Kansas City Sunday Journal.

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A REIGN OF CRIME.

FOOTPADS AND BURGLARS ROB CITIZENS, STORES AND DWELLINGS.

DO NOT FEAR THE POLICE.

UNUSUALLY ACTIVE IN THEIR UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION.

One Man Who Resisted the Robbers Shot and Another Knocked Down—No Arrests Were Made—Miscellaneous Crimes Reported.

The city was in the hands of highwaymen and burglars last night and it seemed impossible for the police to thwart the onslaught of the lawless element. Hold-ups and burglaries were reported to the different police stations with alarming rapidity and the officers were kept hurrying to and fro, trying to make arrests. None was made, however. Two men who operated on the West side of town and three who operated on the East side were very bold in their work.

Shot in the Knee.

Henry Thompson, aged 23 years, who lives at 215½ Independence avenue, was crossing the Fourth street viaduct at 5 o'clock last night when a man accosted him and asked for a dime for a friend who was ill. Thompson claims he gave up the dime and was invited under the bridge to see the friend. Strange enough, he went, and when he got there was forced to look into the muzzle of a large revolver, while two men searched his pockets, securing, as he says, $3.50. He then grappled with the men and the revolver was discharged, the ball lodging in Thompson's right knee. He was removed to Central police station and later to the city hospital. He is not dangerously injured. Thompson is a socialist and labor agitator and came here about three months ago from Nebraska. He lives with F. Denning Smith, a local laborite, and says he is in the habit of taking long walks after night. The police do not believe his story of robbery. They claim to have ascertained that he owes two weeks' board and had no money yesterday evening before leaving for his "walk."

Knocked Down and Robbed.

A. Chadwick, a real estate dealer in the American Bank building, was held up by three young men on Fourteenth street, between McGee and Oak streets, last night about 9 o'clock while going to his home at 623 East Fourteenth street. Notwithstanding Mr. Chadwick is 50 years old, he brought down his cane upon the head of one of the highwaymen when they confronted him, and would have fought them off, but one of them felled him to the ground with a blow from behind. They then robbed him of a silver watch and solid gold chain, which they broke, and $1. After the men robbed Mr. Chadwick they ran to Fifteenth and Locust streets, where they boarded a west bound yellow car. Mr. Chadwick described the men to the police. One of them wore a cap and the other two soft hats.

Fired Several Shots.

An hour and a half later, three men, who are supposed to be the same that held up Mr. Chadwick, stopped George B. Stoner, a printer, on Campbell street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, and went through his pockets at the point of a revolver. They got nothing and then ordered Mr. Stoner to "walk a chalk line," firing several shots in the air to hasten his steps. Mr. Stoner lives at 1406 Campbell and reported the holdup to the police.

Robbed Money Drawers.

While George Hanson, the son of N. Hanson, a grocer at 1800 Holly street, was alone in his father's store at 7:10 last evening, two men entered and at the point of a revolver compelled him to hold up his hands while they robbed the money drawer of $15.

The grocery of E. Rechter, at 813 West Twelfth street, was entered by two men at 6:50, while Mr. Rechter was alone, and, after making him hold up his hands, took $3 from his cash drawer.

Books and Silverware Stolen.

During the temporary absence of the family of Dr. T. H. Hudson from the home at 1001 Prospect avenue, yesterday evening, a burglar gained entrance through a transom over the front door and stole several hundred dollars' worth of books and silverware and jewelry.

IDENTIFIED BRIDGES.

E. R. Clark Says the Electric Car Robber Held Him Up.

On the night of July 4 last, while the family of E. R. Clark, who lives at Independence and Fairview avenues, was enjoying the downtown fireworks, which could be plainly seen from there, a tall young man clad in overalls, a "jumper" jacket and rough boots, entered the yard, and with a mask drawn over the upper part of his face and a large revolver in his hand made Mr. Clark and his little girl go into the house. He then ordered them to light a lamp, and after making Mr. Clark get on top of the center table and dance a jig, compelled the daughter to go through her father's pockets and hand over the money—some $10. Mr. Clark got a good view of the young man while the robbery was being carried out, and from descriptions given in the newspapers of Oscar Bridges, the electric line train robber, resolved that Bridges was the highwayman who had visited him on the evening of the national holiday. Yesterday he visited the jail and asked to see Bridges. He was conducted inside, but was not shown Bridges' cell. As he passed it, however, he looked in and gave a shout.

"That's the fellow," he said, "that held me and my family up last Fourth. I could identify him among a thousand by that long nose and little mouth, which he failed to cover up with the mask."

Mr. Clark will prosecute Bridges if the charge of train robbing against him should fail for any cause.

ALL ABOUT A DOG.

Bruce Family and Several Would-Be Champions Badly Worsted.

Charles Harvey and Ed Moore, dogcatchers, who were arrested a few days ago for beating a Kansas farmer at Third and Cherry streets, had more trouble yesterday. While making their rounds yesterday afternoon, they picked up in front of the Pacific hotel, at Fourth and Delaware streets, a sleepy-looking dog which belonged to Mrs. Will Bruce, the wife of the proprietor of the hotel. Bruce objected to the dog going to the pound, and offered to pay the license then and there, which was agreeable to the dogcatchers. Things would have ended here without further trouble had not Mrs. Bruce ran out of the house and struck one of the dogcatchers on the head with a broom. Naturally this angered him and he struck the woman a blow full in the face, felling her to the ground. Bruce

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A CHARTER REFUSED.

Judge Pryor, of New York, Objects to Sunday Business Meetings by a Hebrew Society.

New York, Dec. 26.—Justice Roger A. Pryor, of the supreme court, to-day denied the application of the Agudath Hake Hilloth, a Hebrew religious society, for a certificate of incorporation. The justice takes exception to this clause of the articles of incorporation: "The time of holding its annual meeting is to be on each and every second Sunday of January of each and every year."

Justice Pryor says: "The question is not whether such meetings on Sunday are illegal, but whether they should be approved by a justice of the supreme court. A thing may be lawful and yet not laudable. As justice of the supreme court, I may not approve that which the immemorial and uniform policy of the state condemns. Because the holding of corporate meetings on Sunday is contrary to the public policy of the state, if not to the letter of its law, I decline to approve this certificate."

A Pig Iron Record Broken.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 26.—During the month ended to-day furnace No. 1, of the Duquesne blast furnaces, at Duquesne, broke all records of the world in the production of pig iron. The total tonnage was 17,194 tons, or an average of 573 tons daily. During several days the furnace turned out 610 tons each day.

VENEZUELA SATISFIED

READY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY TREATY.

MINISTER ANDRADE RETURNS.

SAYS THERE IS NO SIGN OF DISTURBANCE IN VENEZUELA.

Refuses to Discuss the Boundary Treaty, but Indorses What a Caracas Paper Has to Say in the Matter—Attorney Storrow Talks.

New York, Dec. 26.—Senor Jose Andrade, Venezuelan minister to the United States, accompanied by James J. Storrow, counsel for Venezuela, before the United States boundary commission, arrived in this city this afternoon on the steamer Caracas and left for Washington to-night.

When the steamer arrived at her pier Minister Andrade was met by the Venezuelan consul and some of the attaches of the office. When asked concerning the reports which have been printed in reference to the boundary treaty being not acceptable to the Venezuelan government, the minister said:

"I have written and telegraphed all I have to say, and I understand it has been published in your papers. I cannot say anything more on this question."

He was then asked if it was true he had come on empowered by President Crespo to signify the acceptance of the treaty by Venezuela, and he replied:

"That is a matter I cannot discuss."

He also said there was no sign of disturbance in Venezuela; everything was very peaceable, and he did not anticipate any trouble when the Venezuelan congress would meet.

When pressed to say something more about the treaty, he showed the reporters a copy of a Venezuelan paper, which, he said, expressed his views on the matter.

This newspaper, the Venezuelan Herald, had several articles on the treaty, and the following is an extract from one of them:

"Minister Andrade is going to Washington, and brings with him a copy of the agreement. It is in all essential particulars the same treaty offered by Venezuela forty years ago to Great Britain, which Great Britain refused.

"Under the fifty years' clause, the only territory which Great Britain will have are the settlements between the Essequibo and Pomeroon rivers. The fifty years' clause will exclude Great Britain from the Crinoco country and the Cuyuni river, which is the portion of the country that Venezuela has been especially desirous of keeping.

"Unwarranted attacks have been made on the government, but they are based on no solid argument, and it surprises us not a little to see such a rumor concerning the boundary question after everything has been settled.

"The United States has been the friend and representative of Venezuela, or, to put it exactly, through its friend, the United States, Venezuela has negotiated the treaty."

Mr. Storrow was also disinclined to talk of the boundary question, but said the treaty was satisfactory to the Venezuelans. He said there were a couple of correspondents who attacked the treaty in the papers, but, to use his own words, "they went off half-cocked."

When the more intelligent and better class of people read the memoranda, several articles were published in the papers, two of them by former ministers to England, and the public opinion was remolded. Mr. Storrow claimed the people are well satisfied with the treaty, and consider that it is about the best arrangement that could be made.

He said Crespo's feeling in regard to the American government was most kindly, and he referred to the letter written by President Crespo to President Cleveland, thanking him for the interest the Americans had taken in the Venezuelan matters.

Mr. Storrow said it was nonsense for any person to say there was any chance for a revolution in Venezuela. He denied there was any possibility of an outbreak, and said had there been any likelihood of such a thing he would not have come away.

A CURE FOR SMALLPOX.

Honey and Water Discovered to Be Wonderfully Effective.

City of Mexico, Dec. 26.—Experiments made with smallpox patients in Oaxaca show that by administering honey diluted in water to smallpox patients, the worst postules disappear and the fever is immediately diminished. The matter attracts much attention. The remedy was accidentally discovered by a young girl who was down with the disease, who secretly refreshed herself with honey and water, with the astonishingly curative results, and it was then tried on soldiers sick with the disease.

Astor a British Subject.

New York, Dec. 27.—The Press says that a letter received in New York from a relative of William Waldorf Astor declares that the millionaire has renounced his American citizenship and sworn allegiance to Queen Victoria.

CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND.

Weather Fine and the Holiday Trade Good—Ancient Customs Carried Out.

London, Dec. 26.—Christmas day here was sunshiny and was quietly spent. Many of the old customs were followed out in the true spirit of the English Christmas. At Queen's college, Oxford, the ancient ceremony of bringing in the boar's head was solemnly gone through in the presence of the university dons. At Rochester, six poor travelers enjoyed the Watts charity, in the shape of a good old-fashioned dinner and a present of four pence. In Liverpool, 20,000 hot pots were given to the poor, and the impoverished people of this city were well cared for through thousands of free breakfasts, dinners, etc., in many parts of the metropolis. In the London workhouses, 101,593 paupers enjoyed the Christmas celebration, particularly the beer and tobacco features, and 4,682 hospital patients were made as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

The holiday trade has been the best in years, especially in jewelry, fancy articles, books and mechanical toys, which formed the chief attraction of the shoppers. The receipts of last Monday at one big co-operative store alone were £22,400.

An average of 200,000 parcels were handled daily at the main parcel office, where 1,400 clerks have been working night and day.

STONE TALKS TO A MOB

MISSOURI GOVERNOR'S ELOQUENCE AVERTS A LYNCHING.

NEGRO THE INTENDED VICTIM.

ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING AND MURDERING A YOUNG GIRL.

Frightfully Mutilated Body of Willie Gaines, a 14-Year-Old Colored Girl, Found Yesterday Morning, and Tobe Lanahan Arrested.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 26.—(Special.) Governor Stone addressed a mob of 1,000 men in front of the Cole county jail at 8:30 this evening, and succeeded in dissuading them from their purpose of lynching Tobe Lanahan, a half witted negro, who is charged with assaulting, murdering and mutilating a 14-year-old colored girl in this city last night. After a short talk by the governor, the crowd dispersed, and another attempt at lynching is not looked for until Lanahan's guilt is more clearly established, in which event it is doubtful if either eloquence or force will avail to save the wretch's life.

Willie Gaines, a 14-year-old negro girl, was found ravished and murdered here this morning, right in the heart of the city. The body was found in the rear of Stampfli's undertaking establishment, by Jim Meyers, an employe of the place. It was lying about twenty-five feet from the door leading to the basement of the store. The body was in a terrible condition. Her head was cut as if it were struck by some blunt instrument; the abdomen was cut almost entirely away. Tobe Lanahan, a negro, who also worked for Stampfli, was arrested on suspicion.

The girl was sent to Bradenberger's drug store about 5:30 yesterday evening and Lanahan was seen walking with her toward the alley which is connected with the Stampfli building. That was the last time the girl was seen alive. A white man also says that he saw Lanahan coming out of the alley about 9 o'clock. Lanahan claims that he left the store at 6 o'clock and did not return to the place. The man who saw Lanahan go in there is a respected citizen and would have no reason to lie about the matter. Lanahan's record is also against him; he was in jail once before for an attempt to ravish a 9-year-old girl. He is only half-witted and has been in jail for several minor crimes.

The coroner's jury has adjourned until Monday, when it will continue with the inquest.

The excitement among the negroes has been at fever heat all day and on all corners they could be seen in small groups discussing the crime. The white people of the city did not seem to take much interest in the case.

Early this evening the little knots on the streets began to grow larger and larger, and the talk more violent. About 8 o'clock a general movement toward the jail began, and it looked ominous for Lanahan. Before any actual move had been made toward lynching, Governor Stone appeared and the crowd readily consented to hear him. The governor made a short but effective appeal to the crowd to disperse and not be guilty of taking the prisoner away from the officers of the law by violence. It was a bad example, the governor said, for the citizens of the capital to set to the people of the other parts of the state. The crowd applauded when the governor concluded, and the biggest part of it dispersed.

Sheriff Stone and Chief of Police Henderson have the jail heavily guarded and will protect the prisoner at all hazards. The governor and Mayor Silver are still at the jail, in consultation with the officers. It may be that the negroes may make an attempt to force the jail before morning, but at midnight it seems doubtful, as they lack a leader. The most prominent and influential of them are opposed to lynching until Lanahan's guilt is more clearly established.

It has been a night of nerve straining excitement. Governor Stone's calm and determined demeanor and his words of good advice undoubtedly averted trouble when the big crowd surrounded the jail.

The police think Lanahan is the guilty man and will do everything in their power to procure more evidence against him.

Work of Drunken Tramps.

Wichita, Kas., Dec. 26.—(Special.) Drunken tramps set fire to three freight cars on the Rock Island siding north of the packing houses to-night and they were totally consumed. One tramp was arrested; the others escaped. Archie Morrison, one of the tramps, was fatally burned.

Suicide Due to Jealousy.

Guthrie, O. T., Dec. 26.—Mrs. W. M. Belford, wife of a groceryman living at Chandler, fifty miles east of here, committed suicide by taking rough on rats. Jealousy was the cause.

Telegraph Operator Kills Himself.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 26.—D. W. Barricklow, a telegraph operator, formerly em-

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ACTRESS SUES FOR $50,000.

Miss Mabel Duncan, of London, Wants Heavy Damages for Breach of Promise.

London, Dec. 26.—Another action for breach of promise will occupy the attention of the law courts at the next session, providing the affair is not settled out of court. The plaintiff in the case is Miss Mabel Duncan, an actress, now appearing at Daly's theater in "The Geisha," who sues Captain Arthur Bingham Crabbe, late of the Third and Eighth Hussars and now of the Fourth battalion, Royal Irish regiment. The damages are fixed at £10,000. Miss Duncan is an exceedingly pretty young woman, who has had but a limited experience on the stage. She is 18 years of age and the daughter of Adan Seymour Dixon Duncan, who under the name of "Mr. Killeyth" owned the race horse Euclid. His disastrous experiences on the turf led him to desert his family and his daughter took to the stage as a means of support. Miss Duncan is related, on her mother's side, to the Earl of Bredelbane and the Earl of Lauderdale.

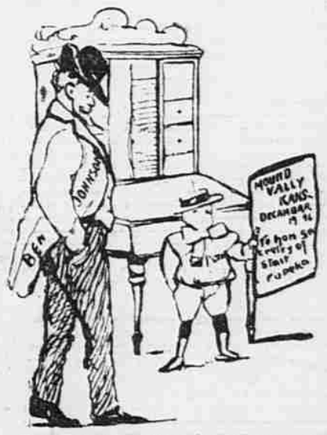
Birdie Sutherland, who was recently awarded £5,000 in her breach of promise suit against the Hon. Dudley Majoribanks, son of Lord Tweedmouth, has invested £4,000 of the amount in good securities, from which she derives a comfortable income. The remainder was promptly laid out with leading Bond street jewelers.

A Few of the Things People Are Talking About.

Oklahoma Wise Men in Conference. Reform or Bust.

Kansas City's Fish Commissioner Electioneering for Votes.

The Annual Performance That Will Take Place Once More This Week.



Populist Education—"Golly, You Are a Speller, You Are. Ha! ha!"

SOUGHT RELIEF IN DEATH.

MRS. SOPHIA CATTS DEEMED LIFE NO LONGER ENDURABLE.

Committed Suicide by Inhaling Illuminating Gas—Died in Her Wedding Dress After Making Careful Preparation.

Mrs. Sophia Gatts, the wife of Thomas F. Gatts, an attorney in the New York Life building, committed suicide yesterday evening at her home, 223 West Fourteenth street, by inhaling illuminating gas. She received the vapor through a rubber tube she had detached from her gas stove, one end of which she had fixed to a gas jet in the parlor, holding the other end in her mouth.

The dead body was found about 6:30 by the deceased's brother, Augustus Long, of 1506 Central street, and Officer Milton, of the Grand avenue police station, for whom Mr. Long had telephoned before going to his sister's house, to make an investigation, being evidently aware that all was not well.

When the men entered the house they found Mrs. Gatts lying on her back on a couch, one hand having fallen to her side, while the other grasped the end of the gas tube which had fallen from her partially opened mouth. She was fully dressed and had been dead but a few minutes. The room was full of gas, but was in perfect order.

Coroner Bedford was notified and viewed the body of the dead woman, after which it was removed to the home of Mrs. Gatts' parents, at 1506 Central street. Three letters prepared hastily by Mrs. Gatts before she lay down to her death were found by Coroner Bedford on a stand, and her jewelry, consisting of rings and ornaments, had been lain carefully aside to be given to Mr. Gatts' children, of whom there are four, by a former marriage. Mrs. Gatts had undoubtedly made a studied preparation for her self-destruction, as she was carefully dressed in her wedding gown, with her toilet in perfect order.

It is said that Mrs. Gatts' suicide was due to a morbid mental condition brought about by an unkind husband and his alleged attentions to other women. Mr. Gatts was in Hannibal, Mo., when his wife took her own life, having gone there Thursday to spend Christmas with his parents. He was notified by wire last night of his wife's death, and is expected to arrive to-day. His children, the oldest of whom is 17 and the youngest 9, were spending Christmas with their uncle, Charles A. Gatts, at 2105 Charlotte street, and were first notified of their stepmother's death about 8 o'clock. They hastened at once to the house.

Before she killed herself, Mrs. Gatts wrote a letter to her husband and two letters to her sister, Mrs. Minnie Porter, whose husband is in Arizona, and who lives at the family home, 1506 Central street. These letters were turned over to the family by Coroner Bedford soon after they were found by him. The coroner glanced over the letters, and said last night that in them Mrs. Gatts chided her husband for mistreating her, and warned him to have nothing more to do with other women. The family of Mrs. Gatts would not permit the letters to be published.

Mrs. Gatts was 37 years old and had been married to Attorney Gatts about five years. She was raised in Kansas City, having come here when she was a little girl with her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Long, Sr., both of whom are now in Salt Lake City, where Mr. Long has large salt mining interests. She was a niece of Adam and J. A. Long, the wholesale grocers, and the owners of several business block in the city. Her parents were notified of her death last night by wire and are expected to arrive in Kansas City as soon as possible. No funeral arrangements will be made until the family returns to the city. Mrs. Gatts had four brothers, Charles H., Jr., Augustus, Frank N. and George Long, and two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Porter and Mrs. Jefferson Brumback, of 1901 Broadway.

It has been known she has been unhappy for some time, and, although she is said to have threatened suicide on several occasions, it was never suspected that she contemplated such a step. Christmas, after her stepchildren and husband had gone away, she remained at home, only going out for dinner, of which she partook at the family home on Central street. Yesterday afternoon she was at the family home again, but said she felt very badly. She returned to her own house about 4:30 to get ready for the return of the children, but must have stated that she intended to kill herself, for she had only been gone two hours, when her brother, Augustus, who seemed anxious about her welfare, called an officer and went to the house, only to find that he was too late.

AN EXPLOSION OF FIRE DAMP

NINE MEN KILLED IN A COAL MINE AT PRINCETON, IND.

A Number of Others Injured, Some Perhaps Fatally—Mine Was a New One, and the Ventilation Was Bad.

Princeton, Ind., Dec. 26.—A terrific explosion of fire damp occurred in the mine of the Maule Coal Company, this city, at 3:30 this afternoon. It was at first thought that twelve men had been killed, but when Dave Nolan and James Turner and a man named Colegate and a colored man were taken out alive just before midnight, it was thought that the death list would be reduced to nine, with several of the seven who were taken out alive so seriously injured that they may die.

The nine of those dead are: Robert Maule, married, treasurer Maule Coal Company; James Riley, married; John Riley, married; John Ernest, married; Theodore Faber, married; Robert Ponylite, James Ponylite, James Krugy, single; John Holmes, married.

The men were at work making repairs of damages resulting from a similar explosion last Sunday. Besides the regular miners, blacksmiths and others were assisting in the work, while Robert Maule, a son of President John Maule, and treasurer and mine superintendent of the company, was superintending the work. The mine has been in operation only a short time. The air shaft is not quite completed, and the gas which collects in portions of the mine was ignited by an open lamp.

Gas has frequently accumulated in pockets, and several men have been burned by small explosions. About two months ago a serious explosion occurred, in which one man was killed, and Frank Turbie, who was injured in to-day's explosion, was injured. The state mine inspector investigated, and work went on with a small force. The miners went to their daily work without thinking of the danger they were constantly in. Last Sunday a jet of gas was fired by a blast and it burned all night. In the morning the descent of the cages forced gas to this jet and a terrific explosion occurred, but fortunately there was no one in the mine.

To-day about twenty men were engaged in repairing the damage caused by the explosion when the fire damp again let go with terrible force, this time with deadly effect.

The escape of seven men from instant death seems almost a miracle, when it is considered that the huge cages were blown from the shaft bottom to the top of the top house, over 500 feet above, by the force of the explosion. These cages were wrecked so they were useless and an iron bucket was improvised for a rescuing party as soon as possible after the accident. The first persons brought up were Turbie, Grill and two colored men, Davis and Booker. The first was badly burned and was carried to an ambulance. Grill and Davis were apparently uninjured, and walked off saying they were all right. Booker was cut and burned and had to be supported. Afterward it was found his jaw was broken and one eye was torn from its socket.

The the searching party began to bring up the dead. The scenes around the mine were most pathetic. Wives were weeping piteously in anguish that the crowd vainly tried to alleviate. Mothers, daughters, sons and other relatives of the men in the mine with blanched faces stood wringing their hands, and some were kept from going down the shaft with great difficulty.

About midnight the work of the rescuers was rewarded by the discovery that three of the men who were supposed to be dead were alive, although terribly injured. Since then no more bodies, dead or alive, have been found, and the death list is likely to stand as already given.

TWO FIRES AT SOLOMON, KAS.

E. B. Burnett's Sentinel Office Burned Out—Flames in a Church.

Abilene, Kas., Dec. 26.—(Special.) The building and office of the Solomon Sentinel, at Solomon, E. B. Burnett, owner and ed-

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MR. GRAY AS A REFORMER.

A MISSOURI REPUBLICAN SENATOR FULL OF SCHEMES.

Wants a New School Book Law, an Enormous Inheritance Tax, and an End to the Grand Jury System.

Carthage, Mo., Dec. 26.—(Special.) When the legislature meets next month at Jefferson City several surprises will be sprung by Senator Gray, one of the holdover Republicans of this district. To the Journal correspondent he said that he had prepared a radical school book bill, introducing many changes of benefit to the taxpayers. Many of his constituents favor free school books. This idea he has not fully determined to adopt, but it awaiting further information. He is very much interested in what he calls an inheritance tax, which shall largely discourage building up large fortunes. He proposes to tax all estates of $15,000 1 per cent, with a gradual increase to 50 per cent on estates of $5,000,000 and upward.

Senator Gray is also at work upon a bill to equalize the taxing of bank stocks. Some counties now assess it at par; others at 40 to 60 per cent. Gray's bill aims to strike at a vicious practice said to prevail in cities of bearing value of bank stocks before day of assessment and bulling the same after the assessor has called. It will also make taxes on banks equal all over the state. Senator Gray has several other measures bearing upon taxation, and also intends to ask for abolition of the grand jury system.

Coming Home to View His Trocha.

Washington, Dec. 26.—(Special.) Senator Vest is going to Missouri in the course of a few days to throw himself into the breach with a view to checking the slump of his old adherents, who are trying to elect Stone to his seat in the senate.

WILL OPEN THE RESERVATION.

Secretary Francis to Delay No Longer in the Matter of the Wichita Lands.

Washington, Dec. 26.—(Special.) Secretary Francis will appoint the alloting agents for the Wichita reservation without waiting for further formalities. It is his present intention to name the men before congress reassembles after the holidays, which means probably some time next week. He has not decided upon the number, and before determining upon the number, as well as the men, he will consult the statutes to find to what extent the civil service will handicap his choice. The work will probably be assigned to three men, and they will receive instructions to push it as fast as possible, as the secretary is anxious to have everything in readiness for an early opening of the lands to settlement.

The report of the Dawes commission on the Choctaw treaty is now being examined, preparatory to being laid before the secretary for his approval. This will not consume many days, and will still further facilitate the opening of the reservation. These matters are being rapidly pushed in the interior department. The report on the Cherokee freedmen is also being examined. It has been marked "special," and several experts have been assigned to go over the testimony and certify to the correctness of the roll. This will consume all of two weeks, as there is a conflict in the testimony bearing on about 1,000 of the names admitted by the commission. These names were placed on the rolls by the unanimous vote of the commission, after hearing the testimony, but they are subject to a critical review on the part of the legal division of the interior department, whose finding will be final. As soon as the roll is approved, the secretary will order the money to be disbursed to the freedmen.

LIVERYMEN SUED FOR DAMAGE.

One of Their Horses Ran Away and Injured a Patron.

Warrensburg, Mo., Dec. 26.—(Special.) William H. Freeman, a farmer living near Warrensburg, has filed suit against Stone & Porter, a livery firm of this city, for $2,500 damages. Freeman owned a buggy, harness and laprobe, and on December 6 hired a horse from the livery stable to work with his outfit. The horse ran away, the buggy was smashed to pieces, the harness destroyed, the laprobe lost and Freeman himself received an injured arm and many bruises. He alleges that defendants knew the horse to be wild and vicious, and that they failed to warn him.

HE IS A DESERTER.

ONE KANSAS ELECTOR NOT QUALIFIED TO SERVE.

W. H. LINTON, OF CHERRYVALE.

DESERTED FROM THE UNION ARMY AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

MEMBER OF AN OHIO REGIMENT.

NOTHING TO SHOW THAT HIS DISABILITIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

Undoubtedly Disqualified by the Kansas Constitution From Voting and Holding Office—Record of the Deserter—Ohio's Adjutant General Interviewed.

"William H. Linton entered service November 28, 1864; age 22; substitute; deserted at Louisville, Ky., on June 12, 1865."

Topeka, Dec. 26.—(Special.) W. H. Linton, of Cherryvale, one of the fusion presidential electors chosen in this state at the recent election, is likely to be deprived of the empty honor of casting a vote for W. J. Bryan in the electoral college. Kansas will probably cast only nine votes, instead of ten, her quota, because the fusion spoils hunters saw fit to nominate a deserter from the ranks of the Union army as elector, instead of a man who stood by his guns in the hour of his country's peril.

The constitution of Kansas, as well as the laws of the United States, prevents a deserter from voting or holding public office without the removal of his disability in that particular. That Linton was a deserter, seems to be beyond question, and it is the opinion of a number of men here that he has never had his disabilities removed.

Investigation develops the fact that Linton enlisted in the Union army in November, 1864, as a substitute, joining the Thirty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, and that, seven months later, in June, 1865, he deserted at Louisville, Ky. So far as a patient search of the records at Washington, at Columbus, O., and at Topeka has revealed, the charge of deserton has never been removed, and Mr. Linton is not a citizen of the United States, so far as the right of franchise and officeholding is concerned.

"A Kansas legislature can forgive a rebel and restore his rights as a citizen, but I have never known it to restore citizenship to a deserter from the Union ranks," said Commander Whitney, of the state G. A. R., to-night. "Kansans hate a deserter."

Commander Whitney says that full citizenship cannot be restored to a deserter until a special order is made by the secretary of war. Besides this, the Kansas constitution has a word to say in the matter. Paragraph 2, section 171, in defining the qualifications of a voter or officeholder, says:

"No person under guardianship, non compos mentis, or insane; no person convicted of felony, unless restored to civil rights; no person who has been dishonorably discharged from the service of the United States, unless reinstated; no person guilty of defrauding the government of the United States or any of the states thereof; no person guilty of giving or receiving a bribe or offering to give or receive a bribe, and no person who has ever voluntarily acted against the government of the United States, or in any manner voluntarily aided or abetted in the attempted overthrow of said government, except all persons who have been honorably discharged from the military service of the United States since the first day of April, A. D. 1861, provided that they have served one year or more therein, shall be qualified to vote or hold office in this state until such disability shall be removed by a law passed by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of both branches of the legislature."

That portion of the section quoted above relating to military service was incorporated into the state constitution by a vote of the people November 5, 1867. It was inserted for the sole purpose of depriving that class who fought against the Union, or deserted the Union army, of full citizenship without their repenting and asking forgiveness.

In discussing the question to-night, Judge John Guthrie, one of the oldest and best known lawyers in the state, expressed an opinion very emphatically that Linton was disqualified to serve as a presidential elector unless his disability had been removed. He said:

"The constitution imposes a disqualification to vote or hold office in this state, enumerating certain classes, of which deserters from the Federal army comprise one. The qualification is personal to all deserters from the army, and no such person is qualified to vote or hold any office under the constitution in this state, and it is probable, too, that all votes cast at the November election for a deserter were absolutely void and should not be counted for any deserter from the army, or for any other person in either of the classes enumerated by the constitution."

The Kansas supreme court has decided that if the disqualification is removed subsequently to the election and prior to the assumption of office, the person, though ineligible under said provisions at the time of the election, will not be disqualified from taking the office. This decision, however, will not help Linton out if he has failed, up to date, in getting his disability removed, for the reason that it requires a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature to remove a disability, and the fusionists lack quite a number of having it. The Republican members will not vote to remove the disability of a deserter so that he can participate in the proceedings of an electoral college; they have too much regard for the feelings of the thousands of battle scarred veterans of Kansas.

CIVIL STATUS OF A DESERTER.

Depends Largely Whether or Not There Was Ever a Legal Conviction.

Washington, Dec. 27.—(Special.) In defining the civil status of a deserter from the Union army, much depends on the question whether he has been legally convicted or is merely certified on the rolls of his regi-