

## NO UNFAIRNESS IN LETTING CONTRACT

University Authorities Deny Implication They Tried to Throw Printing Job.

(Lincoln Daily Star.)

Concerning an implication of unfairness in the first letting of the contract for the printing of the University Catalog to other than the lowest bidder, as conveyed in recent newspaper articles discussing the letting of public printing, the following explanation is made on behalf of the University authorities by one who is conversant with the facts:

"The suit of Jacob North & Co. against the regents to prevent their representatives, namely, the purchasing agent, the University publisher and the Chancellor, from letting a certain contract except through the state printing board, was originally intended to prevent the University authorities from letting the contract to the Woodruff Banknote company, whose bid for the entire job was a trifle less than \$3 more than the North company. The University publisher, however, regarded the extra work of reading proof in his office and making corrections when the type was set with a linotype machine, such as the North company uses, instead of with a monotype machine, such as the Woodruff Banknote company uses, as representing about \$75. In other words, his estimate, taking the labor of reading the proof and making corrections into consideration, was that the University would save about seventy odd dollars by accepting the Woodruff Banknote company's bid.

"After the temporary injunction had been issued by Judge Stewart, in order to avoid delay, and without waiving any of its rights, the University requested the state printing board to let the contract, the University cancelling all bids. In letting this contract the question was discussed whether, in order to avoid any future misunderstanding, the bids should call for monotype work. In order to get this in definite shape for consideration, the Chancellor told the purchasing agent that he might draft a specimen contract containing this clause. Mr. Lud felt that this would cut out competition. While the University had mentioned it in deference to the University publisher, it was not to be urged and they were perfectly willing the clause should be stricken out. The University authorities did not put it in their own specifications on which the first bids were called for.

"The specifications upon which competition was secured by the state printing board at the University's request were essentially the same specifications as the purchasing agent had originally sent to the several printers from whom bids had been obtained.

"The reason why the bids obtained by the state board were lower than those obtained by the University was simply that some feeling in regard to the securing of the contract was generated among the printing houses. In their endeavor to secure the bid they cut their estimates, as some of them allege, below cost, and made the securing of the bid a matter of pride, not of business.

"The contract is, as has been announced, to go to the Woodruff Banknote company. This firm uses the kind of type-setting machine that the University publisher approves. The only net result of the trouble is that the University profits a few hundred dollars by the cut rate war engendered. Any insinuations that the University authorities have consciously had anything to do with any plan to throw the work to the State Journal company are entirely without foundation in fact."

## SAILORS' GREAT FEAR

FLOATING DERELICT ONE OF WORST PERILS OF THE SEA.

Forsaken Ships, Practically Unsinkable, Can Rarely Be Perceived Until Too Late to Avoid the Fatal Collision.

The dismantled, battered hulk of a derelict, floating so low in the water as to be almost level with the waves, is, of course, a very great danger to navigation, especially in foggy weather.

The majority of derelicts are sailing ships laden with timber. They may have been dismantled and rendered absolutely helpless in storms, partly demolished by fire, by collision with an iceberg, or by the mere force of the waves themselves. The crew, unable to make their ship seaworthy, may have abandoned it in the boats, or have been rescued by some passing vessel, but, whatever their fate, their forsaken ship, if laden with wood, remains practically unsinkable and is driven hither and thither over the ocean, at the mercy of the winds and currents.

Now and again a steamer may be rendered helpless owing to its machinery becoming disabled by shortage of coal, by fire or by the loss of its rudder or propeller in heavy weather. Its crew may decide to abandon it and take to the boats, but if they neglect to open the sea-cocks on their departure their ship may float for many a long day. The erratic movements of some derelicts are almost uncanny. Not so very long ago a Norwegian sailing ship called the Crown left Nova Scotia for a South American port. It was laden with timber, and while still in the North Atlantic ocean was overtaken by a terrible storm, which dismantled and left it a battered wreck.

The crew, realizing it was useless to remain on board, abandoned it and took to the boats, never to be heard of again, but their ship, although it vanished completely for no less than three months, was sighted at the end of this time on the edge of the Sargasso sea, a good 700 miles away from where disaster overtook it. Soon afterward it was sighted off Bermuda, but then disappeared again, and may still be drifting about the ocean.

Derelicts are sometimes saved and bring in a large sum in salvage money to the crews of the ships who tow them into port. On one occasion an American steamer bound for Liverpool with a cargo of cotton ran out of coal off the north coast of Ireland. The sea was running high, signals of distress were made to a passing steamer, which passed a tow rope to the helpless ship. But the towing wire snapped and the crew were accordingly taken on board the newcomer, while the disabled vessel was left to drift.

A Liverpool tug heard of the affair, and being doubtless aware of the great value of the cotton cargo, determined to find the derelict and to tow it into harbor. After a protracted search it came upon it and eventually took it into Belfast. Little worse for its buffeting. The enterprising tug netted no less than £7,960 for its share in the proceedings. By an act of parliament, passed in 1896, the master of any British ship sighting a derelict is bound to report the fact to the nearest Lloyd's agent, so that if the abandoned ship is in the track of ships a man-of-war may be sent out to destroy or bring it into port.

He Married the Beneficiary.

"Yes," said the retired insurance agent, "I once got a man to take out a \$50,000 life policy only the day before he was killed, and it took a lot of coaxing to do it."

"Gosh! that was tough on the company. I expect you wished your persuasive powers had not been so successful."

"Well, hardly. You see, I married the widow."

Revenge.

"Gladys paid you a compliment yesterday, Felice."

"What did she say?"

"She said you were very intellectual."

"The cat! She just said that because she was expecting Tom Cheygers to take her to the football game and he took me instead."

## MISS ETHEL LEWIS ROSE



Miss Rose, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wickliffe Rose of Washington, is one of the season's attractive debutantes. The family formerly lived in Nashville, Tenn.

## STUDENT HONORS GRADED UNDER POINT SYSTEM

Girl Advocates of More Equal Distribution of Honors Investigating System.

The Girls' Club Board is busy with investigations of the point system of grading student honors. This system plans to allow a certain number of points for each honor, and to establish a maximum number which any individual may obtain. The idea is to prevent a monopoly of honors by a few people. This plan is to be advocated for young ladies only, so there is no cause for concern on the part of the men who have half-page write-ups in the Cornhusker.

Miss Jeanette Finney, the Xi Delta representative on the Board, has direct charge of the work. She has written to a score of colleges and universities where this system is used and has received much valuable information in return. It is expected that she will soon make a report to the Board with her recommendations. The Girls' Club will take active measures to have the system installed at Nebraska.

## POP'S IDEA



Percy—Say, Pop, what's a time piece?  
His father (absently)—A promise note.

Jones' Orchestra. Phone L-9666.

## WOULD BE PRICELESS

ARCHAEOLOGISTS HOPE TO FIND LIBRARY OF RUSSIAN CZAR.

Possibility That the Wonderful Collection Made by Ivan the Terrible May Not Have Been Destroyed in the Great Fire of 1812.

A short time ago a professor of theology in the university at St. Petersburg, Russia, purchased at a shop in Moscow a manuscript copy of the Gospels dating from prior to A. D. 1000. On examination it was found to have belonged to the great library collected in his youth by Ivan the Terrible, when he believed that he had a divine mission. This library was supposed to have been burned in the great fire of Moscow of 1812.

On a subsequent visit to Moscow the professor traced his book to the family of a laborer, who said that he had found it with several similar volumes in a subterranean passage near the Kremlin.

The famous library of Ivan the Terrible is now supposed to be still hidden in some underground vault, which the efforts of generations have hitherto failed to discover. It was Ivan the Terrible—whose reputation as a great ruler has been obscured by the fascination of his extraordinary excesses—who established the printing press in Russia.

There is a wide field of conjecture as to what might not come to light in the event of this curious library one day being discovered. Ivan the Terrible was in close communication with all the rulers of our hemisphere, from London to Peking; one branch of knowledge is almost certain to be well represented in this lost library, and that is the science of black magic. It is equally likely that new codices of Holy Scripture may yet come to light, for Ivan the Terrible undertook to print the Scriptures in the vulgar tongue. Only one thing is certain, that such a library existed and has never been found, nor is it even known to have perished in any of the numerous fires that devastated Moscow.

Apart from changes of surface features in the Kremlin, the level of the soil is six or eight feet above what it was in the sixteenth century. It is no doubt the knowledge, an unpleasantly vague knowledge, of the existence of these underground passages which causes the police on every occasion of an imperial visit to Moscow to seal up with wire and a lead seal every single opening, cellar shoot, surface drainage grid, to be found anywhere over the area of the Kremlin, and frequently to inspect the integrity of these seals.

Legends of a labyrinth of underground passages have been current among the populace for centuries, but it is only within the last decade or so that the very extensive building enterprise on modern lines undertaken in Russia's "premier capital" has given substance to these ancient legends. When the main drainage scheme had been in operation a few years the alteration of subsoil conditions caused a sinking of the foundations of many of the more massive public buildings, which had to be underpinned, while new erections required much deeper excavation in order that a secure foundation might be reached. It was in course of these operations that many underground passages came to light, and eventually the newly fledged societies interested in the preservation of monuments of antiquity attempted to deal with the matter from the historical standpoint.

It Makes a Difference.

"Jinx told me of a riproaring joke that was played on some member of your club last evening. Were you there?"

"Yes, I was there! It was an abominable, far fetched—"

"O-oh! Jinx did not tell me that you were the man it was on."

Looking Ahead.

"No, my man, this is not mine. It was a \$20 bill I lost."

"But it was a twinty-dollar bill before I got it changed, sor."

"What did you get it changed for?"

"Och, sure, so the owner could conveniently reward me, sor."—Puck.

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