

NEBRASKA NEWS

STATE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT
WINS ITS CASE.

NOT REQUIRED TO EXPLAIN

Doesn't Have to Tell Railroads by
What Reasoning it Arrived at
Assessed Valuation of
Railroad Property.

Under a decision of the supreme court the state board of equalization and assessment is not required to explain to the railroads by what reasoning it arrived at the assessed value of railroad property for the year 1907. Sixteen questions were propounded by the Union Pacific and other railroads and the board declined to answer, saying that it had complied with the statute in taking into consideration physical property franchise values and other matters in assessing the property. The Union Pacific road asked the court for a writ of mandamus to answer questions and to grant a bill of exceptions. The court has refused to grant a writ of mandamus. Judge Reese, having been counsel for the state in the suit, did not participate in the decision. It has been understood that the right of the railroad company to appeal from the assessment of 1907 depended on the issuance of the writ. The company desired to take the justness of the assessment into the courts by appeal instead of trying the old way of enjoining the counties from collecting the taxes.

The court holds that a writ of mandamus will not lie to compel the board to make a record of objections and requests for rulings which are not required by law to be spread upon the record of its proceedings. Such matters should, if desired, be preserved and made a matter of record by a proper bill of exceptions. The railroad company may present requests for special findings which should be considered by the board and may object to the rulings made thereon and take exceptions to such rulings, but if it desires to have such matters and rulings reviewed it must preserve the same by a bill of exceptions settled and allowed as provided by statute.

GASOLINE STOVE EXPLOSION.

Omaha Woman Probably Fatally
Burned in Oil.

Mrs. Jacob Hoffman, 2522 Rees street, Omaha, was probably fatally burned when a gasoline stove exploded in her kitchen. Her clothing was immediately ignited from the blazing oil and before help could reach her, terrible burns had been inflicted over about two-thirds of the surface of the body. She was cared for by Doctors Tyler and Fitzgibbon and taken to St. Joseph hospital in the police ambulance. Doctors say there is but little chance of recovery.

Something seemed to be wrong with the stove over which Mrs. Hoffman was working and she set about to remedy the trouble. Suddenly with a flash and roar the gasoline exploded. The flames wrapped around Mrs. Hoffman and she was a living mass of fire in a moment.

Her seventeen-year-old son was in the yard and heard his mother's frantic screams for help. The young fellow ran into the fiery kitchen and with blankets and heavy quilts succeeded in extinguishing the flames. In so doing he was badly burned about the hands.

Fined \$100 for Chasing a Deer.

William Gregg of Maxwell, Lincoln county, charged with pursuing a deer, has pleaded guilty to the charge under the state game law and paid a fine of \$100. The deer was chased by hounds until it was exhausted and overtaken. Gregg took the deer away from the dogs and brought it alive to his home. He did not account for the animal except by stating that someone stole it from the shed in which it had been locked. When the first report of the pursuit was received by the game warden it carried with it a tale of how Gregg had rescued the deer from hounds of unknown persons. Later it was charged that he was responsible for the chase.

Reports on Partridges.

John W. Gilbert, who keeps a deer park at Friend, is the first to report to the state game warden the condition of the Hungarian partridges distributed in Nebraska last fall at private expense. He says thirteen of the sixteen birds turned loose near Friend have come through the winter in good shape. One was killed and the others have not been accounted for.

PERKINS COUNTY FAVORED.

State Proposes to Reappraise School
Lands.

Governor Sheldon, chairman of the board of educational lands and funds, has made a tabulation which shows that school lands in Perkins county are appraised for lease purposes lower than school lands in adjoining counties and also lower than the assessed valuation of other lands in that county. The county commissioners of Perkins county last fall appraised all school lands in the county at 57 cents an acre. This appraisal was rejected by the state board as being too low and not in accordance with the actual value of the different tracts, and the board has ordered a new appraisal by three freeholders. Under the existing reappraisal school land in Perkins county is appraised at 25 cents an acre for leasing purposes. A lessee pays 6 per cent of the appraised value to the state which in the case of Perkins county under the existing appraisal is .021 per acre. The average appraised value of school land in adjoining counties is as follows: Chase, \$2.59; Keith, \$2.59; Hayes, \$3.48; Lincoln, \$1.56.

State Superintendent McBrien has given the board a letter stating that Perkins county gets twice as much revenue from the state as it did under the old apportionment of school funds. It receives under state aid for schools and the semi-annual apportionment of school funds \$4.62 per pupil per year. Lancaster county receives no state aid and gets from the state \$2 per pupil per year.

TOWN TO CHANGE NAME.

Smartville, in Johnson County, Will
Become St. Marys.

The village of Smartville, founded in Johnson county years ago by the late Robert Smart, is to experience a change of name. Four years ago an effort was made by the people of the town to change the name to Helena and the plan met some opposition and was given up. Recently the effort to rid the town of the cognomen "Smartville" was revived and the result is the postoffice department has given notice that on and after April 1, 1908, what has heretofore been known as Smartville will be called St. Marys. The villagers will then go to the district court of Johnson county to have the name changed, and it is believed in time the railroad and express companies will use the name. A new Catholic school is to be erected in Smartville this summer and it is to be called St. Mary's school. Father Charles Cwilinski, rector in the little town and who has the building of the school in hand, has raised \$6,000 of the desired \$7,500 for building purposes. Plans will soon be adopted and the building commenced.

FARMER KILLS HIMSELF.

Despondent German Near Adams
Blows His Head Off.

John Kreitner, a prominent German farmer residing three and a half miles from Adams, committed suicide by blowing the top of his head off with the contents of a single-barreled shotgun. Kreitner, who was well to do, has been brooding of late. The coroner was immediately notified and went to the scene. The unfortunate man was an old resident of Hooker township. He was industrious and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He is forty years of age and is survived by his wife, one son, three daughters and a brother.

Paid a Heavy Fine.

It cost \$115 and costs for H. Tomson, a creamery man of Burton, Keya Paha county, to try to stomp prairie chickens to a commission man in Chicago. The game warden got one tub of alleged butter out of the railway station at Bassett that Tomson had sent for shipment. It contained 12 prairie chickens and one beef hide to give the package weight. Eleven prairie chickens were found hanging in Tomson's creamery at Burton, making a total of 23 birds. He pleaded guilty and paid a fine of \$115. Chief Game Warden Carter has placed the confiscated birds in cold storage in Lincoln and will send them to the government department of agriculture as Nebraska's contribution to a series of government experiments in cold storage.

Wants a New Depot.

The Commercial club of Auburn has asked the Missouri Pacific for a new passenger station, and General Manager E. A. Gould and Superintendent Dr. Bernardi met the Commercial club and discussed the advisability of conceding their request. The officials promised a new freight depot, but would not give any assurance of a new passenger station.

Village Takes Appeal.

The village of Benkelman has appealed from a judgment for \$1,300 obtained by Ella Ferman, who alleged that she had been permanently injured by falling on a defective cross walk.



FLEET GOES ON TO JAPAN

A CORDIAL INVITATION WAS RECEIVED FROM THE EMPEROR.

A Cabinet Meeting Decides to Send the
"Big Sixteen" and So Notify
Ambassador Takahira.

Washington, D. C.—The American battleship fleet is to visit Japan. The desire of the emperor of the island kingdom to play host to the "Big Sixteen" was laid before Secretary Root Thursday by Baron Takahira, the Japanese ambassador. The invitation, which was couched in most cordial terms, was made the subject of extended consideration by President Roosevelt and his entire cabinet Friday. Secretary Root was directed to accept the invitation and the acceptance was laid before the Japanese ambassador late Friday.

It is regarded in official circles here as more than likely that China will be next to bid for a look at the fleet, and that should this be the case the invitation would be accepted.

Secretary Metcalf and Admiral Pillsbury, chief of navigation, are arranging the details of the new itinerary. With the exception of China, it is believed to have been determined that all other invitations, should any be received, will be declined for at best the fleet will not now be able to reach the Atlantic seaboard before the first of next March.

The itinerary which seems to be the most direct includes stops at the Hawaiian Islands, Samoa, Melbourne, Sydney, Manila, Yokohama—should that port be selected as the stopping place in Japan—possibly a Chinese port, back to the Philippines, and then home by way of the Suez canal, with only such stops as are necessary for coaling.

Liquor Dealers Responsible.

Lincoln, Neb.—The supreme court Friday handed down two opinions in which liquor dealers are held responsible indirectly for deaths and declaring that damages can be collected. In one the widow of a man who died as the result of a debauch at David City was empowered to collect a reasonable sum for support from the saloon keeper who sold her husband liquor. In the other the Willow Springs Brewery company of Omaha is declared liable for the death of a boy who is alleged to have become intoxicated at the brewery, wandered on the railroad trestle and was run over by an engine and killed.

Death Sentence for Orchard.

Caldwell, Idaho.—Stating that he believed Harry Orchard, in his testimony in the trials of William D. Haywood and George A. Pettibone for the murder of ex-Gov. Frank Steunenberg, told the exact truth, attempting to conceal nothing, Judge Fremont Wood, in the district court Wednesday recommended that the state board of pardons commute Orchard's sentence of death to imprisonment in the state penitentiary. The sentence of death was pronounced in accordance with the plea of guilty by Orchard Tuesday of last week when arraigned. Judge Wood presided at both the Haywood and Pettibone trials.

They Indorsed Work of Congress.

Abilene, Kan.—Republicans of the Fifth congressional district in convention Wednesday elected Capt. R. T. Stanfield of Belleville, and Capt. J. D. Heusted of Clay Center, as delegates to the national convention and instructed them for Secretary Taft for president. President Roosevelt's administration and the congressional work of the session were indorsed.

ALLISON INDORSED IN IOWA.

Delegates Instructed for Taft and
Tariff Revision.

Des Moines, Iowa.—The Republican state convention Wednesday elected four delegates at large to the National convention, instructed them to vote for William H. Taft, indorsed Senator William B. Allison by a vote of 672 17-24 to 507 7-24, and approved the plank of the Ohio platform calling for a revision of the tariff at a special session of congress.

The Allison people dominated the convention from its opening to its close, and had things their own way throughout. The Cummins people, although defeated in the convention, took especial delight in having, as they declared, forced the standpatters to indorse a plank calling for a revision of the tariff, and they made a point of frequently reminding the Allison people of the fact.

It was generally expected before the final session of the convention that there would be a majority and minority report on the tariff, and the Cummins men had prepared to make a strong fight for the adoption of the Ohio plank. When the committee actually settled down to work, however, it was evident that the Allison people were determined to indorse the plank themselves and the only fight that was made on the report of the committee on resolutions was against the indorsement of Senator Allison.

Will Build to Topeka.

Kansas City.—The Missouri & Kansas Interurban railway, known as the "Strang line" in operation between Kansas City and Olathe, and projected to Topeka, has been sold to the interests controlling the Kansas City-Western Railroad company, owning and operating the trolley line between Kansas City and Fort Leavenworth, and in the city of Leavenworth. The immediate promise of the purchase by the interests owning the Leavenworth line is that the Strang line is to be completed to Topeka and probably extended southward to link with the big interurban system now in operation in Southeastern Kansas and Southwest Missouri.

Two Oklahoma Orders.

Guthrie, Ok.—Col. A. P. Watson of the State Corporation commission drew two proposed orders Friday night, on which companies interested will be given hearings, which will bring about a radical change in the railway operations. The first provides that railway companies cannot change their present passenger schedules or abolish any station or telegraph office without first having submitted it to the commission. The second order fixes telegraph rates at 25 cents for ten words and one cent for each additional word, to and between points in this state.

Judge Evans Opens Campaign.

Joplin, Mo.—Judge W. N. Evans of West Plains, chairman of the Democratic state committee and candidate for governor, opened his campaign in Joplin at the club theater Friday night. He declared himself in favor of the Folk policies, in favor of the initiative and referendum, the state primary law, against injunctions and in favor of the submission of a prohibition amendment.

Facing a Coal Famine.

Des Moines, Iowa.—Des Moines is facing a coal famine. On April 1 every mine in the state of Iowa will close down. Not a ton of coal will be mined. Just how long the mines will remain closed cannot be told but coal dealers believe that the shut-down will be for a month at the very least. Every mining company in this city is storing its coal now.

THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE
NATIONAL CAPITOL.

The Most Important Items Gathered
From Each Day's Session of
Senate and House.

Standard Oil Bank Had the Cash.

Washington, D. C.—Claiming that there was ample money in the treasury to do the legitimate business of the country, Mr. Prince of Illinois Tuesday, in the house, referred to the Aldrich currency bill, saying he was opposed to temporary or make-shift currency legislation. He called attention to the fact that 395 banks of Illinois on December 31 last had about thirteen million dollars of government money on deposit, but said he was amazed that "one single" solitary Standard Oil bank in New York City had at that time on deposit over seventeen million dollars of public money. He charged "rank favoritism."

For Enlarged Homesteads.

Washington, D. C.—The house committee on public lands Wednesday agreed to report favorably the bill introduced by Mr. Mondell of Wyoming to increase from 160 to 320 acres the amount of non-timbered, non-irrigable lands takable under the homestead act. The bill provides, however, that continuous residence must be had on the homestead for five consecutive years, and requires a certain amount of cultivation of the soil. The law governing ordinary homestead entry on plots of 160 acres is not in any way changed by this bill, whose sole object is to promote reclamation of semi-arid lands by "dry farming."

The Pension Bill Passed.

Washington, D. C.—After several hours of spirited discussion over the proposition to abolish 17 of the 18 United States pension agencies, and consolidate pension disbursements in Washington, the house Thursday passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$150,869,000, the largest sum ever authorized by that measure. The house by a vote of 86 to 139 stood by the committee on appropriations and left unchanged its recommendation for one general agency.

Would Exempt Railroad Bonds.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Aldrich reported to the senate from the committee on finance, amendments to the currency bill exempting railroad bonds from classes of bonds to be used to secure emergency currency, limiting the retirement of such currency and providing that such issues should be permitted up to the par value of bonds used to secure them.

Ship Subsidy Passed Senate.

Washington, D. C.—Nearly the entire session of the senate Friday was consumed by the consideration and final vote on the ship subsidy bill, which was passed without a division of the senate being called for.

Gen. Hall to Be Promoted.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Taft announced Friday that Brig. Gen. Chas. B. Hall, in charge of the general staff college at Leavenworth, Kan., will be promoted to the grade of major general on the 27th inst.

Laid It on the Table.

Washington, D. C.—By a vote of 148 to 115, the house Friday laid on the table a resolution calling upon the president to supply the information on corporations gathered by the bureau of corporations.

Gov. Hoch Paroles Prisoners.

Leavenworth, Kan.—Isaac Patten serving a ten year sentence for a Wyandotte county murder, was released from Lansing penitentiary Friday on a parole granted by Gov. Hoch.

Told Men to Go to Work.

St. Louis, Mo.—Recommending that striking members of the brewery workers labor organizations return to work and that the brewery owners re-instate all the men without prejudice, under the contracts previously signed, the state board of mediation and arbitration Thursday night concluded its investigation into the walk-out of Tuesday which closed down 24 breweries.

Policemen Charged With Murder.

Muskogee, Ok.—City Patrolmen Kessler, Fields and Stein were held by Justice Burks Thursday for the murder of Ed Parry, claim agent of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad. The formal charge is first degree murder. Parry resisted arrest and was clubbed to death. The officers were immediately irrested and confined in jail in full uniform.

A Steel Cutter for San Francisco.

Washington, D. C.—A bill was passed by the house Friday authorizing the purchase of a steel ferry boat and steel cutter for the immigration service at San Francisco and authorizing the donation of obsolete Springfield rifles, bayonet and bayonets scabbards to independent military companies composed of veterans of the war of the Rebellion.