

# MANY TOWNS PAYING DEBTS

Nebraska State Auditor's Report Shows Improved Financial Condition

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special)—During the month of February \$482,184 worth of bonds were approved and registered by the state auditor's office, of which \$460,350 were refunding bonds.

The \$21,834 new bonds is the smallest amount that has been issued by cities, villages, school districts and other bond issuing units of the state in any one month during the last 10 years, according to the report issued by State Bond Examiner Lawrence.

The report shows \$202,523 bonds paid and cancelled in February. With the payment of \$9,900, Battle Creek finished paying on a water bond issue of March 1, 1911 and a sewer bond issue of August 1, 1921. The \$8,000 paid by Lindsay wiped out an issue for a town hall dated August 1, 1917.

Wayne, with a payment of \$15,973, paid off the February 15, 1928, refunding bonds.

Other payments included: Bloomfield, \$2,000; Coffee Lake Drainage district in Cherry county, \$1,000; Ewing, \$1,000; Ewing school district, \$3,000; Pierce, \$1,000; Pierce county rural school, \$500; Wakefield, \$1,000; Walthill school, \$1,000; Winslow, \$2,000; West Point, \$41,000.

# FREE TOT IN KILLING CASE

Coroner's Jury Finds Shooting Was Done by Accident

Broadwater, Neb.—(Special)—A coroner's jury here exonerated LaVerne Thompson, 9 years old, of intentionally killing Eddie Hutchinson, 12 years old, holding the killing was accidental. LaVerne told Eddie to hold up his hands and shot him with a revolver, which he found in the pocket of a coat left on a tractor.

County Attorney C. G. Perry after the inquest filed a complaint in county court charging that the Thompson boy was being brought up without proper parental care. When the hour for the trial arrived it was found his mother had taken him to Omaha and placed him in Father Flanagan's home for boys. The county attorney ordered that the boy be returned to Bridgeport to appear before the judge. He said he did not object to the boy's going to the Flanagan home, but felt that the Thompsons should not be allowed to dictate the policy of Morrill county.

# TELEPHONE COMPANIES REPORT ON REVENUES

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special)—The annual report of the Northeastern Telephone company, filed with the state railway commission, shows that it just about broke even during 1930. The company serves 240 stations at Walthill, 95 at Winnebago and 122 at Rosalie, a total of 457, a loss of eight. The company has total assets of \$36,108. Revenues were \$15,422 and expenses \$12,991, leaving \$2,431 profit. Of this \$600 was paid as taxes and \$1,800 as interest, leaving \$30.86 for profit. Stock outstanding totals \$19,756.

The Blair Telephone company, which serves 1,103 subscribers at Blair, 135 at Fort Calhoun and 224 at Kennard, reports revenues of \$42,951, expenses of \$33,832 and a net telephone income of \$9,119. Of this sum \$2,570 was paid for taxes and \$4,450 for interest, \$2,098 being passed to surplus, which totals \$25,883. The company paid no dividends on the \$111,737 of assets reported. It lost seven subscribers and ended the year with 1,462. Stock and bonds outstanding total \$108,200.

The Citizens Telephone company of Blair, which serves a total of 1,202 stations at Malmo, Prague, Morse Bluffs, Weston and Elgin, had revenues of \$26,178 and expenses of \$19,598. Of its operating income of \$6,580, it spent \$3,420 for interest and \$820 for taxes, passing \$2,140 to surplus. It has property valued at \$123,578, and paid no dividends on the \$69,759 stock outstanding. These companies are managed by E. C. Hunt, who also holds stock control.

# GIVEN PRISON TERM, RECEIVED STOLEN PROPERTY

O'Neill, Neb.—(Special)—Orlow Caldwell was sentenced to two to seven years in the penitentiary by Judge Dickson in district court when he pleaded guilty to a charge of receiving stolen property.

Stolen harness was found in his possession by the sheriff from Winner, S. D. Six sets were found, five under the hay in the mow and one hanging in the mow.

Persons in the eastern part of the county identified the harness as theirs.

Two young men from the southeastern part of the county have been held in jail charged with stealing the harness. Caldwell says the boys sold it to him.

# NEBRASKA HAS NEW WOOL CLIP RECORD

Lincoln, Neb.—(UP)—Nebraska's wool clip during 1930 reached a total of 3,081,000 pounds, according to estimates of the state and federal division of agricultural statistics. This was a new record high production of wool in the state.

The 1930 crop of 3,081,000 pounds compares with a previous high production for the state of 2,950,000.

Average weight per fleece last year was 7.8 pounds as compared to 7.6 pounds in 1929. A total of 393,000 sheep were shorn as compared to 375,000 sheep in 1929.

# TAX EQUALITY LEAGUE MEETS WITH FAVOR

Homer, Neb.—(Special)—The recent organization of a Tax Equality league in Dakota county is meeting with approval of both farmers and business men. The Salem Farmers' Union unit originated the movement.

# BLOCK CHANGE HOSPITAL MEN

Members of Legislature Attack Act of Board of Control as "Smooth Over"

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special)—Members of the legislature from Adams county, where is located the Ingleside state hospital for the insane, indicate an intention to block the transfer of Superintendent G. E. Charlton from the state hospital at Norfolk, with Superintendent Babcock of Ingleside going to Norfolk. In a statement they make it plain they have no objections to Charlton but they protest that Babcock ought not to be sent to Norfolk.

The legislators recently conducted a secret investigation of complaints against Dr. Babcock's management of the hospital, and say that the state board of control is unwarranted, as a result of the facts developed, in passing a vote of confidence in the ability and integrity of Dr. Babcock. They say that it looks like an effort to smooth things over, when conditions were shown to be intolerable.

Senator Vance says that the evidence showed that not only were patients allowed to inflict cruelties on other patients whose charge had been given to them, but that attendants had also been guilty of inexcusable treatment. One of the chief complaints against Babcock is that he made himself inaccessible, that he did not visit the wards often, and that he kept visitors with business to transact with him waiting for long hours. They intimate that more industrial alcohol was used at the hospital than is usual at such institutions, and say that the federal bureau representative stated he would not renew the permit if Babcock were retained.

# HOWELL URGES GOVERNOR TO VETO BRIDGE BILL

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special)—Governor Bryan has been asked by United States Senator Howell to veto the Omaha bridge bill passed almost unanimously by both houses on the Senator Howell says that a free bridge is certain to be built at Farnam or Douglas streets, and that the proposed toll bridge farther down at South Omaha never would get patronage enough to enable the \$2,000,000 bonds that are to be voted to be retired out of tolls. The result would be that the community would have to pay the bonds. He also doubts whether any bond house would buy them when there has been no vote of the people authorizing them.

Governor Bryan says he will confer with Douglas county members before acting upon the bill, which he says is a complicated measure, difficult to accurately diagnose.

# VALUABLE BULL CASE BACK FOR RETRIAL

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special)—The supreme court has sent back to the district court of Dodge county for retrial the case where Mrs. Susan L. Thompson, who lives in Cuming county, sued two West Point bankers, the Nebraska State bank of West Point and the West Point National bank to recover for a bull she valued at \$20,000 and which the banker sold for beef for \$40.

The court ordered that the retrial be limited to evidence as to the value of the animal which was levied upon by the bankers under provisions of a chattel mortgage executed by sons of Mrs. Thompson, who are cattle breeders. The bull was sent to Emil Suhr, Dodge county, for keep, but the suit is dismissed as to him and the court says that since the bankers took property to which they had no right they must pay the damages.

# SAYS "OIL COMBINE" GETS IN ITS WORK

Lincoln, Neb.—Governor Bryan charges that the "oil combine" of Nebraska has concentrated its efforts upon the house of representatives committee on cities and towns to kill his bill providing for the creation of municipally owned and operated gasoline stations.

The bill was recommended for postponement following a committee hearing last week. A move to overturn that report probably will be made.

Denouncing the action of the committee headed by J. W. Smallwood (representative of North Platte), the governor charged the oil and gasoline interests with "extortion and profiteering" at the expense of the Nebraska automobile owner.

"I cannot believe the legislature will permit that decision to stand as the decision of the peoples' law-making body," Bryan added.

# DEPOSITORS RECEIVED \$179,112

Lincoln, Neb.—According to a report issued by Clarence G. Bliss, receiver for the department of trade and commerce, a total of \$179,112.49 was distributed to depositors in failed state banks during the month of February. This sum represents liquidation of assets of nine institutions. Included in the list are: Bank of Ottis and Murphy at Humphrey, \$22,369.91; Newman Grove State bank, \$27,448.81; Farmers State bank of Belgrade, \$13,862.72, making a total of 60 per cent; Knox county bank of Verdigré, \$36,118.77.

# Four Spuds to a Yard



Idaho's claim to being the "potato state" is firmly established by these four giant spuds which were grown near Burley, Id. A few yards of such potatoes would suffice to feed a family all winter. Vera Jones is showing how the four measure well over a yard in length.

# KANSAS 'BURBANK' DEVELOPES SEEDLESS FRUITS, MELONS

Success Also Includes Cherries, Plums, Apricots and Cucumbers

Newton, Kan.—"Inventing" seedless fruits and vegetables is the specialty of D. G. Klassen, Newton horticulturist.

But the trick is to get him to tell what he has done. Several years ago announcement was made of his discovery, after five years of experimentation, of a hardy variety of seedless tomato.

The result was a flood of correspondence from three continents, countless orders for plants, theft of several valuable specimens from his greenhouse, and such confusion in the reticent Klassen's affairs that he swore never again to tell of his discoveries.

Only on the eve of his departure from Newton in search of more favorable climatic conditions for his research did he succeed in growing seedless melons, cucumbers, cherries, plums and apricots become known.

He also has discovered how to change the season of the apricot tree to reduce the likelihood of damage from late spring freezes.

Klassen's first seedless tomato vine grew to a length of 37 feet, the tomatoes attaining such size that baskets were hung beneath them for protection. On the market they brought \$1 a pound.

Formerly Klassen greatly feared being robbed of his horticultural secrets by "plant pirates," and would



D. G. KLASSEN

confide in no one save a younger brother, A. J. Klassen, who assisted him in the experiments.

A new congressional act providing for plant patents, however, now gives growers protection in work of this sort. Its passage largely influenced the "Burbank of Kansas" to push his research, even at the cost of selling the greenhouse upon which he depended for a livelihood and finding a new "laboratory."

secret understanding, but the reason offered is that "such action would be incompatible with public interest and would endanger the success of future delicate international negotiations."

We can understand why when a treaty is being framed it would be inadvisable to withhold information, because it might create false impressions; but after the treaty is adopted and submitted for ratification, surely the people who are affected by it, and especially the people to ratify it, ought to have full information of all the negotiations.

# THE RADIO

Of all the things that I despise,  
The radio is first;  
And when it works, or when it won't,  
I don't know which is worst.

For when it works, the stuff I get  
Is advertising dope,  
Toothpaste or paint, or soap or hose,  
Or some new brand of soap.

And if I get something I want  
And really like to hear,  
That static does not murder it,  
Won't happen twice a year.

So you can have your radios  
And I'll choose boiler shops;  
The latter make more racket? Yes!  
But in the night it stops.

—Sam Page.

# Starts Young



MARJORIE BURBANK

Botany is Marjorie Burbank's hobby, and it's probably because this 12-year-old girl's uncle was Luther Burbank, who was no slouch when it came to juggling oranges and grapefruits. Marjorie lives in Jasper National Park, in the Canadian Rockies, and she has been collecting wild flowers. She has a collection of 214 which she gathered in the Athabaska Valley.

# Why Seecrey Now?

From St. Louis Post-Dispatch. In withholding from the Senate foreign relations committee documents covering the London naval conference, is not President Hoover slipping away from the postwar rule of diplomacy—"open covenants openly arrived at"?

When Woodrow Wilson announced this policy as one of the results of the World War, it was received with acclaim by the civilized world. The policy was embodied in the covenant of the League of Nations, which requires all treaties of member nations to be submitted and recorded for the information of all nations.

The world has been cursed by secret negotiations of heads of nations and by secret alliances and understandings between governments which fomented war. Publicity for treaty negotiations and for all treaties was regarded as a beneficent peace-preserving revolution in the dealings of governments and heads and diplomats. International dealings and agreements were to be open and above board.

"Openly arrived at," we take it, means that this negotiations by which treaties are framed are to be made public as well as the treaties themselves. Now, Mr. Hoover refuses not only to make public, but to submit to the Senate foreign relations committee documents and correspondence relating to the London conference. Assurance is given that there is no se-

# An Orphan Letter Used.

Photographs of the memorial to James Buchanan, 15th president of the United States, dedicated at Meridian Hill park in Washington on June 26, show that a strange and senseless convention has been followed. Because the Romans were careless of distinctions between the symbols for "v" and "u" an American inscription of an American name must be cut "James Buchanan." Most of those who visit the memorial will be intelligent enough to put two and two together and guess what the inscription is meant to say but does not. There are other presidents in

# Seeks Crown



LEO J. WINKLER

Although the world's grain exhibition and conference is not to be held at Regina, Canada, until 1932, entries are already being received from all over the world. One of the first is Leo J. Winkler, above, 23-year-old corn farmer of Jefferson, Wis. He helps his father operate a 105-acre farm and has won many trophies at county, state and international corn shows.

whose names this orphan letter is to be found. What defense could be made of inscriptions reading "Vlysses Simpson Grant," "Martin Van Buren," "John Quincy Adams," "Rutherford B. Hayes" or "Chester Alan Arthur"? There are no aesthetic reasons that support the use of "v" for "u." In the century and a half that the United States has been an independent nation our language has developed enough individually to deserve freedom from a Roman convention. How long must we tell school children that the alphabet consists of 26 letters except when it is used in inscriptions?

# NEBRASKA HAS 16 RECOGNIZED AIRPORTS

Lincoln, Neb.—Nebraska has 16 recognized airports, representing a total investment of \$481,000 according to a department of commerce bulletin received here by Postmaster Trev E. Gillespie.

There are eight municipal fields in the state and a like number of commercial fields, the report shows. The average investment in the municipal ports is \$47,000 against \$3,125 for those of the commercial variety.

During the last half of 1930 and the first half of this year, \$456,000 or nearly as much again as the total already invested was to be spent on municipal fields. Commercial field plans called for the expenditure of \$11,000 during the same period.

On January 1 there were 153 licensed airplanes and 93 unlicensed planes in the state, as well as seven gliders. There were no glider pilots. The 215 licensed airplane pilots in Nebraska included 74 transport pilots, 23 pilots with limited commercial licenses and 118 with private licenses. Mechanics numbered 120. Data for the country as a whole listed 1,113 airports about equally divided between municipal and commercial. The nation's investment in commercial airports was \$58,856,500 and in municipal \$58,212,020. There were 15,182 pilots and 9,818 planes.

# WANT LAW TO TAX VENDORS

Nebraska Towns Seek Way to Reach the Itinerant Merchant

Fremont, Neb.—(Special)—Allen Johnson, city attorney of Fremont, as chairman of a committee of city attorneys of Nebraska, in charge of the matter, is endeavoring to frame an ordinance to impose a tax of some kind on itinerant vendors.

A Fremont ordinance bearing on the subject, was recently held invalid by the supreme court.

Now that quick transportation afforded by automobiles permits business firms in larger cities to deliver goods to the doors of patrons in smaller places, it is claimed there is more urgent need than ever for a tax upon them or their delivery wagons.

The proposition of an ordinance that would stand in the courts was discussed by city attorneys at a meeting in Plattsmouth and a committee headed by Johnson was appointed to study the matter.

# TWO PHONE COMPANIES SHOW NICE SURPLUS

Lincoln, Neb.—The Cuming County Independent Telephone company of Wisner reports to the state railway commission that it possesses a fixed investment of \$117,923 and total assets of \$123,767. Capital stock outstanding is \$61,797, and the surplus invested is \$25,916. Revenues for the year 1930 were \$39,219.72 and expenses \$20,560.37. Of the \$8,659.35 operating income, \$1,100 was paid for taxes and \$7,122.37 passed to surplus. It operates 832 stations at Wisner and 324 at Beemer, a gain of 15 for the year.

The Plainview Telephone exchange, an unincorporated company owned by C. W. Smith, reported the possession of assets of \$76,934 and a surplus of \$55,517. Revenues during the year 1930 totaled \$13,966, and expenses \$7,332, leaving an operating income of \$6,633. Of this sum \$380.40 was paid in taxes, and the remainder passed to surplus. The company serves 512 stations at Plainview, a loss of four for the year.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE TO VISIT STATE INSTITUTIONS

Lincoln, Neb.—(UP)—Another inspection of state institutions by house committee members is scheduled for this weekend, it is announced.

This tour will be made by the finance committee of the house of representatives for collection of information desired by the committee to aid in drafting the appropriation bill for state institutions. The committee will be unaccompanied on the trip and will leave Lincoln Saturday morning returning Sunday night.

Committee members will go first to Milford. The morning of Saturday will be spent at Milford and Geneva. An hour during the afternoon will be spent at the state hospital at Hastings.

Arriving at Kearney Saturday evening, the committee will spend the night at that place and will leave Sunday morning for Grand Island. Following the inspection at Grand Island the committee will continue to York and, after spending an hour there, will return to Lincoln.

# W. C. T. U. STATE MEET TO BE AT NORFOLK

Norfolk, Neb.—(Special)—Norfolk has been named as the place where the next state convention of the W. C. T. U. is to be held. This was decided at a meeting of about 40 delegates from over the state in session here. The convention will be held some time in September or October.

# BOARD MEMBERS

## REFUSE TO TALK

Lincoln, Neb.—Members of the state board of control maintained complete silence relative to criticism of their transfer of Superintendent Babcock of the Hastings state hospital to the Norfolk institution.

Although statements given to the press Tuesday by Senator Vance republican and Representative W. M. Burr, democrat, took direct issue with the board's transfer announcement Friday members declined to discuss the situation.

# TRAGIC DEATH LIST MOUNTS

Accident Totals in Nebraska in Eight-Week Period Is Sixty Seven

Lincoln, Neb.—(UP)—Accidental deaths occurring in the two weeks period from February 10 to February 24 brought the total for the first eight weeks of 1931 to 67, according to statistics of the Nebraska Press association.

During the two weeks period of the report accidents accounted for 17 deaths, 269 injuries, of which 13 were permanent disabilities.

The total number injured during the first eight weeks of the year now stands at 1,116, while the number of permanent disabilities occasioned from accidental causes has reached 52, the report shows.

Of the eight weeks total, 592 injuries, 11 disabilities and 84 deaths resulted in motor vehicle accidents. Home accidents have accounted for 136 injuries, four disabilities and 18 deaths.

During the two weeks period covered by the report, motor accidents accounted for 152 injuries, and nine deaths.

Accidents with guns resulted in six injuries, one disability and two deaths. Falls accounted for the greater number of the remaining 31 public accident injuries.

Industrial accidents accounted for injuries to 10 workmen and the deaths of three. Farm accidents resulted in one death, and 40 injuries.

# GROWS ARTICHOKE FOR HIS BIG DROVE OF HOGS

McCook, Neb.—(UP)—Ernest Markwad, successful Red Willow county farmer is preparing to plant another big plot of "sunflowers" this spring. At least that's what his neighbors call his strange crop. They also accuse him of letting his farm grow up to weeds.

But Markwad's sunflowers are artichokes. He has found them to be fine feed for swine. Last spring Markwad planted two and a half acres to artichokes as an experiment. He's going to double the acreage this season. "They are the most profitable crop I ever planted," he says.

Because he did not harvest his artichokes, Markwad is unable to tell definitely just how great his yield was on the small plot. He does claim that 300 hogs pastured on the small patch fattened and that there were hundreds of artichokes left in the ground.

The Jerusalem artichoke is a tuberous-rooted sunflower-like plant. The stems grow from six to eight feet high. The tubers have a high sugar content. Hogs root out the tubers.

# OMAHA REPORTS MORE ACTIVITY IN BUILDING

Omaha, Neb.—(UP)—A huge increase in building operations and good gains in grain receipts and shipments were the bright spots in Omaha business conditions for February, according to figures compiled today by the industrial bureau of the Chamber of Commerce.

Building operations last month totaled \$937,896, which is an increase over February, 1930, of 1,343 per cent and over the average for the last five years of 521 per cent. For the 12 months ending February 28, 1931, they totaled \$6,037,092 against \$5,437,247 in 1930 or an increase of 11.2 per cent.

Grain receipts in February totaled 6,046,800 bushels, an increase of 6.4 per cent over February, 1930. For the 12 months they totaled 76,670,000 bushels an increase of 5.2 per cent. Grain shipments in February were 5,338,800, an increase of 13.3 and for the year 66,053,400, increase 4.1.

# CREIGHTON PHONE LINE HAD SMALL MARGIN

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special)—The Northern Telephone company of Creighton, owned and managed by E. C. Hunt of Blair, has filed its annual report with the state railway commission. The report shows total assets of \$59,854, and outstanding common stock of \$40,000. Revenues in 1930 were \$15,326.82 and expenses, \$13,229.09. The company paid \$489 taxes and \$1,600 in dividends. It operates a total of 494 stations, 447 at Creighton and 47 at Niobrara.

The Arlington company, also a Hunt corporation, reported assets of \$49,171, and outstanding stock of \$24,645. Revenues for the year were \$10,309.39 and expenses \$9,962. After payment of taxes the company went into the red \$153.22. It operates 468 stations at the Arlington exchange only.

# GIVEN \$10,670 FOR HER HUSBAND'S DEATH

Omaha, Neb.—(UP)—In a case tried without a jury, District Judge Fitzgerald Wednesday awarded Mrs. Margaret Sutton \$10,670 for the death of her husband, Clifford, 32 years old, during a storm last August. The Nebraska Power company was the defendant. During the storm the wind blew down a power company wire carrying several thousand volts. The wire struck Sutton as he stepped from his automobile, electrocuting him.

# WIFE TIPS OFF HER ERRING HUSBAND

Omaha, Neb.—(UP)—H. L. McCauley, fell into a police trap laid by his wife, who was returned to Denver today to face charges of forging checks totaling about \$1,000. Denver authorities had been looking for him for more than a year. Wednesday, Mrs. McCauley, who is visiting her parents at Fremont, telephoned private detectives here that she had made an appointment to meet her husband at the Omaha postoffice. V. L. Egan appeared he was placed under ar-