

State News of Interest

SAYS LAND CHIEF ERRS.

Dennett's Ruling as to Homesteaders Will Not Stand, Says Johnson.

That the recent decision of Land Commissioner Dennett, which threw consternation into homesteaders all over the West by declaring that those who had commuted or were about to commute after fourteen months' residence, should have their titles held up if they depart from the homestead soon after "proving up," will be reversed by the secretary of the interior, is the opinion of Deputy Commissioner Johnson, stationed at Quinn, and recognized as well versed in the homestead law.

"I do not want to be understood," says Mr. Johnson, "as taking this position because opposed to the object the commissioner had in mind, or because I approve the lax residence and cultivation through which many are trying to acquire title to their land. I do not approve the 8x10 shack, five acres broken, fourteen months' residence, then a sale of the shack and abandonment of the land, and I am in favor of anything that can legally be done to check or destroy this practice.

"Commissioner Dennett lays great stress on sections 2289 and 2290 of the Revised Statutes, and of the oath required by the entryman, but he refers only casually to section 2301, the commutation clause, and then only to place a wrong interpretation thereon. Here is that section:

"Section 2301—Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent any person who shall hereafter avail himself of the benefits of section 2289 from paying the minimum price for the quantity of land so entered at any time after the expiration of fourteen months from the date of such entry, and obtaining a patent therefor, upon making proof of settlement and of residence and cultivation for such period of fourteen months."

"As will be seen, the terms of this section are as plain and unambiguous as language can make them. There are no 'is,' 'and' or 'but.' Instead, the positive declaration is made that nothing in this chapter shall be so construed as to prevent any person who has filed on a homestead from commuting on making proof of fourteen months' residence and cultivation. Thus the right to commute is made as much a part of the homestead law as is the right to acquire title without payment after five years' residence. The entryman has the right to select which he will do, and he also has the right to make entry with the intention of commuting. There is nothing in the law anywhere that will sustain Mr. Dennett's contention that an entry made with the intention of commuting is fraudulent. The fact that commutation allows abuses and may defeat the real intent of the law changes none of its provisions."

CEMENT TILE FACTORY.

Archie Hillyard of Spencer, Iowa, Will Establish at Mitchell.

With the Lytle Manufacturing Co. as a magnet, Archie Hillyard of Spencer, Iowa, has decided to locate in Mitchell for the purpose of establishing a cement tile factory. The Lytle company has just completed a deal for the purchase of 160 acres of land, on which will be erected a factory for the manufacture of manure spreaders and cream separators. Mr. Hillyard came to town quietly, bought three acres of land adjoining the city and in the spring will commence the erection of his plant. He will invest about \$15,000 before starting business, and after beginning the manufacture of the tiling will employ about thirty men constantly. Farmers in this and a half dozen surrounding counties are contemplating the laying of an immense quantity of tile next year. Mr. Hillyard started a brick factory in this city over twenty years ago, and knows of the good quality of cement soil in this vicinity.

PARENTS FRUSTRATED.

Young Couple Make Flying Trip and Are Married.

Don Dockendorf and Miss Sarah Bank of Emery were married in Mitchell Christmas night after considerable difficulty had been overcome. The young people planned to leave Emery on the afternoon train and get married here immediately on the arrival of the passenger by the justice of the peace. Father and Mother Bank, however, had too close a watch on the movements of their daughter, and this plan was frustrated. The energetic bridegroom, however, secured a team late in the afternoon, and getting possession of his sweetheart, drove twenty-eight miles to this city and arrived late in the evening. The justice of the peace performed the ceremony without the intervention of the irate father and mother.

While shooting a tin can in the air Mike Coprovic, an Austrian miner, employed by the Golden Crest company at Deadwood, was shot and killed by William Altfelds. The coroner declared the death due to an accident.

L. E. Johnson of Lake Sinal is raising the necessary capital to carry on a large drainage project. He plans upon draining a lake which covers over 200 acres, which, when reclaimed, will be worth from \$50 to \$60 an acre.

Peter Warness, mail carrier on Rural Route No. 2, died suddenly at Volga of heart failure. He leaves a wife and eight children.

Arlington has a full-fledged volunteer fire department. The following officers were elected: Chief, Almer Carlson; assistant chief, Fred Maszar.

William Rasch, convicted of rape at Huron, who was sentenced to seven years and seven months, has succeeded in obtaining a stay of judgment for sixty days.

The case of Norman A. Nelson, who contested the election of Lewis Berkeley as county commissioner from the Third district of Yankton county, has been decided in Mr. Berkeley's favor.

Miss Alta Potts, formerly a resident of Spearfish, and who for a year or more was a member of a Minneapolis orchestra and achieved a great deal of fame as a trombone player, is at the home of her mother at Sheridan, Wyo., suffering from the effects of a paralytic stroke in her right arm.

At the annual business meeting of the members of the Germania Verein of Sioux Falls the following officers were elected: President, A. J. Yeager; vice president, F. Schumacher; secretary, Ed Baumheier; treasurer, N. D. Roster; librarian, Adolph Ziska; overseer, Carl Brucker. The Verein is the leading German-American organization of its kind in South Dakota.

J. W. Rathbun, a well known homesteader, residing near Kadoka, was fortunate enough to recapture a genuine Rocky mountain sable, which doubtless had wandered to this region from the Rocky mountains. It was the first animal of the kind ever seen in this part of the country. It is the most valuable of the producing animals, a single fur being worth from \$20 to \$50.

Just as the Christmas gayety at Lead was at its height, Mrs. George L. Inman, a well known resident of that city, breathed her last after a two-years' illness. Death was due to tuberculosis. Mrs. Inman was a Black Hills girl, having been reared in the local schools and at the Lead high school, where she attained high honors. She leaves four young children besides her husband.

Peter Marquardt of Madison was run over by a switch engine and instantly killed in the railway yards, where he went to mail a letter in a mail car. While returning he was struck from behind by the engine, in full view of the crowd on the depot platform. The body was literally ground to pieces. Marquardt was a pioneer settler of the county and one of the most prominent Odd Fellows of the state, having been a past grand master.

Clever impersonations of the best known nursery characters in ancient childish rhymes was the feature of the Christmas entertainment given by the tiny pupils of the Hearst Memorial kindergarten at Lead. The children took the parts of Little Red Riding Hood, Little Bo Peep and a score of other well known figures and acted with unusual skill. The school is the gift of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst of New York, and has accomplished a wonderful work among the children of the city.

The total return of state taxes on the December call has brought to the state treasury \$343,883.26. Of this \$261,339.56 goes into the state general fund, and out of it there has been a call made of \$180,000. The balance will go into the hands of the new treasurer. The twine plant revolving fund is practically all in with this call. It amounts to \$316,509. Out of this \$170,000 is deposited to the credit of the state and draws 3 per cent interest for the fund. After the call of this month the outstanding debt of the state will be over \$600,000 in general fund and emergency warrants.

LAST RESIDENT DEPARTS.

Survival of Fittest Wives Lyman, S. D., From Existence.

The removal of L. L. Armstrong, one of the pioneer residents from Lyman, situated on the Missouri river, in the extreme eastern portion of Lyman county, wholly repopulates the old town, which thus passes out of existence.

Lyman was the first new town to be established west of Chamberlain when 9,000,000 acres of the great Sioux reservation between the Missouri river and the Black Hills were opened to settlement on Feb. 10, 1890. It promised to become quite an important trade center, but with the coming of a railroad to Lyman county new towns grew up along the line, and old Lyman rapidly lost prestige.

Three cracksmen who were arrested by the Sioux Falls police two or three weeks ago have been identified as the men who on the night of Oct. 6 last had a hand in robbing the State Bank of Danube, Minn., and Sheriff John A. Vick of Renville county, Minnesota, has taken them back to that county for trial.

Former Representative C. W. Gillett of Addison, N. Y., died suddenly in New York, aged sixty-nine years. He was elected to congress twelve times as a Republican.

FIRE LOSS CASE.

A. J. Glidden of Hitchcock Wins In Test Case From Insurance Company.

A case of importance to every person in South Dakota holding a fire insurance policy was heard before Judge Taylor in circuit court at Huron. The case was that of D. E. Chaplin and A. J. Glidden of Hitchcock against the Mutual Cash Guaranty Fire Insurance Co. of Sioux Falls. Mr. Chaplin was owner of a flouring mill at Hitchcock, which he purchased from A. J. Glidden. The mill was burned a year ago, and Mr. Chaplin, who held an insurance policy in the defendant company for \$1,000, notified the company of his loss. It appears that in the policy is a clause which reads: "Loss, if any, payable to A. J. Glidden." Mr. Glidden held a mortgage of \$1,000 on the property. After the fire the insurance company was notified, but declined to make settlement, and thus suit followed on the ground that the loss, if any, should be paid to Mr. Glidden, and also for the reason that Mr. Chaplin had taken out an additional policy in another company without the knowledge and consent of the company at the time carrying the risk. Mr. Warren of Sioux Falls, counsel for the defendant company, stated that it was his intention to make this a test case for the purpose of determining whether in the State of South Dakota an insured party can take additional insurance without first obtaining the knowledge and consent of the company carrying the prior risk. A number of witnesses were examined both for the plaintiff and the defendant, and the conclusion of which two questions were submitted to the jury for answering. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the company had been advised of the loss and also of the issuance of a policy by the second company upon the property insured by the defendant company, and gave a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for the sum of \$1,000. The case will be carried to the supreme court.

CAUGHT IN CIRCULAR SAW.

Murdo Carpenter Loses Hand as Result of Accident.

A very lamentable accident occurred at Murdo, when J. H. Rowe, a carpenter and cabinetmaker employed in the shops of Contractor J. H. Cox, became entangled in a circular saw, which was being run by a gasoline engine, and sustained injuries which resulted in the amputation of his hand between the wrist and the elbow. Mr. Rowe was working in the shop alone at the time, and in endeavoring to reach under the table on which the saw was running in order to tighten a belt, the wristband of his shirt caught on the mandrel of the saw and was immediately wrapped around it, throwing Mr. Rowe's arm directly in the way of the saw. The first and second fingers, together with the thumb, were sawed entirely off and the wrist was sawed through until the hand only hung by a shred of flesh. Mr. Rowe screamed for help, but was unable to make his cries heard for about five minutes, when Mr. Cox, his employer, in passing the shops, heard his cries and rushing in, stopped the engine.

BANK ROBBERY FRUSTRATED.

Sloux City, Iowa, Jan. 3.—Robbers entered the First National bank at Melvin, this state, and blew the safe, but failed to get through the second door. The citizens were aroused and the burglars left hastily, taking a handcar, which they abandoned near Hartley, about twenty miles south of Melvin.

TWO INJURED ON RAILROADS.

Two Harbors, Minn., Jan. 3.—While switching cars, Arthur Tice fell under the wheels, having his right thigh crushed and otherwise being seriously bruised. He is at the Budd hospital, with hopes of recovery. Harry Mann lost an arm in a railroad accident on the Alger-Smith line yesterday.

OVERCOME BY COAL GAS.

Barnesville, Minn., Jan. 3.—Mrs. James Collins, wife of a fireman on the Northern Pacific, came near suffocating to death from coal gas. A boarder awoke to find the rooms full of the deadly fumes and found Mrs. Collins unconscious.

GUILTY OF MURDER.

Portland, Or., Jan. 1.—The jury in the case of James A. Finch, charged with the murder of Ralph B. Fisher, prosecutor of the state bar association, returned a verdict of murder in the first degree.

SUICIDE OF WAHPETON MAN.

Wahpeton, N. D., Jan. 3.—Valentine Dorn, a prominent citizen of this city and formerly proprietor of the City hotel, shot himself yesterday and died last night. Dorn had been worrying over private affairs for some time.

SEVERAL PASSENGERS INJURED.

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 3.—A train on the Duluth & Missabe railroad was wrecked near Spruce Junction and several passengers were seriously injured. Three coaches rolled down an embankment.

SHERIFF HUSTON IS ROUNDING UP HORSE RUSTLERS.

Huston is rounding up horse rustlers who have been at work in Stanley county, and has arrested Elmer Ziegler and Tom Barnes, claiming the horses were found in the possession of Barnes, who, in turn claims to have purchased them.

GRAFT SCANDAL IN MILL CITY.

Revelations of Startling Nature Expected When Grand Jury Begins Work of Probing.

Minneapolis, Jan. 3.—Another scandal is promised Minneapolis.

Revelations of the most startling nature are said to be due when the January grand jury of Hennepin county settles down to the work of probing the extortion charges made against William Baxter, the head of the Baxter detective agency of the Mill City; Harry G. Blanchard and William Kidder, the latter two being private detectives, former employes of Baxter.

All three accused have been arraigned in the police court and, unable to furnish \$1,000 bail each, were remanded to the county jail. Baxter's case is set for Tuesday, while Blanchard and Kidder have been bound over to the grand jury.

Col. Frank T. Corrison, superintendent of police, has been investigating the case personally and is convinced that a wholesale business of extorting money from saloonmen and others has been carried on in the Mill City for some time, and the evidence he has been able to get will be turned over to the grand jury.

BURIED IN SNOW BY PLOW.

Roadmaster F. C. Wales Killed in North Dakota.

Fargo, N. D., Jan. 3.—F. C. Wales, roadmaster of the Fargo division of the Northern Pacific road, was instantly killed near Hastings, Barnes county, while clearing snow from the tracks of the Casselton branch. He was standing on the bank of a cut in which a Russell snowplow was operating, and when the mist had cleared was found fifty feet from the track, buried beneath a huge mass of snow. Death had been caused by shock and suffocation.

Mr. Wales was born in Hennepin county forty-eight years ago and was with the Northern Pacific in St. Paul twenty years before coming here.

EMBEZZLES TO AID UNCLE SAM.

Carrier Says He Used the Money for Feed, So His Horses Could Work.

Fargo, N. D., Jan. 3.—Forced to embezzle money given him for the purchase of money orders in order to buy feed for the horses he used on his rural mail route was the plea of Albert Kraus, a carrier out of Devils Lake, when arraigned before Judge Amidon of the United States court.

Kraus said he was without credit and his horses needed food. He thought he could make the money good when his pay check arrived, but the complaint came too early. He used only \$14. His sentence was made as low as the court had authority, and he will serve six months in jail.

FAMOUS ASTRONOMER DEAD.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—George Washington Hough, professor of astronomy at Northwestern university and director of the Dearborn observatory, died suddenly at his home here yesterday. Prof. Hough, who was seventy-two years of age, was found dead in his bed, having retired in apparently good health. Prof. Hough was one of the world's greatest astronomers.

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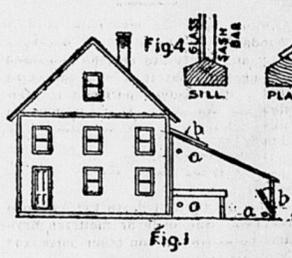
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THE SMALL GREENHOUSE GOOD THING ON FARM

What Can Be Done With a Small Outlay of Money—By S. T. Maynard, Massachusetts.

The farmer who would make his crops of vegetables most profitable, or the small gardener who would have an early supply of early vegetables for home use or market must employ some kind of glass structures to hasten these crops. The hotbed or cold frame have been much in use in the past, but the cost of sash, shutters and mats is nearly as much as the materials needed for a permanent structure, while the labor of caring for cold frames or hotbeds is often much more than that of the small greenhouse. In the latter one may work with comfort no matter what the weather may be outside. It requires much more skill to run hotbeds successfully.



Details of Construction of a Small Greenhouse.

a basement to the house or stable, a lean-to house may be built, and heat from the open cellar in a large measure will heat the greenhouse in the mild weather of fall and spring.

A cheap and efficient house may be made by setting chestnut or cedar posts in the ground, covering the sides with lining boards, then two thicknesses of tarred building paper and sheathing outside, Fig. 3. Cement, stone or brick will be cheaper in the end. The durability of glass structures will depend much upon the form of the materials. Clear cypress is now more used than any other material.

Sills should be of the form shown in Fig. 4. Plates may be made of plank as in Fig. 3, or as in Fig. 5. Sash bars should have grooves along the sides to catch the drip from the glass, as in Fig. 6.

The glass for ordinary work may be No. 2 double thick, large sizes, 16x20 inches or 20x24 inches, being much used. Smaller sizes will be cheaper in price, but more sash bars will be needed, and they cut off much of the sunlight. The glass should be put in with putty, made with about one-third white lead in it, and firmly tacked

ACETYLENE GAS AS ILLUMINANT

A reprint and revision of bulletin No. 57 of the state department of agriculture of Pennsylvania has been issued by the department of chemistry of the Pennsylvania state college, under the authorship of George Gilbert Pond, Ph.D. The whole subject of calcium carbide and acetylene is covered most thoroughly without the use of technical language, and the book contains complete and authoritative information, so simply told that the public generally will find the book not only instructive but extremely interesting.

The use of acetylene commercially is an evolution covering ten or twelve years. The rapid strides which the new illuminant has made, especially in country homes, is making it a formidable competitor for favor wherever illumination is required.

The spectral analysis of the light shows it to be a practical duplication of sunlight, so that colors have their true value when illuminated by this brilliant gas. Recently the use of acetylene for the headlights of automobiles, its adoption by the government for beacon lights, lighthouses, forts and Indian schools, has given acetylene new impetus.

Prof. Pond has shown that the dweller in the country home can secure this excellent illuminant at a cost which compares to the advantage of acetylene, with city gas when burned in the open flame burner costing a dollar per 1,000 cubic feet.

The board of engineers of the national board of fire underwriters have, after a year's examination of the subject, declared that acetylene, when installed with approved apparatus, is safer than the illuminants which it replaces, and the national board of fire underwriters has revised its rules in such a manner as to encourage its more rapid introduction. Calcium carbide, which has in some quarters been regarded as a dangerous substance, has been investigated and declared to be without hazard by the fire underwriters. These facts will come in the nature of a great surprise to many who have regarded acetylene as dangerous. In dealing with this phase of the subject, Prof. Pond has given thorough information as to the safe use of acetylene and the precautions which must be taken with this substance, the same as with any other illuminant.

An interesting phase of the subject is the remarkable use of what is

with triangular zinc tacks of large size, or the double-pointed tacks, which are so bent as to prevent glass from slipping down.

Glazing should be done during the summer or early fall, as putty will soon become loose if frozen before well hardened.

In building there should be no mortises, but all joints be made by toeling in with long, slender nails. All woodwork should be thoroughly painted before fitting, and all joints filled with white lead paint. After all is done the frame should be painted before the glass is put in.

The most important and expensive feature of the small greenhouse is the heating. If one has a hot water or steam heater in the house, to which the glass house is attached, it will be a very simple matter to carry pipes through, as at a, a, Figs. 1 and 2. Hot air may also be let into such houses, or a small kerosene heater in very

cold weather may be used, if the house is built opening into the cellar.

Ventilators must be located as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 at b, b. Very small structures may be run without much heat if opening into cellars or other heated rooms by having shutters or curtains to draw down at night and in very cold, cloudy weather.

Houses of small size, may be made by building a frame upon which hotbed sashes may be screwed. If one has the sash this is a cheap way of building, and such a house has the advantage that the sash may be entirely removed during the summer, but it is very difficult to make a close house with such sash.

The woodwork of greenhouses and hotbed sash should have a coat of this linseed oil paint every second year. Much of the success to be obtained from any glass structure will depend upon the skill of the operator, and the thermometer, both outside and in, must be watched very closely. The temperature should be maintained as nearly as possible like that in the open air under which the plants grow thrive the best.—Farm and Home.

known as the oxy-acetylene blow-pipe.

By burning acetylene in an atmosphere of pure oxygen, the highest temperature in chemistry is evolved, practically equaling the electric arc. A pencil of flame two or three inches long, and no larger than the barrel of a fountain pen, can be drawn across a piece of sheet metal, and literally melts the metal in two. The process can be reversed and sheet metal, iron, brass, copper, aluminum, and, in fact, any of the ordinary metals can be literally melted together and, curiously, the joint is so perfectly formed that a file will not disclose the point of fracture. Bridge girders have been cut with great rapidity, and it is stated that this simple pencil of flame promises a revolution in the methods of metal working establishments.

Another curious phase of the subject is the fact that calcium carbide at certain temperatures has the power of fixing the nitrogen of the air and in this way will produce a fertilizer called cyanamide, which is found equal to the Chilean nitrates. Few people realize that \$15,000,000 worth of Chilean nitrates have been imported into this country and used by the farmers here during the past year.

Calcium carbide is a rock like substance produced by melting together lime and coke in the electric furnace. It is not affected by any substance except water, and when brought in contact with water it gives off rapidly the gas known as acetylene.

The bulletin on calcium carbide and acetylene can be had free by application, accompanied by six cents postage, to the Department of Chemistry, the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

Care of Seed Corn.—Seed corn at picking time has a high content of moisture. Sometimes it is dried by artificial heat, but this is dangerous. The chances are that the germ will start to grow. The important things are ventilation, a dry atmosphere and an even temperature. Corn suspended on a wire in a well-ventilated granary or shed in such a way that there is free circulation of air about each ear is a very favorable way. Corn that is thoroughly dry cannot be injured by a freeze.

Do Your Best.—A resolution that invariably leads to at least partial success on the farm is to perform every task with painstaking care.

Watch Him.—Keep your eyes on the man who raises the most grain per acre, rather than on the man who raises the most acres.