

HE GOES TO HIS DEATH

GOTTLIEB NEIGENFIND DONS THE BLACK CAP AND MAINTAINS STOICISM TO THE LAST

GALLOWS HAS NO TERROR

Jokes About The Hereafter. Says He Did Not Know What Being Born Again Meant

HAS BEEN A GOOD PRISONER

Was Always Cheerful, Telling Stories of All Kinds And Cracking Jokes Till His Last Day

Lincoln, Neb., March 13.—Gottlieb Neigenfind dropped through the jaws of the scaffold yesterday into the maw of justice there to be digested at the morbid pleasure of the public. He died like a man or a brute, which may be much the same, and expressed no more than half hearted repentance for the double murder which he committed on the little farm in Pierce county. Five or ten minutes before 1 o'clock he stood alive, grim and stolid on the gibbet, casting furtive glances at the horror-stricken spectators grouped around him. A few moments later he was cut down a gruesome corpse with the smell of the tomb upon him.

Glimpse of Death

At the signal a black masked figure shot noiselessly through the trap, brought up with a jerk and remained motionless. Not a muscle of the sufferer moved after the drop except those of the bloodless fingers which closed as feebly as if clutching the air. The body turned half round and was still. The long pointed black cap covered the mangled neck and head which a moment before was set squarely on two broad shoulders.

The point of the cap rested jauntily on one side, the head was twisted by the fatal knot until it turned upward at an unnatural angle like that of a deformed dwarf making a sickly grimace for the pleasure of a company. The cap added to the clownish posture and covered what one might imagine to be the grin of a murderer who thought he had cheated death. Mucus from the nose slowly seeped through the black mask and formed a spot on the cloth. Some thought it was blood, but the spectators were spared the look which the man last assumed when the gloomy light from the sky was shut out and he stood on the terrible abyss. In this way justice was appended, the verdict of the court and jury was carried out and a criminal was removed from the earth. With brute force he destroyed two lives and with brute force his own was taken.

A Stormy Life

An ignorant young farmer, Neigenfind spent most of the twenty-nine years of his life at hard labor. He married Mrs. Peters, a young widow with four children, the daughter of Albert Breyer. The father-in-law was harsh, the young man had much of the animal about him and he resented the manner in which the old man ordered him about. He thought he was treated as a slave. The last quarrel in the family resulted in the old man coming to the farm and taking his daughter home with him, together with all her belongings. For fourteen months Neigenfind went from place to place like a wanderer who felt that the brand was upon him. He brooded over the matter and finally returned to the scene, made efforts to see his seven-month-old child, which he had never seen, was repulsed harshly by the old man, and returned finally with murder in his heart. He declared he was attacked by his father-in-law, a pitchfork being the weapon used. When driven into a corner he shot to kill. Then in a frenzy he shot his wife. With mendacity in his heart he emptied every shot in his revolver into her body. A stray bullet struck his mother-in-law, inflicting a slight wound.

The murderer slept quietly that night at the house of a neighbor. It occurred to him to flee but he was soon close pressed by a posse of armed men. He exchanged shots with his pursuers but was captured after having been wounded a dozen times. He had thought to put a bullet through his own brain but found that he had used all his cartridges. This in brief is the story of his crime.

His Last Day

Neigenfind's day without a morrow was not without incident. He received some flowers, the death warrant was read to him, he had a short conference with his minister, Rev. George Allenbach, who was invited by Chaplain G. W. Martin to administer to the spiritual wants of the condemned man. This was deemed fitting because the prisoner and the minister both speak German and the former was at one time a communicant of the German Lutheran church. The minister arrived at the prison

There is no us trying to bring peace of mind to the man with an imaginary grievance.

Greenland, which we often think of as being covered with ice and snow will, if we stop to think of the name, "Greenland" perhaps give us another idea of the place. In the northern parts of Greenland flowers are very abundant, and there is considerable vegetation, but chiefly of low growth.

at 11 o'clock. He went direct to the little dark cell under the hospital where Neigenfind has been in solitary confinement for several months.

Usher George Van Auken unlocked the iron door and the minister stepped in and shook hands with the prisoner. They both sat on the bunk there being hardly room for two in the cell. A tallow candle on a tiny table, a small pile of books, including a Bible and some pamphlets and other books, nestled in a corner as if they had been somewhat neglected by their owner and yet were loath to part with him. The prisoner smiled in an uneasy manner. He looked pale and acted unnatural, said things awkwardly and sometimes forced a laugh. After a short conversation the prisoner reached to a table and handed the minister a new whisk broom of elegant workmanship. This poor little gift he forced upon the minister who fumbled about his coat to find a pocket large enough to hold it. All the while death was the subject of their thoughts and words.

The minister withdrew through the slit of a door and introduced a group of newspaper men and friends to the prisoner. He shook hands with each and had nothing to say until an acquaintance came. To him he called out cheerily and laughed.

Ladies Offer Flowers

Next came two Salvation army women, Ensign Swanson and Lieutenant Long. They handed him a small bunch of white chrysanthemums and carnations.

"Good bye, God bless you," cried the ensign.

"Good bye," he replied as he took the flowers.

"We'll meet in heaven," said the ensign.

"Yes," came the answer.

The other lady shrank back when asked if she had anything to say and passed on with her companion.

"He has been a good prisoner," said Guard Burke, "and is always cheerful, telling stories of all kinds and cracking jokes. Sometimes we give him an hour or two to take exercise in the yard. Sometimes he goes to the deputy warden's office and talks to who ever is present."

"He usually tells his dreams to his guards, but last night he slept more sound than usual. He went to bed at 10, an hour later than usual, and was not awakened by the whistle which blows at 5:30. We had to wake him this morning."

The other day the prisoner and Burke talked of religious matters. The murderer said he did not know what being born again meant. He did not know how that could be. The guard told him he did not know much about it, but explained that it meant a new spiritual birth.

"John, you come to the telephone Saturday," said the prisoner. "and I will tell you about the other world."

This was given as a sample of his joking remarks.

At 9:45 the death warrant signed by Judge Boyd of the district court was read to the prisoner. He took it to mean that they had come to put him to death. He was told that he would not be called for yet awhile.

There was something said about lack of time to give him his dinner before he was hung. Later he was given a meal and at his request he was brought boiled beef and horse-radish with side dishes. He had been in the habit of drinking beer, but was never intemperate and on this his last day refused intoxicating liquor.

As his hands were bound tightly behind his back he cast furtive glances down upon those about him. The color of his face was not perceptibly changed and his coolness was fearful to behold.

He drew himself up straight as the straps were being adjusted, watched the guard place a strap about his feet and looked to see how it was done. The black cap was pulled over his face. This shut out all expression, leaving nothing in sight but a muscular figure clad in black.

The voice of the minister rang out, the words in German being "O Jesus, thou the Lamb of God for sinners slain."

"Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us."

"Give us thy peace, O Jesus," and at his signal the drop fell.

Atlantic City possesses a police motor car which is used solely for the conveyance of intoxicated prisoners.

There is quite a controversy among the fruit men of the county over the condition of the fruit crop, but the prevailing sentiment locally is that the last severe cold snap destroyed the peach crop, almost entirely, and injured other fruit to considerable extent.

DEAD BY SCORES

HURRICANE OF FAWFUL FURY IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

ISLANDS ARE DEVASTATED

LOSS OF LIFE BELIEVED TO BE FULLY SIX HUNDRED.

NATIVES MAIN VICTIMS

Storm at Its Height January 14, 15 and 16, and Details Just Received—Urgent Need of Prompt Relief.

Papeete, March 4 (via San Francisco) March 16.—The latest intelligence relative to the hurricane in Tuamotu, or Lower Archipelago, indicates that the fatalities will number 800. The loss of property will be one-half million dollars. Relief measures have been instituted.

The hurricane and high water lasted during January 14, 15 and 16. At Hikueru, 377 deaths occurred, in most instances among visitors from other islands who were there during the diving season. One hundred and forty-two deaths are reported from six other small islands.

On the awful night of January 15, when in the darkness and a driving downpour of rain that stung their faces and naked bodies, the parents tied their little children to their backs and sought safety. Over their heads rolled the mighty wave, and when the surges retreated the infants and half drowned boys and girls succumbed. The father and mother would vainly endeavor to retain the corpses of their dead, and at length had to abandon them. They tied themselves to coconut trees, and some at last fell with them. Others escaped, clinging to trees temporarily and at other times able to catch hold of something else, and so between the breakers reached safety after many hours of hardship.

Messrs. Cheffeld and Allen, elders of the Mormon church, and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, of the Latter Day Saints' mission, in a report to the United States consul give gruesome details of the disaster. The Gilberts lost one shelter when a coconut tree fell, but secured another in a high stump of a booran tree.

The water, which had all but submerged them completely, now only reached their feet. The wind threatened to tear them from their position again and again, and so these Americans passed that awful night. In the morning the scene of horror that met their eyes on every side was harder to endure than the terrors of the night. Corpses, frightfully mutilated, were strewn about, and there were living beings with unsightly wounds. In some instances only one of a family survived.

The story of fatality in Morakau, ninety-five out of a hundred inhabitants perished, is likewise extremely sad, and so also with regard to the other islands where death occurred. It is likely that one-fifth of the entire population of the Tuamotu group succumbed. To aid the injured a temporary hospital was constructed and Dr. Brunati, acting administrator of the group rendered medical aid.

From the debris were secured tins containing foodstuffs, but naturally there was a scarcity of such as was not spoiled. Of the sixty-six sail boats all but one or two had been totally destroyed and these could not be sent to Tahiti, a distance of nearly 400 miles. About 1,000 survivors were in danger of starvation or perishing from thirst or disease. Shelterless, nude, weak and discouraged, it is hard to word red that a few of the natives became looters of their neighbor's goods. However, on the whole, the order was commendable.

It is to the lasting credit of the Americans that the first relief from thirst came from them in the suggestion to distill water. The French administrator was at first skeptical, but finally allowed them to proceed with their experiment.

After a long search Mr. Gilbert's party secured two tanks and some frames of an iron bed for tubes, and erected a plant. With this primitive machinery 200 gallons of fresh water were distilled daily for some time. Supplies amounting to twenty tons sent from San Francisco and carried free by the steamship Mariposa, have been transferred to the French gunboat Zelee to be transported to the destitute natives. The merchants here have lost heavily through the insolvency of numerous creditors who perished in the gale. The merchants say their loss is more than half a million dollars.

Long Ride on Horseback.

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 17.—President Roosevelt carries out his plan to ride horseback from Laramie to Cheyenne during the western trip. Troop A. W. N. G. of this place, will be detailed to escort him. A cowboys' escort will also probably be provided. The fifty-seven mile run from Laramie to this place is filled with points of interest, including some very rugged scenery.

COMING TO LINCOLN

President and Party Will Be Here April 27—Arrives in the Afternoon.

Washington, March 16.—The president and party will visit Lincoln April 27, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, arriving via the Burlington from Hastings and departing via the Elkhorn in time to reach Fremont the same afternoon. Congressman Burkett will be requested to take charge of the local program at Lincoln and to submit a provisional outline thereof to Secretary Loeb within the next few days. There will be no public reception, but carriage drives are permissible.

The president's Nebraska itinerary is almost identical with that which was arranged for his proposed visit last year, which had to be abandoned on account of the president's injured limb. The first stop will be at Grand Island, where the party will spend the entire day, Sunday, April 26, leaving for Hastings Monday morning at 9:30.

The mayor of Grand Island has been requested to revive his reception committee and arrange a program upon lines laid down last year. Senator Dietrich is requested to take charge of arrangements for his hometown and will confer with local leaders as he did last year, asking them to arrange details.

The presidential party will go thence to Lincoln and from there to Fremont where a stop of thirty minutes will be made. The party will then proceed via the Union Pacific to Omaha, arriving there at 6 p. m. and remain all night, departing for the south via the Wabash road early in the morning of April 28, the objective being St. Louis, where the president will attend the dedication of the exposition. Senator Millard is arranging for an elaborate reception to the party at Omaha.

Believe it an Elopement.

Humboldt, Neb., March 16.—The people of the southern part of the county are wrestling with a sensation this week and according to the story which reaches this place Sam Frieberghouse, a farmer living eight miles southwest of Salem, has left for parts unknown, accompanied, it is alleged, by his pretty sister-in-law. The former left a week ago for St. Joseph, ostensibly to consult a physician in regard to his health, but later upon his arrival in that city, it is charged, he at once telephoned to his wife's sister, Miss Clara Hoover, of Rosedale, Mo., who is also his cousin. The young lady, it is asserted, left home at once for St. Joseph, and it is asserted eloped with Frieberghouse, as nothing has since been heard of either. The man in the case leaves a wife and one little girl of four years.

Parts With Last of Land.

Wabash, Ind., March 16.—Gabriel Godfrey, the last chief of the Miami Indians, has just parted with the final remnants of his once extensive state, comprising some of the richest tracts in the valley of the Mississippi and the Wabash.

Godfrey, now almost eighty years old and very feeble, twenty years ago owned nearly one thousand acres of rich land obtained from the government, but this was sacrificed. He and his wife have now decided to their children the little ten acre tract twelve miles southwest of this city, on which is a plain story and a half frame house. This is the last of the property owned by the last chief of the Miami.

Warning From Colonel Cody

Washington, March 16.—The president has just received the following letter from Col. W. F. Cody, now in London:

"For the benefit of future generations the timber, and especially the underbrush, must be protected now, before it is too late for the sheep devastating the mountain water sheds as they have already done the valleys and tableland. If sheep are allowed to browse off the underbrush of our mountains in less than five years from now the homeseeker, the man behind the plow, the actual taxpayer, will have to leave the Big Horn basin for want of water to irrigate his land. No one knows this better than yourself, for you are familiar with all of the west."

Mayor Must Use Kerosene

Evansville, March 16.—Mayor Charles G. Covert and a number of the members of his cabinet find themselves compelled to discontinue the use of gas in their homes. This comes as a result of their being members of labor unions. Last night at midnight Mayor Covert and other city officers had the gas turned off in their homes and will use only kerosene for lighting or fuel purposes.

Dewey Has a New Title.

Washington, March 16.—President Roosevelt has transmitted to the senate the nomination of George Dewey, U. S. N., to be "admiral of the navy." Attention was recently called to a slight difference between the wording of Admiral Dewey's commission and the law of 1899 under which it was provided for. The commission of the admiral reads "the admiral of the navy" where the law has it "admiral of the navy."

DIE IN OIL FIRE

TANK EXPLODES AND ENVELOPES MANY SIGHTSEERS.

SCORE OR MORE KILLED

BLAZING STUFF IS THROWN OVER THE VICTIMS

PRESENTS AWFUL SIGHT

Try to Escape, But Fall Dead in Their Tracks—Twenty-two Dead and Probably Forty-five Injured.

Olean, N. Y., March 11.—A report from the scene of disaster at 2 o'clock Tuesday morning says twenty-two bodies have been taken from the wreckage. Some of them are burned beyond recognition—only trunks and skulls remaining. The last estimate of the casualties places the number of dead at twenty-two, and the injured at forty-five. Some of the injured will die.

Olean, N. Y., March 11.—A large number were killed and a large number were injured by an explosion of oil near here Monday night. A freight train on the Erie, made up principally of oil tank cars, filled with oil, broke in two near this city at 9 o'clock. Two sections of the train came together with a crash and one of the oil tanks was demolished. Fire broke out almost instantly and the sky was lighted up for miles.

A large crowd of people left this city for the scene of the fire. While they were lined up along the tracks a terrific explosion occurred. The flames communicated quickly with the other tank cars and a second and third explosion followed each other in rapid succession. Sheets of flame shot out in all directions. Scores of persons were caught within the zone of the fire and enveloped in flames. Men and boys ran screaming down the tracks with their clothing a mass of flames. Others fell where they stood, overcome by the awful heat. Just how many were killed is not known, as many of the bodies were incinerated.

Sydney Fish, a prominent business man, returned from the scene of the fire at midnight. He said:

"I was attracted to the scene of the fire between 9:30 and 10 o'clock. When I was within a quarter of a mile of the wrecked train there was a terrific explosion. Flames shot outwards and upwards for a great distance. I saw several persons who started to run away drop on the railway tracks and they never moved again. Others who had been standing close to the wreckage were hurled through the air for hundreds of feet. The scene was awful. Half a dozen young boys ran down the tracks with their clothing on fire. They resembled human torches. I could hear their agonized screams distinctly from where I stood. They ran some distance down the track and then threw themselves to the ground, groveling in the ditches in their frantic efforts to extinguish the flames. Then they lay still, some of them unconscious, others dead. I do not know how many were killed, but I counted twenty bodies before I came away."

Word was sent at once to Olean police headquarters by telephone. Every doctor and ambulance in the city was summoned. Grocery wagons and carriages of all kinds were pressed into service and everything possible was done to bring the injured without delay to the hospitals for treatment.

At midnight the first of the injured arrived at the hospital. They were four young boys. Their injuries were frightful. Great patches of flesh were burned off and hung in shreds from their bodies.

It will be difficult to ascertain the names of a great many of the dead tonight, as their bodies were burned to ashes in the intense heat. A canvass is being made of the city as rapidly as possible to find out the names of those missing. There is great excitement in the city and the streets are thronged with people.

Large crowds gathered at the hospital and the faces of the injured were anxiously scanned as they were borne into the building on stretchers. Heart rending scenes were witnessed when one of the poor, blistered bodies was recognized by a father or a mother or brother and it was with difficulty that persons were restrained from invading the operating room.

The number of dead is known to be at least eighteen, and some estimates place it as high as twenty-five. Over two scores were more or less seriously injured. Some of them will die. It is out of the question to identify any of the bodies recovered.

Bank Cashier is Missing.

Eureka, Kas., March 11.—W. P. Dickerson, cashier of the defunct Toronto state bank, which was taken charge of by the state bank examiner on January 24, with liabilities aggregating \$40,000 is missing. Dickerson, who was arrested a month ago, charged with falsifying his statements as to the bank's condition, was to have had a preliminary hearing here today. He is out on \$2,000 bond, which he raised.

THE LAW MAKERS

Governor Mickey Interposes His Veto and Proposes a Substitute Bill—Read First Time

STUEFFER TO BE INVESTIGATED

Work on the Revenue Bill Progressing With Deliberation—Proceedings in Both Houses.

SENATE ROUTINE.

Governor Mickey vetoed S. F. 29, providing for the payment of fees to the commissioner of public lands and buildings. Governor Mickey stated his objections to the bill to be that the measure was unconstitutional in that it provided for the payment of fees to the commissioner, while the constitution provides for payment of all fees to the state treasurer. He expressed his approval of the intent of the bill and submitted the draft of a bill identical except the provision for payment of fees.

Warner of Dakota moved that S. F. 304, recommended by the governor, be read a first time. This was done.

Mrs. Louise Bowser will not get the \$2,000 asked of the state for the erection of a sod house at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. The senate indefinitely postponed the bill this afternoon.

H. R. 119, providing for the reports of teachers and county superintendents, was passed.

H. R. 167, a joint resolution memorializing congress to pass a bill for the election of United States senators by popular vote, was passed.

Committees reported as follows: S. Fs 100-101, providing for a grand jury system, was recommended for indefinite postponement. The report was concurred in and the bill was placed on general file.

S. F. 146, providing for the erection of grain elevators and warehouses, was placed on general file.

S. F. 240, defining cultivated lands, placed on general file.

S. F. 232, indefinitely postponed.

The senate went into committee of the whole with Brown of Keya Paha in the chair. The committee made the following report:

S. F. 191, appropriating \$2,000 to Mrs. Louise Bowser with which to pay part of the expense of the erection of a sod house at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, indefinitely postponed.

S. F. 58, an act defining the boundaries of the state in certain cases, ordered engrossed.

S. F. 116, an act to provide for the establishment of a public road to and from lands surrounded or shut out from a road, ordered engrossed.

S. F. 147, an act for opening and maintaining roads to bridges across streams separating two counties, amended and ordered engrossed.

IN THE HOUSE.

Nelson of Douglas renewed his motion to have a committee appointed to act on the Sears statement looking to an investigation of ex-State Treasurer Steuffer's method of handling school bonds, and Speaker Mockett named these members: Warner of Lancaster, Meredith of York, Mangold of Douglas, Davis of Buffalo, Fishback of Clay.

At the request of Kennedy of Douglas the house went into committee of the whole to consider, first, H. R. 271 by Riggs of Douglas, providing a reduction in the number of South Omaha School board members from nine to five. The committee recommended the bill for passage.

The house met in afternoon session at 1:30 instead of 2 o'clock. It took up H. R. 344, the revenue bill, in committee of the whole. The first provision of the bill considered was that fixing the time of assessment. The original bill named February 1 and the standing house revenue committee proposed to change this to April 1. Thompson of Merrick ordered an amendment to fix March 1 as the time. After a spirited debate the committee amendment for April 1 carried by an overwhelming vote.

An amendment by Nelson of Douglas was adopted making taxes on real property a first lien from and including the first day of October of the year in which they are levied until the same are paid.

A committee amendment was adopted making section 29 read: "Personal property, except such as is required in this chapter to be levied and assessed otherwise, shall be listed and assessed in the county, precinct, township, city, village and school district where the owner resides, except that property having a local situs like lumber yards, grain elevators, etc., shall be assessed at the places of situs," etc.

A communication was read from the governor submitting a bill giving the secretary of state perpetual right to sign paving petitions, the general purpose of the bill being to validate the paving of streets surrounding the capitol building, for which the appropriation bill sets out \$10,000 to defray the state's portion of this expense.

The prime object of this bill is to provide for the repaving of the streets on the east and south sides of the capitol grounds, Sixteenth street between H. and K streets and H street between Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets.

The afternoon session adjourned at 5 o'clock, the order being night session to begin at 7:30.