

CAPITAL CITY CHAT

THE RAILWAY COMMISSION HAS AMPLE POWER.

CAN RAISE OR LOWER RATES

Attorney General Thompson, in Response to Request Therefor, Gives Opinion in Regard to Rates.

Up to Railway Commission.

Under the decision of Attorney General W. T. Thompson the Nebraska railway commission has power either to raise or lower the commodity maximum rate bill or the rates fixed for express companies without waiting for either bill to go into effect. A dozen or more railroad traffic men appeared before the board and informally protested that the commodity rate bill would do the roads an injustice and it is up to the commission to say whether or not the commodity maximum freight rates determined by the legislature and the charges of express companies are to be changed and set aside after official hearings. The commission may, after a hearing, either raise or lower the rates fixed in these two bills, according to the attorney general, but no action is expected for some time.

The commodity rate applies to charges on live stock, potatoes, grain, and grain products, fruit, coal, lumber,



F. W. BROWN.

Re-elected as democratic mayor in Lincoln, overcoming large republican majority.

and building material, and not more than eighty-five per cent of the rates charged on January 1 may be collected. This bill has no emergency clause and will not go into effect until July 8. The bill relating to express charges has an emergency clause, but as it is not in accordance with the customary form some little doubt has been cast on its efficacy. This bill provides that not more than 75 per cent of the rates charged January 1 shall be collected. The traffic men before the board appeared to be playing a diplomatic game, desiring to ascertain what the commission intended to do and the members of the commission were successful in being just as non-committal and apparently at sea as were the traffic men.

One of the railroad men desired to divide the state into three sections, east and west, and to enforce a reduction of 15 per cent on commodity rates in the eastern division, 12½ per cent in the central division and 10 per cent in the western division. As the maximum rate bill provides for a level reduction for all parts of the state of 15 per cent it is not known whether or not the plan proposed by the railroad men is legal.

Allen Succeeds Church.

Ed. A. Church, oil inspector, has given way to A. B. Allen, until recently private secretary to Governor Sheldon. It is understood that D. W. Hoyt of York and H. J. Hull of Kearney, deputies for the Fourth and Sixth districts, respectively, will not be supplanted at this time. The situation in the Second district, with several candidates in the field, is such that the present deputy, W. G. Thompson, will probably hold his job until the republican leaders reach an agreement on whom they want as his successor. Appointments have been made for the Third and Fifth districts.

Served Without Bond.

The discovery has been made that Chief Oil Inspector Church and a number of other appointive officials who held over from the Mickey administration have served since May 1 without any bonds to cover their acts. Mr. Church gave bond for \$20,000 on May 1, 1905, for the period of two years, so that the surety obligation ceased to be binding on the first day of this month.

Ask for Information.

A request for data to be used in combating the adoption of the proposed constitution in Oklahoma preliminary to its admission as a state has been received by Secretary of State George C. Junkin. The information wanted is a synopsis of the constitutional amendments submitted to popular vote in Nebraska from time to time, the number adopted and the number rejected. L. S. Wilson of Pawnee, Okla., a former law student at the University of Nebraska, who has made his home in the new commonwealth and is taking part in the politics, is the writer of the letter. He says that the republican state central committee of Oklahoma wishes to gather facts for presentation to the voters which will discourage the movement to ratify the constitution in its present form, as prepared by the late constitutional convention, in which the democrats had a large majority.

Sheldon Asks Question.

"How many children of your own have you?" is a question that Governor Sheldon has put to several women who are applicants for membership on the new state board which will have in charge the inspection of conditions under the child labor law. Mrs. H. F. Rose of Lincoln, Mrs. Sprague of Syracuse and one or two other women have been interrogated by the governor as to the size of their respective flocks. It should not be taken for granted, however, that the executive will confine his appointments to women with large families, as he has not intimated any such intention. He merely wants to inform himself on the qualifications of candidates.

May Not Be Able to Buy.

Omission of an emergency clause on the bill appropriating \$2,800 for purchase of additional ground at the state home for friendless may cause the state to lose its options on the property it had intended to buy. The discovery that the money will not become available until July 4 was made by the board of public properties this forenoon. The board was all ready to execute warrants, to John Burke for \$1,000 and to Mrs. Emma Hough for \$800, and to take their deeds for the property when it became aware of the fact that the emergency clause is not in the act and the money is, therefore, not available at present.

Receives Last Dividend.

Treasurer Brian has received the last dividend due the state from the defunct First National bank of Orleans, \$2,000 in amount. A former dividend of \$2,000 was recently paid, making \$4,000 in all. The state had \$20,000 on deposit when the bank failed in May, 1897, so that it gets 20 per cent of its loss, counting no interest. The money was sent by J. W. McDonald of Lincoln, who has been acting as receiver. It was not realized from assets, of which the bank had none, but came through an assessment on some of the larger stockholders.

The Retort Courteous.

An Indiana admirer who walked up town on Monday to pay his respects to Mr. Bryan asked a pointed question as to whether he was to be nominated for the presidency next year. Mr. Bryan good naturedly said that the question reminded him of the darkey who report to his master in detail about feeding the horses and the cows with hay, and that they had eaten it.

"Did you feed the ducks and geese?" the master continued.
"Yaas, marster."
"What did you feed them?"
"I fed em 'hay."
"Did they eat it?"
"Naw, sir, I wouldn't ezackly say they et it, but they was talkin' about it when I left."

Anent Murders.

The latest murder in Nebraska reminds a newspaper telegraph editor that he is called upon to hand five or six similar items a year from Nebraska alone, and that in a large percentage of the cases the incentive to murder is robbery. It has come to such a pass that a man who keeps a sum of money around his house is inviting the attack of some murderous thug. When he has a stranger as a hired man on the place it is particularly dangerous to keep money, for its presence is generally known and is bound to be a temptation. The suggestion is made that well-to-do farmers ought to open bank accounts in the nearest town and have it known that they keep all their money there, as a discouragement to this sort of enterprise.

Despair to Quit.

Don C. Despain, appointed two weeks ago by Governor Sheldon as deputy labor commissioner, has tendered his resignation, effective June 1, in order to accept a position as traveling agent for a window shade concern having offices in Lincoln and a factory at Chicago. He will have the development of the company's business in charge throughout an area of twenty-four states. Lincoln will be his headquarters.

NEBRASKA NEWS

COLORED WOMAN IS KILLED AT ALLIANCE.

SHOT BY HER PARAMOUR

Clifford Holman, Opera House Janitor, Instantly Kills Sadie Bowlan, After Which He Gives Himself Up.

Clifford Holman, a colored janitor at the Phelan opera house, Alliance, shot and killed Sadie Bowlan, with whom he had been living as his wife, at their home.

There seems to be some mystery connected with the affair, as it is difficult to learn the facts, but it is supposed that they had been drinking and a quarrel ensued.

Holman delivered himself up to the authorities immediately after the shooting and made a statement that he had killed the woman in self-defense, as she was after him with a razor, and as further evidence to this fact, he stated that she had the razor in her death grasp. An investigation by the police did not substantiate this, but when three colored men, who were on the death scene without much delay, were called and questioned they soon produced the razor, which was found under the bed and there is no doubt it was placed there by them.

It is said the woman had an unsavory record and about a year ago was implicated in the shooting of the city marshal at Crawford.

TO REDUCE ITS CAPITAL.

Valparaiso Bank Cuts From \$25,000 to \$15,000 for Reasons.

On a request from the Valparaiso state bank for permission to reduce its capital stock from \$25,000 to \$15,000, the state banking board took affirmative action after hearing from Examiner E. S. Mickey, who was sent to make an inquiry into the affairs of the institution. It was learned that two of the five stockholders in the bank are intending to withdraw, and the other three did not wish to carry the entire amount of capital heretofore issued. The banking board consented to have the stock of the two seceding members called in and cancelled, and to receive a cash return for their respective interests. The reasons for their withdrawal were not stated.

One feature of Examiner Mickey's report was that the bank has hitherto placed a higher valuation than is deemed conservative on its building property in its statement of asset. The permit to lower the amount of capital stock was made on the understanding that several hundred dollars be lopped off from that valuation. However, the bank has ample surplus to make good this small depletion without impairment of the assets. A member of the state board stated that the interests of the depositors are not in any way affected by the change.

Plantenberg Adjudged Insane.

Fred Plantenberg, the keeper of the village store at Aloys, in Cuming county, has been again adjudged insane and taken to the Norfolk hospital. This is the second time that Plantenberg has been committed for insanity. About two years ago he was attacked, but after a few months treatment he apparently recovered, but has had a relapse. Inordinate drinking is supposed to be the chief cause of the trouble.

Sedgewick Get at Cane.

The postoffice clerks, city and rural route carriers presented ex-Postmaster T. E. Sedgewick of York with a fine gold headed cane and Mitt Dot Sedgewick, ex-deputy postmistress, with a beautiful gold bracelet. Both gifts were appropriately engraved. Mr. Sedgewick served in the capacity of postmaster from May 1, 1898 until April 1, 1907.

Twelve Sections Withdrawn.

An Alliance dispatch says: Twelve sections of land in townships 32 and 23, in range 45, have been withdrawn from lands to be homesesteaded, pending the resurvey now being conducted by Messrs. Switzer and Harvey, representing the government and the state of Nebraska. These lands are all in the district containing the disputed section lines.

Fire Does Damage.

Fire damaged the flour and feed stock of W. Smith, Beatrice, to the extent of about \$1,000, and the building which was situated east of the Beatrice hotel, to the extent of about \$500. The stock was covered by \$800 insurance, while some insurance was on the building. The fire caught in a stable in the rear of the building. Cause of it is unknown.

D. E. THOMPSON WINS.

Opinion Rendered Growing Out of Capital National Failure.

The supreme court of the United States reversed the decision of the supreme court of Nebraska in the case of Charles E. Yates and others versus the Jones National bank of Seward, Neb., and others. The case grew out of the failure in 1893 of the Capital National bank of Lincoln, Neb., and was an effort to hold the officers and directors liable for losses sustained by depositors. The state courts awarded damages in all cases substantially as prayed for.

Under the decision of the state courts of Nebraska the directors of the Capital National bank were held for a judgment amounting to about \$35,000, the Jones Nationals bank and other banks alleging that they held preferred claims upon the assets of the defunct Capital National bank. It was charged by the creditors of the failed bank that the directors were liable for the claims by reason of alleged knowledge of false statements of the condition of the bank said to have been published under the signatures of Cashier Charles W. Mosher and the president of the institution. D. E. Thompson, now minister to Mexico, was one of the principal directors and stockholders and he was instrumental in appealing the case to the United States courts.

INCENDIARY FIRE AT FILLEY.

City Block Burned, But Loss Will Amount to Only \$4,000.

Fire, which is supposed to have been of incendiary origin, recently destroyed the greater portion of the business section of Filley, Gage county. The fire was discovered about 4 o'clock in the drug store of Wabler, Butterfield, which was completely destroyed. The offices of Dr. C. S. Boggs and Dr. Thornton, the barber shop of Elmer Groves and the harness store of C. H. Kenwood were also consumed by the flames. Some of the stock in the latter building was saved. Hard work on the part of a bucket brigade saved the telephone exchange, in which was also located the post-office. The loss will aggregate \$4,000, partly covered by insurance.

Green Bugs in Gage County

The green bug has made its appearance in Gage county, and its ravages have already begun to have a disastrous effect not only on wheat but on oat crops. An examination of a large number of fields through the country disclosed the presence of the pests in every field. Considerable apprehension is felt among the farmers of the county as to how serious the effects of the ravages of the bugs will be.

New Hospital for Hastings.

The announcement has been made by officers of the Nebraska conference association at College View that the purchase of property has been made in Hastings, preparatory for the establishment of a branch of the Lincoln sanitarium and probably the transfer of the state headquarters to that city within a few months. The total cost of the venture will be in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

Ashland Using Kerosene.

The Ashland Electric Light company, whose plant burned last week has announced that lighting service cannot be guaranteed under a month. Meanwhile coal oil lamps have been much in demand. Owing to the absence of lights, the churches of the city have decided to hold union services for the time being.

Woman Was Run Down.

Mrs. W. J. Hanna of Twenty-fourth and Y streets, Lincoln, was run down by a woman driving a spirited horse near Seventeenth and O streets. She was taken to her home by the woman who was driving the rig whose name is uncertain because she gave several names to different parties. The horse was unruly.

Want a Sewer System.

The question of a municipal sewer system is agitating the citizens of Ashland. Several private sewer systems of considerable extent are in operation, and it is proposed that the city take these over and make them the basis for a system serving the entire corporation.

Fire at Albion.

Fire destroyed the Beckman restaurant and Perks' bakery at Albion. The building and stocks are a total loss. A heavy wind was blowing and the fire company extinguished the fire only by the hardest kind of work. Insurance is small. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Actor Struck by Lightning.

Mrs. Keith, the member of the Franklyn Comedy company, a show troupe which has been playing at Crofton, Cedar county, was instantly killed by being struck by lightning during a severe electrical storm. Other occupants of the house were slightly stunned but not seriously hurt.

WREATH ON TOMB OF GRANT.

A Soldier of Japan Pays Homage at Riverside.

When, twenty-eight years ago, Gen. U. S. Grant, in his tour of the world, was the guest of the emperor of Japan, one of the officers assigned to attend him was a young colonel, who on May 19, as General Kuroki of world renown, visited Riverside drive and there with impressive oriental ceremony placed a laurel wreath upon the American's tomb.

To General Kuroki the pilgrimage to Grant's tomb was the chief event of his stay in New York and part of his program which he had repeatedly said must be carried out no matter what feature was sacrificed.

Accompanied by General and Mrs. F. D. Grant, U. S. A., General Kuroki's party proceeded in automobiles to the tomb Sunday evening. Reaching the vicinity General Kuroki was the first to alight. In his hand he carried the wreath.

As the party entered the tomb all removed their hats and General Kuroki advanced towards the sarcophagus. When about fifteen feet away he bowed and then as he proceeded step by step he continued to bow low. When he reached the bier he stopped and an aide ascending the several steps placed the wreath in position. For several minutes the party stood in silence and then, retracing their steps, entered the automobiles and were driven back to the Hotel Astor.

INDICTMENTS IN HIGH PLACES.

Prominent Law Firm and Clerk of the Court Called to the Bar.

Indictments were returned in Lincoln, Neb., by the grand jury against L. W. Billingsley and R. W. Greene, lawyers, and their client, Ida Younger, charging blackmail, and against W. C. Phillips, district court clerk, charging embezzlement. Phillips is alleged to have retained for his own use \$1,300 collected as fees, in excess of his salary. Billingsley and Greene compose an old, established firm, and it is charged that on May 14, 1907, acting for their client, Ida Younger, they collected \$100 from Broderson & Frohm, saloon keepers, whose application for a license they protested. In consideration of the money the law firm dropped the protest proceedings, so the indictment alleges. All of the parties were arrested and Billingsley & Greene were released on \$500 bond each, signed by J. D. Parker, saloon keeper, and Phillips was released under \$1,500 bond.

Phillips asserts that the first term he held office the fees were not sufficient to pay his salary, but that the next term the fees were in excess of his salary, and he therefore took to himself enough to make good what he failed to get during the first term.

SPENDING MILLIONS HERE.

Japan is Buying Steel in America for New Railroad.

America's industrial invasion of the far east is now in full swing, and Japan is pouring a golden stream into the United States for steel rails, cars and locomotives. Twelve million dollars already have been expended in this country for railroad supplies to be used in the construction of the South Manchuria railroad, and it is now learned that contracts involving millions of dollars are pending. Deliveries of rails are being made, and before the next six months steamships chartered by Japan will ply across the Pacific bearing valuable cargoes of steel and iron.

Thousands of dollars have been spent in premiums to our manufacturers for quick deliveries, for the Japanese insist that this railroad must be built and in full operation within two years.

May Order a Two-Cent Rate.

It is possible that before many weeks the traveling public in Kansas may be enjoying the pleasures of a real 2-cent fare law—one that will entitle every passenger to a rate of two cents a mile. The probabilities are that within a short time S. S. Ashbaugh, attorney for the state board of railroad commissioners, will appear before the board and ask them to make an order establishing such a rate. If he does this it will be because of developments in Nebraska. Nebraska passed a 2-cent fare law last winter. The railroads threatened to fight it but did not. They have been testing it and the report has reached Topeka that they have found it remunerative.

Under a law passed by the last legislature the board has authority to make an order upon proceedings brought by the attorney of the board

Saved Mrs. Dowie's Life.

Mrs. John Alexander Dowie, driving in front of an express train of the Northwestern railroad at Zion City, was saved from death under the wheels by John Salberg, the crossing watchman.