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Entered at North Platte, Nebraska,
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TUESDAY, FEB. 2, 1915.

Live Stock Increasing in Number

A bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture dated February 1st, says:

"For the first time in many years, information collected by the department shows that all classes of live stock in the United States are increasing in numbers. Thus the real facts contradict, absolutely, sensational reports that prices for meat and shoes would rise to unprecedented figures in the immediate future. It has been said that a government statistician predicted meat at 50 cents a pound and shoes at \$10 a pair within the next two years. Such a prediction, the real government statistician says, is quite unwarranted.

On January 1, for example, the number of beef cattle showed an increase of 3.4 per cent over the number a year ago, and an actual increase of 1,212,000 head. Hitherto the number of beef cattle in the United States has declined steadily since 1910. There are also more milch cows in the country than last year, the increase being 2.5 per cent, or in numbers 525,000. Swine, however, showed the greatest increase of all classes—9.5 per cent. On January 1, 1914, there were only 58,933,000 swine in the country; on January 1, 1915, 64,618,000. This is accounted for by the fact that the production of swine can be increased more rapidly than that of other classes of live stock and consequently an enlarged demand can be met more readily.

The prediction of 50 cent meat and \$10 shoes was accompanied by the declaration that France alone has taken from America nearly 500,000 horses within the last five months and that the other countries at war have drawn upon our resources in the same proportion. The facts are that more horses were on the farms of the United States on January 1, 1915, than there were a year before, the increase being 233,000 head, or 1.1 per cent. So far from France alone having taken 500,000 horses from us, the total exports since the war began have certainly been much less than 100,000 and very likely not over 75,000. Since there are approximately 25,000,000 horses altogether in the United States, the drain on account of the war is scarcely alarming.

It is, in fact, pointed out by government statisticians that the market value of farm horses has actually declined to such an extent that the average is now about \$6 a head less than a year ago.

Kearney Drops Out of League.

Indications are that there will not be a state league baseball team in Kearney this year. At any rate, all appeals to the old time spirit of the "fans" has been in vain, and a meeting called on Friday evening brought out less than a handful of people. The feeling seems to be that base ball is an expensive luxury, and that the money expended each year to support a professional team could be expended to better purpose.—Kearney Hub.

Miss Ann Wetzel of Sutherland, was visiting in the city for the week end with Mrs. P. H. Loney and other friends.

GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE SAYS JURY IN THE ROBERTS CASE.

(Continued from page one.)

been offered Roberts, so far as he knew, if he would tell the truth.

Tells of Blood Spots on Dress

The next witnesses called were W. A. Skinner and George Shell, employees of the North Platte laundry, and they testified that about September 15th Mrs. Clayton brought a white dress to the laundry to be washed and that there were two blood stains on it. One large one on the skirt just below the waist and a small "trickle" on the right shoulder. They stated that the stain was never taken entirely out. Mr. Skinner testified that Charles Clayton had told him it was a "hell of a note to tell the reporters that a blood stained dress had been brought there and thus implicate an innocent man."

Joe Rowe was next called and he testified that he had heard Clayton tell a bunch of men that he "knew enough to keep Roberts from going to the chair."

Nellie Roberts was again called by the defense's attorney. She was brought into the court room by her mother and when called forward she began to cry and refused to take the stand. The court then questioned her mother regarding the little girl and was told that she would be seven years old the 17th of next May. That she had gone to school in all less than three months and that she seldom attended Sunday school. The court refused to let her go on the stand, stating that it would be a crime to put such a small, incompetent girl on the stand in open court. Again the state's attorneys signified their willingness to let the little girl go on, but the court held firm.

The defense then rested their case and it was taken up by the state for rebuttal.

Rebuttal Takes Stand.

The first witness called by the rebuttal was Charles Clayton. He was called to clear up the mystery of the stains on the dress of Mrs. Clayton and told that they were the result of a comforter fading on it in a rain storm on Saturday while they were still at the Sund place. He stated that they had come to North Platte and that Johnny Jones was with them and that on the way home they were caught in a rain storm. They stopped at the O'Connell farm on the south river road and went into the barn there where it was noticed that the dress was stained.

Mrs. Clayton was then called and testified to the same facts. She was not called in direct testimony as the state did not wish to compel her to go on the stand and give testimony that might send her own son to the electric chair. She was spared that heart ache. She testified that the dress had never been worn since it had been washed at the laundry and that there were no spots on it at the present time. She produced the dress, the skirt and the faded comforter as evidence that the spots were only stain and told just how she held the comforter over her lap and shoulder and over the little girl. Cross-examination failed to shake her story.

Johnny Jones was next called and corroborated the testimony of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton. He stated that they went to town on Saturday and were driving an iron grey colt, which they were breaking, and a sorrel mare. That Mrs. Clayton was dressed up in her "Sunday" clothes and that

they had a red comforter in the wagon. He said that he knew it was Saturday because they never went to town together except on Saturday.

He stated that on the way home he was sitting in the back of the wagon with his feet hanging over and that he got tired there and sat in the middle of the bed. He also told of the rain storm which lasted about twenty minutes and remembered that Mrs. Clayton had spoken of the quilt fading on her dress and saw the two spots. He identified the dress and stated that he knew it by "the little holes in it," meaning the embroidery. Cross-examination failed to shake his testimony.

Attorneys Argue the Case

The state rested its case at 3:08 and Mr. Gibbs began his argument at 3:11. He went over the evidence thoroughly, proving first the corpus delicti, and introduced the testimony of the different witnesses and the state's exhibits. He finished his argument at 4:41 and Mr. Keefe then began his argument.

Mr. Keefe argued until supper time. He insisted that no facts were presented and stated that it had not been shown by the state that Roberts was guilty. He stated that they did not deny the murder and Roberts' connection with it in taking the body away. He admonished the jury to never convict a man on circumstantial evidence "until the very walls of hell were cold, yes, until they froze over and they skated on the ice." He stated that Roberts had not been given a fair chance. The public opinion and the press were against him because he had been a convict.

"Because Roberts sold the team, is that proof that he did the deed?" he asked. "No! The hand that killed Vernon Connett was not that of Roy Roberts. He is not the Cain. He sits right there," pointing to Charles Clayton.

Tears welled in the eyes of many as Mr. Keefe pleaded for the life of a young boy who was charged with a crime of which he was innocent. Some sobbed in the court room. He spoke of the Christ who was crucified as an innocent man. Of the race that crucified him as being a hated race and that Nebraska was now in the position of that race of people.

"Away with him; crucify him; shout the mob," said Mr. Keefe. "They are now shouting this same thing about this boy."

He then told of the killing as Roberts related it and spoke of Roberts shielding his mother in the affair to the last and that she was "as guilty as hell." That she had deserted her son in the hour of need and was even testifying to convict him.

"If there are any discrepancies in this defense it is not Roberts' fault," said Mr. Keefe. "I am to blame for the short comings of the defense. I have had to be father, mother and family to this defendant against the whole populace and when he went on the stand I could not say, 'Roy, mother is with you.' I could only tell him to go on with his story."

Gibbs Answers on Rebuttal.

The state took up the rebuttal argument at 8:38 and argued until 9:48. Mr. Gibbs asked the jury to let no sentiment thwart them in their attempt to give justice. That they were the judge and were representing the state in dealing justice to a murderer who had confessed to being a highway robber and a forger. "If there is any sympathy due," said Mr. Gibbs, "it is due to that little girl who sits by the firing case and mourns the terrible murder of her husband by a man who pretended to be their friend, and not to this criminal whom Mr. Keefe speaks of as being what God intended him to be. Look at this skull and ask yourselves who made those three holes in it while Vernon Connett was asleep and could not

defend himself. The murderer's iron soul and conscience will not let you believe that he is innocent."

Mr. Gibbs told of the unbuttoned shoes that would lead anyone to believe that the man was murdered while he was asleep and the belt around his neck would show that he was dragged to the river and left in a dunghill by a twenty-two year old boy who could not carry the body.

"And yet," said Mr. Gibbs, "he comes into this court room wearing a suit that was bought with money received from the sale of this dead man's team. Blood money! and says that he is innocent. Such a man is not deserving of anything less than death by the hands of the state in the electric chair."

Court Gives Instructions

The court then read his instructions of nineteen paragraphs to the jury, first reading the complaint filed against Roy Roberts that he on August 2nd last did assault with malicious intent one Vernon Connett with the intent to kill and slay. That said assault was made with instruments unknown to the affiant.

He then read the statute under which Roberts was being tried to the effect that if it was found that one man had deliberately killed another he was guilty of murder in the first degree which was punishable by death or life imprisonment to be decided by the jury. If one man had killed another man maliciously but without deliberation he was guilty of murder in the second degree and was punishable by imprisonment from ten years to life. He then instructed them that they could bring in a verdict of either of these if the evidence warranted it, or could acquit him if he were not guilty as shown by the evidence.

He emphasized the fact that every man was presumed innocent and the proof had to be beyond a reasonable doubt and then defined a reasonable doubt. He stated that circumstantial evidence was both legal and necessary and was convicting if the chain of evidence was unbroken.

He closed his instructions with the statement that we owe it to society to punish every man guilty of an offense and that no sympathy for either defendant or prosecution should be considered. The evidence of what the witness testify should be considered and if the witness was more or less interested his testimony should be analyzed. With this he closed and the case was given into the hands of the jury at 10:12.

County Attorney Gibbs announced Sunday that if the case should come to a new trial he could furnish evidence that the two men, Roberts and Connett, were camping on the baseball grounds in the Sutherland vicinity on the Sunday night on which the murder is alleged to have been committed. He stated that this evidence was not unearthed until after the direct testimony had been taken and could not have been introduced in rebuttal.

Jess Smith, of this city, stated that he saw Roberts and a stranger on that night. He and Roberts went to school together in Gothenburg and he recognized him immediately. A party from here were at Sutherland on a picnic and they stopped at Jack Vesely's place for the evening. The two men were camped in a covered wagon and were singing songs. Roberts testified on the witness stand that they were singing songs one evening at the Sund place and it is known that both men made pretenses at singing. Mr. Smith stated that as they were leaving the Vesely place about midnight the campers' wagon was just pulling out of the baseball grounds.

The attorney for the defense has three days in which to file motion for a new trial and if this is not done Roberts will probably be returned to the penitentiary to await his doom, the day of which will be fixed by the prison authorities.

Sunday afternoon Roberts called for his mother to come to the jail and visit him. Sheriff Salisbury went after her and she stated that she was unable to see her son. She was much broken over the verdict of the jury and stated that she could not bear to see her son yet. She promised to see him, however, before he leaves for Lincoln.

Roberts is quoted as having told Attorney Keefe that he knew the people were scoffing at him for showing so much nerve.

"They don't know what is going on inside of me," he is quoted as having said. "If I showed weakness they would then accuse me of guilt and of weakening under the thoughts of it, so as long as I can keep my nerve I will do so."

He is also said to have told Chairman Maggi that if he was compelled to go to the chair he would do so unflinchingly and would "never bat an eye," that he would meet death like a man and never murmur.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank the neighbors and friends for their kindness during the sickness and death of our wife and mother, and for the beautiful floral tributes.

Signed: Henry Ream, Mrs. A. E. Moore, J. W. Ream, Mrs. Ella Gardner, G. W. Ream, C. L. Ream, E. B. Ream, R. W. Ream, Annie L. Ream, Hattie D. Ream.

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E. S. Hultman is reported quite ill at his home on south Walnut street.

The Jork was a welcome visitor to the J. E. Dixon home on east Fourth street Saturday and deposited a fine boy.

B. D. Baker of the Dickens vicinity arrived in the city yesterday to spend a few days visiting friends and transacting business.

How to Prevent Billous Attacks.
"Coming events cast their shadows before." This is especially true of billous attacks. Your appetite will fail, you will feel dull and languid. If you are subject to billous attacks take three of Chamberlain's Tablets as soon as these symptoms appear and attack may be warded off. For sale by all dealers.

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SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of an order of sale issued from the District Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, upon a decree of foreclosure rendered in said Court wherein Francis Montgomery is plaintiff and Mrs. Jennie McCauley et al are defendants, and to me directed, I will on the 12th day of January, 1915, at 9 o'clock P. M., at the east front door of the Court House in North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy said decree, interest and costs, the following described property, to-wit:

That piece of land enclosed in the following boundaries, to-wit:—Commencing at the northeast corner of Lot Five (5) of the County Clerk's Subdivision of Lot one (1) in the southeast quarter (SE¼) of the northeast quarter (NE¼) Section Four (4) of Township Thirteen (13) North of Range Thirty (30) west of the 6th P. M. as platted and recorded in the County Clerk's office, thence westerly along the south line of Lot Four (4) 627.95 feet, to the southwest corner of Lot five (5) thence north in a line parallel to the west line of said lot four (4) 208 feet, thence east in a line parallel with the south line of Lot four (4) about 625 feet to the east boundary line of Lot five (5) thence north along the east boundary line of Lot five (5) 208 feet to the place of beginning, containing about three acres.

Dated North Platte, Nebraska, January 11, 1915. A. J. SALISBURY, Sheriff.

PROBATE NOTICE

In the Matter of the Estate of Lucinda Clark, Deceased.

In the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, January 1, 1915. Notice is hereby given, That the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administrator of said Estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln County, Nebraska, at the County Court Room, in said County, on the 8th day of February, 1915, and on the 9th day of August, 1915, at 9 o'clock A. M. each day for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims and one year for the Administrator to settle said Estate, from the 13th day of January, 1915. A copy of this order to be published in The North Platte Tribune, a semi-weekly newspaper, published in said county, for four successive weeks prior to said date, February 9, 1915.

GEO. E. FRENCH, County Judge.

Notice to Non-Resident Defendants

To Christ Rasmussen, Sabine Rasmussen, his wife, P. C. Rasmussen, first and last name unknown, and W. C. Foster, first and last name unknown, non-resident defendants.

You and each of you are hereby notified that on December 12, 1914, Stephen L. Geishart, as plaintiff, began an action against you defendants, in the district court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, the object of which is to foreclose a certain mortgage existing on the following land in said county, to-wit: All of section 9 in town 10, north of range 28, west of the 6th Principal Meridian in said county, containing about one and one-half acres, 15½ rods square in the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of said section, contracted to be conveyed to Nebraska Conference Association of the Seventh Day Adventists, and a right of way to the same not exceeding 100 feet wide by the shortest practicable way, made by Christ Rasmussen and Sabine Rasmussen, his wife, dated and recorded August 2, 1912, to secure the payment of a promissory note of said Christ Rasmussen and Sabine Rasmussen to said Stephen L. Geishart, for \$2,000 on which there is now due \$2160.00 with interest from September 21, 1914 at 10 per cent per annum pursuant to said note.

Plaintiff prays for decree of foreclosure and sale of said land to satisfy said liens and for deficiency judgment and general relief.

You are required to answer plaintiff's petition on or before the 1st day of March, 1915.

STEPHEN L. GEISHART, Plaintiff.

Notice to Non-Resident Defendants

Alvin E. Rogers and Fannie E. Rogers, his wife, defendants, will take notice that on the 11th day of January, 1915, Charles B. Rogers, plaintiff herein, filed his petition in the District Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, against said defendants, the object and prayer of which are to quiet his title upon the South half (S½) of the Southeast quarter (SE¼) and the South half (S½) of the Southeast quarter (SE¼) of Section twelve (12) Township nine (9) North twenty-eight (28) Lincoln County, Nebraska, against the defendants Alvin E. Rogers and Fannie E. Rogers his wife, who are claiming an interest in and to the above described premises by reason of a defective foreclosure, wherein Lincoln County brought a tax foreclosure suit against Alvin E. Rogers and wife for taxes due upon said premises, and said Lincoln County took a default judgment against said defendants prematurely, and that said premises were sold to P. A. Hammond, and that the said Alvin E. Rogers made application to redeem from said tax sale and notice of said application was served upon the said P. A. Hammond, and that no disposition of said motion for application has ever been made. And that the said Alvin E. Rogers and Fannie E. Rogers, his wife, are entopped from claiming any interest in and to the said premises by reason of the fact that said Alvin E. Rogers gave said premises to the said Charles B. Rogers upon condition that he pay a certain mortgage and has been in open, exclusive possession of said premises for several years and has been in open, exclusive and notorious possession under a claim of title for more than ten years prior to the commencement of this action, and has acquired a good title to the same.

Plaintiff prays for a decree that said defendants be excluded from all right, title and interest in and to the above land, and that the title of said land be in the plaintiff.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 22nd day of February, 1915.

Dated this 11th day of January, 1915. CHARLES B. ROGERS, Plaintiff.

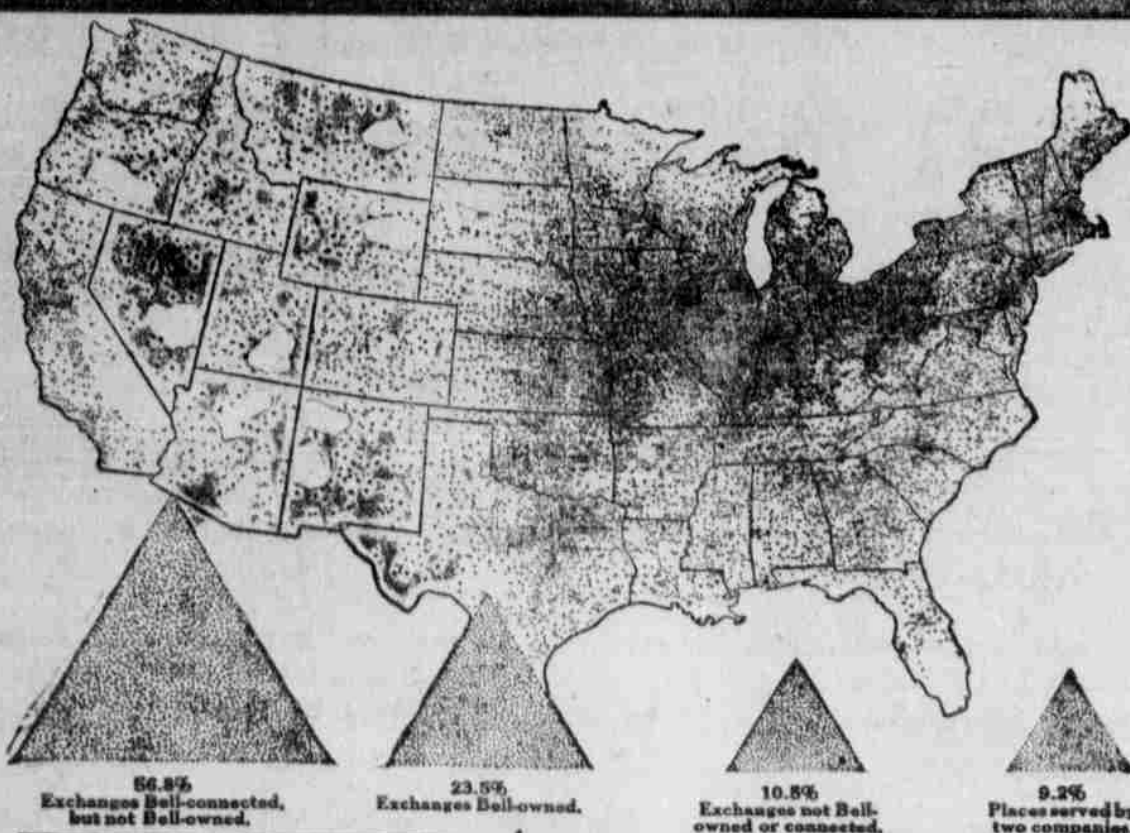
By WILCOX & HALLIGAN, P. R. HALLIGAN, Attorneys.

PROBATE NOTICE

In the Matter of the Estate of Sarah Jane Meyers, Deceased.

In the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, January 1, 1915. Notice is hereby given, That the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administrator of said Estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln County, Nebraska, at the County Court Room, in said County, on the 4th day of March, 1915, and on the 4th day of September, 1915, at 9 o'clock A. M. each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims, and one year for the Administrator to settle said Estate, from the 4th day of March, 1915. This notice will be published in The North Platte Tribune, a semi-weekly newspaper published in said County, for four successive weeks, on and after February 2nd, 1915.

GEO. E. FRENCH, County Judge.



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