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# THE ALLIANCE HERALD

What You Saw  
in The Herald

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## COMPLETE DRAFT POTASH BILL

LAW PASSED BY LEGISLATURE AT SPECIAL SESSION COVERS MINERAL LEASES

## RULES FOR BIDDING

Meandered Lakes Are Clearly Defined and the Procedure Outlined for the Granting of Leases.

House roll number nine, the "Potash Bill," as passed by the legislature last week, is given herewith complete from a certified copy received from the secretary of state this morning. It reads as follows:

HOUSE ROLL NO. 9.  
Introduced by — Representatives Thomas, Beal, Stearns, Lampert, Naylor, Norton, Tracewell, Bates, Fullis, Craddock and White, pursuant to call and message of the governor.

Title  
An Act to provide for the prospecting for, and development of minerals, petroleum, gas, potash and other valuable substances, found in public lands and waters of the State of Nebraska, and from lands heretofore sold or conveyed by the state in the conveyance of which there has been reserved mineral or other valuable substances herein enumerated; to provide authority for the issuance of the mineral permits and leases thereon; authorizing the adoption of rules for and by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds relative thereto and necessary for the execution of the purposes of this act; confirming and validating leases issued by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds; providing coordination with the conservation and soil survey, providing rules for the pumping of lakes partly on state and partly on private lands; declaring meandered lakes, ponds and streams, and beds thereof, to be public property; providing minimum royalties, and directing the disposition of the moneys derived from leases issued hereunder; defining certain acts as misdemeanors and providing penalties; repealing section 5870, Revised Statutes of 1913, and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA: Section 1. All common school, university, normal, saline or other public lands, lakes, lake beds, river beds and channels belonging to the state or under its control, and all lands which may hereafter be so owned, and all of such lands which have heretofore been sold or conveyed by the state or by its authority, in the conveyance of which there has been reserved mineral or other valuable substances therein, are reserved to the state as well as lands that may hereafter be sold, and lands hereafter acquired by the state, shall be included within the provisions of this act; and shall be open to the prospecting for, and the development of minerals, petroleum, gas, potash, and other valuable substances upon conditions herein provided.

Sec. 2. Any person or association of persons, corporate or otherwise, being citizen of the United States, desiring to obtain the right to prospect for, and develop the minerals, or valuable substances upon or in any of the public lands or waters of the state, may do so under the provisions of this act, and it shall be unlawful to prospect upon or in any of such public lands or waters without a permit, or for anyone to interfere with the functions and duties of the state surveys having in charge the investigations of the natural resource investigations of the natural resources of the state. The State Conservation and Soil Survey at the request of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds shall make investigations and reports concerning state lands.

Sec. 3. Any qualified person or association desiring a prospector's right shall make application, giving the designation of the land by legal description, to the Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, with proper fees and the commissioner shall issue a permit therefor. The board of Educational Lands and Funds may exercise discretionary power, and be guided by best public policy in granting leases, and may adopt rules, regulations or resolutions necessary to expedite production, and best preserve the interests and integrity of the state, and to prevent control by monopolies and alien

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## CORRESPONDENCE ON MINERAL LEASES

Herald Publishes Copy of Correspondence Relative to the Potash Bill in the Nebraska Legislature.

The stand taken by Representative Lloyd Thomas, of Alliance, editor of The Herald, on the potash bill introduced by himself and others in the Nebraska legislature, at the call of Governor Neville and the request of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, has received severe criticism from some parties. Mr. Thomas took the stand that these parties were prejudiced because of personal interests. In his article published in the State Journal on Monday of last week and is reproduced in the Herald this week, he went into details on the proposition.

In answer to this article he received the following letter from Mr. R. M. Hampton, of Alliance:

Mr. Hampton's Letter  
Alliance, Nebr., April 2, 1918.  
Mr. Lloyd C. Thomas,  
State Legislature,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Thomas:  
We received a marked copy of the State Journal, and have read with interest the article which purports to be an interview with yourself, or in other words, I suppose the article prepared by yourself and published. This does not alter in any way the main features of the lease which should be corrected, and which we not only told you of personally, but wrote you in our letter a few days ago.

In the first place, public lands should be disposed of in such a manner that all persons have an equal right. This was not done in the leases heretofore issued by the board of public lands, and as you well know yourself that these rules and regulations were adopted without the knowledge of any one outside of a few individuals. These contracts were entered into without any notice to the public, or without any intent of ever giving the public an opportunity to protect their interests. Any lease of this character should be advertised in the county in which the lands are situated, and the leases granted at the county seat, so that all parties might have an opportunity without being put to the expense of going to Lincoln. Another thing, in a number of instances applications have been sent in by local parties for leases under their old rules, and the letters or applications were never heard from. One particular instance we have a receipt of the application, while we also have a letter from the commissioner saying that it had never been received, and in the meantime other parties were granted the lease. We have another instance where the application went to the commissioner's office, and a lease was granted to other parties after the receipt of this instrument at the office. The explanation being that the commissioner was away at Scottsbluff and the letter was being forwarded to him. Before he reached his office another applicant had secured the lease.

There are so many flagrant violations of what we believe to be a public trust that there ought to be some specific rules set out by the legislature so that such things could not happen in the future.

I think we have made ourselves plain in this particular and the main features are that we are opposed and believe it would be improper that the leases heretofore issued should be validated, and again that any leases granted under a new law should be granted with the full rights to all parties to participate.

Passing from that phase of the subject, we call your attention to section 12 in the bill sent us. This seems to indicate that the state legislature will attempt to declare all the meandered lakes, ponds and streams and the beds to be public property. This would refer to lakes and lake beds upon private property. Suppose that the legislature should declare in a coal district that the coal found under the surface became public property, or the property of the state. Did you ever hear of such a proposition, or can you imagine a mind so base as would entertain such a thought? You well know the hundreds of thousands of dollars that have been paid for these properties by people who have invested in the millions of dollars in plants for the production of potash from these lakes and beds; that if such a bill was passed and upheld by the courts, it would dispose of them of their property, and under the method adopted heretofore, no doubt, would put them in a position where they would be compelled to pay royalty to what I am going to say, some privileged friends. They would not be even given the opportunity for a chance to bid in the open market. We do not believe for one minute that the courts would sustain such a proposition. If you pass such a bill it would immediately go into our courts, from the district court to the supreme court, and if satisfaction could not be had

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## NEXT CONVENTION COMES TO ALLIANCE

Supt. Pate and Supt. Russell Were Elected Officers in the Western Teachers' Association

The next annual convention of the third division of the State Teachers' association, will be held in Alliance. At the convention held in Scottsbluff this week Supt. W. R. Pate, of the Alliance city schools, was elected president and Miss Opal Russell, county superintendent, was elected secretary of the association.

The association takes in the parhantle of Nebraska. About three hundred teachers were present at the Scottsbluff meeting. Among those attending from Alliance were Supt. Pate, Professor Crawford and Stockdale and Misses Reed, Heledik, Chambers, McFush and Russell.

"PROPHECY"  
"What will be come of the Jews?" is the question many people are asking the world over today. It is the unsolved mystery of the Bible, and the problem of history. Just now the signs are pretentious, and the question has aroused an interest hitherto unknown. This most remarkable race, to whom the world owes more than to any other people, and which has suffered more at the hands of other nations than any other race, has a destiny sealed up in the prophecies that will some day be revealed. That day is drawing near. Come out next Sunday morning to the Methodist church and hear Mr. Morris' second discourse on "Prophecy."

CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
We have nearly gone over the top in the "Emergency Drive." The apportionment of over \$600, which the Alliance church was to raise, has nearly all been met. This will help relieve the crisis in benevolent, missionary and educational work. The church goes on in the good work.

The minister will preach two rousing sermons next Lord's Day: A. M., "The True Foundation." P. M., "The Keys of the Kingdom." Come to the church with a message and a welcome.

Invitations are out for a "Get-Acquainted Social," given under the auspices of the Hemingford Community club on Saturday evening, April 12, at the Hemingford opera house, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. A number of Alliance citizens and their families are planning to attend.

W. D. Rumer, of the Rumer Motor company, returned Wednesday morning from a business trip in the United Pacific territory in western Nebraska. Mr. Rumer says that farming operations are very heavy in that district. Over forty farm tractors were counted at work between Pine Bluffs and Sidney on Tuesday.

Mr. Lotspeich, of Minature, was in the city Wednesday, stopping over on his way from Omaha, where he had shipped several carloads of lambs. He got \$20.65 for lambs on Tuesday, coming within 10 cents of topping the market. His lambs averaged seventy-nine and one-half pounds in weight.

Pat Roland went back to work Tuesday morning after a vacation of two months. Pat is now running the "dinky" in the Burlington yards.

## PROMINENT MEN IN NEW TRUST COMPANY

New Company Is Capitalized for \$100,000 and Is Now Ready for Business

The organization of the Guardian Trust company by several prominent men in this city, has supplied a long-felt want and instituted a business in this section of the state that will be a big factor in assisting all other lines of business and farm progress.

Peter Becker has been elected president of the new organization, Dr. C. E. Hershman, vice president, Thomas Katen, vice president, S. B. Wright, secretary-treasurer, Alice Fong, assistant, and E. C. Zimmerman, director.

The company is capitalized at \$100,000, with a paid up capital of \$25,000. It is organized under the trust company laws of the state of Nebraska and a \$10,000 cash deposit with the state auditor, the same as is required by law.

Banks are not permitted to handle real estate loans direct, but the company is organized to handle these as well as being empowered to execute wills and act as administrators of wills and surdians of minors and incompetent persons. The court appointing the company in place of individuals.

The trust company receives money for investment, buys and sells loans. At a later date one of the modern safe deposit vaults will be included in the trust company business.

The company's offices are located at 216 Box Butte avenue. The company's affairs are vested in a board of directors and will be in charge of S. B. Wright, secretary.

MARRIAGE OF ALLIANCE YOUNG MAN  
Will O'Keefe, son of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Keefe, of Alliance, was married Wednesday morning. The State Journal of this morning contains the following: "Mary Pauline Golden and William L. O'Keefe were married at the cathedral at six a. m. Wednesday. Rev. Fr. Ready, officiating. Mrs. O'Keefe is the daughter of Mrs. Alice E. Becker, 1217 M street, and came to this city in 1916, following her graduation at St. Mary's of Notre Dame.

"Mr. O'Keefe is in the office of the secretary of state and is enlisted in the signal reserve, awaiting call for training at the United States army balloon school at Fort Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. O'Keefe left for Alliance, from where they will travel by auto touring parts of Colorado.

## STATEMENT OF THE POTASH SITUATION

Representative Lloyd Thomas Gave Information to Fellow Members of Legislature on the Pending Bill.

The following article is taken from the Lincoln State Journal of Monday morning:  
"Because of the fact that the potash district of Nebraska is located almost wholly in my district and a response to the many inquiries for information regarding the potash industry, I am making the following brief statement:

"Dr. G. E. Condra, director of the Nebraska conservation and soil survey, whom I consider one of the best posted men in the country on the potash situation, and who has during the past year been engaged in a survey of the potash district, recently issued a preliminary report on the potash industry of the state. This report, while brief, is full of information on the subject and should be read carefully by those interested. The state department of publicly issued several thousand of these pamphlets for distribution in answer to the thousands of inquiries coming in regarding potash and the department of agriculture also includes the report in its annual report for the year 1917.

"The work which Dr. Condra has already performed has been of much value to those interested in the development of the industry and he and his department should receive further encouragement in the continuation of a thorough survey of the western end of Nebraska, not only for potash but for petroleum and other mineral products.

Location of Potash Region  
The proved potash region of the state is located in the sandhills of Sheridan, Garden and Morrill counties. Small lakes in the southeastern portion of Box Butte county also contain potash and will soon be worked by a small plant now being constructed at Birdsall, seven miles east of Alliance, on the Burlington railroad. Lakes containing potash are known to also exist in other counties but the extent of the deposits is not known and will not be known until thorough surveys are made and testing of the lake beds done.

The potash lakes lie in some instances as far as 25 miles from the railroad and one of the biggest problems of the reduction companies is the laying of pipe lines and the pumping of the brines to the reduction plants located on the railroad lines.

The lakes which contain potash in their surface waters and in the sands of their beds are lakes which have hardpan bottoms and practically no drainage. The potash is there simply because of the fact that the only way for the water to escape has been by evaporation which left the alkali salts containing the potash in their beds.

"There are several theories as to the origin of the potash in these lake beds, the most commonly accepted theory being that the action of the weather for hundreds of years has released the potash contained in the felspar which is found in large quantities in the sand hills and in the soils of the plains lying to the north and west of the potash region. It has only been in recent years, since the development of the potash industry, that we have come to realize the reason for the phenomenal crops of potatoes raised every year in Box Butte, Sheridan and adjoining counties. But now we know that the large amounts of potash contained in our soils is responsible to a large extent for the excellent crops.

The Potash Plants  
The potash reduction plants, while more or less complicated in nature, are simply big drying plants. Their purpose is to evaporate the moisture contained in the brines pumped to them from the potash lakes. In all the large plants the boiling is done by steam under pressure and in vacuum. After the brine has been boiled down as far as possible with crystallization taking place, it is run into huge cylinder driers thru the center of which an intense oil flame burns, taking out practically every particle of moisture. The dry salts then remaining are run thru crushers and sacked for shipment. Contrary to the usual supposition, practically all of the potash salts produced are used for fertilizer instead of for the making of ammunition.

The alkali salts turned out by the plant is not pure potash but only about 20 per cent, on the average, is potash. The other parts are sodas and salt, none of which seems to be harmful in the making of fertilizer.

## NEW CITY DADS SWORN IN

COUNCIL MEETS AT THE USUAL MONTHLY SESSION TUESDAY NIGHT

## DADS CLASH WITH MAYOR

The First Session of the New Term of the Council Gives the New Members a Real Breaking In.

The council met Tuesday night for the first session of the new term. The newly elected members took their seats in the council, after which the business for the evening was started. J. A. Miller, of the Alliance hotel, was granted permission by the council to remodel the old Burlington hotel building. Mr. Miller agrees to put stucco on the outside of the building, making it fireproof from the exterior. As it now is, it is a firetrap, both inside and outside. In addition Mr. Miller will add thirty additional rooms. This is a decided gain for Alliance accommodations to the traveling public.

A motion is up to turn the present council room over to the fire boys for a bed room. In case the change is made the council chamber will be put on the second floor. The boys also show that the department needs about \$215 worth of new furniture. Two shifts are asked to cut down the straight 24 hour time of the present force. These proposals were turned over to the committee on fire and wanted to be looked in to, in order to save by discounting bills, \$3,000 was set aside from the water and light fund for the current use of the water and light department. This in no way will change the old method of having bills O. K'd by the claim of having bills.

The owners of the fair grounds agreed to turn their rights over to the city providing the city assumed the indebtedness of around \$5,000 standing against the grounds. The fair grounds at a fair appraisal should bring around \$10,000. This proposition was held over to await the decision of the city attorney.

A committee was selected to decide whether it will be advisable to put in a chute at the water and light plant for dumping the coal. The city pays out around \$500 per year for labor in dumping the coal. The saving on labor would more than pay for the chute in three years' time.

The first clash of the year was registered at the first meeting. The dimension arose regarding the appointment of a chief of police. The council agreed to disagree with Mayor Rousey's selection of the chief. Mayor Rousey appointed Night Officer Stafford as chief of police, the council would not ratify the appointment, Cy Laing being put by one of the councilmen for the position. Mayor Rousey stood firm in his selection of Stafford so nothing was done in the way of choosing a chief of police. Stafford was put on as day man and a new night man appointed.

Night Officer Stafford has been a conscientious worker and his work has been efficiently done. He shows no favoritism in the line of his duty, and was the logical selection for the position. In regard to his stand on the question Mayor Rousey says: "I selected Mr. Stafford for this position because he has proven an able officer and in line for promotion. When I asked certain of the council to state why they would not approve Mr. Stafford they brought forth no reason at all for turning him down. Under the circumstances I feel that I am right in my selection of a chief and intend to stand firm by my decision." L. H. Highland was the only member of the council that backed up the mayor in his selection.

## LITTLE CUPID WON THREE MORE BATTLES

That busy little youngster—Cupid, won three more battles during the past week, with the result that the following marriage licenses were issued by the office of the county judge:

Ray Mullock, aged 21, and Pauline Kidd, aged 16, were married on April 8 by Judge Tash. The groom comes from Flagler, Mo., and the bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kidd, of Antioch.

Ray Roff, of Torrington, Wyo., aged 24, and Gertrude Evans, of Kansas City, aged 23, were married on April 9 by hizzoner—Judge Tash.

Elmer L. Farmer, of Gillette, Wyo., aged 21, and Helen M. Bostman, of Granty, Iowa, aged 19, were married on Sunday, April 7, by Judge Tash.