PLEADING ARMENIA'S CAUSE

Review of the Situation by One Thoroughly Familiar with the Details.

HOW THE MASSACRE WAS PROVOKED

Turks Took This Method of Showing Their Resentment Toward Christians Who Protested Against Being Plundered by the Troops.

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LONDON, March 3.—The correspondent of the Associated press, who was sent to Armenia with instructions to thoroughly investigate the stories told of the Turkish atrocities in that country, under date of Tiflis, Russia, January 25, forwarded the following interview with the father of all the Armenians, Mgr. Khrimiran. After a hesitation of several days the very reverend father granted the request of the Associated press correspondent for a statement of the condition of Armenia and the causes which led to the Sassoun massacre. Additional weight is given to the statements by the fact that Mgr. Khrimiran is at present preparing a memorial on the subject to the czar of Russia, and it may be inferred that the substance of the statement in the memorial to the czar may be found in this interview. Mgr. Khrimiran's home is at Etzchmiadzin, in the Ararat region of Russia, within a short distance of the Turkish frontier.

In an outer room of the house the Associated press correspondent met a monk in a black habit, and at the farther end of the room was a man dressed entirely in red, holding a long mace. The sanguinary appearance of this man contrasted strangely with the peace and quiet of the house. Sometimes four men are in attendance. On the occasion of the first visit of the correspondent to the quiet house he was introduced by an eminent Armenian gentleman, editor of the Ardzganiak. On the occasion of his second visit, Mgr. Khrimiran, having decided to make the statement asked for by the Associated press, talked fluently and eloquently of the wrongs of his country. Among other things he said:

CAUSES OF THE MASSACRE.

"The massacre in the Sassoun mountains was the result of a long period of Turkish misgovernment. In the Armenian province of Turkey a policy of cruelty and oppression has continued for a long time. I, myself, have been an eye witness of all kinds of Turkish oppression. In fact, about fifty years of my life have been passed in connection with the persecutions in Armenia. Twenty or thirty years ago the Armenians were still very low and narrow, and did not understand the cause of all the calamities which befell them. They thought their troubles were sent by heaven as a punishment for their sins. Such is always the belief of the people deprived of education and the printing press. But later, when they began to think and to understand the wicked acts of their oppressors, there came a change and they saw clearly the real cause of their troubles.

"One reason for their change was the war between Russia and Turkey in 1876, which ended so happily for the Bulgarians, who received freedom and self-government. The Armenians suffered from the misgovernment of the Turks much more than the Bulgarians, who lived in the neighborhood of the western European powers, as the Armenians were at such a remote distance from the civilized world that their cries could not be heard.

"At the close of the Russo-Turkish war the Armenians, encouraged by the improved conditions of Bulgaria, demanded the same guarantees which were given to that country. All kinds of complaints, grievances and petitions, poured into the patriarch of Constantinople. They were so numerous that if they had been thrown into a large room they would have filled it as full as an egg.

PLEADED ARMENIA'S CAUSE.

"In the meantime, the European powers were compelled to sign the Berlin treaty. At this period I was sent with another delegate to the chief capitals of western Europe to plead the cause of the Armenians. I visited Paris, London, Vienna and Rome, but my visit did not produce satisfactory results. I presented petitions to the Berlin congress, giving full details of the Turkish atrocities in Turkish Armenia. Moreover there was printed in Berlin at the same time my description of these atrocities.

"But what we had worked for was not realized, as, with reference to the Armenian question, the Berlin congress adopted what is known as the sixty-first article of the Berlin treaty, and, although the treaty was signed, it had no influence in lessening the persecutions. Our hopes were in vain. The cruelty of the Turkish government did not cease. It merely took a new form. But, keeping in view that there was a treaty, the Turks sought for some legal means of justifying their atrocities.

"That happened; the taxes became heavier and all kinds of duties became greater, and the Turkish people received full powers to tax Armenian peasants. Why should a people who have not only a sufficient quantity of land, even too much, and a very fertile and well irrigated land, leave their native soil and emigrate to other countries? If there were no proof of Turkish misgovernment in Armenia this circumstance alone would present sufficient evidence of those oppressions which the Armenians in Turkey are suffering. Nearly 80,000 Armenians seek work in Constantinople in order that they may be able to pay the taxes which the Turkish government imposes upon them.

"In the whole Turkish empire, there are as yet about 3,000,000 Armenians."

NEW FORM OF OPPRESSION.

Regarding the Sassoun affair, the reverend father said: "As every action brings its result or counter blow, the same may be said of the oppression of the Armenians, who understood the actions of the Turks and began to revolt. It was then, and only then, that the Turks understood the danger of the position. As a result, they had recourse to the Kurds, whose chiefs went to Constantinople, where they received instructions to form regiments of soldiers from their own tribes. This was the beginning of what is known as the Hamidieh cavalry, or Kurdish regulars. The Kurdish chiefs were loaded with favors and invested with the right to oppress the Armenians. The troops received no pay, but what was better, they received permission to plunder the Christians. Unable to elude this new form of oppression and torture, some of the Armenians revolted against the cruelty of their oppressors, while many others sought to fly to foreign countries.

"The final result came in the massacre in the Sassoun mountains. What took place I know from the statements of eye witnesses, and also from accounts published in the newspapers.

"The Turks had wished for a long time to capture and punish the people who had revolted against the cruelties of the Kurds, but the inaccessibility of the mountain countries, not only to cavalry but also to infantry, frustrated their plans. However, when the Kurdish regiments were formed the task of capturing the mountain people was entrusted to them, and subsequently 3,000 regular Turkish troops, with several mountain guns, were sent to assist in the work.

FEROCITY OF THE TURKS ILLUSTRATED

"The Armenians occupied a strong position owing to the inaccessibility of the mountain regions and when the Turkish troops attacked them they met with resistance, but as the Armenians had but few arms and inadequate supplies of provisions they were eventually compelled to surrender. During the fighting a few soldiers were killed, but they were very few in comparison with the number of Armenians afterward put to death by both Kurds and Turks.

"Among the horrible cruelties perpetrated on the Armenians during the massacre, I will relate the following fact proving the ferocity of the Turkish troops and their commander, Zekki Pasha: When the Armenians had surrendered, 150 of them, including three priests, were thrown into a large ditch alive, despite the fact that they were not wounded. Earth was then heaped on them and some soldiers were sent to watch them until they all had perished. After this the massacre continued, many people, old and young, were killed, and many women and young girls were sent by the soldiers to Moosh. The bodies of the Armenians who were killed in large numbers together, were buried in common graves, but the bodies of those who were killed in isolated places were left unburied.

"The Armenians who were not killed fled. Most of them came to Russia. Some of them are now in Tiflis. Some came to me in Etzchmiad and related to me the sufferings that they had endured. Many Armenians are confined in prison for political matters. The exact number of the prisoners is unknown to me, but it must be more than 2,000. Forty or fifty clergymen are among the number, priests, bishops and archimandrites. They are imprisoned for so-called 'political offense.' But what the Turk calls a political offense has not been designated.

COVERS ALL OFFENSES.

"For instance, for a Christian to protect his property from plunder is considered a 'political offense' in the Turkish empire. In prisons all kinds of torture are employed against rich and poor.

"The state of the Turkish prisons is simply dreadful. For instance, the chief monk of a monastery was fastened to a wall with a nail driven through his hands and was delivered from that position only on admitting that he acted wrongly, although he was entirely innocent. On the hands and feet of several prisoners were fastened chains and heavy shackles of wood, while on their heads were placed instruments resembling copper pots, which were heated to a high temperature. Sometimes these tortures ended in the death of the sufferers. Sometimes the torturers exercised their terrible power simply to kill the victims.

"In the Sassoun district there were about 114 villages and hamlets. In one of these villages lived Iamadam, a Turkish district chief. The whole number of Armenian families, or 'hearths,' as they are called in the district, was 3,648. The Armenians, I may explain, have preserved the ancient tribal system. The maximum number to one of these 'hearths' is eighty persons. Taking twenty as a modest average, the number of inhabitants in the district amounted to more than 70,000 souls.

"From the information brought to me I believe that the Kurdish and Turkish troops have burned or destroyed a number of cities or villages, and I estimate that the number of men, women and children killed in the Sassoun district amounts to 11,000."

During the interview the Associated press correspondent asked Mgr. Khrimiran what truth there was in the story that certain Armenian revolutionary leaders induced Armenians to commit atrocities on Turks in the hope of provoking outrages which would raise the wrath of the Christian world. He replied that such rumors were too absurd to obtain credence anywhere except in Turkey. With reference to the Turkish commission of inquiry, Mgr. Khrimiran said: "The chief interest at present centers in the Turkish commission of inquiry, but Armenians look for no results from the commission, because it will only deal with the Sassoun matter, which was only an incident in the oppression of the Armenians."

BUTCHERY AT CLEIVOUSON.

The correspondent of the Associated press also interviewed several Armenian refugees at Tiflis. The stories they told of the massacres correspond in every respect with what has been published in local Armenian papers. The Armenians held their ground against the Turks for twenty-five days, when, their provisions and ammunition being exhausted, they were either forced to fly or to surrender. After reaching the villages of Cleivouson the Turks set fire to the houses, destroyed the churches and began to massacre the inhabitants. Old and young men, women and children were tortured and put to death. Among this number were two priests, one of whom, Terpetros, was stripped of all his clothes and pierced with twenty-five thrusts of a poniard, which caused his death. The name of the other murdered man was Terrogaus. But let the refugees speak for themselves.

The informant of the Associated press continued: "To defend ourselves we were united as one family. We held our ground as long as we could, but we had only 300 old-fashioned guns. B hind us were two men who were ready to kill any of us who might attempt to fly. But we had not the slightest intention of so doing. However, after twenty-five days we held a council as to what we should do. The Turks sent word that if we surrendered they would not kill us. But they did not keep the promises, and began to cut the heads of some, to disembowel others, to outrage our wives and daughters. Ten of the latter, on refusing to embrace the Moslem faith, were put to death. Those of us who were not killed, received wounds, and fifteen who were not wounded, were thrown into a large ditch. We can show you, if you desire, the very place. It is in the village of Oleikuigan, behind the house of Peto, the oldest inhabitant of the village, and who died last spring. The position of the bodies in the pit will prove that many were buried alive.

"Seeing that the Turks would kill us all, we at last fled. We were only six hours' marching distance from Moosh, but our escape was attended with many difficulties."

PRISON GUARD WAS A GOOD SHOT.

Brought Down Three Convicts Who Made a Break for Liberty.

FOLSOM, Cal., March 3.—A desperate attempt to escape was made by fourteen convicts today. As a result three convicts are in the Folsom hospital suffering from gunshot wounds. One is mortally wounded, another will probably die and the third is painfully injured. This forenoon Captain Ellis and Horse Guard Nickerson took the prisoners out, crossed American river and set the men to work in the quarry. Ascertaining that they had more men than were needed, Nickerson started back to the prison with two of them. When they had gone three of the twelve men remaining made a break for liberty, scrambling up the rocky cliff. Ellis fired at them. He soon brought two of them to the ground, and the third, then wounded, threw up his hands and surrendered. Only five shots were fired. Other guards ran to Ellis' assistance and the prisoners were quickly returned to the prison.

The injured convicts are: Turner, a negro from San Francisco, serving eight years, shot in the breast and mortally wounded; Garcia, a Spaniard from San Benito, serving six years, right arm shattered and may die; Anderson, a negro from San Francisco, serving ten years, shot in the leg.

Chicago Irish on Their Muscle.

CHICAGO, March 3.—(Special Telegram.)—The confederated Irish societies of Chicago will issue a red hot manifesto denouncing Alexander Sullivan, accusing him of complicity in the murder of Dr. Cronin and declaring that his appearance at the auditorium on Robert Emmett's birthday is a desecration to the Irish cause. John Finerty is also given a few swats.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Fair, Warmer with North Winds Shifting to Southwest.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—For Nebraska and Kansas—Fair; warmer; north winds shifting to southwest.

For Iowa—Clearing and generally fair weather; north winds, shifting to west; slowly rising temperature.

For South Dakota—Fair; warmer; southwest winds.

For Missouri—Light snows, followed by clearing weather; high northwest winds and a cold wave.

Local Record.

OFFICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU, OMAHA, March, 3.—Official record of temperature and rainfall, compared with the corresponding day of the past four years:

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Maximum temperature	24	71	13	66
Minimum temperature	9	47	8	42
Average temperature	16	59	10	54
Precipitation	.06	.00	.06	.00

Condition of temperature and precipitation at Omaha for the day since March 1, 1895:

Normal temperature	31
Deficiency for the day	15
Normal precipitation	.03 inch
Excess for the day	.03 inch
Total precipitation since March 1	.06 inch
Deficiency since March 1	.03 inch

Reports from Other Stations at 8 P. M.

STATIONS.	Temperature. 8 P. M.	Max. Temperature of day.	Precipitation.	STATE OF WEATHER.
Omaha	11	24	.00	Snowing.
North Platte	14	18	T	Clear.
Valentine	8	10	.04	Clear.
Chicago	20	35	T	Snowing.
St. Louis	50	58	.00	Cloudy.
St. Paul	10	12	.00	Cloudy.
Davenport	18	36	.02	Snowing.
Kansas City	16	46	.01	Snowing.
Denver	30	32	.00	Clear.
Salt Lake City	36	38	.02	Partcloudy.
Rapid City	10	16	.01	Clear.
Helena	32	32	.00	Partcloudy.
Bismarck	16	20	.00	Clear.
St. Vincent	8	12	.00	Clear.
Cheyenne	22	26	.00	Clear.
Miles City	20	24	.00	Cloudy.
Galveston	58	64	.00	Clear.

"T" indicates trace of precipitation.

L. A. WELSH, Observer.

MUST PAY FOR HIS HASTE

Judgment Against O'Neill Man Who Wrongfully Accused a Stranger.

PECULIAR CASE SETTLED IN THE COURTS

Host Claimed He Was Robbed by a Visitor and His Neighbors Help Him in an Effort to Secure Restitution.

O'NEILL, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—Rather a peculiar case was decided by Judge Kinkaid in the district court here Saturday. The title of the case was Willis against Bradoc, et al. Willis sued Bradoc for false imprisonment and threatened his life. Willis received a verdict for $2,000 against Bradoc and nine others, while the action was dismissed against the other defendants. A couple of years ago Willis remained at Bradoc's house all night. The next morning Bradoc was short $90 and he at once accused Willis, who was a stranger, of the theft. Bradoc secured the assistance of his neighbors and arrested Willis without going to the trouble of swearing out a warrant, and held him a prisoner for some time. They tried in every manner to persuade him to tell where the money was, even going so far, it is said, as to put a rope around his neck and tell him they would send him to the happy hunting grounds unless he would disgorge his ill-gotten gains. But Willis stoutly maintained his innocence. While he was still held a prisoner the money was found in Bradock's house, evidently where he had placed it. Willis was then released and he brought suit against them for $5,000 and received a verdict for $2,000.

An important decision affecting life insurance companies was also rendered by Judge Kinkaid. An administrator sued the Mutual Rescue Life Insurance company of New York for $1,200 on a policy for $2,000 issued to the deceased, the administrator having previously compromised with the company for $800, which the company had paid. The suit was brought without tendering back the $800, and brought fourteen months after the proof of loss. The application and policy stipulated that suit must be brought within one year. On demurrer by the company the court held that inasmuch as the company had denied any liability whatever and compromised with defendant for $800, that plaintiff could not maintain the action without first offering back the $800, and for this reason and others, sustained the demurrer, and gave plaintiff leave to amend.

The First National bank secured a verdict against Holt county today for $11,000 on warrants which they had drawn on the fund of 1893. The money was embezzled by Scott, and, there being no funds to pay the warrants, suit was brought. A special levy will be made by the county board to pay the judgment.

FOR AN OLD OFFENSE.

Three Men Arrested for Reckless Driving After the Elapse of a Year.

NEBRASKA CITY, March 3.—(Special.)—Last July, while Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wenzel and child were driving to this city, they were run into by a lumber wagon containing three men. The injuries of Mrs. Wenzel and child were so serious that their lives were thought to be in danger for some time, and warrants charging the three men with murder, were issued. The only clew to their identity was a photograph found near the scene of the collision. Mrs. Wenzel recovered, but the police did not forget the case. Tuesday Sheriff Huberle arrested Marshal Blevins at Tecumseh as the original of the photograph. The arrest of William and Henry Kasscadden followed upon the charge of reckless driving and assault. They were released on bonds in the sum of $100 each, their case to be heard Monday.

Sam Berry, a well known B. & M. employe, some time ago purchased a small farm near the city, and determined to start a chicken ranch. The house was occupied by George and O. B. Staley. They remained in possession with the understanding that as soon as Berry was ready to move in they would vacate. The other day Berry commenced to move his things to the farm, and furnished two or three rooms. The Staleys objected, threw out the furniture and tore up the carpets. When remonstrated with it is alleged they struck Mrs. Berry and also assaulted Mr. and Mrs. Lautzsch, who sold the farm to Berry. They will answer next Tuesday to three warrants, charging them with assault and battery.

The members of Eureka lodge, Knights of Pythias, attended the First Methodist Episcopal church in a body this morning. The pastor, Rev. H. C. Harman, preached an eloquent sermon on the aims and objects of the order and described Pythianism as a fraternity which made men better.

Exeter Notes and Personals.

EXETER, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—T. J. Mainard and wife, who for the past three or four months have been visiting in Tennessee, returned home Friday.

A. C. Lester, who has been spending several months with relatives in Stratton, Neb., returned to this place Thursday and will spend some time with his children here.

B. C. Ragan and family, who have been residents of Exeter for several years, removed to their farm near Seward Saturday.

Deputy Sheriff Clark Robinson came up from Geneva Thursday with a warrant for Peter Paull on complaint of C. H. Wullbrandt in behalf of the village of Exeter, charging him with selling intoxicating liquors without a license. He was taken before the county judge, pleaded guilty, and fined $100 and costs. This is only one of more than twenty-five counts the city can use against Peter.

Max Tauber, a buyer of horses from Chicago, has been in this city nearly all the week picking up such horses as he could use. He secured a full carload at prices ranging from $25 to $75 and shipped them east Saturday.

Mrs. William F. Buck gave her son Fred a birthday dinner Thursday to which a number of friends were invited. In the evening the young people came in and helped him celebrate the occasion in a royal manner.

George Greenawalt of Emporia, Kan., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Greenawalt, and other relatives.

J. P. Pickering of Steele City, who has been visiting his sisters, Mrs. C. C. Smith and Miss Ruth Rogers the past week, returned to his home this morning.

Encouraging Many Farmers.

DUNCAN, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—The magnificent rain of Tuesday and the warm, bright days following woke up the farmers wonderfully. Immediately after the clouds had cleared there was a gathering up of plows and the blacksmiths have been very busy since.

All day the wind has been blowing a gale from the north, accompanied with a liberal amount of snow, and it has been very cold.

People here are just beginning to appreciate the weather bulletins put up in the postoffice every afternoon.

The seed and feed grain question is the most agitated subject in this vicinity, and since the county supervisors refused to call an election to vote bonds for this purpose the cloud of despondency encircles many who were before hopeful and struggling manfully to keep afloat.

Pierce Paragraphs.

PIERCE, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—One of the leading social events of the season was the phantom party at the pretty home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Morrison on Wednesday night. The affair was under the auspices of Misses Kate Collins and Mattie Van Buskirk. The evening was spent in a charming manner. Various amusements were indulged in, a handsome luncheon was served and all reported one of the most pleasant social events in the history of Pierce.

Invitations are out announcing a progressive "Board of Trade" party by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Powers at the Knights of Pythias hall next Tuesday evening.

W. H. Morton is confined to his home with inflammatory rheumatism.

District court is still in session. Fifty-five cases were disposed of the past week.

Rev. Mr. Paris returned Friday, after being out west for four months holding revival meetings.

Several of the young men will give a dancing party at Keiper's hall on Friday evening. Music will be furnished by a Norfolk orchestra.

Mrs. Quast of Hooper is visiting with her sister, Mrs. Ernest Ziesche.

Archie Littel has gone to Grand Island to take a course in the business college in that city.

Sheriff Millikin came up from Fremont on Thursday night and visited with Sheriff Littel of this place until Friday morning.

The town board has revoked Sanne's saloon license. This leaves Pierce with only four saloons.

Ed Ruhlow returned from his Iowa trip on Thursday. His wife and children will remain a week or so visiting friends before returning.

HOT LITERARY DEBATE AT YORK.

Question of Free Silver Discussed to the Entertainment of a Large Crowd.

YORK, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—The much talked of free silver debate, between the Lockridge Literary society and the local branch of the Lyceum League of America took place at Bell's hall last evening. Not in years, if ever, before, had such a crowd congregated in this building. The debate was to commence at 8 p. m., but by 7 the house was packed, and even standing room unobtainable. The contestants were Messrs. Smith and White of the Lyceum league and Messrs. Douglas and Morrison of the Lockridge society. E. A. Gilber of York, John Majors and Mr. Barrows of Bradshaw acted as judges. The Lyceum League of America had the affirmative side of the question, "That Free and Unlimited Coinage of Silver at the Ratio of 16 to 1 Should Be Introduced in the United States."

The chairman of the evening, Earl Williams, introduced the first speaker, Leroy Smith. Mr. Smith made a good talk and was well received.

Mr. Douglas of Lockridge was the next speaker, and made a splendid address, after which Mr. White was introduced and took the house by storm. Mr. White is a youth of about 17 years of age, and, although young, is possessed of remarkable oratorical powers. His address was fine. After this Mr. Morrison made a good address.

The closing addresses were made by Messrs. Smith and Douglas. Both were very good and well received. The High School Glee club then rendered "Schneider's Band" and was promptly recalled. After this the decision of the judges was announced in favor of the negative, thus scoring for the Lyceum League of America its first defeat. This rather evens up matters, as some time ago the Lockridge people were defeated by the Lyceum League of America on the tariff question. The affair has caused quite a little talk, and it is pronounced one of the hottest contested debates that has taken place in this city for years.

Avoided the Occupation Tax.

WATERLOO, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—The threatened fight between the town board and Waterloo business men on account of the occupation tax has been amicably settled by the business men taking up $185 worth of warrants, which had been issued by the board for the purpose of laying sidewalks in front of non-resident property owners' lots.

Clifton Hinkley, who had his arm injured while sawing lumber, was taken to the St. Joseph hospital at Omaha this afternoon.

The Free Methodists are fitting up the Smith-Thompson stores, where they will hold revival services.

Charles Todd has moved on to the Corliss farm.

The Waterloo Gazette has opened an office on South Front street.

L. W. Denton shipped a car of cattle to South Omaha yesterday.

The Misses May and Sadie Hill of Omaha are visiting with J. B. Nichols and family.

Miss Anna Leach has presented the city school with a picture of Abraham Lincoln.

Closed Under a Mortgage.

YORK, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—Messrs. Huffman & Ellis, implement dealers of this place, were closed on a chattel mortgage held by F. P. Jones. These parties some time ago bought out Jones, giving this mortgage as part payment.

In the case of Tilden against the Westinghouse company the jury returned a verdict allowing the plaintiff a judgment of $980 after being out but a short time. The amount asked for in the petition was $1,000.

The district court of this county is grinding out a great deal of work and if this continues the docket will no doubt be cleared this term. Every one interested in this matter seems to take a hand and to keep the matter moving and in avoiding delays. The case of Brown against Brantz et al, which is set for tomorrow, was settled between the parties in the controversy.

Seed Grain Proposition Defeated.

MINDEN, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—The people feel very jubilant throughout the county since the rain a few days ago, and many are at work plowing and putting in spring crops.

The question of bonding the county for means to buy feed and seed was voted on in this county yesterday, and although the complete returns have not yet been made, it is well known that the proposition is defeated by a very large majority.

A meeting was held in the court house this afternoon for the purpose of considering the proposition offered by the Chicago Board of Trade, and a committee was appointed to look into the matter and learn what arrangements can be made to procure feed and seed. A number of the committee will go at once to Chicago to make the necessary arrangements.

Had a Narrow Escape.

BUTTE, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—G. H. Sims, a Chicago traveling man, and Peter Morrison, a liveryman of Atkinson, came near finding a watery grave in the Niobrara Thursday night while enroute from Butte to Atkinson. The night was dark and quite cold, and in following the road to the bridge the team suddenly plunged into the river, throwing both men over the dashboard into the water. Sims fell astride the pole and Morrison caught to the harness, which kept them from being swept away by the current. The horses turned around and swam to shore, taking the thoroughly frightened men with them, and without further ado started for Butte, where they arrived about 12 o'clock.

Golden Wedding at Gresham.

GRESHAM, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—Yesterday afternoon 110 friends, relatives and brother Masons called on Mr. and Mrs. George Fuller and had a big dinner, the occasion being their golden wedding. Uncle George has been a Free Mason for the past thirty-seven years. He is 71 and Mrs Fuller 70 years old. Uncle George has been quite helpless with paralysis the past year, and it was indeed a joy to both to see this day. They have a host of friends and were congratulated from far and near. They came to Nebraska twenty years ago.

Aurora Ladies Banquet Their Husbands.

AURORA, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—The Nineteenth Century club, a ladies' literary society, which numbers twenty-six of the leading society ladies of this city, gave its annual banquet to the husbands of members last night at the Aurora house. A splendid musical and literary program was provided. Vice President Mrs. Robert Waddle presided. It was the social event of the season.

Prize Fight at Grand Island.

GRAND ISLAND, March 3.—(Special.)—The "Black Pearl," a negro prize fighter of Hastings, and Jack Wilks, a white pugilist from St. Louis, gave a boxing exhibition at Leon grove, a beer garden about a mile out of town, last night. Four rounds were fought. Wilks, who has not quite the brute strength the colored man possesses, has more science, and, as usual, had the best of it throughout.

Jefferson County Mortgages.

FAIRBURY, March 3.—(Special.)—Jefferson county mortgage record for February: Farm mortgages filed, forty-seven, amounting to $45,379.98; released, thirty-seven, amounting to $35,530.99; city mortgages filed, twelve, $3,211.45; released, two, $700; chattle mortgages filed, sixty-one, $9,898.65; released, thirty-five, $7,013.45.

Damaged Bridge Repaired.

COLUMBUS, Neb., March 3.—(Special.)—Nine piles of the B. & M. railroad bridge over the Platte river, which were taken out by the ice Thursday, were repaired yesterday and trains are running as usual.

TORONTO'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

Almost One Million Dollars' Worth of Property Destroyed

WHOLE CITY IN DANGER AT ONE TIME

Flames Originated in the Six-Story Dry Goods Store of Robert Simpson and Spread Over a Large Area.

TORONTO, Ont., March 3.—At 12:30 o'clock this morning fire was discovered issuing from the windows of Robert Simpson's six-story dry goods store on Quebec and Younge streets. The fire originated in the packing room and the flames, rushing up the elevator shaft, communicated almost instantly to every floor. By the time the first jet of water was thrown upon the huge structure it was doomed. The pressue from the mains was insufficient to throw the water high enough in sufficient quantities to check the raging furnace, and, fanned by a light breeze, the fire was driven across Queen street to the north side. Jamieson's large tailoring establishment was soon a victim. The flames extended to the portion of Eaton's dry goods establisment, a departmental store, facing on Queen street, but were prevented from entering the main building. From Jamieson's the fire extended to Sytcliff's dry goods store and burned it to the ground. The Imperial bank across the street next caught fire and the top flat was destroyed. Henderson's auction room was next burned, while Duffield's tailoring establishment and the Black Horse hotel were gutted.

SPREAD ON ALL SIDES.

The progress of the fire further south on this street was checked. But next to Simpson's on the south was Wanless' jewelry store, which was destroyed, and on the west of Simpson's on Queen street, the flames communicated with Knox church, one of the oldest Presbyterian places of worship in the city. The spire was destroyed, falling with a crash, but the main body of the church was only slightly damaged.

Meantime the buildings on Younge street were burning fiercely. The fire was raging on the east side of Younge and a vast square of stores was doomed. The firemen did their best, but with the apliances at their disposal, their weakness was very perceptible. Fortunately the night was calm, for a wind would have turned a million dollar fire into another such conflagration as the Chicago fire.

Three firemen were seriously injured during the fire and had to be taken to the hospital. The following are the losses and insurance:

	Loss.	Insurance.
R. Simpson	$350,000	$300,000
J. Wanless	42,000	41,000
Jamieson	25,000	25,000
Sutcliffe	90,000	74,000
Milne & Co.	20,000	20,000
Tremont hotel	50,000	5,000
Knox church	50,000	20,000

In addition to this there are large unascertained losses, caused by smoke and water, destruction of street car tracks and the tearing down of trolley and electric light wires, roughly estimated at $250,000, making a total loss of $780,000, with insurance of $470,000.

EXTENT OF DAMAGE AT SALINA.

Total Loss from Fire There Saturday Night Will Be Very Heavy.

SALINA, Kan., March 3.—The fire was finally brought under control at 12:25 this morning, just as it had reached the Grand Central hotel block. That building was saved. Two men were injured during the excitement, one, Lockwood, a baker, falling from a third story window, and S. S. Toby being struck by falling timbers. Lockwood's injuries are fatal, but Toby may live.

The Ober block was owned by Fred French, an eastern capitalist; loss, $20,000. The stock was owned by Charles V. Farwell of Chicago, consisting of dry goods and a grocery store; loss, $60,000. The Salina Daily Republican, the Journal and the Herald companies lost their entire plants, and suffered an aggregate loss of $35,000, with but little insurance. Other losses are: The Greer block, $20,000; insurance, $12,000; Masonic building, $20,000; insurance, $10,000. The remainedr of the losses are divided among about fifteen small firms, and average $5,000 in each case. These people hold but little insurance. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin.

MISSOURI PACIFIC WILL COME IN.

Wabash-Alton Difficulty the Only Cloud in Western Railroad Skies.

CHICAGO, March 3.—The western lines have made excellent progress in completing the organization of their Trunk Line commission, and there seems to be no reason why it should not be in full operation within a very short time. General Passenger Agent Townsend of the Missouri Pacific was present when the meeting convened and explained that his road was in no way anxious to figure as an obstruction to the complete organization of the committee, but it had no intention of joining the committee as long as its competitors were on the outside. It was, however, willing to join when its rivals had done the same thing. Mr. Townsend also announced that the Iron Mountain road would become a member fo the Southwestern association whenever its competitors were ready to take similar action. The Wabash, which had made its membership in the committee contingent upon that of the Missouri Pacific, announced the position taken by Mr. Townsend was satisfactory to them and that it was willing to be considered a full fledged member of the committee when a little matter between it and the Alton road was fixed. This was the reduction in Kansas City-East St. Louis rates announced some time ago by the Alton, and which the Wabash desired to have restored. The Alton was rather unwilling to take any action, but a meeting was arranged for Monday between representatives of the Alton and Wabash to see if some agreement can be reached. The Missouri Pacific declared it was not particularly interested in the Alton-Wabash dispute, but would not sign the committee agreement until the trouble was adjusted. The meeting then adjourned until next Tuesday, after appointing a committee consisting of Chairman Caldwell and the general passenger agents of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Atchison, Denver & Rio Grande, Burlington and Northern Pacific, which will meet on Friday of next week to settle the conditions under which the various local associations shall be formed.

The joint meeting of trunk and western lines, which was continued Saturday, developed nothing, no action of any kind being taken. The eastern roads were much aggrieved because the western roads are paying commissions in their territory, but several of them were forced to admit they were doing the same thing in the territory of the western lines. The same questions as were up at the meeting yesterday were gone over today and the western lines promised that at some time in the future, when they have no troubles of their own to bother them, they will take up the complaints of the eastern roads and see what can be done.

Short Line Gets Its Privileges Renewed.

MILWAUKEE, March. 3.—Judge Jenkins has entered an order ratifying a contract entered into by the receivers of the Northern Pacific railway with the Northern Pacific Terminal company of Portland, Ore. The terminal company owns and operates terminal properties at Portland which are leased by the Northern Pacific. Default of payment was made by the Oregon Short Line and Utah Northern Railway company. The Short Line soon after went into the hands of a receiver. Judge Jenkins orders the Short Line shall be reinstated in the privileges of the original contract on payment by the receivers of the amount defaulted.

Foreclosing on the Reading.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2.—Today in the United States court, the Pennsylvania company, for insurance on lives and granting annuities as trustees for the Reading mortgage bondholders, filed a bill in equity praying for the foreclosure of the mortgage. This step has been expected for some time, the trustees having been requested just two months ago to institute proceedings for the foreclosure of the general mortgage since which time John S. Johnson, the Pennsylvania's counsel, has been busily engaged in the preparation of the bill in equity filed today.

Passenger Agent Bennett Resigns.

SALT LAKE, Utah, March 2.—General Passenger Agent Bennett of the Rio Grande Western road resigned today. F. A. Wadleigh of the Denver & Rio Grande is mentioned as a possible successor.

MAKES THE LAW MUCH STRONGER.

Effect of House Roll 522 on the State Depository Act.

LINCOLN, March 3.—(Special.)—During the session several lively discussions have been had on the merits and demerits of the state depository law. In the house a bill to repeal it was placed on the general file after a day's discussion in committee of the whole. During the debate on the measure it was charged that the bankers of the state were in favor of the repeal. This was given color by the attitude of the bankers in the house. It is apparent, however, that this conclusion is not well founded. Many of the bankers do not favor the repeal of the bill, but do hope to see it given such emendatory aid as shall make it operative. House roll No. 522, now in the hands of the house committee on banking and currency, was introduced by Representative Rouse of Hall county at the request of a well known banker of Grand Island. It is known as the county treasurer bill, and is intended to strengthen the provisions of the general law as applied to county deposits.

"Nebraska needs a depository law," says a banker, in speaking of the measure, "but it needs a good one—a much better one than is now on our statute books. I do not imagine that house roll No. 522 is perfect, but I consider it much better than anything that has thus far been proposed. Its chief fault is that it follows the old law, making 3 per cent the minimum rate of interest. There will be instances in which certain funds, which are to remain on deposit a short time, or funds in which there will be sudden and violent changes, will not be worth 3 per cent to a conservative banker, and as a consequence counties will be likely to get inferior security offered for such funds."

Main points of difference between the old law and the proposed, showing wherein the existing law is strengthened, are synopsized as follows:

PROPOSED LAW.	OLD LAW.
Makes it the board's duty to investigate standing of bank.	No such provision.
Makes it the board's duty to investigate standing of bondsmen.	Simply requires board to approve bond.
Requires sureties to qualify and punishes them for perjury.	No such provision.
Provides that county boards may require additional security or revoke appointments when banks or sureties become involved or are found to be losing money heavily.	No such provisions.
Restricts deposits in banks in same county to 50 per cent of capital and surplus, thereby preventing large deposits in small banks.	No such provisions.
Permits deposits outside of the county when banks in county will not bid for the money or are not safe, but restricts deposits outside of the county to 10 per cent of capital of depository bank, so as to distribute the funds among a number of small banks or place them in the large banks in large cities.	No such provisions.
Permits the lapping of the terms of depository banks during the months of January and February, so that transfers may be made by gradual withdrawals from the old depository and gradual deposits in the new depository, thereby rendering it easier for the old depository to pay off, and not burden a single new depository with a sudden large deposit.	No such provision.
Gives the county the custody of vouchers and the right to require auxiliary books to be kept for the purpose of showing the transactions between treasurer and depository.	No such provision.
Gives the county board the right to make necessary rules and regulations.	Gives the right to the treasurer.
Provides that sinking funds shall be kept in separate accounts.	Practically does the same.
Provides that other funds may be consolidated or kept separate, as directed by the county board, and permits the keeping of an undivided account until receipts can be properly apportioned.	Requires every fund to be kept separate, a provision clearly impracticable, as it would require a daily apportionment of all receipts and would require the keeping of many small bank accounts.
Requires all public funds in the treasurer's hands to be deposited in depository banks.	Requires only county funds to be so deposited.
An attempt is made to make the title sufficiently comprehensive to embrace all the provisions of the bill.	The title is so condensed that it is possible that the supreme court might hold that some of the provisions of the bill were not clearly indicated by the title, and for that reason they were not operative.
It does not go into force until next year, so as not to disturb existing relations.	

WESTERN PENSIONS.

Veterans of the Late War Remembered by the General Government.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—(Special.)—Pensions granted, issue of February 16, 1895, were:

Nebraska: Original—Peter Dick, Sidney, Cheyenne county; James F. Sharpless, Ansley, Custer county; Morris C. Stull, Osceola, Polk county. Restoration and reissue—Edwin A. Morgan (deceased), Lincoln, Lancaster county. Increase—Judson Clark, Fairbury, Jefferson county; David E. Hart, Deloit, Holt county. Original widows, etc.—Ann E. Clark, Cozad, Dawson county.

Iowa: Original—James H. Wise, Urbana, Benton county; Amasa S. Folsom, Marshalltown, Marshall county; John Heblenthal, Keoku