

FOR CONSOLIDATION

SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS OF FERS A SUGGESTION

Items of General Interest Gathered From Reliable Sources Around the State House.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. There are 867 school districts in the state with a census of one to twelve children of school age; fifteen of them with one child each, twenty-two with two, twenty-seven with three, forty-five with four, sixty with five and the balance with between six and twelve children of school age.

This, according to an educational survey, by State Superintendent Thomas, shows that consolidation is to be desired, for operation of schools with a small number not nearly as productive as larger schools.

The state officer continues by showing that of 6,571 schools operated in the state during the past school year there were 3,390 operated with from one to twelve pupils each.

Thirty schools had but one pupil each. One hundred and one schools had two pupils each, while 151 schools had only three pupils each. A total of 229 schools had but four pupils each and 299 schools had five pupils each. Of six-pupil schools there were 319 and of seven-pupil schools 363. The balance of the schools up to 3,390 had between seven and twelve pupils each.

State Engineer to Be Reappointed

State Engineer George E. Johnson will be reappointed for two years, under the incoming state administration and Roy L. Cochran, of North Platte, will be his deputy. All three members of the new state board of irrigation—Governor-elect Neville, Attorney General Reed and Land Commissioner Shumway—have indicated that they are agreed to make these appointments.

The state irrigation association, which held its annual convention at Bridgeport last week, passed resolutions asking the reappointment of State Engineer Johnson and also requesting that Cochran be made his deputy. Governor-elect Neville and Land Commissioner-elect Shumway, who were present, stated that they would be guided by the recommendations and Mr. Neville said he also had the promise of Attorney General Reed to abide by them.

Discusses State's Oil Prospects

Whether there is oil and gas down near Table Rock, or whether there is not, is discussed in an article just written by G. E. Condra, director of the Nebraska conservation and soil survey. After showing that a great anticline exists in Nebraska similar to the one in Kansas where oil and gas have been found in immense quantities and this Nebraska anticline is really an extension of the Kansas formation, Doctor Condra in a recent newspaper story, tells of a trip he, in connection with C. J. Hurst, an oil operator, made through southern Nebraska and down into Kansas, where he proved to the satisfaction of Mr. Hurst that the geological formation of the two states is similar in this respect.

Deplores Educational Situation

Nebraska's fortune is to have some excellent teachers in the normal schools.

But Nebraska's misfortune is to lose them too often to states which pay more money—so states the normal board report given at a recent meeting of that body. In addition to making this interesting observation the board says that it will need more money for the future than it has during the past year. The state levy need not be changed, however, the board says, but may remain at five-eighths of a mill. The increase in valuation will take care of the greater sums needed for this work.

Oil Consumption Increases

The consumption of oil in Nebraska the last two years increased 100 per cent over the two years of 1911 and 1912, according to a report of the state oil inspector. The consumption in the last two years reached a total of 2,200,000 barrels.

Asks Co-operation of Owners

State Veterinarian J. S. Anderson announces that he does not deem it necessary to establish a quarantine against the disease known as stomatitis that attacks both horses and cattle and produce a sloughing off of the membrane of the mouth. Instead he has asked the co-operation of stock owners in isolating cases of the disease and in treating the infected animals with an ordinary antiseptic wash. Where co-operation is not given he will quarantine premises.

Governor Issues Proclamation

The proclamation declaring the prohibition amendments to be a part of the state constitution from this date on has been formally presented to the public by Governor Morehead. The document gives the form of the amendment and the vote and certifies that it was regularly voted upon and adopted. Another proclamation of the same kind carries the tale that the pure food amendment was defeated.

ORGANIZED FARMERS' WEEK

January 15 to 20 set for Annual Gathering at State Farm

The university farm is to be a mecca for progressive farmers and their wives January 15 to 20, when folks from all parts of the state will make their annual pilgrimage to Lincoln for the week of organized agriculture, as the joint sessions of agriculture and home economics associations are termed. Six thousand country folks spent the week at the university farm last year, and an even greater attendance is expected this year.

Twenty-eight associations touching every phase of every-day life of country men and women will figure in this year's program at Lincoln. The list includes live stock associations of all kinds, the home economics' association, veterinary association, grain and seed growers' association, ice cream makers, horticultural society, state grange, good roads and other organizations of a similar nature.

Will Ask Their Abolishment

The office of state land commissioner has become superfluous, through the creation of the board of control for public institutions and hence should be abolished and what work this office does do given over to the state auditor, according to the recommendations of state Auditor Smith, in his biennial report to the governor. The board of control has taken over the management of fifteen institutions formerly under the land commissioner. Smith recommends that the abolition be made by constitutional amendment, which, it is said, would take four years. Auditor Smith further recommends that the state printing bureau be abolished and its work done in the state auditor's office or the office of the secretary of state.

Earnings of Nebraska Railroads

Revenue earned in this state by the railroads operating here totaled \$9,204,518 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, according to a report of the state railway commission.

This huge sum represents a gain of nearly \$10,000,000 since 1912 for the annual revenue of that year barely reached \$50,000,000.

In the meantime the same report shows that the operating expenses of the roads allocated to Nebraska, have increased only from \$33,048,000 to \$34,841,000.

Taxes paid by the seven roads of the state for the year 1911 aggregate \$2,250,350, while taxes paid by the same roads this year amounted to \$2,526,500—an increase of \$276,000.

General Miles Will Speak

General Nelson A. Miles of Washington, D. C., lieutenant general of the United States army, retired, who as a young officer just after the civil war, spent many seasons in Nebraska and the west fighting the Indians, has been secured as the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Nebraska state historical society in Lincoln the second week in January. The meeting this year of the three big historical societies—the one meeting mentioned, along with the Nebraska territorial pioneers' association, and the Nebraska memorial association—will be one of unusual interest, on account of the celebration of the semi-centennial of admission of Nebraska to the union.

Act is Unreasonable.

The supreme court has declared unreasonable and unconstitutional an act of 1905 which requires railroads to maintain a speed of eighteen miles an hour for the movement of shipments of live stock on main lines and a speed of fourteen miles an hour on branch lines, with a penalty in the form of damages at the rate of \$10 for each hour each car is delayed beyond this time limit.

Butter and Eggs in Cold Storage

There were more than a million and a half pounds of butter and 63,589 cases of eggs in Nebraska cold storage houses November 25, according to reports filed with State Food Commissioner C. E. Harman. His reports filed with the number of pounds of cured meats in storage decreased from 6,338,981 pounds October 1, to 2,884,100 pounds November 25.

Dr. D. F. Luckey of Missouri has been secured by the Nebraska veterinary medical association to deliver an address in Lincoln on December 20. The association will hold its annual meeting December 19, 20 and 21.

Says It Would Work Hardships

Railway Commissioner Hall will dissent from the railway commission order granting the Omaha, Lincoln & Beatrice Interurban road permission to issue \$5,000,000 in stocks and bonds for the completion of the line. Mr. Hall says that between Omaha and Lincoln two railroads are located and that both of them generally "have a hard time" making both ends meet. He says construction of an electric line would duplicate the transportation means and would work a distinct hardship upon all the lines.

Part of Act Unconstitutional

The supreme court of Nebraska has upheld the act of the last legislature providing for the appointment of a court commission comprising three members, but declares void that part of the act which limits the court in its choice of commissioners to nominees proposed by the governor. The court says the legislature and the governor cannot thus interfere with a coordinate branch of the state government any more than the court could appoint officers or employes for the house or senate.

IN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS

WHAT IS BEING DONE THERE

Epitome of the Doings of the National Lawmakers at Washington.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Washington.—Thousands of aliens who have returned to their native lands to engage in the war would be barred from returning to the United States by an amendment to the immigration bill adopted by the senate.

Senator Reed's amendment barring temporary laborers also was adopted and after a long debate it was decided not to change the house provisions that no alien shall be excluded for a crime of a political nature.

The senate also added a provision requiring aliens to state their purposes in coming to the United States, how long they intend to remain and whether they intend to become American citizens.

Partial Victory for Women

Washington.—Woman suffrage advocates won a partial victory in their long fight to have the Susan B. Anthony federal amendment voted on in congress when the house judiciary committee reported the amendment for consideration. A campaign will be launched to get a special rule to bring the amendment before the house for action, probably in January. Both suffragists and anti-suffragists expressed satisfaction over developments and are confident of victory on the floor. Though anxious that the resolution be reported favorably, the suffragists were pleased because the committee, which generally was regarded as hopelessly against their cause, went so far as it did. On the other hand, their opponents declare an opportunity to have the house vote on the issue inevitably means a defeat for suffrage which will settle the question nationally for many years.

Giving Serious Consideration

Washington.—Serious consideration is being given by President Wilson to the possibility that an exchange of views that may follow the peace proposals of the central powers to the entente allies may develop an opportunity to bring forward the suggestion for a league of nations to enforce permanent peace. He has reached no decision, however, and probably will not pending the arrival of the official cablegram containing the communication handed Charge Grew by the German government.

Literacy Test Stands

Washington.—The immigration bill containing the restrictive literacy test for admission of aliens which has caused three presidents to veto such a measure, was passed by the senate sixty-four to seven. The bill, as amended in the senate, now goes to conference. It passed the house last session. The senate reconsidered the clause designed to exclude anarchists who teach destruction of property as a propaganda.

Will Adjourn for Christmas

Washington.—Congress will recess over Christmas holidays from December 22 to January 2, according to announcement by Democratic Leader Kitchin. Speaker Clark, who favored a shorter recess, will not object to the resolution which Kitchin will offer for such a recess and senate leaders have agreed to adopt it.

Washington.—Despairing of securing through the ordinary legislative methods a satisfactory solution of the controversy over Senator Phelan's amendment to the oil lands bill which would legalize disputed claims of many private holders of fuel oil lands in California, the senate lands committee decided to refer the entire question to a special committee of senators, representatives and officials of the navy, interior and justice departments.

Washington.—The house judiciary committee has reported favorably on a bill for nation-wide prohibition, reported the women's suffrage bill without recommendation and reported favorably a bill for nation-wide food investigation.

Boycott on Submarines

Madrid.—Alejandro Lerroux, leader of the radical party in the chamber of deputies has introduced a bill prohibiting Spanish subjects and vessels from provisioning German submarines in any way.

London.—A dispatch to the Post from Budapest reports that a bill providing for compulsory services in Austro-Hungary on much more drastic lines than in Germany will be introduced in the Austrian and Hungarian parliaments in January.

To Systematize Check Collection

Chicago, Ill.—Plans for devising a system of collecting bank checks and paper that would meet the approval of country bankers were discussed here at a meeting of a special committee appointed by the American Bankers' association. Many of the smaller banks have objected to the collection of checks at par provided by the federal reserve board. A voluntary check collection at a moderate charge and a plan for a charge of 50 cents to \$1 on each \$1,000 collected have been suggested.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

GARRISON CLAIMS IT TREASON TO DELAY.

GOOD TIMES AFTER THE WAR

Prosperity Not to End at Conclusion of European Struggle—Proposes Remedy for Shortage of Cars.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. New York.—To question the power and imperative necessity of the national government to make preparation for defense "is little short of treason," it was declared here by former Secretary of War Lindley M. Garrison in an address on "Nationalism" before the Lawyers' club. After reviewing the passing of many powers and duties from the state governments to the national government he said that in the matter of preparedness the central government "flinched and faltered and sought to pass its neglected duty to the states, the result being a lamentable failure."

"From the viewpoint of the national entity," Mr. Garrison said, "nationalism is the possession of and the exercise by the national government of every power and function necessary to perform properly the collective duties and to fulfill completely the collective obligations of the nation. From the viewpoint of the citizen nationalism is the yielding, not in theory, but in practice, of his mind, his heart, and his spirit to the welfare of the nation, the contribution of his material means and his physical force to its preservation and defense. It means service and sacrifice, devotion and loyalty."

Proposed Remedy for Car Shortage

Washington.—Drastic regulations adopted by the railroads have gone into effect with the approval of the interstate commerce commission as emergency measures to relieve the shortage of freight cars which, for months, has been a brake on the country's commerce and affected the high cost of living.

The remedy is the railroads own, proposed by the car service commission of the American railway association and formally approved by the federal commission. The first regulation provides that a consignee may have the usual two days to unload a car and that thereafter demurrage shall be charged at the rate of \$1 for the first day, \$2 for the second, \$3 for the third and \$5 for the fourth, and each succeeding day. Heretofore the charge has been uniformly \$1 a day and many consignees, notably automobile concerns and coal dealers are declared to have been glad to permit shipments to stand for long periods because the penalty was so small that it compared favorably with warehouse charges.

GOOD TIMES AFTER WAR

Prosperity Not to End at Conclusion of Struggle

New York.—"I am not of those who believe that our prosperity will end with the war's end," said John N. Willys of Toledo, at the session of the tenth annual convention of the association of life insurance presidents.

"I think we are just getting started," said Mr. Willys. "We have long had natural resources. The war has awakened us to their more efficient development. Europe must be rebuilt after this war ends. We will have the trained men as never before. It will be our work. The profits will be ours. There is warrant only for optimism. But if we are to realize our commercial ultimate, there must be a minimum curbing of individual aggressiveness."

Ten Days' Submarine Havoc

Amsterdam.—A Berlin dispatch says that German submarines between November 28 and December 8 sank, off the French Atlantic coast, among other vessels, steamships carrying coal cargoes amounting to 17,000 tons which were on the way to France, and also an English steamship with 6,000 tons of war material which was proceeding from New York to France.

May Settle Out of Court.

Evansville, Ind.—W. G. Lee of Cleveland, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, publicly announced here for the first time that negotiations are under way between the leaders of the brotherhoods and those higher up in the chambers of the operating departments of the railroads, looking to a settlement of their entire controversy out of court before January 1, when the Adamson law is scheduled to go into effect. He said the settlement was in a crude state yet, but is developing.

Credit of Nations Still Strong.

Boston.—An explanation of the federal reserve board's recent warning to American bankers against locking up their money in foreign treasury bills was made in a speech here by W. P. G. Harding, governor of the board, who reiterated the declaration that there was no intention to reflect upon the credit of any nation. Soon after the board's statement appeared short term British treasury bills which had been offered for sale in this country were withdrawn.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By E. O. BELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. (Copyright, 1916, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 24

UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

LESSON TEXT—Isaiah 9:1-7. GOLDEN TEXT—For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.—Isa. 9:1.

The Christmas lesson naturally and logically follows the three lessons we have just had from the book of the Revelation where Jesus in his glory had been portrayed, and the ultimate success of his work is foreseen in the new heaven and the new earth. Isaiah saw the vision of his first coming, John saw the vision of his second coming, when what he began the first time shall ultimately be accomplished. The prophecy here spoken was uttered during the reign of Ahab, B. C. 738 to 723. The king of Assyria was attacking Syria. The tribes of northern Israel were carried away as captives. Judah was in danger of invasion. (See II Kings 15:20.) Isaiah was preaching in his home city, Jerusalem. His vision of the Messiah Savior was not more than 800 years before John saw the vision of the glorified Jesus.

I. Darkness Versus Light (vv. 1-5). We need to go back into the eighth chapter to get the full historical situation of this part of the lesson. Ahab, trembling in Jerusalem, had with him the Prophet Isaiah, the wisest and greatest man in his kingdom, yet Ahab listened not to his words of warning and rebuke. He doggedly pursued his own course and sought help in every other quarter than the right one. This explains Isaiah's words, "The people that walked in darkness." Primarily he may have referred to those of the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali, the Galilee of the nations (John 1:46; 7:52) and the light which shone in them, which was the light of the world, Jesus of Nazareth (John 8:12). But there is a larger application in this verse to the whole world which lay in darkness until Jesus came, and the whole world has seen or shall see the great light (Luke 1:78-79). With the coming of light comes the increase of joy (v. 3, R. V.). In Israel there is to be, through Christ, a wonderful increase (Isa. 49:20-22; Zech. 10:8). In Christ there is to be great joy, the joy of harvest and of victory. The religion of Jesus Christ is pre-eminently the religion of joy (Acts 8:8; Phil. 4:4; I Peter 1:8) but the Child that was to be born was to be a Deliverer too, for the "yoke of burden" was a tax of \$1,800,000 that had recently been levied by the king of Assyria. It was a night of thick darkness for Israel. Then, even as now, we have the moral darkness. (Read Rom. 1:20-32.) But the prophet saw the joy of deliverance. Jerusalem had been left in peace, Hezekiah succeeded his father, Ahab, and entered upon a religious revival in the kingdom. The people who had walked in darkness had seen a new light. The prophet saw the dawning rays through the midst of this darkness of ignorance being removed. He also saw the coming of the Light of Men 700 years later, and the multiplication of the nations, the increase of their joy.

II. Unto Us a Son is Born (vv. 6-7). The greatest joy for Israel in Isaiah's time was in this vision of the Messiah, the promised Savior. Isaiah is looking ahead seven centuries. We are looking back nineteen. He was to be king over his people. Name and title is here given. (1) "Wonderful" because of his nature, being both human and divine. The word made flesh and dwelt among us. (2) "Counsellor," one who has the wisdom to guide himself and others. No one guided by him has ever failed of true success. (3) "The Mighty God." He was truly God so that we can trust him to the uttermost. He can also save to the uttermost. (4) "Everlasting Father," expressing his divine loving kindness and self-identification with the Father. (5) He is also "Prince of Peace," the one who rules so that peace and prosperity abide in his kingdom. He brings peace between man and God, and between man and man. He is the peace of the soul as well as bringing peace to the soul. The completeness of this picture which Isaiah saw is the one which St. John saw, of which we have been recently studying. These two verses are marvelous ones, not only because of the clear prediction of Jesus of Nazareth, made more than seven centuries before his first advent, but marvelous also for the fullness and richness of the revelation they contain concerning the person, character and work of Christ.

Our Lord's earth life began at Bethlehem, but he was from all eternity (John 8:56-58; John 1:1-2). As a man is not at peace with God he cannot be at peace with himself or his fellows; but as Jesus restores peace between man and God, he also restores peace to the heart of the individual (Phil. 4:7). Sunday school officers and teachers should realize the difference between the peace with God (Rom. 5:1) and the peace of God (Phil. 4:7). Let us see to it that in the fullest sense our scholars may have the Prince of Peace in their lives.

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Testimony to the truth of the statement that Harvard students are as a rule reliable in the matter of payment of bills, is given in the report of the Co-Operative society. "The society loses very little through uncollectable accounts," runs the report. "In spite of the fact that by far the larger part of its sales are on credit. During the past year, in a total business of \$445,000, the entire amount written off the books as uncollectable was \$212.23."

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Why Wood Rot.

Many plans have been devised to keep wood from rotting, and the best means has been found to be the use of some solution on the wood to be protected that worms and microbes can not digest. These pests attack wood by the millions and soon eat away so much of the substance that the log or timber is "rotten" and falling to pieces. Creosote is a common preventive, and salt water also tends to ward off the insect army.

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