

## OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### LAND COMMISSIONER WANTS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE GOOD

Items of General Interest Gathered From Reliable Sources Around the State House

Western Newspaper Union News Service.  
After a prolonged discussion the house decided to join with the senate in asking for government ownership of railroads and in approving the movement to have the government take over all other public utilities. Beal's S. F. 67 relates that the failure of the railroads to furnish a sufficient number of cars to move last year's crops and other products is but another evidence that privately owned system cannot be depended upon to give adequate service when the people need it most. Congress is "earnestly memorialized" to take immediate steps leading to government ownership, all the roads to be operated under strict civil service rules "for the convenience and accommodation of the public rather than for the convenience and aggrandizement of private corporations."

### Wants Government to Make Good

Land Commissioner G. L. Shumway is taking an inventory of lands due the state of Nebraska for government right of way grants and by reason of re-surveys.

Several thousand acres are due the state from shortage found by re-surveys running through a period of nearly thirty-five years. This is the first time the matter has been checked up.

The department of the interior at Washington has reserved from entry four farms in Grant county pending the checking of claims by the United States department. Indemnity has been requested by the state.

The land commissioner is interested in getting the government to cede land from forest reserve for this purpose, since few choice selections remain outside these acres. Any land acquired by the state will be transferred to school land.

Land Commissioner Kendall made the last selection on November 21, 1882. Since then the Alt resurvey reducing many 640-acre sections to 500 acres, and other surveys have never been checked up and no request has been made for indemnity, and no selection of lieu lands has ever been made. No action has ever been taken to lands occupied by the Union Pacific right of way prior to surveys.

### To Employ Convicts as See Fit

The house staged a warm debate over the question of what to do with the convicts at the state penitentiary. The matter came before it in S. F. 300, Oberlies' bill primarily intended to provide for the employment of the state's prisoners on the roads of the various counties, as amended the board of control was given power to do with them as they pleased.

The grave point of difference was whether to prohibit the men from being placed also on work that brought them into competition with skilled mechanics. The farmers generally insisted that this restriction be eliminated on the ground that no matter what they are put at they come into competition with somebody's labor and the mechanic should not be picked out for special exemption from competition. They also insisted that the health of the men demanded they be employed at something.

### Thanks Governor Neville for Support

President Wilson, in spite of the stress of preparation for active warfare, has not overlooked the profers of support which Governor Neville made to him and which was unanimously approved in resolutions passed by both houses of the Nebraska legislature.

In a letter to Governor Neville the president says:  
"Accept my warmest thanks for your telegram of April 4. I am very grateful to you and to the members of the Nebraska legislature for this reassuring pledge of loyal support."  
"Cordially and sincerely yours,  
"WOODROW WILSON."

### "Obey the law; keep your mouth shut."

"Obey the law; keep your mouth shut." is the advice of the United States attorney general. The United States district attorney's office has received the following message from the department: "No German alien enemy in this country who has not hitherto been implicated in plots against the interests of the United States, need have any fear of action by the department of justice so long as he observes the following warning: "Obey the law; keep your mouth shut."

### Files Bill for Expenses

Woodruff Ball of Valentine, Neb., chairman of the temporary state forestation commission for the last two years, has filed a claim with State Auditor Smith for \$94.32, which will be allowed. It is for expenses in connection with his trip to the capitol, where he spent ten days—March 19 to 29—in lobbying in the legislature for his bills to create the commission and make the temporary one permanent.

## REQUESTS ENLISTMENT

### Governor Urges Young Men to Offer Services

Young men of Nebraska are urged by Governor Neville, in a proclamation just issued to enlist for service in the war with Germany, in response to President Wilson's call. The governor also calls attention of the people generally to the need of practicing economies and guarding against waste, so that all the resources of the nation may be conserved for the impending conflict at arms. He says:

"Congress has declared that a state of war exists between our country and the imperial German government. The members of the legislature of the state of Nebraska have renewed allegiance to country and president, and have pledged Nebraska's manhood and resources to the end that the nation's honor may be maintained and its prestige undiminished. Untold sacrifices may be demanded of our people for, having entered the great struggle, we can be assured that no stone will be left unturned, and regardless of what our previous views may have been, to bring the war to a successful conclusion must, from this day, be the single purpose of a united people.

"All men of military age, physically qualified, who can be spared from the industrial and business life of the nation, and upon whom others are not dependent for subsistence and support, are urged to respond at once to the call to the colors. There can be no place for slackers in Nebraska, if the traditions and honor of our state and people are to be maintained.

"It may be some time before the effects of our participation will be felt, but immediate steps must be taken to meet every possible contingency. Waste of every description must be reduced to the minimum, wealth must be conserved and the production of foodstuffs must be increased to the highest degree. Every acre of tillable land should be placed under cultivation; every available plot of ground in the cities and towns should be utilized for garden purposes.

"With absolute confidence in the patriotism of the people of Nebraska, I urge that they give their undivided support to the president in this emergency."

KEITH NEVILLE,  
Governor.

### New State Banks Chartered

The state banking board granted charters to six new state banks in one day last week, making a total of 891 state banks now in existence in Nebraska. Since February 21, when the supreme court of Nebraska refused to sustain the state board in its attempt to limit the number of banks the board has granted permission to thirty-eight new state banks to go into business. This is more than one new bank a day, excluding Sundays and holidays. As two newly chartered banks at Sutherland merged into one institution, and as one new bank at Thurston did not start in business but bought out a bank already in business, the number of state banks authorized to do business since the supreme court gave its opinion is exactly one daily for the past thirty-eight working days.

### Capital National Bank Again.

Five of the six members of the joint senate and house committee appointed to investigate the possibilities of collecting \$194,502.02, the sum the state lost in the failure of the Capital National bank in Lincoln in 1893, are in favor of pressing the matter further with the view of collecting the loss from the directors of the bank. These five are asking the legislature to appropriate \$5,000, of which \$1,000 they ask to be set aside for further investigation of the possibilities of making the collection.

### New Man on Hotel Commission

Governor Neville has appointed J. B. Meyer, a Lincoln traveling man, as assistant deputy state hotel commissioner. This is a new office created by the consolidation of the hotel commission with the state pure food department, which became effective Friday, in carrying out the provisions of a legislative bill which just passed with an emergency clause.

The state university can be of service in war time, Chancellor Avery believes, by speeding up the machinery and turning out expert workmen as rapidly as possible. War, the chancellor says, will mean that all must make sacrifices and one of the sacrifices will be self imposed restriction on social affairs. The chancellor says he believes many university men, anxious to be of service, can do more good by joining the ranks of the producers than by taking up training for military service.

### Nebraska Second in Automobiles

Approximately 300 more automobile licenses were issued during the first two and a half months of 1917 than were issued during 1916 altogether, according to the records of Secretary of State Charles W. Pool. The number in 1916, which was 100,534, has already been increased to 100,800, in round numbers, and applications are still pouring in at the rate of 200 to 300 a day. In January as many as 7,000 applications were received in a day.

## MINOR NOTES FROM ALL PARTS OF NEBRASKA

### DATES FOR COMING EVENTS.

April 21-22—Missouri Valley Chiropractors' Association Meeting at Omaha.  
April 23-25—Annual Meeting State Aerie of Eagles at Nebraska City.  
April 26-27—Nebraska Association of Elks Annual Convention at Lincoln.  
May 1-2—Modern Woodman State Camp at Norfolk.  
May 4—Group No. 2 Nebraska Bankers' Association Convention at Columbus.  
May 8—Biennial Session A. O. U. W. Grand Lodge at Omaha.  
May 8-9—Knights of Columbus State Meeting at Alliance.  
May 12—State High School Track and Field Meet at Lincoln.  
May 16-17-18—Annual Encampment Nebraska G. A. R., Ladies of the G. A. R., Women's Relief Corps; Spanish War Veterans and Sons of Veterans at Columbus.  
May 22-25—Nebraska Sportsmen's Association Annual Tournament at Fremont.

One carload of hogs from Covert, Scottsbluff county, brought \$16.15 a hundredweight on the Denver stock market a few days ago. There were eighty-three head in the carload and they averaged 237 pounds.

The Aurora Commercial club, the Y. M. C. A. and the Nineteenth Century club have united their forces for the purposes of bringing a lyceum course to Aurora during the coming winter.

Fred Knorr and William Goerke, house movers of Beaver Crossing, with the families of small children, were instantly killed when their light automobile skidded and turned turtle six miles north of Staplehurst.

Fire of mysterious origin destroyed almost entirely the Westover iron foundry of Lincoln. The plant was one of the few in Lincoln where many kinds of war material could be manufactured.

Following a rousing meeting at Aurora forty-two young men of the vicinity enlisted in the new company H of the Fifth regiment, Nebraska National Guard.

Charles, the 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Mills, residing half a mile south of Mullen, accidentally shot the top of his head off while hunting a coyote.

The Bankers Realty Investment company of Omaha is soon to erect a \$165,000 hotel at Kearney. The new hostelry will be six stories high and will contain 100 rooms.

Fremont is to have a tractor meet again this year, the only demonstration of its kind in the United States during 1917, the date being fixed for August 6 to 18.

Fourteen hundred tons of alfalfa were destroyed in a fire west of Elm-creek just recently. The alfalfa was to be milled and baled by F. Perrine, owner of a large portable mill.

Loss estimated at \$25,000 is entailed in a gigantic prairie fire that swept a strip of territory east of O'Neill ten miles long and six miles wide.

Municipal affairs of Kearney are now being looked after by a commission of three men. K. R. Andrews is acting as mayor of the city.

The students of Doane college at Crete are pushing a movement to form a company for drill and instruction in military tactics.

Further plans have been made for the joint celebration of Nebraska's semi-centennial and the Fourth of July at Hebron.

The Fremont Woman's club has taken up Red Cross work. Alliance also has formed a chapter.

Mitchell suffered two disastrous fires last week, entailing a combined loss of \$20,000.

Nebraska has about 80,000 men between the ages of 19 and 24, of whom about 15,000 are married, leaving 67,000 to answer the first call to arms should congress pass the selective draft measure. It is estimated there are something less than 5,000,000 unmarried men in the United States between 19 and 25, on whom the principal burden of the draft must fall.

A statement made by the United States Agricultural department in a recent bulletin, places Nebraska fourth in average crop production out of forty-eight states.

Eight stolen automobiles were located near Long Pine few days ago by five Nebraska sheriffs. The engine numbers had been changed on the cars and it is believed they were stolen and then sold to the farmers as second-hand cars.

The Union Pacific railroad company has begun work on the rebuilding of the depot at Hordville, Hamilton county, which burned down recently. It will be larger and more convenient and modern than the one that was destroyed.

Fairbury will not have the new \$100,000 hotel this year, as the result of its promoters having purchased the Mary-Eta hotel. The new owners expect to add another story to the hostelry, making four in all.

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college will be required of anyone seeking to teach in the senior or junior classes of the York High school.

A recruiting station has been opened at York for the purpose of filling Company M, N. N. G., to fighting strength of 100.

Plans are being perfected by the Union Pacific for a "preparedness" or "conservation" special to be sent out over the state next month, starting at Columbus on the 8th and ending at Stapleton on the 14th. A number of farm experts and successful and practical farmers whose farms are along the lines of the road will give lectures at all points visited. The special will take in branch line points north of Columbus, Grand Island and Kearney. The idea of running this train is in accordance with the urgent necessities pointed out by the National Council of Defense and follows directly upon the heels of the report of the United States Department of Agriculture, in which it was pointed out that the estimate of the wheat crop for 1917 is some 50,000,000 bushels under that of last year. The urgent demand of the National Council of Defense is that every possible acre in the great crop-producing states be put under cultivation.

Inexperience in driving is thought to have been responsible for the death of five women near Gibbon, when an automobile in which they were riding was struck by a Union Pacific train. The car was being driven by Miss Helen Sloss of North Bend. She was unused to driving, it is said, and probably miscalculated the speed of the approaching train and attempted to cross the track ahead of it. The dead are: Mrs. Laura A. Thatcher, Gibbon, Miss Ruth Thatcher, her daughter, principal of Gibbon schools; Miss Sadie Thatcher, daughter; Miss Norma Gordon, Kearney, teacher in Gibbon schools; Miss Helen Sloss, North Bend. The automobile was hurled several hundred feet and demolished.

Joe Stecker of Dodge, since losing the title of world's champion wrestler to Earl Caddock of Anita, Ia., at Omaha, announces he will retire from the game temporarily and has cancelled all engagements. Stecher lost the match at Omaha by default, having failed to appear on the mat after winning and losing a fall. Caddock, the new champion, is the only man who ever pinned Stecher's shoulders to the mat in a championship bout.

Louis Kamerad, who lost his life while resisting arrest at the hands of a posse near Arcadia, was an inmate of the Kearney industrial school a few years ago. Of a class of thirty-six boys of which Kamerad was a member, sixteen have already served terms in the penitentiary at Lincoln.

A movement has been started in the state to mobilize all high school and university students for farm work during the coming summer vacation. This is suggested by the shortage of farm labor and the apparent need for all who can carry on the farming operations.

One of the biggest land deals in Greeley county for years was completed when W. E. Reed of Greeley Center sold a tract containing 689 acres to P. J. Rooney for \$25 an acre. The land is unimproved.

Ford Jackson and Robert Rezac, two members of the Fremont signal corps, charged with making wrongful use of an automobile, were sentenced to three months each in the county jail.

Emil Foth of Ord, J. F. Bowers of Cushing, Albert Englehart of Bancroft and George Russell of Fullerton had hog shipments on the South Omaha market last week that brought \$15.70 per hundredweight.

The Tekamah board of education has directed that hereafter the teaching of German be omitted in the public schools of the town.

Twenty head of Hereford cattle, averaging 1,400 pounds brought \$13.05 per hundred pounds on the South Omaha market the other day.

Spring wheat is being sown quite extensively by the farmers of Jefferson county.  
Cody Bond, grandson of the late Colonel William F. Cody, is organizing a cavalry troop at North Platte. The population of North Platte is estimated at 7,650.

Following a patriotic demonstration at Alliance the company being organized by J. B. Miller to fill the vacancy in the organization of the Fourth Nebraska regiment filled rapidly until it was announced more than the required number were ready to be mustered in. Accordingly two officers of the Fourth regiment, mustered in seventy men, who now wait the necessary equipment and call to join their regiment.

James Peters, an old army man, is organizing a company of rookies at Harrison.

A quarter of a million dollars is to be spent at Hastings by the Hastings & Northwestern, the Union Pacific Short Line, this year in the development of a terminal. Trackage will be laid for 700 cars and a large round house will be built. The coming of the new terminal practically doubles Hastings' railroad facilities.

Boys of Oakdale are building bird houses under direction of the Woman's club. Prizes will be awarded for the best designs and workmanship.

William Gray of Lincoln has invented an airship which he claims will stand still in midair for hours at a time. Mr. Gray is considering placing his invention at the disposal of the government.

Much praise for Senator Hitchcock and considerable criticism for Senator Norris and Congressman Sloan was heard at a patriotic meeting at Aurora.

As the result of an injury at Randolph two years ago, G. W. Coe of Spalding is suing the Nebraska Telephone company for \$15,000.

## PEDIGREE SYSTEM OF POULTRY RAISING

(By C. T. PATTERSON.)

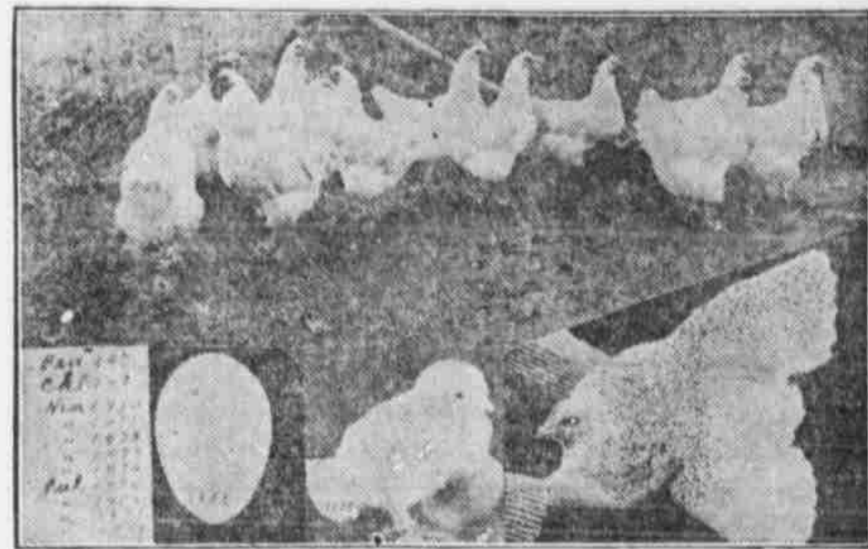
Owing to the many questions asked concerning the keeping of pedigree records, we believe an explanation of our pedigree system will be of interest to all who intend to keep records of their breeding yards in the future.

The success of any institution depends to a great extent upon the system of operation and system of records. The two most important points to be considered are accuracy and simplicity.

It is necessary for all poultry breeders who do accurate breeding to adopt

and pullets are used in the same pen, the first five are hens and the last five are pullets. Hide the right-hand figure of a hen's number and you have the pen number, also the male's number in that pen. One yard may contain a number of pens, but this does not break the numbering system. If any bird gets out of the pen, the number tells where it belongs.

Each hen is caught in a trapnet when she goes on to the nest to lay, and upon being released, her band number is placed on the egg. It will be seen that an egg marked in 1472 is



BREEDING PEN AT MISSOURI STATION

some method or system of keeping records and the less complication, the greater the value of the system.

The Missouri state poultry experiment station is all under one system of band numbers, which is as follows: All pens are numbered, the male in each pen bears the same number as the pen, and each hen bears the same number and in addition her individual number to the right. To illustrate, pen No. 147 contains male No. 147, and females from 1470 to 1479 inclusive, there being ten females in such breeding pen, and where hens

from hen 2 in pen 147 and fertilized by male 147, while 1476 is from pullet, 6 in pen 147 and fertilized by male 147.

When the egg is incubated and the chick hatched in pedigree tray, the number on the egg is placed on the chick's leg band and as soon as the band needs loosening because of the chick's leg growing, the band is placed in the chick's wing where it remains permanently. Thus the pedigree band is in the wing, which will prevent confusing the pullet with the hen which has her band on the leg.

## EGG TESTER IS HANDY

### Examination Should Be Made Twice During Incubation.

### Useful Device Can Easily Be Made From Double Thickness of Heavy Paper—Fertile Eggs Will Have Dark Spot.

(Clemson College Bulletin.)  
All eggs that are incubating should be examined twice during the hatching period. An egg tester can be made from a mailing tube. Prepare a double thickness of heavy brown paper, four inches square, place one end of the tube at the center and double the edges of the paper over it—to form a paper cap. Fasten the cap with three wrappings of cord. Cut a hole one inch in diameter in the top of the cap.

The free end of the tube is placed at the eye and the egg to be examined is pressed lengthwise against the hole in the cap. Point the tester and egg to the sun or a bright light and you can plainly see the contents of the egg.

The eggs are first tested at the end of the first week. The fertile eggs with live embryos in them have a dark spot (the embryo or young chick) in the upper part of the egg, with numerous veins radiating from it. These eggs are to be returned to the hen or incubator. Clear eggs (infertile), eggs with a ring of blood (an embryo that grew a few hours and died), and clouded eggs are to be destroyed. However, the clear, infertile eggs can be kept and boiled hard for chick food.

The eggs are again tested at the end of the second week. At this stage of incubation a live embryo darkens all the egg except the air cell in the large end. Eggs appearing otherwise are rejected.

Two or three hens should be set at the same time. By testing the eggs at the end of the first week, it is usually possible to remove sufficient eggs to release one hen. Another setting of eggs can be placed under her at once and you are relieved of the work of caring for her two weeks for no result. Testing gets rid of eggs which will become rotten and create a stench, and results in a more successful hatch.

## POULTRY MANURE IS USEFUL

### Mixed With Sifted Wood's Earth It May Be Profitably Used for Corn and Garden Crops.

Poultry manure, from hens fed upon mixed grain, bone and meat meal, clover or alfalfa meal, mixed with wheat-bran and flaxseed meal, is very rich in plantfood. This manure should be mixed with sifted wood's earth, or rich earth and kept dry. This mixture may be profitably used for corn and truck crops.

Fine manure from cattle and sheep-pens and scrapings from the barnyard on most farms, will be enough to fertilize several acres. The great difficulty in using bulky manures is the labor and time it takes to apply them. These methods are well suited to the farmer having family help, but not for the one employing day hands at high prices.

## EIGHT CAPITAL EGG POINTS

### Essentials for Successful Poultry Feeding Given by Expert of Missouri College.

H. L. Kempster of the Missouri College of Agriculture gives the following essentials for successful poultry feeding:

1. Grain (scratch feed) and ground feed (mash).
2. Animal feed, such as beef scrap or sour skim milk.
3. Grit and oyster shell.
4. Green food.
5. Clean, fresh water.
6. Liberal feeding.
7. Plenty of exercise.
8. Regular attention.

Hens eat from five to eight pounds of feed a month, or sixty to eighty pounds in a year. The daily feed eaten by a hen is from three to four ounces. The daily ration for 100 hens is from nineteen to twenty-five pounds.

Hens drink about six pounds of milk a month. One hundred hens drink 2 1/4 gallons of milk daily.

On limited range a laying hen eats two pounds of grit and three pounds of oyster shell in a year.

## PLACE FOR SPROUTING OATS

### Warm Cellar or Furnace Room is Excellent—Sprinkling With Water Aids Growth.

A warm cellar or a furnace room makes good places in which to sprout oats. Light is not essential, though if the oats are sprouted in the dark they will not have a green color. One day's exposure to light will turn the sprouts green, however. Sprinkling the oats twice a day with water as warm as the hand can stand, will greatly hasten growth, but sprinkling with cold water will result in a much slower growth, writes T. Z. Richey in Farm and Home.

The box or tray in which the oats are sprouted should provide good drainage. If the water stands in the trays the oats will mold and be unsafe for feeding. A block of oats a foot square makes a good feed for 50 hens.

## CONSTRUCTION OF HENHOUSE

### Shape of Building Should Be Taken Into Consideration—Square Structure is Cheapest.

In constructing a poultry house the shape of the building should be taken into consideration. Four square feet of floor space should be allowed each bird. A continuous house, such as 10 feet deep and 40 feet long, contains 400 square feet. It has a perimeter of 100 feet and holds 100 birds. A square house of 20 by 20 feet contains the same number of square feet, holds the same number of birds and contains 20 feet less of wall in perimeter measurement. A square house is the cheapest type of poultry house to build.

## CLEANLINESS IN HENHOUSE

### Watch Details and Take Nothing for Granted—Overlooked Decayed Food May Be Costly.

In every detail of work with poultry you cannot be overclean. An overlooked pan holding decayed food may cost you dollars.

Take nothing for granted. If you do not see for yourself that corners are clean then they are probably dirty.