

AIRSHIP FOR ARMY

\$50,000 Provided for Experiments at Fort Omaha

WILL USE IF PROVED PRACTICAL

American Army to Have an Equipment Superior to Any Other in the World

Quietly, but with a determination to satisfy himself thoroughly on the subject, General Allen, chief signal officer of the army, has been making preparations for most extensive experiments with balloons, airships and aeroplanes with the view to settling upon some system of aerial navigation for use in operations of the army, either in times of peace or war.

Recently there arrived in this country from France a type of balloon used by the French army which was purchased by the signal corps in order that its merits might be tested in competition with balloons of American make, while in New York there is being constructed an immense balloon in which it is proposed that the men of the corps shall make their trial ascents.

It is the intention to conduct the experiments at Ft. Omaha, just outside of Omaha, Neb., and for this purpose \$50,000 of money already appropriated has been allotted for fitting up the fort with all the necessary appliances, including gas tanks, repair shops, etc.

General Allen said that he will be prepared to conduct experiments with every conceivable kind of machine offered and all would be given a trial before a board of officers, but the department under no circumstances will purchase plans of balloons or machines not already put to practical tests.

General Allen said that he believed this country was far ahead of any other in the matter of flying machines. Already, he said, there had been developed some which would furnish a few surprises.

It is stated that the balloon corps of the French army numbers at least 600 men, all expert aeronauts, and it is expected by the department that before long the American army will have an equipment superior to that of any army in the world.

Just how soon the experiments will be made is not known, but General Allen proposes to lose no time in completing his plant and he hopes that before many months he will have tests under way.

GOING THROUGH THE SIEVE.

The Primary Bill Brings Out Fighting Elements.

Many hours have been taken up by the primary measure and when final disposition is announced a bill by which all parties will rally will be the result. There has been some very important changes made and more will follow before the final test for adoption of its entirety comes. The provision that a candidate may place his name on the ballot by petition was incorporated instead of the provision that a certificate or request with a filing fee should be required. Instead of the open ballot at which any person voting should declare his politics and receive his party ticket to vote, the house inserted an amendment providing for a closed ballot whereby the voter receives the ballots of all the parties with tickets in the field and in the election booth makes his choice which he shall vote.

CASH FOR STATE GUARDS.

Adjutant General Will Endeavor to Get Appropriation.

Adjutant General Culver appeared before the committee on ways and means and urged liberal appropriation for his department. He declared that the state could well afford the cost of the national guard rather than the burden of an immense standing army as the nations of Europe support. The national guard, he declared, is ready to be called into the field on an hour's notice. He is asking for an appropriation of \$36,000 per year. Among the new items of expense are fees of 25 cents per drill to the enlisted men of the guard. If the guardsman is absent, the 25 cents is forfeited to the company. The adjutant general declares that the average cost of belonging to the guard has been \$32.50.

OMAHA MASONS GET TROWEL.

Globe Trotting Emblem Comes to Omaha Lodge.

Capitol lodge No. 3 of the Masonic fraternity of Omaha, after conference with the Masonic lodges of Sioux Falls, received the famous traveling silver trowel from that city.

This trowel is traveling around the world, having started on its journey from the grand lodge of New York, and each month is given to a new lodge by the one last holding it.

The coming of the famous trowel to Omaha was a great event in Masonic circles, with the grand lodge of this state participating. Members of all neighboring lodges were invited, and a big delegation of distinguished Masons from South Dakota were present.

A Nebraska City minister refused an increase in his salary because he has so much trouble in collecting what is already coming to him.

A NEW CRUELTY BILL.

Illinois Legislature to Come Forward With New Ideas.

Now it is suggested that there be a law for "prevention of cruelty to land." It is to be modeled after the "prevention of cruelty to animals" measure. Under the proposed bill, land may not be planted more than two years at a time with corn, oats, wheat or other small grain. Provision is made for "resting" soil every seven years by seeding it with alfalfa for meadow or pasture. Every five years it must be "toned up" with top dressing, stable manure or some other fertilizer. A penalty of \$20 a year for each violation is to be provided. Copies of the proposed measure have been sent to Governor Deneen and to the governors of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

STRIKES OIL AT LAST.

Gusher Near Lincoln Excites Much Interest.

Oil and gas at the Burnham well near Lincoln have ceased to be mere indications and now appear in quantity. The diggers are greatly enthusiastic over their find. Although many people of Lincoln have been entertaining doubts as to the truth of the reports, the most skeptical who have seen the well are now convinced of the existence of the "real article." A constant flow of oil was recently struck and has been coming up in rapidly increasing quantities. This is the fourth showing of oil that has been struck since the beginning of the digging. The other showings were nothing more than traces of oil in the rock formation. The first time a showing of oil was struck it did not make the diggers positive that the real oil stratum was below, but it encouraged them to continue to dig. The second showing, being better than the first, gave them reason to believe that there was something better further down. When the third showing was struck there was enthusiasm and confidence a success.

DRIVES NAIL WITH DYNAMITE.

Student Uses Explosive Carelessly With Usual Result.

A student at the German college from West Point met with a peculiar and serious accident at Seward, losing his left hand in an effort to drive a nail with a stick of dynamite. Last summer some of the boys of the college had found a pointed stick painted red on the railroad track. It had been kicked around the college ever since, and its nature was not discovered until the young man picked it up and attempted to use it as a hammer. The first and second fingers of the hand were amputated, but the palm had been terribly lacerated and it is feared that it will have to be sacrificed.

JUVENILE COURT.

Society to Promote the Study of Child Problems.

The Juvenile Court association of Lincoln was recently organized and a constitution adopted.

The objects of the association as stated in the constitution are to cooperate with the juvenile court and other child helping agencies. To suppress and prevent conditions and to aid in prosecuting persons contributing to the dependency and delinquency of children. To promote the study of child problems, and by systematic agitation through the press and otherwise, to create a healthy public sentiment in favor of wise measures for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency.

NEBRASKA'S COAL MINE.

Products of the Mine Resemble the Grades Found in Wyoming.

Prof. E. H. Barbour has issued a bulletin on the Honey Creek coal mine, four miles southeast of Peru. The report has been filed with Governor Sheldon. This mine has been referred to as the first coal mine found in Nebraska, although other small veins have been found but none of them proved profitable. The Honey Creek mine is near the Missouri river. The average thickness of the vein is thirty-four inches. Any coal is considered good in a state supposedly destitute of natural fuel, but Professor Barbour says this mine produces a good average grade of bituminous coal. Though the bed may be limited to a square mile or so it is of importance to the state of Nebraska. Samples tested by chemists show that it is not far behind the lignite coal of Cumberland, Wyo.

PUPILS RAISE MONEY.

Omaha Students Secure Funds for Statue.

Pupils of the Omaha high school have closed the campaign to raise funds for the Lincoln statue. The Woman's club took the initiative, but the pupils decided to take it off their hands, and on Lincoln's birthday they started a campaign which proved as persistent and aggressive a corps of canvassers and solicitors as any cause ever had. So untiring were they that there were numerous telephone calls demanding to know when it would be over. The telephone said the youngsters made life a burden for everybody.

Prin. Waterhouse announced that \$1,820 had been raised. It was figured that between \$1,500 and \$1,800 would be required for the purpose. These were the sums raised by the respective classes: Sophomores, \$652.72; Juniors, \$427.45; Freshmen, \$593.30; Seniors, \$298.18. Besides there were about \$50 in the general fund.

ROADS WILL FIGHT

Big Law Suit is Expected in Near Future

WILL FIGURE TO SHOW A LOSS

Passenger Profits Compared to Other Railroad Incomes are Insignificant

From our Correspondent Geo. W. Kline

Railroads, at present complying with the two cent fare act, are expected to pull off a swift and dizzy lawsuit in the near future. This is predicted unless the inauguration of the two cent fare brings about such an increase in travel that the roads can afford to follow the two cent reduction as a matter of profit.

The attitude of the railroads caused the governor to change his mind about signing the bill. After trying to comply with the law the corporations would have an excellent chance to take the case into court on the non-compensation issue and the figures concerning the profit and loss would be entirely in the control of the railroads. Governor Sheldon foresaw that it would be best to protect the bill from all technical defects, so he signed it and at the same time intimated that party pledges regarding the reduction of the freight rates must be carried out to the letter.

Passenger returns make up 15 per cent of the income of the railroads. Freight rates form a formidable portion. A 33-1-3 reduction in the 15 per cent looks like a big item to the individual but in reality it is very small. The bulk of the profits to the railroads come from the farmers and business men indirectly in the 85 per cent. A cut of 25 per cent in this means money in the pockets of the people. All the necessities of life are taxed for freight traffic. This is never noticed because the tax is indirect. The freight on grain is deducted from the market price. The freight on foods, clothing, coal and supplies is added to the market price.

Governor Sheldon means to enforce his platform pledge. He did not approve the two cent fare plan during the campaign but stood for an equitable reduction of passenger fare along with a just reduction of freight charges. He maintains that the railroads are still getting far more than their due. He will insist on lopping off this excess and letting it go to the business man, the ranchman and the farmer. The railway commission bill has been passed by the house. It will be adopted by the senate. Within three months, and in time for the fall crop movement, the freight rates will be greatly reduced.

The primary bill, outlined along the Minnesota plan, has been discussed and approved by the house.

Leadership and party counsel are lacking in the present legislature. There has been no official Moses. In the senate the claim to leadership seems to be divided between Senator Root and Senator King. In the house confusion reigns. Attempts at the iron hand have been amusing in the extreme. It was expected that the house would be the chief battleground and new warriors would arise.

S. F. 95, by Thomas of Douglas county, providing for increase in the salaries of firemen and policemen, has passed by a vote of 72 to 0.

S. F. 87, by Sackett, providing for a joint memorial to congress asking for a law to prevent railroads and other interstate corporations from taking tax cases into the federal court, was passed in the house by the vote of 80 to 1. Steinauer of Pawnee county cast the negative vote.

S. F. 151, by Epperson of Clay, providing that teachers' institutes must be held in June, July or August each year, passed by a vote of 79 to 2.

S. F. 144, by Gibson of Douglas, decreasing to three the number of fire and police commissioners of South Omaha, passed the house by a vote of 70 to 10.

H. R. 385, by Lee of Omaha, providing that cities of more than 5,000 may amend their charters by a two-thirds vote of their council, was indefinitely postponed.

Dodge's primary bill was reported for indefinite postponement by the committee on elections and privileges.

H. R. 282, by Leeder, calling for the election of boiler inspector in Omaha instead of appointment, was placed on the general file in spite of a contrary report by the committee on cities and towns.

Tucker's bill providing for a bounty for gophers was referred to the committee on mines and mining.

One of the newly made laws is S. F. No. 6, prohibiting the transportation to any part of the state of any intoxicating liquors unless there is inscribed upon the outside of the package in large legible letters the words "Intoxicating Liquors." Also prohibiting the shipment of intoxicating

liquors to any fictitious person or consignee. A penalty of from \$100 to \$300 is imposed for each offense.

Senator Sackett introduced a bill to investigate the insurance companies of the state. His bill asks for a committee of nine, composed of house and senate members, to look into the matter of rates and charges and report at the next regular session of the legislature.

The bill giving the governor the power to remove superintendents of the Lincoln hospital for the insane at his discretion has become a law.

One of the new bills which is now a law prohibits the sale of wild game at any time of the year. It was introduced by the fish and game commission.

H. R. No. 72 has become a law. It compels school boards to set aside ten cents a pupil for a library fund in districts where no provision is made for this purpose.

A bill has been passed in the house regulating the licensing of automobiles.

Representative Quackenbush's bill for a joint memorial to congress asking for a constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy was passed unanimously.

A bill has been introduced by Representative Hanson requiring all liquor dealers engaged in the retail sale of liquor as a beverage to obtain a certificate of authority from the auditor annually, providing for the payment of a fee of \$100 upon the issuance of a special fund from the proceeds of said fees for the purpose of erecting and maintaining an asylum for the treatment and cure of dipso-maniacs.

Among the bills indefinitely postponed was H. R. No. 354, introduced by Alderson, appropriating \$12,000 for the Jamestown exposition.

Among the new bills introduced is S. F. No. 404, which provides that persons making a confession of guilt to a charge of murder in the first degree shall be deemed guilty of murder in the first degree and suffer death or imprisonment for life in the discretion of the court, the court to determine the degree of the crime without a jury.

A new bill introduced by Senator Patrick amends the state game law to provide for hunting and fishing license for all persons over fourteen years of age desiring to hunt or fish on any except land of which they are owners or tenants; reducing the resident license fee from \$1 to fifty cents and allowing a county clerk issuing licenses to collect a fee of ten cents for each license.

Governor Sheldon has permitted H. R. No. 116, by Quackenbush of Nebraska, to become a law without his signature. The bill provides that reporters in district courts shall receive ten cents a page for making transcripts in criminal cases where the defendant makes an affidavit of poverty. The bill also provides that the reporters shall take down the remarks of the presiding judge.

Members Make Good Record. More than 100 bills have been introduced in the Nebraska legislature and disposition has been made of but a few of them. In the house, Representatives Quackenbush and Lee led in number of bills, each having twenty-two. In the senate Senator Thomas of Omaha led with forty-three, while Senator Root of Cass county was a close second with forty-three measures. In the Lancaster delegation the two Browns, Elmer and Ned, each introduced twenty-one bills.

Too Many Appropriations.

Should all of the appropriation bills now before the legislature be granted by vote of the legislators, the state treasury would groan for years. In every conceivable form, onslaughts have been made upon the public money and most of the bills have to be turned down, although most of them have some merit in them. Forty-eight appropriation bills have been introduced in the house and several in the senate. The total appropriations asked by these bills aggregate millions.

Saves Divorce Bill.

Senator Sibley of Lincoln saved his divorce bill, which the committee on judiciary had recommended for indefinite postponement. He said it was intended to prevent parties from marrying within six months after having been divorced. The attorneys of the senate disagreed as to whether or not the present law contains the same provision, as interpreted by the courts. The senate voted to place the bill on the general file.

A Sifting Committee.

The senate voted to have a sifting committee, and one has been appointed. Hundreds of bills, it is alleged, were introduced merely to please certain factions but never intended for passage. They cannot be seriously considered now. So a sifting committee was named to spot the bills and gracefully waylay them.

It is expected that the printing will cost thousands of dollars in excess of any session in the history of the state.

Grand Island has large green houses that ship their products all over the state.

SHELDON SIGNS

The Two-Cent Fare Bill is Now in Force

MIGHT BE VOID UNLESS SIGNED

The Governor Had Intended to Let It Become a Law Without His Signature

Governor George L. Sheldon has signed the two cent fare bill and this bill is now in force. He said he attached his signature because of the legal question raised as to the force of the emergency clause if he failed to sign the bill.

The governor had previously announced that he would let the bill become a law without his signature. Then the point was raised that the emergency clause, which reads, "Whereas, an emergency exists, this act shall take effect and be in force after its passage and approval," might not be effective without the affirmative action of the governor. Attorney General Thompson has been of the opinion that there was little to support this question, but he does not deny that there might be some doubt about the matter. In order that the railroads might not take advantage of any loophole, the governor signed the bill.

It had been the governor's intention to have the bill become a law without signing it. Then it was reported that the railroads would accept the law and put it in force. Later it was shown that some of the roads had not accepted the bill unconditionally, but reserved the right to test the law at some future time if they saw fit. All of the railroads have put the rate into effect.

The two cent fare bill was drafted by a joint committee comprising senators and members of the legislature. Senator Wiltse of Cedar, was one who put in a great deal of time looking up the legality of the proposed measure. The bill is merely amendatory of the present statute which fixes the passenger rates at three cents a mile. The bill changes the word "three" to "two." In addition there is inserted a clause which states that no railroad shall be required to sell a ticket for less than five cents. This was put in to apply to interurban lines and to the sale of tickets on roads where stations were less than one mile apart. The bill changes the age at which half fare rates shall apply from children under ten years to children under twelve years, which is now the rule in force on all roads in this state.

Governor Sheldon was in favor of a two cent passenger fare, if it could be secured, but in his campaign he said he feared the roads might be able to set aside such a law in court because it might not be remunerative on some of the poorer and smaller lines. He advocated placing the rate making power in the hands of the railway commission. He urged that the roads care little for a reduction of passenger fares, but they are vitally interested in keeping up freight rates.

Bulk Sales Bill a Law.

Governor Sheldon has signed S. F. 114, by Thomas of Douglas, known as the bulk sales bill, an act to prevent merchants from selling their stocks of goods without notice to creditors. The bill has an emergency clause and will not take effect until three months after the legislature adjourns.

TO INCREASE THE REVENUE.

A Number of Bills if Passed Will Add Much to Treasury Fund.

Secretary of State Junkin and others in his department are greatly interested in a number of bills now pending before the legislature which will, if they become laws, largely increase the revenues of the office. As there has as yet been little if any opposition to the measures, there is good reason to believe they will be enacted before adjournment.

One of these bills has for its purpose the annual registration of automobiles, and as these vehicles are rapidly increasing in numbers, it is thought that such a law would bring quite a large sum annually.

Another bill raises the fee for notaries public from \$1 to \$5. At present the man who desires to become a notary pays the state a dollar, and in addition to his certificate, is entitled to a copy of the session laws. He pays the county clerk of his home county \$2. While a \$5 fee might have a tendency to cut down the number of applicants for notarial commissions, there are many who believe that such a result would be a good rather than a bad thing. These commissions, it is argued, run for six years, and if they are worth anything they should be worth \$5.

A measure which will probably not greatly increase the revenue, but which is thought to be quite essential provides that cattle brands shall be rendered every two years, the fee for re-registration being fifty cents. The original registration fee is \$1.50 and under the present law this stands for all time. The principal idea in the proposed law is to get rid of the dead brands, or those no longer in use.

The measure which is expected to effect the greatest increase in the revenue is the one providing for an annual tax on all corporations doing