jury found that deceased came to her death from the bursting of a blood vessel. The physicians and attendants at the hospital were relieved of any blame whatever. The home of Mrs. Woods was at Seward, and she came to the asylum about a year ago. She was exceedingly violent. The bursting of the blood vessel was doubtless due to the awful strain which she put upon herself by her constant raving. She was at breakfast at the usual hour and the attendant noticed nothing particularly out of the way in her conduct. Later, she retired to her room and nothing more was seen of her until she was discovered dead. Officers of the institution were immediately summoned, but found no marks of violence upon her person. Mrs. Woods was a sister-in-law of J. B. Ferguson, a music dealer of this city, and was a popular woman at her home in Seward, prior to the time of her mental ailment. The remains will probably be taken to Seward for interment.

Early this morning Tony Soruso, a fruit peddler, was shot in the hip by one of three men whom he encountered near the corner of O and Fourteenth streets. Two shots were fired. One lodged in his left hip, making a painful but not dangerous wound. Soruso says he does not know who his assailant was, but this story is disbelieved at police headquarters. From what can be ascertained, there was a festival of some sort among the Italians, and Tony succeeded in getting considerably under the influence of liquor and addressed some abusive remarks to others present. It is suspected that one of them did the shooting.

The finances of the recent charity ball given by the police and fire departments have been figured up. They show net receipts of $358.04, which will be used as a fund for the poor and needy, Health Officer Rhode officiating as agent for the departments.

Court Reporter John M. Fairfield goes down to Tecumseh this evening to take the testimony in the preliminary hearing of D. F. Osgood, the Lincoln attorney, who is accused of hiring Mike Yorty to set fire to the Buffum mills. Osgood intends asking for a continuance, but he may not get it.

QUIET HOLIDAY.

The anniversary of Washington's birthday was generally observed in Lincoln, although there was no public demonstration. An attempt was made last week in the house of representatives to hold an informal session and indulge in oratory and the singing of patriotic songs. This was voted down with the consequence that a great many of the members took occasion to go home and visit with their families. All public business at the state house and county and city buildings was suspended and the departments closed during the day and all were closed in the afternoon. A large number of citizens with their families indulged in sleighing parties, and the day was generally given over to enjoyment and rest.

SATURDAY'S HATCH OF BILLS.

Avalanche of Proposed Laws Poured in on the House.

LINCOLN, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Following is the list of bills read the first time in the house on Saturday:

By Gaffin, house roll No. 491, for the government and regulation of the Home of the Friendless and to repeal and amend section 4 of an act entitled "An act to establish a Home for the Friendless in the state of Nebraska and to provide for the erection and location and government of the same," approved February 18, 1881.

By Yeiser, house roll No. 492, to amend section 5397, Compiled Statutes of 1895, being section 266 of the Code of Civil Procedure, under the title of of receivers, by striking out the phrase "or is probably insufficient to discharge the mortgage debt," and to repeal said original section.

By Yeiser, house roll No. 493, to regulate the charges of gas companies doing business in Nebraska and to provide a penalty for the violation of the provisions thereof.

By Yeiser, house roll No. 494, to declare unlawful and void all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts or combinations made with a view to lessen or which tend to lessen free competition in the importation or sale of articles imported into this state or of the manufacture or sale of articles of domestic growth or of domestic raw material; to declare unlawful or void all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts or combination between persons or corporations designed or which tend to advance, reduce or control the price of such products or articles to producer or consumer of any such product or articles; to provide for forfeiture of charter and franchise of any corporation organized under the laws of this state violating any of the provisions of this act; to prohibit every foreign corporation violating any of the provisions of this act from doing business in this state; to prescribe penalties for any violation of this act, and to authorize the attorney general of this state to institute legal proceedings against any corporation violating the provisions therein, and to enforce the penalties prescribed; to authorize any person or corporation damaged by any such trust, agreement or combination to sue for the recovery of such damage and to repeal sections 5336 and 5343, inclusive, of chapter xcl-a of the Compiled Statutes of 1895.

By Yeiser, house roll No. 495, to regulate the charges of electric light companies doing business in Nebraska and to provide a penalty for a violation of the provisions thereof.

By Jones of Wayne, house roll No. 496, to compensate the producers of sugar beets and chicory beets, and to provide for the appropriation of $75,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

By Casebeer, house roll No. 497, to amend section 1, article xv, of the Constitution of the state of Nebraska, relating to amendments.

By Casebeer, house roll No. 498, to provide for an educational commission and for the publication of school books for the state of Nebraska and to define their powers and duties and to repeal all acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act.

By Paul F. Clark, house roll No. 499, to amend subdivision 21, section 67, of an act entitled, "An Act to Incorporate Cities of the First Class, and Regulate Their Duties, Powers, Government and Remedy," approved March 29, 1889, and to repeal said section as now existing.

By Phelps, house roll No. 500, to provide for the maintenance of the experimental station established by the State Board of Agriculture at Culbertson, Hitchcock county, Neb.

By Hull, house roll No. 501, to have the judgments assessed and taxed.

By Hull, house roll No. 502, repealing section 473 of article iii, of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska of 1895 and prohibiting any court from reviving any dormant judgment.

By Horner, house roll No. 503, providing that merchants may furnish goods and file itemized statements thereof in the office of the county clerk and when so filed such itemized statements shall constitute prior liens.

By Kapp, house roll No. 504, to provide for service and proceedings in cases against school districts in the state of Nebraska where school districts are unorganized through the removal of the officers therefrom or for any other reason, and to provide for proceedings to recover judgment now rendered against such districts and for judgments upon evidences of indebtedness of such districts, and to provide for levying taxes for the payment of judgments heretofore or hereafter rendered.

By Sovers, house roll No. 505, to provide for the making of contracts in writing between owners of land and brokers or agents employed to sell land.

By Straub, house roll No. 506, to relieve the farmers of the state of Nebraska from the unequal burden of paying taxes on their annual income, which is not imposed upon any other class of our citizens.

By Rich, house roll No. 507, to amend section 2,641, chapter xxiii of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1895, and to repeal said section as now existing.

By Rich, house roll No. 508, to amend sections 308, 309, 310 and 311 of the Code of Civil Procedure, being sections 5,880, 5,881 and 5,882 and 5,883, and to repeal said sections as now existing.

By Rich, house roll No. 509, to establish a superior court in cities of the first class having over 16,000 and less than 25,000 inhabitants, prescribing its jurisdiction, providing for the election of a judge and clerk thereof, fixing their salary and prescribing their powers and duties.

By Rich, house roll No. 510, to amend section 1,583 of the Consolidated Statutes of Nebraska of 1893 and to repeal said original section.

By Rich, house roll No. 511, to amend section 1,077 of the Consolidated Statutes of Nebraska of 1893 and to repeal said section as hereinbefore existing.

By Webb, house roll No. 512, to provide for the selection of a district judge pro tem and defining his powers and duties.

By Webb, house roll No. 513, to repeal section 6,483 of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska of 1895, providing for adjournments in justices' courts, and to enact a substitute therefor.

By Van Horn, house roll No. 514, to regulate and specify certain void contracts.

By Shull, house roll No. 515, to amend section 42, chapter xxviii, entitled "Fees in Excess of Certain Amounts" of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1895 and to repeal said original section.

By Shull, house roll No. 516, to amend section 2459 of the Compiled Statutes of 1895 and to repeal said original section.

By Shull, house roll No. 517, to amend section 220, chapter xix, Compiled Statutes of 1895 and to repeal said original section.

By Shull, house roll No. 518, to govern the sale of patent or proprietary medicines.

By R. A. Clark, house roll 519, making an appropriation for the relief of Mrs. Lucius Lawson.

By Hyatt, house roll No. 521, to amend section 19, chapter lxxxvii, of the Compiled Statutes of the state of Nebraska, and to repeal it as it now stands.

By Wooster, house roll No. 522, to amend sections 13, 14 and 26 of an act to provide for the organization and government of irrigation districts and provide for the acquiring of canals already built or partly constructed for the acquiring of the right of way to build irrigation ditches or canals and other property, for the dividing of certain portions of the territory of the state of Nebraska into irrigation districts, and for said irrigation districts to vote bonds for the purpose of constructing irrigation canals, for the purpose of buying and purchasing by said irrigation districts irrigation canals already constructed or partly constructed, and for laying water rents, providing for a system of revenue to be raised by taxation upon the property of said irrigating districts, to pay the interest and principal of said bonds, and the manner in which the same shall be done, providing for elections in said districts for the purpose of electing officers and providing for the management of said districts also providing for the increase and enlargement of said districts whenever it becomes necessary or best to increase the size, and to repeal the sections so amended.

By Loomis, house roll No. 523, to amend section 4, of subdivision 9 of chapter lxxix, of the Compiled Statutes, and to repeal said section as now existing.

By Gresvenor, house roll No. 524, to amend section 2 of chapter xxviii, entitled "Fees," of the Compiled Statutes of the state of Nebraska for 1895 and to repeal said section as now existing, with the emergency clause.

By Felker, house roll No. 525, to amend section 4a of chapter lxxiii of the Compiled Statutes of 1895 of Nebraska, entitled "Real Estate," and to repeal said section as now existing.

By Webb, house roll No. 526, providing for local boards of arbitration and standing boards of mediation and arbitration, and defining their duties and powers.

By Sheldon, house roll No. 527, to regulate assessments and to provide for home rule in taxation.

By Sheldon, house roll No. 528, to provide for holding the state fair of Nebraska at or near the capital of the state, and to repeal so much of section 1, chapter ii, of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska, 1895, and all other acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith.

By committee on claims, house roll No. 529, to authorize the Board of Public Lands and Buildings to purchase the southeast quarter of section 16, town 7, range 10, in Adams county.

By Shull, house roll No. 530, to amend section 29, article iii, chapter xviii, Compiled Statutes of 1895, and to repeal said original section.

DANCING CLUB DISRUPTS CHURCH.

Weeping Water Congregationalists Are Split Into Two Factions.

WEEPING WATER, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—A great battle is at present being fought in this city, which may result in the disruption of one of the local churches. The trouble is the outgrowth of a dancing club organized two seasons ago to afford amusement through the winter months. The club contained among its members several members of the churches. The Methodist Episcopal church people took steps immediately to stop those of its members who participated, but after being confronted with letters of resignation, dropped the matter. This season the Congregationalists have taken the matter up. The pastor has preached sermons touching on the question; special prayer meetings have been called to pray for the sinners, committee meetings have been called to devise means of preventing the dancing, and finally a new church manual was sprung, which prohibits members from playing cards, attending balls and kindred amusements, and to hereafter vote and work against the saloon. This did not meet altogether with favor, for there are republicans who feel they could not vote the prohibition ticket. Others enjoy a quiet game of cards, and still others insist on dancing, and a few wanted inserted the payment of debts. Two more special meetings were held, another sermon preached on the subject, but the old manual is doing service yet. Everywhere the subject is discussed. Those favoring the change openly declare they will not help support the church if its members persist in dancing, while the other side declare they will not sign a new constitution and will withdraw their support if it should be voted by a majority to go into effect. Thus the matter stands and the question as to whether church members can dance, play cards and vote according to their wishes remains unsettled.

AIR SHIP IS SEEN FROM KEARNEY.

Responsible Citizens Are Witnesses of the Mysterious Lights.

KEARNEY, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—For three or four days past there has been more or less speculation and interest in a mysterious light seen in the west between 7 and 10 o'clock in the evening. It has appeared in the west and seems to grow from a small, faint light to a large, bright one and then diminish again. On two occasions it has remained apparently stationary for an hour or so, and then would take an undulating motion and disappear to the north. Some think it is an air ship and others who are more superstitious think it is a sign of some dire disaster. The light has been seen by some reliable and responsible persons, among whom are the family of M. A. Brown, editor of the Daily Hub, and Peter O'Brien, clerk of the district court. A satisfactory explanation of it would be gladly received by many, as they are getting considerably worked up over it.

Docket Is Cleared Up.

WEST POINT, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—District court was adjourned today after a continuous session of three weeks, a circumstance almost unparalleled in this county. Three very important criminal cases occupied nearly all of the day sessions of the court, equity matters being generally adjudicated upon in the evening. The docket was pretty thoroughly cleared, a result highly gratifying to the taxpayers of the county.

Old Settlers Meet at Sutton.

SUTTON, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special Telegram.)—The old settlers of this region met today for their annual reunion at Sutton. The occasion was enlivened with a program of music, a poem, papers and reminiscences by pioneers. It was decided to make it a state association, and extend the invitation to all who consider themselves pioneers to meet here at Sutton next 22d of February for the annual reunion. The following were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. L. D. Evans, president; Edith Clark, secretary; I. N. Clark, treasurer.

SIX TO TWELVE INCHES OF SNOW.

White Blanket Will Prepare Nebraska Soil for the Spring Wheat.

WEEPING WATER, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Snow commenced falling yesterday evening and there is now about four inches on the level. It was so heavy that it has not drifted much.

BLAIR, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—About eight inches of snow on the level fell here yesterday. Today the sleighing is excellent.

ST. PAUL, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—A fine snow covering the ground to the depth of nearly four inches fell yesterday. There was but little wind and it did not drift. When it melts it will give the earth another good soaking. The farmers were about ready to commence sowing wheat, but this snow will delay them at least for a few days.

SCHUYLER, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—It began snowing here yesterday at noon and continued doing so at a lively rate until a late hour last night, when about eight inches of snow had fallen. The wind was quiet, so that the snow drifted but little. It is not cold and the snow is melting fast in exposed places.

NORTH LOUP, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Snow began falling here yesterday morning, with a northwest wind and falling thermometer, and continued all day, but not heavily. The mercury stood at about 13 degrees above zero the greater portion of the afternoon and is at 4 above this morning. The snow has drifted slightly.

YORK, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The snow storm, which was in progress here all day yesterday, has coated the earth with eleven inches of snow on the level. Satisfaction is expressed among the farmers of the county. Sleighing is now the seasonable pastime with York people.

SHELTON, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Snow began falling at 11 o'clock yesterday morning and continued to fall hard all day until 8:30 last evening. It now lies fully eight inches deep on the level. This amount of moisture will put the ground in excellent condition for spring work.

HASTINGS, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—A twelve-inch snow has fallen here during the past twenty-seven hours. It was not accompanied by any wind and the ground is in excellent condition for sleighing. This is the first snow that has fallen here this winter without the accompaniment of a heavy wind. Everybody is taking advantage of the fine sleighing and the stillness of the clear weather is intermingled with music from bells of all kinds.

JUNIATA, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The fine weather of the past week gave place last night to a severe snow storm. The snow continues to come down rapidly today. It is now about six inches deep. There is some wind, but the snow has not drifted much. The ground will be greatly benefited by the moisture. The weather is not cold. The first flight of wild fowl was seen yesterday on their way to the Platte. The hunters are oiling up shotguns repairing the decoy geese and ducks and overhauling the boat and canoe in preparation for a fine time with the feathered tribe. Sporting men think there will be plenty of game this spring.

DUNCAN, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Fully eight inches of snow has fallen since yesterday morning. In some places it has drifted, but not badly. The storm has put a stop to the corn hauling for a few days.

LYONS, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—About ten inches of snow fell here yesterday and last night. There was no wind to form drifts. Farmers say the snow will do great damage to corn piled on the ground.

HUMBOLDT, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The beautiful springlike weather of Saturday ended in a rain storm at night. There was also thunder and lightning and quite a fall of small snowy hail. Sunday morning presented a winter scene, with colder temperature.

CLARKS, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—It began snowing here about noon yesterday and continued until past midnight. The snow lies fully six inches on the level.

GIBBON, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Snow began falling at noon on Sunday and continued until 8 o'clock, drifting but little. About six inches of snow covers the ground. The mercury is at zero. This will saturate the ground to as great a depth as it has been in the early spring at any time during the twenty-five years last past. Farmers regard the conditions as perfect and every foot of broken land is in demand. Many renters cannot secure land for a general crop and a number have arranged to cultivate a few acres each to sugar beets for the Grand Island factory. The beet crop in this vicinity last year was very profitable.

Twenty-five thousand head of sheep and lambs are being fed here this winter. A few cars have been marketed, the returns for which indicate that the business will be very profitable this year. Fat cattle are scarce. Hog cholera prevails in some localities, with about the usual fatal results, the fear of which has induced many farmers to market their immature hogs, and between the deaths and the premature shipments the present stock of hogs is far below the usual amount. In consequence of this the farmers have been largely deprived of the best market for their immense corn crop, which brings 8½ cents at the elevators. Farmers are arranging for a smaller acreage of corn and more of other crops, especially wheat, for the coming season.

REPUBLICAN CITY, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—It has been snowing here steadily since Sunday morning.

FORT CALHOUN, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—A severe snow storm struck this place Sunday morning and continued through the day and night. Some eight inches of snow fell, followed by a cold wave Monday afternoon. The cold was just in time to save the many bushels of corn in crib here.

MITCHELL, S. D., Feb. 22.—(Special Telegram.)—The Milwaukee road, which has been closed between Mitchell and Aberdeen on account of the snow blockade since the 16th, was opened tonight by the arrival of the snowplow and a passenger train at 6 o'clock. Reports received are that the road was blocked again today by a blizzard north of Wolsey. The Milwaukee passenger train was abandoned tonight. Fully 100 passengers are awaiting the departure of the train.

Papillion Items.

PAPILLION, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Colonel Ritche, now 84 years of age, and one of the oldest residents of this county, has been quite sick for the past few days.

Charles Nownes, doorkeeper of the senate at Lincoln, spent Sunday at home.

John Metzger has disposed of his implement business to George Zimmerman. John will locate at Leigh, Neb.

Herman Sander, a former resident of this place, has rented a residence here and will engage in the mercantile business in the spring. He is at present in Omaha.

Eleven acres of land and a meat market, the property of Charles Welch, were sold at mortgage sale Saturday. John Thompson, the mortgagee, purchased the property for $1,200.

Cattle Thief Escapes and is Chased.

HAY SPRINGS, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—There was great excitement this morning when it was learned that W. H. Cameron, the man under arrest for stealing nine head of cattle from a ranchman north of town, had made his escape. It is believed he was allowed to escape, and suspicion points to several prominent men in town. The cattlemen are very indignant, and will make a thorough investigation, and if possible bring the guilty men to justice. A posse started in pursuit last night, armed with rifles, determined to bring the fugitive in dead or alive.

Cases in District Court.

AVOCA, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—In the probate court today the executrix of the estate of W. D. Schoenseman, deceased, filed notice of her appointment, and also filed an application to sell personal property. The trial of Zelmer Hughes on a charge of seduction was taken up today. In the case of Fred Knatt against Richard Buldthaus the defendants, Risbow, Joseph, Henry and Leonard Buldthaus, filed objections to the report of the referees.

Revivals Continue at Lyons.

LYONS, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The revival meetings conducted by Rev. T. C. Webster of the Methodist church are still in progress. Miss Brown of Omaha is here to assist in the meetings the coming week.

Make Merry Without a Program.

NORTH LOUP, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The Young Married People's club met on Saturday evening at the residence of Mr. A. J. Davis and held a good old-fashioned session, without formal program, spending the evening in social conversation, games, songs and instrumental music. A few of those present were: Mr. and Mrs. James Clement, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Green, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hutchins, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Burdick, Boulder, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Hutchins, Mrs. John Goodrich, Mrs. Eva Hill, Mrs. Nora Pierce, Grand Junction, Ia.; Miss Myra Babcock, St. Paul; Miss Cora Brace, Mr. Claude Hill, Mr. W. E. Gowen, Mr. Harry Rood. Miss Brace rendered some excellent instrumental music and a quartet of singers favored the guests at intervals with a number of secular and spiritual songs, while an oyster supper was not the least of the attractions of the evening.

FUNERAL OF JUDGE E. W. THOMAS.

Lawyers of Falls City Pay Respects to Their Honored Dead.

FALLS CITY, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The funeral of Judge Thomas was held at the Methodist church Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Mr. Baxter, of the Episcopal church, of which the deceased was a member. The floral offerings were beautiful, consisting of pieces from the members of the bar, cemetery auxiliary, church guilds and many personal friends. The active pallbearers were all young attorneys from this city, while Judges Stull and Broady acted as honorary pallbearers. Many prominent lawyers from Auburn, Tecumseh, Lincoln and other places throughout the state attended the funeral. A special from Lincoln brought many officials of the B. & M., of which road Mr. Thomas was local attorney.

Edward Whittingham Thomas was born May 30, 1839, on Edisto island, off the coast of South Carolina, and was educated at Charleston college, the University of Berlin and the University of Gottingen, Germany. He located at Nebraska City in 1857, and engaged in the practice of law, removed from there to Brownville, Neb., and from that place to Falls City, where he has resided for the past fifteen years. In 1865 he was married to Miss Kate Allison, who, with three daughters and two sons, survive him. The children are: Miss Anna Thomas of Columbus, O., and Miss Cornelia Thomas of Buffalo, N. Y., both teachers; T. Gaillian Thomas, who is attending the Chicago School of Pharmacy; Walter Thomas, who was visiting his brother in Chicago at the time of the accident, and Miss Katie, who was the only one at home with her mother. All the children arrived in time for the funeral. Mr. Thomas was the leader of the bar of this district, and one of the greatest lawyers this state has had. He was a diligent student all his life, and, with all the diffidence of real merit and ability, was modest, retiring and unassuming. He was an upright and honest citizen, a kind and affectionate father and a devoted husband. The community sympathizes with the stricken family.

MARRIED IN COLONIAL STYLE.

Costumes of Washington's Time Worn at a Wedding at Valley.

VALLEY, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special Telegram.)—There were married at the home of the bride's parents this evening Leonard C. Gaines of Elk City to Bethiah Cowles of this place. Rev. J. P. Yost officiated, assisted by U. G. Lacey. Everything was arranged to represent the old colonial time of Washington, even to the elder sister dancing in the brass kettle. The bride was dressed in white silk, trimmed with orange blossoms. The bridesmaids were all dressed in colonial costumes. The house was decorated with American flags. About seventy-five guests and relatives were present. After the ceremony the wedding supper was served and a goodly number of valuable presents were presented to the happy couple.

War Between Juniors and Seniors.

NORTH LOUP, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Since the adoption of class colors by the junior department of the city schools there has been a growing feeling of rivalry between that department and the seniors, occasionally breaking out in minor acts of violence, such as forcibly tearing the colors from the clothing of the former, etc. This opposition, which has apparently been growing in intensity, culminated in a tumult on Saturday evening, when the juniors were about to start out for a trip into the country to the residence of a member of the class for the purpose of holding a social in which it was intended that oysters should figure conspicuously, but before they had left the city limits a detail of the opposing forces attacked the commissary wagon and attempted to capture the colors of those in charge and also the oysters, which were soon scattered on the ground in all directions. A general row was the result, in which it is feared considerable bad blood was engendered, though none of the young men were seriously injured, no weapons having been used.

Beatrice Firemen's Entertainment.

BEATRICE, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The Beatrice volunteer fire department gave its annual entertainment this evening, including the presentation of exemption papers to the following members, they having served as firemen continuously for five years: A. G. Kemper, E. W. Hackney, John Thomsen, Al Wyatt, J. C. Hare, John Epp, John Plough, O. J. Emery and Frank Brenn. During the evening a splendid musical program was rendered. The exercises were held at the Auditorium and were witnessed by a large crowd of people, including the members of the city council, who attended in a body. The evening was ended with dancing.

Wish to Keep a Good Mayor.

WEST POINT, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—The election of city officers is now agitating the community. The almost universal sentiment is for the re-election of Mayor Giffert, he having by his wise and businesslike administration redeemed the city from the almost hopeless quagmire of debt and dishonor in which the careless administration of former incumbents had placed it. The city has now a balance in its treasury and its obligations provided for, an experience which the citizens propose to exemplify by reelecting Mr. Giffert to the mayoralty.

Father Comes After His Boy.

SHELTON, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Mr. H. B. Edwards, from Belle Plaine, Ia., arrived here yesterday in search of his boy, Lamborn Edwards, 14 years old, who left his home in Belle Plaine February 9 and came west to satisfy his curiosity. He has been here about a week and was employed in a coal yard. Marshal Smith received word to look out and consequently took the boy in charge and received the reward of $10. Mr. Edwards is a dairyman.

Nebraska News Notes.

The Seward creamery is preparing to start up operations.

Newcastle is making an effort to raise funds to build and operate a creamery.

An effort is being made to revive the North Platte Business Men's association.

The residence of Ross Gano, on the Santee reservation near Niobrara, was destroyed by fire.

M. C. Keith, one of the pioneer stockmen of Nebraska, is lying very ill at his home in North Platte.

Tekamah people are talking of organizing a vigilance committee to protect themselves against evil doers.

A Tecumseh man worked out poll tax for several who preferred to pay the money. Then when he was warned to work his own he surprised the street commissioner with a certificate of disability.

George E. Clark, receiver for the defunct Brunswick bank, sold the notes held by the bank at public sale, but the amount of money received didn't pay for the expense of winding up its affairs.

The Tecumseh Gun club organized a few evenings since with the following officers: President, F. D. Lewis; secretary, W. S. Jones; treasurer, C. E. Ferguson. The first meeting of the club was to have been held at the fair grounds on February 17.

An Antelope county grain dealer estimates that 100,000 bushels of corn in that county have or will spoil by being piled upon the ground because the owners have not crib room for it and it got into unmarketable condition before it could be hauled off.

At half past 4 o'clock Monday morning fire was discovered in Henry Herbes' saloon at Humphrey. The flames spread rapidly, burning two buildings adjoining the saloon, the meat market and residence of Joseph Gehr and the drug store of Joseph Anselme. The Commercial hotel was badly damaged and also an implement house occupied by H. J. Bruenig.

REFORM PRESS MEN GATHER

Both Factions Among the Editors Hold Their Conventions.

AT KANSAS CITY AND AT MEMPHIS

Sovereign Chief Among Those Who Meet in the Missouri Town—Paul Vandervoort Leads the Other Wing.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 22.—The populist editors who refused to recognize the authority of Paul Vandervoort in calling a meeting of the National Reform Press association at Memphis, Tenn., met in the parlors of the Hotel Ashland today for the purpose of organizing a new association. The gathering was the outcome of a call issued by Arthur Rozelle, secretary-treasurer of the national association and chairman of the Missouri state people's party committee, for the purpose "of organizing and perpetuating a real people's press association."

Among the editors here are General Master Workman Sovereign of the Knights of Labor, who holds membership as the head of the Knights of Labor official journal; Frank C. Richter, Clayton, Ala.; M. V. Carrol, Lamar, Mo.; R. H. Jones, Canon City, Colo.; F. S. Mickey, Hebron, Neb.; J. W. Tanner, Fullerton, Neb.; P. D. Etue, Anderson, Mo.; G. E. Brown, Hastings, Neb.; J. B. Ilery, Greeley, Neb.; J. A. Edgerton, Lincoln, Neb.; Warwick Saunders, Columbus, Neb.; J. F. Abyn, York, Neb.; Leo Vincent, Guthrie, Okl.; J. M. Gass, Des Moines, Ia.; E. W. Stuart, Colby, Kan.; J. K. Rogers, Burlington, Kan.; A. D. Wagoner, Harveyville, Kan. J. V. Wolfe, commissioner of public land and buildings, of Nebraska, and J. W. Edgerton, railroad commissioner of the same state, are also present. There will be papers from various editors and many miscellaneous matters will be considered during the meeting. Officers will be chosen and a place fixed for the next annual meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 o'clock by Chairman Rozelle, who made a brief address. He said:

STATES THE SITUATION.

"Friends and Co-Workers of the Reform Press: In calling this meeting to order and before proceeding with a temporary organization, I deem it my duty to acquaint those who are not familiar with the situation with the facts leading up to this movement. It is not my desire to say anything that may tend to widen the differences that have grown up between some of our editors, or add to inharmonious conditions in the party organization. On the contrary, I would heal over any difficulties that may exist. The most of you are familiar with the organization of the National Reform Press association at Cincinnati, on the 20th of May, 1891, at which time the people's party was formed, which organization has, unfortunately, declined in membership and interest until at the present time not more than fifty of the 1,200 populist editors claim any connection with the organization, and not a dozen, if indeed, one of these, is in good standing, with dues fully paid, as required by the constitution. The reasons for this unorganized condition are very generally known and it is hardly necessary to engage in a lengthy discussion of them at this time.

"However, for the benefit of those who may be uninformed, I desire to state that the work of disintegration began at Dallas, Tex., a year ago, when the last president of the association was elected, since which time he has pursued a 'rule or ruin' policy, endeavoring to destroy those whom he could not control. He has in his official capacity arrayed a considerable portion of our editors in open rebellion against the constituted party authorities, and by refusing to concur in the action of the last national convention, placed himself without the pale of the party and should be recognized as a bolter, if he was ever, indeed, a true populist. His recent action, in arbitrarily issuing a call for the meeting at Memphis without first having the secretary take a vote of the executive board, as provided by the constitution, is characteristic of his methods and should not be tolerated by any true reformer.

INTENTION OF VANDERVOORT.

"If there were no other reason, this action alone would warrant the reform editors of the country in making a vigorous protest if not in organizing a new association. It must be very evident that it is the intention of Mr. Vandervoort and his friends to read out of the party and keep out of the press association all populists who supported Mr. Bryan and an electoral fusion in the last campaign. If this shall be their policy, it is one that we should not concur in.

"Without attempting to forecast the work of this body of editors, I will take the liberty to suggest that we confine ourselves strictly to business and social lines, doing only that which will tend to harmonize the reform elements, instead of creating strife and dissension. It should be our duty to sustain and strengthen the national committee and the regular party organization, rather than lend encouragement to the puny efforts of disgruntled individuals to disorganize and disrupt our forces in the great work of political reformation which is so necessary to the welfare of our country. To this end I trust our efforts will be directed."

No fixed program had been arranged, and when Mr. Rozelle had concluded, the work of perfecting temporary organization was taken up. J. V. Wolfe of Nebraska was nominated for temporary chairman, but declined to serve, saying that while he was thoroughly in sympathy with the objects of the meeting, he was not at present actively engaged in newspaper work. Leo Vincent of Guthrie, Okl., one of the leading populists of the territory, was named and promptly elected.

Chairman Vincent assumed the chair and without making an address called for the order of business. A discussion over the matter of credentials arose, and Chairman Vincent said that the present meeting would be considered the regular one of the National Reform Press association, and that those holding memberships in the national order would be eligible.

Committees were named as follows: Credentials, Grand Master Workman Sovereign, J. A. Edgerton of Nebraska, Chandler of Oklahoma. Permanent organization, J. A. Rozelle, Missouri; J. H. Lewis, Missouri; Warwick Saunders, Columbus, Neb. A recess was taken till 2 o'clock.

The actual membership at the morning session was forty, but it was expected that the number would be materially increased by further arrivals during the day.

Miss O'Neill of the Reform Press bureau, St. Louis; Miss Pauline Stone, daughter of ex-Governor William J. Stone, and Miss Sovereign, daughter of the grand master workman of the Knights of Labor, were among several women present.

CALLS VANDERVOORT A JUDAS.

When the afternoon session was called to order there were fully seventy-five editors present, and a dozen or so others came in before adjournment. A heated discussion that extended throughout the entire session was immediately precipitated by a motion to proceed with the organization of a new national organization, distinct and separate from the National Reform Press association.

J. A. Edgerton of Nebraska made a motion to defer action until tomorrow, or at least until some word could be heard from the Memphis committee as to its intentions. He cited Senator William V. Allen's message, read from Washington yesterday, and counseling the convention to delay action for a day or two. He favored a separate organization, but desired to first know what the Memphis people were going to do.

Grand Master Workman Sovereign took a decided stand for immediate action. The Memphis convention, he said, had been irregularly called. The Kansas City gathering was, in fact, the real convention and there was nothing to justify delay.

Warwick Saunders of Columbus, Neb., said it was out of the question to organize on the strength of the call, which assailed the people's party generally. He did not favor Vandervoort—the latter was looked upon by the people of his state as a Judas by profession, yet he did not think it right to desert the Memphis part of the organization because it was being led by a false leader. A new organization here along such lines would mean a division of the populists of the country. Thus divided, their ability to fight the older parties would be greatly weakened.

Frank Clinton, Alabama, wanted an organization and saw no reason for delay in bringing it about.

P. C. R. Stone of St. Louis, a cousin of ex-Governor W. J. Stone of Missouri, upheld Sovereign in his demand for immediate action. No attention should be paid to Senator Allen's suggestions. Senators were too prone to go slow, said he.

W. R. Littell, editor of the Tarkio (Mo.) Independent, put in a strong plea for immediate action. He arraigned Edgerton for desiring delay. The Memphis people, he declared, had violated the platform laid down at St. Louis, and for this reason if for no other, they could not afford to affiliate with them, nor could they expect anything at their hands. We should organize, said he, on the lines of the St. Louis platform and ignore the Memphis convention entirely. This matter could not be harmonized.

STAND VANDERVOORT ANOTHER YEAR

J. V. Wolfe of Nebraska desired to defer new organization indefinitely. It would be better for the interests of the whole party to stand Vandervoort for another year, if need be, than to go it single-handed.

Here G. A. Griffes, editor of the Pond Creek (Okl.) News, raised a storm of debate when he suggested that an ultimatum be sent the Memphis convention asking for a division of the officers of the national organization and favoring the submission of terms of peace.

Miss M. E. O'Neill of St. Louis and a member of the executive committee of the national association, asked in decided tones what they were here for if not to organize. The character of the Memphis gathering was well known to them and there was no reason why they should look to them for anything or delay action.

M. V. Carroll of Lemars, Ia., took an equal standing with Miss O'Neill. He didn't want to beg of Vandervoort, who, he said, was the Memphis meeting "all in himself." They had come here to organize, and it was incumbent upon them to do so as citizens of intelligence and honor.

F. S. Mickey of Hebron, Neb., entered an additional brand by moving an amendment asking for the appointment of a committee of five to confer with the Memphis convention.

At this juncture Secretary-Treasurer Rozelle, who had been handed the Associated press account of the Memphis meeting, read aloud the concluding paragraph in President Vandervoort's address, in which he calls for the resignation of Marion Butler and I. A. Edgerton. "Vandervoort openly insults us," vehemently declared Rozelle, "and yet," said he, sneeringly, "you would supplicate him."

Soon thereafter Temporary Chairman Vincent declared the meeting adjourned by limitation until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning and the question of forming a new organization went over.

REFORM EDITORS AT MEMPHIS.

Delegates Present from All Parts of the Country.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 22.—The Reform Press association was called to order in the hall of the Young Men's Hebrew association at 10 o'clock this morning by President Paul Vandervoort. The Reform Press association is what may be called an auxiliary to the people's party. The number of delegates in attendance reaches into the hundreds and nearly every southern and western state is represented. The only prominent eastern people's party man on the ground is George F. Washburn of Boston. He is a member of the United States national executive committee of the third party and was closely associated with Senator Jones in the direction of the late campaign. Many of the southern and western states have state organizations of the Reform Press association and all of these organizations are represented at the meeting. When President Vandervoort called the convention to order this morning Mayor W. L. Clapp of Memphis welcomed the delegates on behalf of the city. President Vandervoort responded briefly and introduced Hon. Thomas B. Turley of Memphis, who delivered an address of welcome on behalf of the Bimetallic league of Shelby county. After a response by Frank Burkett of Okolona, Miss., committees were appointed by the president and an adjournment was taken until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

MISTAKE MADE AT ST. LOUIS.

When the delegates reassembled this afternoon Paul Vandervoort read his formal address. In part he said:

"We have passed through a most eventful year and the struggle for the life of our party has been the hardest in the history of the organization. When we last met we were all aware that a deep laid conspiracy to ruin our party and destroy the reform movement had been inaugurated, had secured control of our party machinery and of nearly all those whom we had elected to positions of honor and trust. But with all their devilish skill in manipulating events and men they have never been able to seduce or destroy the power and influence of the great body of the reform press. Some have been deceived and led astray, but they are opening their eyes to the true system and will rally as one man to the defense of our sacred principles when the slogan sounds for the great campaign of 1900.

"We should take no new departure. We will not allow our name or platform to be stolen by any band of bandits on the face of the earth. So for 1900 we will hold the first convention if we have to meet January 1. We will stand by the platform announced at Omaha, but I hope we will make the chasm so wide and deep between our party and the democracy that the separation of the sheep from the goats will at once commence.

"The silver panaceas will add some $10,000,000 annually to the money volume of the nation; it will employ more labor, which will be a benefit, but it will not solve the problem of employing