

Nebraska

STATE MAY CUT DIVIDEND RATE FOR CORPORATION

Railway Commission Considers Cutting Rate of Income of Arlington Company; New Rule in Prospect.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Under a contemplated order by the street railway commission it soon may be made illegal in Nebraska for public service corporations to distribute more than a fair and reasonable rate of dividends to their stockholders. In a hearing next Wednesday, at which the Arlington Telephone company will be required to give an accounting of its past dividends, the question of adopting such a rule will be presented. Commission Wilson has written an opinion dealing with the application made by the company some time ago for authority to issue and sell \$6,515 of new stock. The commissioner announces that the decision on this request will be deferred until after the corporation has made a full disclosure and showing of its financial transactions extending over a period of years.

Dividends Too Heavy.
The opinion of Mr. Wilson, concurred in by his colleagues, finds from papers which the company has heretofore submitted that since it started business in 1903 it has paid out \$24,247 in dividends, while its total capitalization amounts to only \$18,485. The dividends are declared to exceed a fair return of 7 per cent, by the sum of \$9,607.

In asking for \$6,515 of additional stock, which would bring the total issue up to \$25,000, the company claimed it was to cancel an equal amount of indebtedness for money loaned by its stockholders to repair damage done by a sleet storm in 1915. The opinion of the commission holds that the \$9,600 of excess dividends would more than cover this expense and it calls upon the company to show why an order should not be issued requiring an assessment upon stockholders to restore that sum of money to its treasury, with the further proviso that future dividends shall be limited to 7 per cent a year.

Village of Oconto Votes Electric Light Franchise

Oconto, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—At a meeting of the village board an electric light franchise was granted to Dr. J. L. Paine. Oconto has experienced considerable difficulty in getting lights, as several private parties have tried to get franchises and only a few weeks ago the proposed municipal light proposition was voted down at a special election. The plant has been ordered and it is only a question of a short time now until this village will be well lighted. Snow began falling here about 11 o'clock this morning and about three inches now lies on the ground.

General Harries Will Command Negro Troops

Deming, N. M., Dec. 7.—Brigadier General George H. Harries, commander at Camp Cody of the Fifty-ninth depot brigade, has been transferred to Columbia, S. C., where he will command the Eighty-first brigade of the One Hundred and Eighty-sixth division of negro troops. He left Deming today for his new post, accompanied by his son and aide, Lieutenant W. G. Harries.

FREMONT RED CROSS SEND MANY SUPPLIES

Chapters in Dodge County Towns Are Busily Engaged in Preparing Surgical Dressings for Soldiers.

Fremont, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special Telegram.)—More than \$5,000 has been expended for material for Red Cross work by the Dodge County chapter since its organization last spring. Of this amount about \$2,000 has been spent for yarn for knitting sweaters and other garments. The remainder has been used in purchasing muslin and linen and other materials for bandages, surgical dressings and hospital garments. A large number of Fremont women meet daily at the library auditorium to do Red Cross work. Delegations from the neighboring towns where local chapters have been formed come to Fremont to assist with the work. Chapters have been organized recently at Hooper, Snyder, Nickerson and Uehling. A meeting will be held at Hooper Tuesday when plans for the membership drive to be made in the county Christmas week will be outlined. At the fair and bazaar to be held here next week the committee in charge plans to raise \$2,000.

Young Dane to Enlist.
Aroused to a high state of indignation over the atrocities of the German soldiers, Soren Jensen, a young Danish farmer of the Pohocco vicinity in Saunders county, is arranging to dispose of his live stock and farming equipment and enlist. Jensen was in Fremont arranging for the sale of his property. He says he is ready to do his bit in the fight against the kaiser. David E. Bell, a retired farmer living on the Lincoln highway east of Fremont, is at a local hospital suffering with a dislocation of his left hip and the fracture of his left arm, as the result of a fall from the haymow at his home. Mr. Bell was otherwise injured, but his condition is not considered serious.

Loses Right Hand.
Chris Haidley of Schuyler underwent an operation for the amputation of his right hand as the result of an accident when the member was caught in a corn shredder. Mr. Haidley was cleaning the machine when by mistake the signal to start was given.

Explosion at Niobrara Wrecks Hotel and Cafe
Niobrara, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—The Wellman Hotel and cafe was damaged and the hotel proper threatened by fire this morning. The blaze was caused by the blowing up of the big cafe range. The loss was several hundred dollars.

CRIME AT BLAIR PUZZLES POLICE

E. H. Friend, Former Omahan, Found Dead Near Depot With Throat Cut From Ear to Ear.

Blair, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—E. H. Friend, formerly of 111 South Seventeenth street, Omaha, was found near the depot yesterday morning with his throat cut from ear to ear. There were evidences of a struggle. He left the home of his mother, Mrs. Mary Bartholomew, who recently moved here from Pender, Wednesday night, saying he was going to Pender. That was the last seen of him alive. His body was found near the depot at 10 o'clock the following morning. Near the body were found a razor and knife scabbard. His cap and gloves were found some distance from the scene of the supposed murder. There were some loose change in his pocket. A diamond ring was missing. It is said he had considerable money. While the authorities scout the theory of suicide, it has been learned he had several times expressed the wish he were dead. He had threatened to "end it all."

Washington county authorities have gone to Omaha in effort to find clues which would aid in clearing up the mystery. Friend, a painter, was 28 years old. He had lived in Blair at different times.

Kearney Police Break Up Gang of Young Thieves

Kearney, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Spencer Lovitt, Robert Eldred and Floyd Campney, Kearney boys, were sentenced to the state industrial school today, to remain state charges until they are 21 years old. Campney and Lovitt were charged with theft of an auto and admitted their guilt. The Eldred had taken an auto trailer owned by the Midway hotel and removed the wheels. He also was charged with joy riding in cars left for a moment by the owners.

Hall County to Accept Provisions of Chappell Law

Grand Island, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Hall county has taken steps to accept the provisions of the Chappell law with reference to the ownership of fair ground; and the maintenance of county fairs. The Central Nebraska Agricultural association recently requested the county board to accept the provisions of the act, thus obviating the necessity of securing a petition of 10 per cent, asking the county board to do. The next step has now been taken by the stockholders of the Central Nebraska Agricultural association.

Former Dakota County Boy Fighting in France

Lyons, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Arthur Anderson and Miss Ida Larson were married at the Methodist Episcopal church parsonage Wednesday. They will reside on the old Anderson place northwest of Lyons. Mrs. M. M. Warner received word that her brother, John L. Taylor,

from Creston, Wash., is fighting in the trenches in France. He is a son of William Taylor, a pioneer of Dakota county, now living at Carey, Idaho.

Farmers Near Eustis Plan Big Coyote Hunt

Eustis, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Reports that freezing weather will save the bulk of the corn crop is not given much credence by grain and elevator men. It will not help the corn, they declare.

"The bulk of the corn crop this year is fit for nothing else but hog feed," said a local grain buyer, "therefore I am not going to make any contracts for future delivery. Corn at the present price runs into money too rapidly and the loss of a few thousand bushels would set me back several thousand dollars."

The coyote is getting rather bold in its nocturnal ramblings several miles north of town. John Cresswell, farmer on the Platte river valley, says they are getting so bold that they come up to his chicken house at night and try to get in. Like wolves, they travel in packs and several farmers report the loss of young steers and heifers which have been slain and eaten by coyotes. At first many were inclined to ridicule the coyote tales and thought that a big wolf was committing the depredations, but a careful watch has shown that the coyotes are responsible. Preparations are being made for a big coyote hunt to take place some time before Christmas, or after a heavy fall of snow, as they will be easier to track. The men who are getting up the hunt expect to have over 500 hunters in the roundup, and fancy prizes will be offered for each hide and a capital prize for the man or group of men who slay the greatest number.

The oil microbe has struck Eustis and several local capitalists have become inoculated with the germ. An effort is being made to organize a prospecting company of local men to prospect for oil around Eustis. Reports from Red Cloud and Stockville to the effect that oil indications have been found is taken as an argument by the local men. If oil is at those places there is no reason why it should not be found here, they say.

Soldiers' Home Notes

Grand Island, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Miss Mayme Downey had a short visit with her brother, Sergeant H. R. Downey yesterday. He had made a hurried trip to the city, in Omaha and was on his return trip to Camp Funston.

Mrs. E. J. Maxwell and daughter, Maxine, returned from Lincoln on Sunday, where they spent Thanksgiving with relatives.

Miss Ruth Beaver of Grand Island, spent Sunday at Burkett the guest of Miss Mayme Downey.

Gus Anderson has returned from a short vacation which he spent at Blair, Neb., and where he attended the wedding of his son, Charles, to Miss Helen Hinchman, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. V. Hinchman.

Work was begun yesterday on the overhauling and remodeling of the old baker shop, and when completed this room will make very comfortable living quarters for eight members, which will greatly relieve the crowded condition.

Mrs. Weir and daughter, Florence of Omaha, visited this week with the former's father, Joseph Conway.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher have given up their apartments in cottage No. 8, and will move to Grand Island to spend the remainder of the winter.

Mrs. Johanna Lynch, a patient in the west hospital, was surprised yesterday over the unexpected visit of her two daughters, one from Omaha and the other from New York City, who dropped in for a short visit with their mother. The eldest daughter, a Mrs. Hart, is a member of a theatrical troupe playing in New York City and is under contract to make her appearance on Sunday next, so her stay was necessarily brief. The other daughter resides in Omaha.

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Mufflers, silk and knitted novelties, at 75c to \$10.00
Silk Shirts, at \$3.50 to \$10.00
Madras Shirts, at \$1.00 to \$3.50
Neckwear, at 50c to \$3.00
Gloves, at \$1.00 to \$9.50
Hosiery, at 25c, 35c, 50c, 60c to \$1.15
Underwear, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 to \$6.00 (Union and Two-Piece Styles)
Sweaters, civilian and army styles, at \$3.00 to \$5.00 and \$8.50
Flannel Shirts, at \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50

New Styles in Winter Hats and Caps
Every new idea here in Hats—From \$3.00 to \$6.00
Every new idea here in Caps—\$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00
Seal Skin Caps, at—\$5, \$7.50, \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25

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