relief of the wounded, the czarina proposed temporarily to suspend the studies in the girls' schools in order that the girls might be able to devote the school hours to sewing. The suggestion was applauded, but no definite action was taken. Her majesty, who is an expert needle woman, has done much to encourage sewing among Russian society women.

Now that the government has officially recognized the patriotic subscription to provide war vessels to replace those destroyed by the enemy, the newspapers are discussing the best type of vessel, and the navy is expected to order a number of torpedo boat destroyers. A service organ points out that cruisers would take too long to build, adds that it prefers powerful torpedo boats and suggests that they be built where the Japanese get theirs.

Financial circles approve the action of the Imperial bank in selling London, Paris and Berlin bills cheaper than before the war, believing this measure will thwart the speculators in those centers where they are trying to force down the price of rouble.

The Weather Today.

The weather today has been a little warmer but it is not yet summer like. The minimum this morning was 16 degrees. Fine, but the temperature as recorded by the government thermometer: 7 o'clock.....16 11 o'clock.....22 8 o'clock.....18 12 o'clock.....24 9 o'clock.....20 1 o'clock.....26 10 o'clock.....22 2 o'clock.....27

Weather Indications.

Chicago, Feb. 20.—Forecast for Kansas: Three days rough, with Sunday with heavy rain or snow; warmer in southwest portion tonight; colder Sunday; southeast winds shifting to northwest.

Temperatures of Large Cities.

Chicago, Feb. 20.—7 a. m. temperatures: New York 18; Boston 18; Philadelphia 20; Washington 14; Chicago 10; Minneapolis 4; Cincinnati 10; St. Louis 14.