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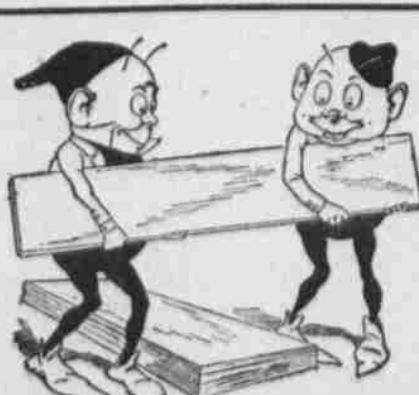
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NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

Oldham Asks Leave to File Suit to Oust Dean.

Attacks Right of State Board to Canvass Vote on Amendments—Court Takes the Request Under Consideration.

Lincoln, Feb. 2.—The first step was taken in the supreme judgeship contest when application was made to the supreme court on behalf of W. D. Oldham, Governor Shallenberger's latest appointee as supreme judge, for permission to begin quo warranto proceedings to oust Judge James R. Dean, appointee of former Governor Sheldon. The supreme court took the request under consideration.

A copy of the petition covering the case from the standpoint of the plaintiff was filed with the application, and reviews the facts which are generally well known regarding the contest. The main point is the contention that the state board had no right to canvass the vote, as was the case, of the amendment under which Governor Sheldon made his appointments.

The action is in behalf of Judge Oldham alone, but both he and Judge Sullivan, the two Democratic appointees, are equally interested. Judge Oldham waived his rights for trial before the district court, and it is possible Judge Dean may do the same, in order that the matter may go direct to the court of last resort.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

Representative Taylor Will Introduce Measure in House.

Lincoln, Feb. 2.—An attempt will be made by the present legislature to secure the passage of an initiative and referendum law. Representative Taylor of Custer county will lead the fight to secure such a law, and will introduce the bill within a day or two. Taylor has been studying the Oklahoma law on this subject and will model his bill much after the statute in force in that state. Nebraska already has the initiative and referendum in municipalities and school districts, and under its provisions the temperature people lacked but a few votes a few years ago of "drying up" this city.

A large delegation from Ainsworth, headed by Messrs. Rising and Murphy, was on hand at the opening of the session to make a plea for an appropriation of \$50,000 for a normal school at Ainsworth.

The senate is down to routine business. The bill providing that the bonded indebtedness limit in Omaha may be \$2,700,000 was passed, as was a bill to give the boards of fire and police commissioners of Omaha and South Omaha the right to sit sixty days, beginning Jan. 1 each year, as a license board.

The senate adopted a joint resolution memorializing congress to enact a law which will permit national banks to become participants in any state laws providing for guarantee of bank deposits.

In the house Representative Shoemaker had an inning and made good use of it. The judiciary committee reported adversely the bill providing that the governor shall remove derelict state officials, but not until Representative Shoemaker of Douglas county had delivered himself of an extraordinary flight of oratory, the like of which has not before been heard at the present session. He said that the present statute on this feature of state administration is a "sad commentary on our boasted civilization." Scheele of Seward joined in the request that the bill be recommended for passage, "in the name of home rule and personal liberty." The vote, however, was 75 to 14 against such action, despite the efforts of these two gentlemen.

Representative Stoecker of Douglas secured the first reading of his bill governing public service corporations. The bill is drastic in its measures and demands that every public service corporation must secure the consent of the railway commission before entering on extensions or further exercise of rights. It also provides that such corporations cannot make transfer or lease of its rights without the same permission.

Pratt Divorce Suit in High Court.
Lincoln, Feb. 2.—The divorce suit of Colonel Pratt, the Omaha millionaire, has reached the supreme court. Colonel Pratt defended a suit brought by his wife in the Omaha courts, filing a cross bill. The court declined to issue the divorce to either, leaving them in the same position as before the suit was brought. The appeal followed. Mrs. Pratt is thirty-five years old, while her husband is seventy-eight. The supreme court is now reviewing the case.

Forty Steers Perish in Storm.
St. Anthony, Neb., Feb. 2.—Forty fat steers belonging to James McManus, and valued at \$2,000, broke out of the pasture during the recent storm and perished in a creek bed nearby from hunger and the cold. Twenty-six of the animals were found in one place, where they had huddled together as a protection against the storm.

Fire at Republican City.
Republican City, Neb., Feb. 2.—Fire in this city destroyed two buildings owned by a non-resident. One was occupied by Tom Gorden, for furniture and undertaking goods, the other was used by Harvey Reiter as a restaurant. The estimated loss on buildings is \$6,000.

INTENSE COLD FOLLOWS STORM.

Damage by Fierce Wind Will Exceed the First Estimates.

Omaha, Jan. 30.—Although the wind which swept Nebraska and adjoining states has abated today, the mercury has fallen below zero which emphasized the after effects of the disastrous blizzard and was little less effective than the storm itself in its results.

Reports began coming in from outside cities and towns which gives the storm precedence as a record breaker, and while generally prepared for the emergency, the visitation was not without its disasters. Nearly every portion of the state heard from reports disastrous results, and in many places buildings were unroofed. At Plattsburgh a fine new theater lost its roof; at Grand Island, two business blocks were seriously damaged; at Beatrice, several buildings were practically destroyed, and at Lincoln the damage was great in proportion to the size of the city. It is estimated that \$50,000 will not cover the monetary loss in Omaha, aside from the inconvenience and suffering the storm has caused.

Telegraph and telephone companies had little opportunity during the day to repair the shattered wires, and communication with outside cities was still limited to a few scattering telegraph and telephone circuits.

STORES AND HOMES BURN.

Cairo, Neb., Has Fire Loss Exceeding \$30,000.

Cairo, Neb., Feb. 1.—Three merchants lost their entire stock and buildings and three other persons their homes and furniture as the result of the worst fire this town ever experienced, the loss exceeding \$30,000. McAllister's hardware store, F. W. Goodrich's general merchandise house and the confectionery store of F. F. Garland were entirely destroyed, as were the homes of J. S. Pickett, Charles Omer and Mrs. W. Miller. The blaze started in Goodrich's store and was beyond control when discovered. Goodrich was severely injured trying to remove some of his property from the building. Bucket brigades prevented the flames extending beyond the buildings mentioned, but a number of adjoining residences were slightly scorched.

Lincoln Business Man Ends Life.

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—Walter B. Rowan, fifty years old, prominent as a Lincoln business man for twenty-eight years, killed himself by shooting. He left his home Saturday and wandered four miles in the country to the Lincoln brick yards. There, in a clay pit, his dead body was found, with a revolver in his hand. Ill health and fear of coming mental unbalance is supposed to have prompted the act. A widow and two children survive. His business affairs are declared in good condition.

Nebraskan Dies in Ireland.
Bloomfield, Neb., Feb. 1.—Hugh Murphy, who died suddenly at Glen Alpine railroad station, in Ireland was a retired farmer and land speculator of this place. He went for a tour of Ireland last April and was probably on his way home. Mr. Murphy leaves a widow and two sons, James and Michael, who occupy a fine residence here. A married daughter lives in Butte, Mont. He leaves an estate valued at \$60,000.

Nebraska Day at Yukon Fair Aug. 17.
Lincoln, Feb. 2.—Information has been forwarded to Governor Shallenberger that the commissioners of the Alaska-Yukon exposition at Seattle have set aside Aug. 17 as Nebraska day, providing this meets with approval of the governor and the commission chosen by Nebraska to represent her at the exposition. Nelson Grimsley is head of the Nebraska society in Seattle.

Falls Down Stairs to Death.
Holdrege, Neb., Feb. 1.—Gerry Gates, colored porter in the Palace barber shop, fell down a flight of stairs leading to an upper story and when found was dead, evidently from concussion of the brain. His face was badly cut and he had large scars over both eyes. No inquest was deemed necessary.

Balanced News From Storm.
Falls City, Neb., Feb. 1.—Numerous reports of damage are coming in from the country, as a result of last week's storm. Already reports of fourteen windmills being destroyed have come in and a number of small buildings were unroofed in the country. The rural telephone systems are still out of service.

Lincoln Physician Found Dead.
Chicago, Feb. 1.—Dr. R. A. Holyoke, a physician of Lincoln, Neb., was found dead in his room at the Windsor-Clifton hotel. His death is believed to have been caused by poisoning and the police are investigating a theory that he accidentally took an overdose of medicine.

Wild Man Declared Insane.
Valentine, Neb., Feb. 1.—The "wild" man found north of Cody was declared insane by the board and is to be sent to Norfolk. He has only muttered three words in answer to different questions asked him. "Joe, Bohemia, fourteen," in answer to his name and questions.

Sheldon Going South.
Nashua, Neb., Feb. 1.—Ex-Governor George L. Sheldon and family expect to leave the first of this week for his plantation near Greenville, Miss., where they will remain until about July 1.

PARASITES OF WORLD.

Such is Designation of Japs by Nevada Solons.

Resolution Declares in Favor of California Passing Measures to Prevent Influx of Little Yellow Men—Not Wanted as Citizens.

A resolution, declaring in favor of anti-Japanese legislation, criticising Theodore Roosevelt and designating the Japanese as "parasites of the world" and a menace to civilization and progress on the Pacific coast, was reported favorably by a committee of the whole in special session of the Nevada legislature and it is believed it will be passed under a special order.

The resolution is directed to the California legislature and declares in favor of that body passing measures that will prevent the influx of Japanese. It further recommends that the California legislature pay no attention to what is termed "coercion and interference on the part of the president in the anti-Japanese movement."

After stating that the Japanese are acquiring lands and property in this and other states, the resolution says:

"Whereas, We believe there is no danger of war with Japan, as is advanced by those who oppose our views, but we believe that if we must have war with the Japanese empire, sooner or later, now is a better time to lay down terms to that empire and teach those arrogant people that American rights cannot be encroached upon and they cannot now, nor never will be, allowed or given an opportunity to acquire a foothold in this country, or to assimilate with our race, and we further censure Theodore Roosevelt, the president of the United States, for his so-called interference in attempting to deprive the citizens of the great commonwealth of California, of their lawful rights of protecting themselves from the Japanese hordes, and be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in congress, urging them to use their influence in enacting an exclusion act against the Japanese and Chinese which will perpetually exclude them from coming into this country."

Drew to Push California Bill.

While the letter of President Roosevelt to Governor Gillett regarding the Japanese question made a deep impression upon the California legislature, the leading two anti-Japanese members of the assembly declared that they would push their measures to a vote as soon as possible, Assemblyman A. M. Drew of Fresno (the famous raisin producing section, where there are many Japanese), who had already amended his anti-alien bill as required by the national administration so that the clause discriminating against the Japanese was eliminated, took exception to the letter enclosed by the president, written by Secretary of State Root, in which it was said the federal government was opposed to all legislation directed against aliens, Japanese or others.

Mr. Drew declared that it was to the interest of California to protect herself against an invasion of aliens "from the far shores of the Pacific," who would always remain citizens of that country and whom Americans did not welcome.

TOWN LOT FRAUD REVELATIONS.

Tennessee Witnesses Testify in Muskogee Inquiry.

From developments in the alleged town lot fraud investigation by the grand jury at Muskogee it is evident representatives of the government are certain that many indictments will be returned by the grand jury.

The testimony of the Tennessee witnesses has proven a revelation. One of the twenty-five witnesses from that state said in a statement to the Associated Press:

"When I was subpoenaed by the government to come to Muskogee I did not know there was such a town on the map. I had never heard of it and wondered what Uncle Sam wanted me for. Since my arrival I have learned that I was once the owner of a four-acre lot here. I also learned that in some mysterious manner the lot and I had parted company and someone had signed my name to the quit claim deed. That is all I know about it and I suppose that is what I'll have to tell the jury."

O. E. Pagan, the attorney general's expert, and District Attorney W. J. Gregg are now engaged in preparing indictments, and Special Attorney S. R. Rush and others will assist.

FORTY-SEVEN OF CREW DROWN.

British Steamer Clan Ranald a Total Wreck in Australian Waters.

The British steamer Clan Ranald is a total wreck near Edinburgh, Aus., and the captain and forty-six of the crew, most of them Asiatics, were drowned. The ship was drifting ashore, but sank before boats could reach it. Eighteen members of the crew were picked up. The Clan Ranald was struck by a heavy sea and rendered unmanageable. Then, being driven ashore, it turned turtle.

Two Hundred Lost in Fire.
At least two hundred lives were lost in a fire which occurred in a fleet of flower boats at Canton, China. The charred bodies of 170 victims have already been recovered, but many persons are still missing.

The Lincoln Centenary.

All Over the Land on the One Hundredth Anniversary of His Birth the Martyr President Will Be Honored.

THE birth of Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12, 1809, was an event of great historic import to the United States of America, and it is very fitting that the preparations for the observance of the centenary should be on an elaborate scale. Not only in the great centers of population, but everywhere throughout the land, on the one hundredth anniversary of the martyr president's birth his name will be honored. Especially interesting will be the exercises in Springfield, Ill., which was so long his home; at the national capital and on the Lincoln farm in Kentucky, where he was born and which has been purchased by the contributions of his countrymen and made into a national memorial park. Interest centers, too, about the scene where he was shot, the site of the old Ford's theater, Washington, and the tomb at Springfield, beneath the Lincoln farm.

The exercises on Lincoln's birthday at Hodgenville will be notable in many respects, perhaps the leading feature of the ceremonies being an address by Lincoln's successor in the presidential office, Theodore Roosevelt, incidental to the laying of the cornerstone of the memorial hall. The Louisville posts of



THE OLD FORD'S THEATER AND LINCOLN'S TOMB UNDER SPRINGFIELD MONUMENT, both the G. A. R. and the Confederate Veterans will act as escorts of honor to the president.

Congress has declared Lincoln's birthday this year a special holiday throughout the land, so that for one occasion at least Lincoln and Washington will share equal honors in this respect.

Another popular feature of the centenary celebration is the issue by the federal government of a Lincoln postage stamp. The stamps are printed by authority of a joint resolution of congress. The design comprises the portrait of Lincoln in an ellipse, the only decoration being a spray of laurel leaves and the inscription "U. S. Postage" in a straight line at the top of the stamp, with the inscription "1809—Feb. 12—1909" at the bottom. The color design is red, as with the present two cent stamps. The profile was taken from a copy in the Corcoran Art gallery in Washington of Saint Gaudens' statue of Lincoln on Lakeside drive, Chicago.

An issue of 100,000,000 of these stamps has been ordered.

There have been several suggestions as to the ways in which the federal government should honor and signalize the anniversary of Lincoln's birth. One of the plans was to construct a Lincoln memorial in Washington; another was to lay out a great national highway from the national capital to the battlefield of Gettysburg to be known as "the Lincoln way." Both plans have had strong advocates in congress.

In connection with the celebration of the centenary in New York a plan has been formulated which provides for holding 624 Lincoln memorials on the day of the anniversary in different parts of the greater city, thus bringing before as large a number of people as possible the inestimable benefits conferred upon the country by his services and upon the world by the example of his Christian and statesman-like character.