

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

A petition signed by 150 Howard county citizens has been filed with the Nebraska supreme court at Lincoln asking that steps be taken to cause either the disbarment, citation for contempt or public censure of John M. Priest and Sterling Mutz of Lincoln, F. A. Rensoner of Theoford and "other attorneys" who have taken part since October, 1919, in the long pending fight for the life of Grammer and Cole, the two men whose execution for the murder of Mrs. Lulu Voght has now again been hung up for several weeks in the courts.

The integrity of the retail merchants throughout the state, who on divers occasions have been accused of being profiteers, is to receive its supreme test. Mrs. C. G. Ryan, in charge of the Nebraska economy campaign and federal fair price commissioner, has prepared a card on which consumers may mail to her office the specific complaint wherein it is claimed an exorbitant price has been charged for merchandise.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Matzen has sent notices to the officials and others interested in appeals made from the decision of county redistricting committees. Under the new law the county superintendent and two men named by the county board act as a committee to redistrict the counties so as to provide for larger school districts and better facilities.

Because he claimed exemption from military service draft on the grounds that he was an alien and subject of Germany, Johannes Paulson of Leigh was forever denied the privilege of becoming a citizen of the United States by District Judge Button at Columbus. The judge not only denied his petition, but also cancelled his first papers.

Oklahoma oil men are leasing a great deal of land in southern Holt county. The same interests have under lease a large acreage of land near Erina, Garfield county, just south of the south line of Holt county. The syndicate already has a rig on the ground and expects to begin boring soon.

At a meeting of county officials and contractors at the office of the secretary of public works at the state house at Lincoln, contracts were let for over \$500,000 worth of road building in Douglas, Saunders, Hall, Colfax, Merrick, Fillmore and Thayer counties.

Governor McKelvie has reprieved to March 19 Alton B. Cole, under sentence to be electrocuted at the state prison at Lincoln, together with Allen V. Grammer, for the murder of Mrs. Vogt. Grammer, by a federal court ruling, is automatically granted a stay until his case can be heard.

Completion of the work of circulating petitions to place the name of United States Senator Hiram W. Johnson of California on the Nebraska republican presidential preference primary ballot to be voted on April 29, was announced at Lincoln.

The constitutionality of the act passed at the last special legislative session to enable Douglas county to issue bonds to restore the damage to its court house occasioned by the riot of September 28, has been put up to the state supreme court.

Hebrew expects to have a new industry in the near future. The factory for the new sanitary candy case, invented by W. E. Morton, of Beatrice, is soon to be located there.

Influenza caused the death of five children of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Albright at Antioch and Mr. Albright is reported seriously ill with the disease.

Wheeler county will co-operate with Holt county in completing the north and south highway through the two counties at least as far south as Bartlett this year.

Governor McKelvie has issued an official proclamation naming April 20 as primary day in Nebraska for the selection of the various candidates for this fall's election.

The oil project, twenty miles north of Chadron, is being watched with much interest. The drill is now down 1,200 feet.

During the past ten days over twenty-five applications from Germans, Austrians and Hungarians in Nebraska, asking approval of permits to visit relatives in Europe, have been filed with W. M. Braashear, immigration service representative at Omaha.

Engineer A. H. Hagen of the Girls' Industrial school at Geneva has been discharged as the result of an investigation by the state board of control. The board refused to disclose the cause. Hagen is said to have been discharged following charges by the girls in the institution.

The bureau of professional service at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln had calls for 287 teachers from 173 towns in January. Fourteen states besides Nebraska asked for teachers.

Until the courts decide otherwise women may sign petitions for candidates for office before the primaries, according to an opinion of Secretary of State Ansbary.

The Tecumseh Board of Education has set a pace for other cities in the matter of teachers' salaries by giving an increase of 60 per cent for the coming year.

The squabble over the light distribution system between the West Point, Hooper and Scribner crowd, which started in 1918 when the property of the West Point company was sold to the Hooper Electric Light & Power Co., was revived last week when a prominent West Point man was charged with cutting wires near Hooper. A live wire was included in those cut. The guilty parties are said to have went to Scribner, where they were given protection. Hooper officials recovered the wire by serving a warrant of attachment on the mayor and marshal at Scribner.

Former Congressman G. M. Pollard, of Nebraska, has filed for the republican nomination for the governorship. With the filing of Mr. Pollard, Judge A. L. Sutton of Omaha is expected to refuse to run. In return for Mr. Pollard's withdrawal from the race two years ago in favor of Judge Sutton, Governor McKelvie and Adam McMillen of Wyoming also have filed for the republican nomination.

At the annual convention of the State Threshers' association at Lincoln plans were laid to obtain a substantial increase in membership in the organization during 1920. There are 6,000 men engaged in the business in the state and more county organization work will be done this year with a view to increasing interest in both county and state.

Condensed milk, butter, flour and bread have reduced in price in nearly all parts of Nebraska, according to Mrs. Charles G. Ryan, director of the state economy campaign. She says the united moral efforts of the women of Nebraska to reduce the cost of living already is bringing down the price of many articles of necessity.

The state board of control has notified the Odd Fellows lodge of Nebraska that it will abandon the custodian farm for women at York, near the I. O. O. F. home, if the organization will finance a new farm for fallen women in some other part of the state. The lodge objects to the location of the institution near its home.

James H. Hanley, federal prohibition commissioner for Nebraska, stationed at Omaha, declared that Nebraska druggists who obtain permits to sell liquor for medicinal purposes need have little fear of threatened prosecution by state Anti-League officials.

Councilman Danley of Chadron has asked Mayor Miller of Lincoln for a copy of the anti-chimney ordinance in vogue at the capital city, because, it is said, many young folks at the Daves county metropolis are afflicted with the dance malady.

This state undertook its first extensive construction of highways itself without the aid or assistance of private contractors when it entered into contract with the county board of Holt county to construct forty-one miles of highway for the county.

The controversy at Columbus as to whether the new court house is to be placed on the north side or south side of the city was intensified last week, when Platte Center started a movement to move the county seat to that town.

Governor McKelvie has notified Nebraska representatives in congress that he is in favor of the request of American Legion for \$50 per month bonus for soldiers and nurses, based on period of war service.

Attorney General Davis has announced he will fight to the last ditch to enforce Nebraska's dry law if Federal Prohibition Director Hanley permits the sale of liquor in this state for medicinal purposes.

April 3 is the date set for the annual state high school stock judging contest at the college of agriculture at Lincoln. It is expected that at least twenty-five high schools will be represented.

Robbers entered the Bethel Baptist church at Omaha the other night and carried off a 400-pound safe. They were rewarded, however, with only \$3.40, the contents of value in the safe.

Mrs. Charles Dietrich, state president of the Nebraska Women's Suffrage association, announced that the organization will hold its March convention in Omaha.

The Rev. Titus Lowe, pastor of the First Methodist church of Omaha, announced he will be a candidate for delegate at large to the republican national convention at Chicago.

From Lincoln comes the report that Nebraska farmers plan to organize a \$500,000 co-operative company for the purpose of publishing a state daily newspaper.

Preparations are all complete for Omaha Automobile show, which will be held March 1 to 6.

Over 800 Nebraska ministers, representing practically every evangelical church organization in Nebraska, attended a three days' conference in Lincoln last week in connection with the Interchurch World Movement.

Reports reaching the State Agricultural College at Lincoln show that the use of gasoline engines in small creameries and on farms is resulting in a material increase in the amount of butter tainted with gasoline. Both cream and butter very readily absorb gas odors, with the result that the quality of the butter is materially lowered.

The board of regents of the university of Nebraska has taken steps to get back into the Missouri Valley conference.

A number of workmen were thrown out of employment at Shelton as the result of a fire which completely destroyed the plant of the Shelton Fertilizer company.

A campaign to raise \$500,000 among Norfolk citizens to erect an eight-story hotel building on the city's most prominent business corner opened a few days ago with \$200,000 of the amount subscribed.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NOTES

Lincoln.—Up to the end of last week the convention, which has been in continuous session since December 2, with the exception of the holiday adjournment, only four proposals had actually gone through the grist on second reading, which is practically final action. They are:

No. 109: Re-writing the initiative and referendum; reducing the necessary signatures of petitioners to 7 per cent of the total electorate to initiate a constitutional amendment; and 5 per cent for the referendum; also requiring only title of bill being referred to be printed on petition.

No. 221: Permitting legislature to authorize jury verdicts by a five-sixths vote in civil cases.

No. 158: Permits voting by citizens of this state while in the military or naval service.

No. 228: Equal suffrage.

Twenty-four additional proposals have been adopted in committee of the whole, and are now in the hands of the phraseology committee, and will come up for second reading during the present week.

The most important act of the convention the past week was the adoption of Proposal 326, one of the "language" proposals. The final vote came only after several amendments were rejected by so close a vote that friends of the bill became agitated for fear it would be defeated. The amendments, while not vital to the bill, gave opportunity for oratory. The proposal as adopted reads as follows: "The English is hereby declared to be the official language of this state, and all official proceedings, records and publications shall be in such language, and the common school branches shall be taught in said language in public, private, denominational and parochial schools."

The convention opened this week's work by passing two proposals. One places rights of aliens in property under the jurisdiction of the legislature and leaves the rights of people of other states in property of this state the same as if they lived in the state. The other authorizes the state board of public funds to place all school lands for sale up at auction instead of under the appraisement plan. A strong fight was put up by Bryant and others to keep the school lands from being sold.

The constitutional convention in committee of the whole, adopted the legislative committee recommendation to raise the membership of the senate from 33 to 50. The house will remain as before, with 100 members. The proposition to divide counties with more than one representative into representative districts was defeated, while the present system of float districts will remain. A recommendation to raise the pay of the members from \$800 to \$850 for the session was adopted.

It is believed that the convention will be in session for at least two weeks longer and perhaps for three or four weeks. The most important proposals remaining to be considered include the question of the recall of public officials, the creation of an industrial court, the establishment of a system of state health insurance and of compulsory workmen's compensation laws.

The committee on the executive department has recommended a proposal making only the governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, attorney general and state superintendent the elective officers of the state, abolishing the office of lieutenant governor and giving the duties to the president of the senate, and making the land commissioner appointive.

By a vote of 56 to 34 the convention approved Proposal No. 96 by Ross of Merick county in amended form. It provides that private property cannot be taken for private use except for private ways of necessity, for drains, flumes, ditches or across lands of others for agricultural and sanitary purposes.

By a vote of ninety-six to two the convention adopted the suffrage amendment, which will remove the sex qualification for voters, as soon as ratified by the people next fall. L. J. To Pool of Omaha and E. J. Speck of Saline county cast the dissenting votes.

Proposal No. 323, Pugsley's pet amendment, requiring the legislature to provide legislation for a state school tax, struck a snag last week and went into the indefinitely postponed hopper.

Proposal No. 233 by Osborne of Morrill, one of the minister delegates, which provides for the reading of the Bible in public schools, was rejected by the convention by a vote of 48 to 34.

The convention has approved a proposal to turn in fees received by the department of fish and game into that department instead of into the school funds.

In spite of a great deal of opposition by lawyer delegates the convention went on record in favor of requiring a decision by five supreme court judges before any law may be declared unconstitutional.

A proposal for a provision giving the legislature power to create an industrial court to pass upon controversies between employers and employees "in which the public welfare is affected," was presented to the convention, by the committee on industrial conditions.

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

By Mary Graham Bonner

MOTHER RACCOON.

"I always believe it is a good thing," said Mother Raccoon, "to tell the children a good deal of their history before they go out into the world themselves."

"We'd love to hear the history of the Raccoon family," said Robert Raccoon.

"But are we going out into the world soon?" asked Ray Raccoon.

"Before long," said their mother. "You see it is now the late winter and when the spring comes Daddy Raccoon and I must think of the little ones who come then. You will be big and able to look after yourselves."

"That is right," said Daddy Raccoon. "We must look after the little ones when the spring comes for they will be so helpless."

"Just as you were almost a year ago," he added.

"Come then, we will hear the history talk," said Mother Raccoon.

All the raccoons—there were four of them—sat in their hollow tree and listened as Mother Raccoon told them what they must do when they started out in the world by themselves, and what had been the history of the Raccoon family.

"You see, every year," she said, "when the springtime comes four or six little baby raccoons come with it and we must look after them for they are young and feeble. Your daddy and I look after our family for a whole year—from the time they come until



Mother Raccoon Told Them.

the next spring when a new lot come. You see we do things very much on time. Every spring our new family comes to us and every spring we are all ready and waiting.

"When the heavy snow comes—after a great and blinding snowstorm—we're apt to seek shelter in a nice hollow tree like this. We don't actually hibernate or go to bed for the whole winter but we do sleep and snooze and stay protected from the wintry blasts through the most severe part of it."

"We belong to the Grizzled Gray Raccoon family. Our faces are quite black, our tails are ringed tails and quite handsomely shaped. And we walk very much like the bears do."

"Now as to eating—eat anything you like—that is, almost anything such as frogs (when they're awake), crawfish, eggs, snakes, chicken, bread—all kinds of things, depending on what you can get."

"Eggs are very healthful. Children and grownups eat fresh eggs as do raccoons both old and young."

"At night when danger is near call as you hear me call, 'Whoooo—ooo—ooo.'"

"They say," Mother Raccoon continued, "that no raccoon mistakes any other voice for the voice of one of his family. An owl can be fooled. Some silly person can make a sound like a screech owl and the screech owl will answer back, thinking it is one of its own kind, but not so the raccoon family. So never break the record. Never answer any but a raccoon, never make a mistake."

"Throughout the history of the raccoon family not one of us has ever been fooled and I hope we never will. For it shows that we're pretty smart when creatures who try to imitate us can't succeed in fooling us."

"The next most important thing for you to know is always to wash your food. If you are not sure it is clean rinse it several times. Live near brooks or streams so that you will be able to do this."

"There is nothing like eating clean food. Then you will not become ill and sickly."

"Ah, remember these things when you're off by yourselves, for you will not have your mother's watchful eye over you, nor your daddy's watchful eye. We'll be busy telling the new little brothers and sisters!"

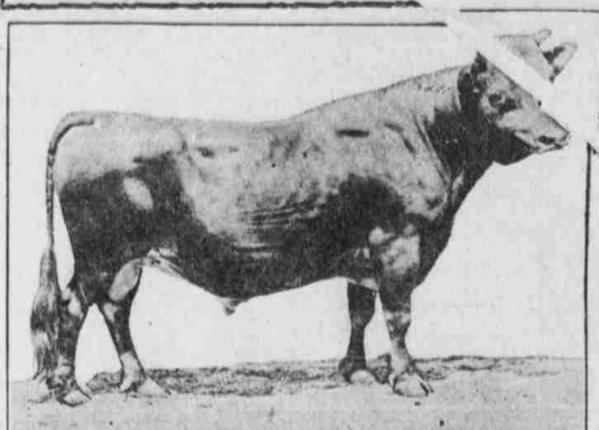
"We'll remember," said the raccoons who were so soon to go out into the world.

"And in the winter time rest and sleep a great deal. It makes you stronger, fresher, but do not spend all your time sleeping for that would make you too stupid."

"Rest and be smart. Never let anyone fool you into thinking he is a raccoon when he is only a man or a boy imitating you. For no one can yet say the family has ever been fooled. That great, great honor must always be kept unspilt."

"It is napping time now, but next time we have a talk I'll warn you about the enemy you're to steer clear of. Pleasant naps now."

BETTER SIRES LEAD TO IMPROVED FEMALES



The Surest Way for the Farmer to Make More Money is to Raise More and Better Live Stock.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

That the use of purebred sires is usually a forerunner to ownership of well-bred live stock in the various classes and breeds is shown by data on breeding just made public by the bureau of animal industry, United States department of agriculture. The facts and figures compiled are based on records of the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign, which at the close of 1919 had been in progress just three months. A greater quantity of data will be needed before conclusive deductions may be made, but the following facts are considered of unusual interest to live stock owners:

Ownership of Purebred Females Follows Better Sires.

The use of purebred sires appears to lead automatically to the ownership of a considerable quantity of purebred female stock.

The use of purebred sires apparently results also in the culling out of scrub females, judging from the small proportion of scrub females to grade, crossbred, and purebred female animals owned by purebred-sire users.

Of all female stock owned by persons enrolled in the better-sires campaign at the end of the year, 71 per cent were purebred, 26 per cent were grades and crossbreds, and 3 per cent were scrubs.

The scrub females are believed to be the remnants of former inferior stock before purebred sires were used, since purebred sires lead automatically to either purebred, crossbred, or grade offspring, depending on the blood lines of the females used.

Low Percentage of Scrub Females.

The percentage of purebred females found in herds and flocks owned by purebred-sire users was noticeably similar for the various classes of animals. In cattle the per cent of purebred females was 63.5, in swine 64, in sheep 63.

The per cent of scrub females in the same classes was: Cattle, 3.6, swine, 2.0, sheep, 6.4.

Poultry figures showed the smallest per cent of scrub females in flocks headed by sires of pure breeding, the figure being 1.8.

Poultry showed the highest per cent (78.1) of females of pure breeding, and the smallest per cent (1.8) of scrub females.

Similar figures of horses, asses, and goats are not presented, as the enrollment of these animals is not considered sufficiently large at this time. Those classes, however, were included in the totals.

Comments accompanying blanks of enrollment indicated that many live-stock owners had used purebred sires for a considerable period, which materially reduced the percentage of scrubs. This is likely to be true of a good many who enroll early in the campaign, but is evidence pointing strongly to the influence of purebred sires on improvement in quality of herds and flocks.

Shows Results of State Work for Better Bulls.

The drive which many states have been waging against scrub bulls was reflected in the enrollment figures. More purebred bulls were enrolled than any other class of live stock, except poultry.

At the end of December there were enrolled in the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign 6,200 animals, and in addition 8,949 poultry.

Facts Obtained With Special Care.

Knowledge about the breeding of live stock in the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign is obtained with special care. First, the owner of the stock lists his animals kept for breeding on the enrollment blank in accordance with the official definitions for the various classes of animals with respect to their parentage. As the better-sires slogan indicates, all males must be purebred and of good quality.

Female stock may be of any breeding and spaces are provided for the listing of purebred, grade, crossbred, and scrub females. Then the classification is approved by the county agent in the county where the live-stock owner lives. In the relatively few cases where there is no county agent, the written endorsement of the blank by two experienced and disinterested live-stock owners is required.

Every person agreeing in writing, on the blank furnished, to use only purebred sires in his breeding operations receives an emblem of recognition issued co-operatively by the United States department of agriculture and the state in which he lives. So-called

"red tape" has been reduced to a minimum and the emblems have been issued in most cases the day the blanks were received.

Female Stock Need Not Be Purebred

Though pointing out the foregoing observations—and especially the tendency for purebred-sire owners to acquire purebred females—the department of agriculture does not urge purebred female stock on the average farm. Whether purebred females should be kept is a matter of individual judgment, depending on circumstances which the live-stock owner is best able to know. The successful breeding of purebred live stock as a business calls for close attention and considerable experience, both in production and marketing. By contrast, the purpose of the better-sires movement is to raise the average quality of all live stock in the United States.

The department therefore goes no further than to urge the use of good purebred sires. It believes that after having taken that step live-stock owners will continue to improve their domestic animals, raising either grades, crossbreds, or purebreds—or some of each—which ever seems best suited to the kind of farming followed and to available markets.

SEED TESTING WITH SIMPLE EQUIPMENT

Sufficient Accuracy Can Be Made by Beginner.

Younger Members of Home Circle Should Find Such Work Easy and Interesting—Apparatus Not at All Expensive.

Seed tests sufficiently accurate to answer all practical purposes can be made by a beginner with very little practice, say specialists of the United States department of agriculture. The younger members of the home circle should find such work not only comparatively easy but very interesting. Testing of locally grown seed is aided by the possession of a correctly named set of the seeds of crops and of weeds prevailing in the vicinity.

Only such apparatus is needed in making practical seed tests as enables one to use weighed quantity of seed from the sample, to separate the pure seed from the foreign seeds and other impurities, to distinguish the character of the foreign seeds, and to make the germination test.

Only by using a weighed quantity of seed can one determine the relative quantities of pure and of impure seeds in the sample. This requires a balance sufficiently sensitive to be moved by a small weight, such as that of a few clover seeds. But a balance of this kind, designed to rest on the edge of a knife blade, can be made from two lead pencils, two cardboard disks, two pieces of wire, some rubber bands, a darning needle, a common brass pin, and two bits of board. The only equipment needed consists of a few BB shots, flattened, to be used as weights. With this balance, if the pure seed from a sample balances 9 shots and the impurities balance one shot, the sample is shown to be 90 per cent pure. Some shots may be cut into halves, quarters, eights, and sixteenths for fractional weights.

Such other apparatus as is desirable can be made or bought at small cost. A pair of forceps for picking up the shots and for separating seeds can be made of two thin strips of hickory, or a piece of spring wire bent into U-shape and having the points flattened. A magnifying glass is needed, but the common reading glass to be found in many homes or that can be bought at a cost of \$1 or \$2 serves the purpose well. Seed can be best examined over white paper and, to prevent loss of seed, a paper tray is desirable.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Overfeeding may cause azoturia among horses.

Moldy or frozen silage is dangerous when fed to sheep or horses.

Carrots are excellent as a feed for horses. Use them not as a substitute for oats, but as a part of the ration.