

The State Day by Day.

WOODPILE CURE FOR MENTAL ILLS

Very Successful Experiment at Hastings Asylum.

Sawbucks and a big woodpile have been included in the course of treatment at the new Hastings hospital for the insane with remarkably satisfactory results. The treatment was prescribed by Supt. Carmichael for a number of his male patients.

When winter set in there was too little outside work for the able-bodied male patients. Those who had been at work during the summer on the excavations and quarrying for the new barn missed their exercise. Mr. Carmichael was almost at his wits' end to supply the need of out-of-door exercise. The wood pile and about sixty saws and bucks in his solution. Secretary Jackson of the state board of corrections and charities, who has just returned from a visit to the cheerful and happy again, and are making inroads on the unswept wood. They are given regular exercise for short hours each day.

Regular work has been made a cure at the Anoka hospital of a burly negro formerly at the St. Peter hospital, who formerly spent his surplus energy on other patients and his attendants. He was sullen and often vicious. After his transfer to Anoka he was put to work in the laundry, working a reversible cog hand washing machine. Supt. Coleman's cure was perfect. The man sings and turns the crank by the hour, putting down the "little devils," as he calls them, who he imagines are pushing the piston rod from inside the machine. Another man at Anoka spends his time catching fish in the river which runs through the grounds, and another thinks he owns the woodpile and will permit no interference. Both are amenable to discipline and now obedient.

THE PIG WAS THE GHOST.

Haunted House Mystery at Anoka Has Been Solved.

The Nelson ghost mystery near Anoka has been explained. The cause of the unusual noises has been discovered by twelve Centerville and Columbus boys. They went to the haunted house to try and ascertain the cause of the supernatural manipulations that have caused Nelson's wife serious sickness and the family to leave the farm.

After dark the boys, headed by G. Kincaid, went to the cellar. They found a pile of frozen potatoes, and after search found a door to the second cellar. This they entered, and there the mystery was lost; the explanation found. The cause of the whole trouble was a pig, and the porker, a big fellow, lay dead on the floor, having died from hunger. All the potatoes that were in the cellar had been eaten by him, and marks showed where he had vainly tried to climb some shelves where an old pan or two rested. As the pig grew weaker his cries or squeals grew less strong, and probably was the "music" that frightened people up stairs heard. The pig had been dead a week or two, and the boys saw where he had fallen into the cellar, had gone into the second cellar and the door had been closed on him. It is now thought that the reason that the second cellar door was never opened was because the searchers and occupants of the house were too frightened to do so. The boys remained until 12:30 and then drove home.

POPE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Improved Conduct of State Banks.

Public Examiner Pope has completed that division of his biennial report relating to state banks.

The past two years forty-eight new banks have been established, which would have increased the number of state banks to 197 but for the fact that three have liquidated and paid the depositors in full; for three others receivers were appointed at the request of the public examiner, and four have been converted into national banks, leaving 187 state banks in operation.

Gen. Pope asks the legislature to give its attention to an amendment to the banking law with regard to securing an improved method of arriving at the correct value of the bank's assets. The examiner is comparatively helpless when confronted with the note wallet of the bank. He suggests that an examining committee outside the management of the bank might remedy the difficulty.

In regard to the appointment of receivers Gen. Pope says an application for such appointment is the last resort of the department, and expresses the hope that the legislature may devise some method by which banks may go into voluntary liquidation under the supervision of the department which will not be subject to legal assault.

To Improve Medical Corps.

Surgeon General Alexander J. Stone has issued a call to all surgeons at present or previously connected with the national guard of the state to meet at the capitol Dec. 29 in conjunction with the National Guard association for the purpose of considering the organization of a state association of military surgeons. The organization will be, in a measure, an adjunct of the national guard. Its object will be to disseminate information regarding military surgery. The proposed organization is in line with the measures Gen. Stone has already carried out for the improvement of the medical corps of the state guard.

WILLIAM GRATEFUL.

He Tells a British Sailor That "Blood is Thicker Than Water."

La Valletta, Malta, Dec. 23.—Emperor Wilhelm has telegraphed to Vice Admiral Sir John Fisher, commander-in-chief of the British Mediterranean station, sincerely thanking him for his offer to send assistance to the Gneisenau. His majesty answered: "Your action shows once more that sailors are comrades the world over, and that blood is thicker than water."

Northwest News

BOLD ROBBERY.

Burglars Raid a South Dakota Bank in Daylight.
Mibank, S. D., Dec. 23.—Gold & Co.'s bank at Albee, sixteen miles southeast of this city, was entered by burglars at noon yesterday and \$1,600 in cash stolen. The cashier locked the bank and went to a hotel a few rods away for dinner. On returning the doors were found unlocked and the money gone. No trace of the thieves has been found.

ARTHUR G. LEWIS DEAD.

He Served Four Terms as Mayor of Moorhead.
Moorhead, Minn., Dec. 23.—Arthur G. Lewis, formerly mayor of Moorhead, died of cirrhosis of the liver after a lingering illness. For many years Mr. Lewis was one of the prominent citizens of Moorhead and was mayor of the city four terms. He was born at Bath, Ont., in 1858, and came to Moorhead in 1879.

Killed by Drink and Exposure.
Webster City, Iowa, Dec. 23.—Coroner Hall held an inquest over the body of W. M. Jones, who died at Jewell Junction. Rumors had been afloat to the effect that a well connected young man at Jewell was responsible for Jones becoming intoxicated, and had later beaten and robbed him. Jones was found crouched in the corner of a chicken house, his shoes gone and his coat thrown over his head. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict that he came to his death by excessive drink and exposure to the cold.

Witnesses Were Intoxicated.
Clinton, Iowa, Dec. 23.—Henry Lund, on trial for an attempt to commit murder, was acquitted. Four of the principal witnesses came into court in an intoxicated condition. They were locked up to sober them. When brought into court next day they were still more intoxicated. It was apparent that they intended to remain in this condition until the trial was completed, and the case was given to the jury without their testimony.

Finishing the Duluth Normal.
Winona, Minn., Dec. 23.—Resident Director W. F. Phelps, of the Duluth normal school, was a Winona visitor for the purpose of obtaining information that may be of use in finishing up the Duluth school. He paid special attention to the laboratories in the Winona school and the plans in use here in their construction and equipment will be largely followed.

Cash for South Dakota Schools.
Pierre, S. D., Dec. 23.—The state land department apportioned \$54,408 among the counties of the state for school purposes. This is apportioned on a basis of the school population, which has increased over 4,600 the past year. The present apportionment will give 45 cents per capita to the funds of the various counties.

Home from the Philippines.
Roland, Iowa, Dec. 23.—B. M. Rasmussen has returned from the Philippines after an absence of one year in the service of the government. He was instrumental in establishing the Cuban postal service and has been working along the same lines in the Philippines.

Smallpox and Scarlet Fever.
Fort Dodge, Iowa, Dec. 23.—This city is becoming alarmed about an outbreak of smallpox. One case has been reported within the city limits and three cases at Homer, just south of the city. Badger, a small place north, is suffering from an epidemic of scarlet fever.

Steam Pump for Osceola Mines.
Osceola, Wis., Dec. 23.—Mining operations in the Osceola copper district have ceased for a few days owing to the large volume of water that pours into the shafts, but steam pumps will be permanently located at the mines this week to overcome the difficulty.

Lost Both Feet.
Detroit, Minn., Dec. 23.—A young man named Tegen, son of a blacksmith of this village, attempted to climb on a moving freight train, west-bound, and his hand slipped and he fell under the cars. Both feet were crushed, necessitating amputation.

Old Settler Passes Away.
Cottage Grove, Minn., Dec. 23.—William Peters, an old settler and farmer of Washington county, died at his home in the town of Afton, aged seventy-two years. Deceased was a native of Germany and leaves a wife and several grown children.

Carried Off Many Pennies.
Elgin, Iowa, Dec. 23.—An attempt was made to burglarize the Citizens' bank, but the robbers failed to get more than \$40 in pennies and revenue stamps. The inner door of the safe failed to yield to their hammers and punches.

Sisseton to Keep County Seat.
Aberdeen, S. D., Dec. 23.—It is practically settled that Wilnot will give up the fight for the Roberts county seat and allow Sisseton to retain it. This will close one of the hottest county seat fights ever witnessed in the state.

Dropped Dead While at Work.
Galesville, Wis., Dec. 23.—August Timm, a blacksmith at North Bend, dropped dead while shoeing a horse. He was apparently in perfect health a few minutes before he was stricken. He was sixty-two years of age.

Child Burned to Death.
Grar, S. D., Dec. 23.—The three-year-old boy of C. Goodrum tipped a lighted lamp over, burning himself so that he died. Mr. Goodrum severely burned his hands in extinguishing the flames which would have destroyed the house.

VOTE IN MINNESOTA.

Plurality of Candidates Officially Announced.
St. Paul, Dec. 21.—The state canvassing board has prepared footing showing the pluralities received by the successful candidates in the late election. The pluralities are as follows: McKinley, 77,560; Van Sant, governor, 2,254; Smith, lieutenant governor, 43,084; Hansen, secretary of state, 53,991; Block, state treasurer, 52,737; Douglas, attorney general, 56,654; railroad commissioners, Mills, 44,124; Miller, 35,988; Staples, 41,526.

TRAINS MEET IN A FOG.

Fireman Lumbered Injured in a Wreck Near Lohrville.
Lohrville, Iowa, Dec. 21.—A bad wreck occurred on the Northwest east of here. East-bound passenger No. 2 was running through a heavy fog and plunged into the rear end of a freight train that had broken in two. The fireman, Charles Lumberg of Des Moines jumped and went through a barb wire fence and was seriously injured. The engine and several freight cars were demolished. Traffic was delayed about six hours.

GUSTAD IMPLICATES CUPPS.

Both Will Be Held for the Murder of Ollie Odell.
Thorpe, Wis., Dec. 21.—The preliminary examination of Arthur Cupps and Ole Gustad, arrested for the murder of Ollie Odell is in progress. Gustad is now on the witness stand and is making a full confession, claiming that Cupps killed the woman. Both will be held over for trial at the April term.

SERIOUS STEVENS POINT BLAZE.

Shannon's Wholesale Grocery is Entirely Destroyed.
Stevens Point, Wis., Dec. 21.—John Shannon's wholesale grocery house was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$16,000; insurance, \$9,500. The building was owned by the Wisconsin Central Railway company, and on it the loss is \$500. The entire stock fell into the basement, which was full of water.

A Man From India is Injured.

Fort Dodge, Iowa, Dec. 21.—P. Albie, a native of Bombay, India, who has been occupied in taking a pleasure trip through the United States, lies in the city hospital in a precarious condition, as the result of an accident on the Illinois Central railroad near this city and Omaha Wednesday night. Albie apparently lost his balance while walking in the car, and injured his back by falling. It is feared that he may have sustained serious internal injuries.

Boys a Ranch in New Mexico.

Waterloo, Iowa, Dec. 21.—G. A. Whitney, who has for several years spent the winter months in New Mexico, has become so attached to the country that he has purchased a 14,000-acre ranch and his two sons have already gone there to develop it. The ranch was purchased for about \$125 per acre, and Mr. Whitney considers he has a bargain in the property.

Carnegie May Buy Them.

Negaunee, Mich., Dec. 21.—General Manager Hulst and General Superintendent Cole visited the Cambria and Little mines and there is apparently some foundation for local rumors that these mines may be secured by the Carnegie interests. They are among the oldest and largest producers of the district and are now owned by the Republic Steel and Iron company.

Killed in His Own Mill.

Madelia, Minn., Dec. 21.—A. R. Henderson, of the firm of Christianson & Henderson, the large merchant millers of this place, while working in the mill was caught in a shaft and instantly twisted to death. Deceased recently was married and has a wife, having been married less than a year. His parents live at Waseca, Minn., deceased's former residence.

College Oratorical Contest.

Grinnell, Iowa, Dec. 21.—The annual oratorical contest of Iowa college was for the purpose of determining who should represent Iowa college in the state contest, and was won by G. C. Glegstein of the freshman class, with an oration on Oliver Cromwell. Second and third places were won by T. Risser and W. Brown.

Farmers Grow Rich on Potatoes.

Anoka, Minn., Dec. 21.—The rapid rise in the price of potatoes has made many an Anoka farmer practically well-to-do. Thousands of bushels have been wintered in potato pits and they are being held for 50 cents. This means more than 30 cents gain on each bushel within six weeks.

Good Prices at a Tax Sale.

Waterloo, Iowa, Dec. 21.—The semi-annual tax sale of property was the largest for several years. The bidding was lively and the property brought good prices. Smith & Reed of Cedar Rapids purchased several pieces of real estate through a representative.

Consumers' Ice Company.

Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 21.—A dozen of the big ice consumers here have formed a Consumers' Ice company, and propose to show the local ice combine a thing or two. The consumers are the wholesale liquor dealers, butchers, ice creammakers, etc.

Careless Handling of Dynamite.

Hartley, Iowa, Dec. 21.—A. Starks was blasting a rock with dynamite, and thinking he had more of the explosive than he needed he broke it in two, when it exploded and terribly lacerated his arms and lower limbs.

Street Car Amendment.

West Superior, Wis., Dec. 21.—Upon request of Senator Spooner the amendment upon the street car franchise proposition to be made before Attorney General Hicks will take place Dec. 27.



There were two of us and we had between us a surplus of three or four dollars. We cast about for something to do with our money. Suddenly an idea occurred to the Three-Spot. It isn't very often that this happens, but the surplus probably did it on this occasion.

"I have it," he said. He didn't mean the money, for the Two-Spot was careful to keep that in his pocket. "I have it," he repeated. "Let's go along the street until we find some poor, ragged children looking eagerly in the shop windows. Then we'll find out what they want most and go in and buy it."

"Good," replied the Two-Spot, "but what shall we do with the rest of the money?"

"We'll go till we're tired, and I guess they'll be no 'rest' for the weary."

And so we started out. And let it be recorded here that we had visions of swarms of ragged children gazing into every window along the business streets. But in this we were doomed to disappointment. Early in the afternoon there was not one poor looking child who was not trudging along beside its mother. The latter generally had an armful of parcels and was evidently intent on purchasing more. Up and down the entire length of Woodward avenue we went without spying one child who was a likely looking candidate for our magnanimity. Then we tried Gratiot avenue. Surely there would be lots of them, we thought, on Gratiot avenue, little Poles and German children. But we walked nearly out to the railroad tracks, up one side and down the other, and set eyes on never a one.

The Three-Spot was beginning to cast eyes on some new pipes in the store windows and made several remarks about the desirability of having a stein on one's mantel.

"Do you know," said he to the Two-Spot, "I don't believe there are any poor, ragged children looking into store windows."

The Two-Spot replied that it wasn't time, yet; that their hours for looking into windows did not begin until three-thirty or four. Then we came to the front of a very big store, with a Santa Claus scene up over the great entrance and sleigh bells jingling away pleasantly. Here we stood for some minutes.

"There they are!" ejaculated the Two-Spot.

"Where, where?" asked the Three-Spot.

"Right there in the corner of the window."



"OH, LOOK AT THAT FIRE ENGINE!"

And sure enough, there were four poorly clad, cold-looking little urchins, three little boys and a girl somewhat larger, gazing as earnestly at the gay things within as if they were priceless jewels. We crossed the street and came near to them from behind.

"Oh, look at that fire engine," the biggest boy was saying, and the others were pointing out so many things that they were all talking at once.

"What are you going to get for Christmas?" asked the Three-Spot of the littlest one. The lad glanced up, smiled, and looked into the window again without speaking. The question was repeated.

"I—don't—know," came the answer slowly and softly.

"Well, what would you like to get for Christmas?"

The little one smiled and looked hard into the window again without answering.

Finally he whispered softly, "A horse."

"And what would you like, my little man?" asked the Two-Spot of the next largest boy. This boy had beautiful big brown eyes and a clean face, though evidently pinched by hunger.

"A hook and ladder," was the answer.

And the third wanted a fire engine and the little girl would like to get a doll. So the Spots took the covey in tow and led them into the entrance of

the big building, where the crowds were surging to and fro, and the elevator took the whole party to the floor where toys were dispensed to purchasers. Then the march up the long aisles between tables covered with bright and tempting things was begun, until the "horse" department was reached. The littlest one was hanging on to the Two-Spot's thumb with a grip that made sure he wasn't going to lose the chance, unless the thumb gave way.

"Oh, gimme that!" exclaimed the biggest boy, pointing to a fire engine with real hose. But it cost as many dollars as the Spots had with them, and it was out of the question.

"Wouldn't this do?" asked the Three-Spot, with a considerate tenderness in his tones that was unusual, as he took up a toy horse and sulky.

"Yes, sor," said the boy, and one purchase was made.

The next boy was satisfied with a harvesting machine and the biggest wanted a drum, not being able to get the fire engine. Then he set eyes on a policeman's uniform which he thought would be fine. But his brother scorned a policeman's uniform when "you don't get no club," and the other dropped the idea and took the drum. There was very little difficulty in picking out the little girl's doll.



"DOES IT GO TO SLEEP?"

She was shown several samples, some with golden hair, some with dark hair.

"Does it go to sleep?" she asked, as one was handed to her. She was assured it did go to sleep when it lay on its back, for then the eyes were closed. Then she took it in her arms and fairly hugged it and her eyes were dancing with joy. By this time all four were standing in open mouthed astonishment to see themselves the possessors of so many things. Each was holding his selection tightly in his arms.

"Don't we get them right now?" they asked, and they laughed outright when they were told that this was to be the case. The Two-Spot handed the money to the clerk, who took the things and had them wrapped up. Two of the little ones were looking up at the Two-Spot, two at the Three-Spot. Almost simultaneously from four little mouths came the question, "Who are you?" And the answer was the same in both cases—"Oh, I am a friend of Santa Claus."

"Is this the store where Santa Claus lives?"

"Yes."

Then the tables were turned and the Spots found out from the children that they lived on Woodbridge street and had ten brothers and sisters. The littlest fellow clung to the Two-Spot's thumb on the way out, as he had come in. Finally the party came to the big entrance again.

"Now you'll go home and be good children, won't you?"

"Yes," they all said in chorus. And they all turned and smiled good-bye. As the little girl passed the Two-Spot she came close to him and whispered the smiling words, "Thank you." Then they crossed the street, hand in hand, a happy little caravan, each hugging his precious bundle.

The Christmas Dinner.

The Christmas dinner is generally a repetition of that served on Thanksgiving day, save that turkey may give place to goose or chicken, or both, the latter served in "chicken pie;" and that mince pies give place to plum pudding. As I have so recently given direction for cooking turkey, etc., I will devote space to a few suggestions as to how some dishes should be served.

A Greeting to the Distant

A merry Christmas to "Our Boys" On sapphire sea and yellow sand. No chill of winter greets them there—The winds are warm, the skies are fair. God bless the heroes everywhere Who honor Yankee land!