

MUST LABEL STORAGE GOODS

Food Commissioner Cites Law Which Enables Purchaser to See What He Is Getting.

Food Commissioner Harman recently called attention of Nebraskans to the cold storage law which insists that the sale of such products shall be under such circumstances that the purchaser shall not think they are obtaining fresh stuff. Mr. Harman cites the statutory provisions, which call for labelling all storage products in such a way that the purchaser can see what he is getting. The commissioner states that cold storage goods are generally good, but that under no circumstances can tradersmen sell them for fresh stuff and insist upon a high price for them on the grounds that they are other than what they should be represented to be.

Plans have been drawn and a call for estimates made by the board in charge of the state house for the purpose of doing something to save the west wing of the ancient structure from falling down. This is something entirely new and unlooked for in state house conditions. It has been known for several years that the east wing of the building was on the verge of collapse and considerable money has been laid out in an effort to keep the southeast corner from falling out, the foundation having already settled about eight inches, but nobody knew that the west wing was in a dangerous condition until about a week ago when a part of the foundation in the basement crumbled and fell inside.

Peddling fruit and vegetables from freight cars is prohibited under a recently promulgated rule of Nebraska railroads and presented to the railway commission for approval. The hearing at which it was discussed and taken under advisement by the commission, was attended by numerous railroad officials, fruit growers and representatives of commercial clubs and farmers' co-operative sales associations. The railroads contend that the cars are primarily for transportation, not sales rooms. Jobbers who pressed the railroads to promulgate the rule admitted that pressure was brought on them by retail tradesmen over the state who find that this class of business is encroaching on their field.

Data gathered from fifty-eight counties of the state and compared to similar data gathered from eighty-four counties of the state for 1913 show that during the year 1914 there was an increase in the total sum of money involved in farm mortgages filed and a decrease likewise in the number of farm mortgages released. In the town and city mortgage total there was a falling off for 1914 and a falling off in the number of this class of mortgages released. The chattel mortgages the year of 1914 shows a vast decrease in the total involved.

Because the state constitution forbids counties levying more than fifteen mills on the dollar assessed valuation the county of Sioux will be unable to keep up its county high school. The county made a levy of twenty-one mills. The Northwestern road invoked the constitution and the county attorney wrote to Attorney General Reed about the matter, stating if they were allowed to levy only fifteen mills they could not keep up the high school. The attorney general held that the constitution must be followed.

The corn crop of Nebraska for the present year is worth \$114,047,368, figuring at 50 cents per bushel, according to estimates prepared by the State Board of Agriculture from reports received from the county and precinct assessors in every county in the state. The average is shown to be 6,990,631 and the yield to be 233,694,736 bushels. The average yield per acre is thirty-two and one-half bushels.

The Pacific Fruit Express company has paid its car line tax to the secretary of state. The amount was \$5,811.63 and is the largest corporation tax yet paid into the office of the secretary of state of this nature.

Governor Morehead has appointed twenty-eight delegates to the national conference on marketing and farm credits to be held at Chicago, November 29 to December 2.

Miss Stella B. Wilson of Omaha passed the bar examination before the State bar commission last week and was admitted to practice by the supreme court.

State Auditor Smith a few days ago registered paving bonds for Lincoln district No. 284 to the amount of \$17,284.

Reports from several Omaha concerns to the state labor commissioner show the effect of the compensation law. Sixty-two accidents by those in the employ of the Nebraska Telephone company in that city show a total compensation of \$1,694.11. Total days lost, 727; average payment, \$27.32, and average time laid off, 13 day. The Ford Automobile company of Omaha reported forty cases, with a payment of \$191.75. But two of these were compelled to lay off and only three of the forty could have received payment under the old law.

Employees at the executive office forwarded to Kansas a requisition for the return of Arthur Hauser from Wichita to the police of Omaha. Hauser is much wanted in Omaha for the murder of W. H. Smith of the Woodmen of the World.

The state board of agriculture reports that rye raised by Nebraska farmers this year totals 3,451,301 bushels, as compared to 3,128,453 in 1913, the best previous year. The yield averaged 16.4 bushels per acre.



Robert Lansing,
Secretary of State
Edward B. Clark



SOMETHING more than a score of years ago James G. Blaine resigned his position as secretary of state in the cabinet of President Harrison. He was succeeded by Gen. John W. Foster. A few months ago William J. Bryan resigned his position as secretary of state in the cabinet of President Wilson. He was succeeded by Robert Lansing. Those two statements of fact are put together because it may be justified by the human interest which seems to exist in the fact that John W. Foster is the father-in-law of Robert Lansing.

It is probable that no two men more entirely different in temperament and in manifestations thereof ever existed than William J. Bryan and his successor in office, Robert Lansing. Mr. Bryan was more or less inclined to be half fellow well met with men. Mr. Lansing has little of the half fellow well met in him, but nevertheless he is approachable, genial and almost without question the best listener that the state department has had for a great many years. Now it is said frequently that the man who is a good listener is more apt to get results than the man who is, we shall not say a good, but a great talker. Those who know the present secretary of state say that there is no channel connecting one of his ears with the other. This simply is their way of expressing the fact that nothing that goes into one of Mr. Lansing's ears finds exit from the other. He holds fast what he hears and later he acts on his knowledge or refuses to act on it as seems better to his understanding of the case.

Ordinarily speaking, persons like to hear stories about men in high positions. It is probably no exaggeration to say that there are a thousand stories about Mr. Bryan, about Mr. Knox, about Mr. Root, and about one or another of the predecessors in office of the present incumbent to one about the present incumbent himself. When one says stories, of course, he means human interest and humorous stories. Mr. Lansing does not lend himself readily to the exploitation of fun making. He is a grave man, a receptive man and therefore not at all an exuberant man. His sense of humor, however, is keen and he enjoys a good story well told and enjoys it with an evident, if quiet, showing of appreciation.

The kind of story they tell about Mr. Lansing when a story is demanded is in character something like that of the man himself, grave and dignified, and not possessing the qualities which make up the more or less substantial story with a substratum of humor.

For instance, not long ago two ambassadors representing foreign countries, and one high official of the United States government, expressed a desire for an audience with Mr. Lansing on a certain Thursday evening. Mr. Lansing said that he would be happy to see the gentlemen at almost any other time, "but on Thursday evening I must go to church."

Now, Robert Lansing is a Presbyterian, and a good one. It took real sincerity of purpose for a secretary of state, who is supposed to be ready at any hours of the day or night to listen to the plenipotentiaries of foreign powers, to say in effect, "No, state matters must wait until after prayer meeting."

When Mr. Bryan was secretary of state he saw the newspaper men frequently, and his intercourse with them was rather of the free and easy sort because the Nebraska gentleman was and is a newspaper man himself. The correspondents, however, did not get any extraordinary amount of news out of Mr. Bryan despite his affability. Mr. Lansing has regular business meetings with the correspondents. There are few stories to fly back and forth, few quips of humor, and there is the usual reticence on many subjects which marks diplomacy, but Mr. Lansing, nevertheless, always gives up a story, a news item of minor or greater importance, whenever it is proper for him so to do, and, moreover, he is a pretty keen judge of news values despite the fact that he is a lawyer and probably does not know a 4-em dash from a linotype machine.

Some people say that Mr. Lansing had several months' training as secretary of state before he took office actually. These are the people who think that he did most of Mr. Bryan's work. This probably is unjust to Mr. Lansing's predecessor, but it is known definitely that the present secretary was consulted constantly and consistently upon most of the matters relating to our foreign intercourse, which recently, as everybody knows, has been in a state not only delicate, but perilous.



Mrs. Robert Lansing

in interest in what are called the human things of life. Robert Lansing is a baseball fan; he is also a painter of no mean ability; he knows how to handle the rod and reel and can land with neatness and dispatch a brook trout or a small-mouth bass. Moreover, Mr. Lansing likes the social life, and not infrequently he is to be seen at afternoon affairs when state department duties are not pressing, and still more frequently at evening affairs where, as one might say, he loosens up a bit and talks in a way to draw his auditors and to hold them.

Oswald Garrison Villard has written in the New York Evening Post this little description of Mr. Lansing's personal appearance:

"The contrast between Mr. Bryan and his successor is nowhere more marked than in their personalities. Mr. Lansing is a handsome man, with notably fine eyes and a winning countenance that lights up most attractively when he is amused. He smiles with his eyes as well as otherwise," writes a Washington reporter about him, and there is a keenness in their expression which indicates an able and a nimble mind. He is altogether of grave and dignified presence, which is enhanced by his prematurely gray hair—he is only fifty-one. He is well groomed, stands up straight and looks directly into the eyes of his questioners. Usually he is wearing the black cutaway of statesmanship. You feel instinctively that he is a man to tie to, the kind which shrewd, intuitive women would naturally seek as a counselor. Indeed, this title which he has hitherto borne in the state department fits him like a glove."

In the paragraph which is quoted something is said about the secretary of state being a handsome man. Some Washington residents declare that he is the handsomest man in the cabinet. Others do not agree to this, but all admit that the secretary's way of carrying himself is all that it should be. It is perhaps probable that Mr. Lansing knows that he carries himself well. At any rate he alone is responsible for his carriage, while his tailor is responsible in considerable measure for making the secretary admittedly the best-dressed man in public life in Washington.

It may be asked who is, or rather, who was, Robert Lansing? While the answer is not to be given in a few words, it is probable that the secretary of state was comparatively unknown until he came into prominence in connection with our delicate dealings with Mexico and with the other powers, little and great, which recently have been at trouble among themselves or within themselves, and have been directly and indirectly causing trouble to the United States.

Robert Lansing was born in a small city, Wa-

tertown, in northern New York, only a few miles from the St. Lawrence river, from the waters of which it is probable that as a boy he drew many a pickerel and bass and laid the foundation of his love for the sport which Isaac Walton made famous. He entered the state department as counselor one year ago last March, succeeding John Bassett Moore. For thirty years, that is since he was twenty-one years of age, Mr. Lansing has been studying and practicing international law. He was connected in behalf of the United States with a great many arbitration cases. He was this government's associate counsel in the fur seal arbitration twenty-two years ago, and later he represented the government before the Bering sea claims commission. He was counsel for the government in the Alaska boundary dispute and he has served Uncle Sam in China, Mexico, Venezuela and at the Hague in various arbitration matters.

It is said that Robert Lansing slipped easily and gracefully into the big chair in the cabinet room, which stands at the right hand of the bigger chair which is occupied by Woodrow Wilson. A good many men of note have occupied the chair. When a man ceases to be secretary of state history invariably makes an estimate of him and of his services. What will the verdict be concerning Robert Lansing?

One thing is certain, Mr. Lansing entered upon his great office duties at a time when it is possible for a man to win his spurs or to lose them, and that quickly. There are heavy burdens on the shoulders of this present incumbent of high cabinet office. When the corner stone of the Pan-American building was laid Theodore Roosevelt, then president of the United States, delivered an address in which he said that there had been many great secretaries of state, but that there had been none greater than Ellihu Root.

At the laying of some corner stone or at the ceremonies attending some other memorable occasion will it be Woodrow Wilson's part to rise to his feet and say, "There have been many great secretaries of state, but none greater than Robert Lansing?"

In writing this sketch one very important matter came pretty near being overlooked. Robert Lansing, secretary of state, is a poet. Some people say that he is "a writer of exquisite verse." Poetry is poetry; verse is either near poetry or no kin to poetry. Mr. Lansing does not claim to be a great poet. It is probable that he writes poetry as a diversion. At any rate, it is generally conceded that he is a pretty fair poet, and that he also is much more than a pretty fair painter.

So when the American people have a secretary of state who can make other nations sit up and pay attention, who can fish, who can play baseball, who can dress well, who can paint, who can write poetry, and, what is better, exceedingly forceful prose, ought not the said American people to be satisfied with the man who has taken upon himself a large part of the burdens of state at a time when those burdens are heavy?

WAS CONSERVATIVE.
His Host—By the way, what do you think of the Mexican imbroglio?
Mr. Malaprop—To tell the truth, I like old-fashioned American fruits the best.—Judge.

WISE HOBO.
"How is it you always pick out a bachelor to listen to your hard-luck story?"
"A married man has troubles of his own usually."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

SELF-CONGRATULATION.
She—I suppose you know I came near marrying Jim before I married you?
He—Now I know why he shakes hands so warmly when we meet.—Judge.

CAME TRUE.
"A fortune teller told me yesterday that I would meet with a financial reverse."
"And did you?"
"Yes; she charged me \$2."

STRICT PARTY MAN.
"Do you promise to love, honor and cherish this woman?"
"Yes," said the politician, "whatever the plab form is I subscribe to it."

ONE ON THE COCO.
Golfer (proudly)—I play with my head, my boy.
His Rival—Yes, I notice that you are partial to wooden clubs.

On the outbreak of the war the Falkland Islands voted a gift to Great Britain of \$11,350, equivalent to \$5 for each inhabitant.
An extensive plant has been built in Venezuela for the manufacture of wrapping paper and strawboard from an aquatic plant growing profusely in that country.
To facilitate towing a disabled automobile to a garage there has been invented a small truck that can be made to take the place of any one or two broken wheels.

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