

# MURDOCK ITEMS

L. Neitzel and G. Bauer, attended the funeral of Mr. August Smith at Ithaca, last Tuesday.

Fred Klemme and the family are enjoying the presence of Mr. Andrew Schnorrer during the holidays.

Miss Katherine Neitzel, who is teaching at Hyannis, Nebr., came home to enjoy Christmas with the folks.

The pilgrim, by special invitation, spent last Sunday with the Callahan church, teaching a young mens class of over twenty.

John Eppings and family were over to Murray on last Wednesday where they attended the Christmas tree at the Christian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Augwert were visiting in Lincoln on last Thursday where they spend the Christmas at the home of Mrs. Amwert's parents.

Earl Lancaster and the family of Murray were guests for the day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Eppings, where all ate Christmas dinner.

Emil Kuehn and the good wife entertained for the Christmas day and had as their guests the folks, and where all enjoyed the occasion very much.

Frank A. Melvin and the family were spending last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Melvin's mother and sister, Jessie, who make their home in Lincoln.

The Neitzel clans gathered at the home of Dr. S. B. MacDiarmid at Omaha Christmas day, for the annual gathering, a custom kept for many years.

Messrs. Ralph and Jasper Poppe of Eustis, brothers of Mrs. Alvin Bornemeier, were spending the holiday week in Murdock and were guests at the Alvin Bornemeier home.

A. H. Ward was looking after some business matters in Elmwood for the afternoon on last Wednesday, driving over with a load of gasoline for the garage of H. A. Williams.

At the wolf hunt which was held last Friday there were six of the shaggy animals bagged and probably a goodly number of the members of the farmers' gun roasts saved.

The citizens of Murdock are feeling very kindly towards the Nebraska Power company for their wiring and furnishing current for the lighting of the municipal Christmas tree.

Chester Elsmen and the good wife departed on last Wednesday morning in their car for Storm Lake, Iowa, where they spent the Christmas day at the home of the parents of Mrs. Elsmen.

Fred Deickman who has been in the west for the past several weeks where he has been picking corn, returned last week and reports the corn crop good in the west and also plenty of snow.

Postmaster and Mrs. L. B. Gorthey were host and hostess at the Christmas party at their home and when they entertained Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Jones of Weeping Water.

W. O. Gillespie and the good wife, and Miss Viola Everett, were spending Christmas at the home of a brother of Mrs. Gillespie's, Wm. McNamara, and family of Fairmont, they driving over in their car for the occasion.

John Buck and the family were enjoying the presence of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Buck of Greenwood as their guests for the Christmas day. Mr. Wm. Buck who has been quite poorly is feeling greatly improved.

Nels Peterson has not been feeling very well and so is laying off for a time from his work at the filling station and during the time, Carl Buck is assisting with the work. Uncle Henry not being in the best of health.

Uncle Henry Gakemeier and the good wife entertained at their home for the Christmas day and had as their guests the families of the children, Mrs. Wayne Swartz and the two little sons from Hemmingsford being present. Mr. Swartz not being able to get away at this time.

Mrs. Harry V. McDonald was permitted to visit for the holiday season at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. O. Eastman of Straling, Colorado. She had the pleasure of riding with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Tool as far as Bridgeport, when they went to spend the Christmas day with the folks of Mrs. Tool. Richard Tool and wife spent their Christmas at Sioux City.

### Held Shooting Contest.

At the Otto Miller pasture on last Saturday was held a most interesting shoot, between the teams which were chosen and captained by Wm. Kieleser and Ralph Razer. The arrangement was that the loser or the one getting the lower score should furnish an oyster supper at the M. W. A. hall for the winners and in fact for both sides. The score, as near as we were able to get it was the Wm. Kieleser crowd 138 while the Razer, trained and drilled by Mr. Razer, were able to knock down a score of 150. They had a good time and good cats as well.

### Sang Sweet Carols.

Someone with a sweet voice and with others with much volume and all able to sing nicely sang sweet carols at the Christmas tree in the streets of Murdock on last Wednesday morning. Of course this awakened the people in the neighborhood, but who would not be awakened to hear Christmas carols sang.

### All Gave Programs.

There were Christmas programs given at the Lutheran Trinity church, the Louisville church, the Murdock church and the Callahan church, on last Wednesday evening, hearing the natal day of the Saviour of the world.

### Had Merry Time Christmas.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm.

Luethens was held a very pleasant reception and dinner Christmas day when they had their neighbors and the members of their family at the dinner and for the day. This is a very nice manner of being thankful for the blessing which comes to us if we do have to work hard for them.

### August Smith Dies at Ithaca.

August Smith, a brother of Will Smith, who resided in Murdock for some time recently and returned to Ithaca to make his home, the brother being well advanced in years, passed away at his home in Ithaca last week. The funeral was held on Tuesday and was conducted by the minister at Ithaca, assisted by L. Neitzel of Murdock. Mr. Smith was 81 years 3 months and a few days of age. He leaves five children to mourn his departure, the wife having preceded him to the other world. John Bornemeier and wife were over to the funeral as also were G. Bauer and L. Neitzel.

### Runs Down a Wolf.

While Jesse Stock was going along the road on last Wednesday morning with a companion who was carrying a shot gun but not loaded, nor did he have any ammunition, they ran up a wolf which started down the road lickity split, but the fine car which Jesse drive was like the lad driving it, eager for a little excitement and down came the gas and away went the car and the wolf, the race was a pretty one but not for long as the car overtook and ran down the wolf, rolling it over in the road for twenty-five or thirty feet, but when the car had passed, the wolf got over into the field and away. Jesse's companion jumped out with his gun with no load in and tried to shoot the wolf, probably having heard the saying that it is the gun without the lead in it that kills. However, they had their money's worth anyway.

### Could Not Restrain Cough.

While Mr. Frye, the restaurant man was getting shaved and was lying back in the barber chair, and having a slight tickling cough was taken with a desire to cough, and throwing his hand up at an inopportune moment brought it in contact with the razor which the barber attempted to get out of the way, but was not quick enough. As a consequence the fingers of Mr. Frye were badly cut on the left hand. Dr. Lee mended the injury, but it will be some time before the fingers will be well again.

### Undergoes Operation.

Otto Reickmann who has been troubled greatly for some time with appendicitis underwent an operation on last Monday morning for relief at the Lincoln General hospital. He is reported as getting along just fair. His many friends are hoping for a speedy recovery.

### Truck Crank Lost.

Lost probably somewhere in Murdock the crank to my truck, will the finder please notify me.—J. Johansen, Murdock. It.

### Enjoyed Fire Party.

The members of the Royal Neighbors of America, enjoyed a very fine evening at the M. W. A. hall in Murdock on last Monday where they had a program and social time and distributed many Christmas remembrances.

### Had Family Dinner and Reunion.

Mr. and Mrs. I. C. McCrocy entertained at their country home on last Thursday when they had as their guests the members of the family, and where also a most sumptuous dinner was served. At this time the members of the family got together and enjoyed the Christmas in truly the best manner.

### Seven Letters to Seven Churches.

Introduction: These letters portray the church of Jesus Christ in the past, present and future; in her labors, love, patience, faith, weakness, backsliding, loss of power, in the warning to begin all over again, repent, turn about, regain her former place, overcome and enter into fellowship with Lord Jesus Christ. These churches held high places in the beginning. Founded by the apostles, though by them, that they had received from their teacher the pure and unadulterated Gospel in all its purity, simplicity and recovering power.

The "stars of 1, 20 represent the appointed leaders. The candlesticks the congregations. Ephesus: The omnipresence Lord observes very minutely every act of the church. He sees her labor, activity, the practical christian life, her endurance and patience under affliction and trying circumstances. Men had entered the church under false pretenses, claiming apostleship, who were exposed and branded as liars. The Christ of today encounters the same troubles, only with this difference, but they are not exposed and expelled, but allowed to remain and carry on their nefarious work of undermining her usefulness, and are a reproach to her; therefore her labors are largely neutralized and ineffective; the reason given is: that the Christ has a better chance to convert them, when they are within the church. This is a sad mistake. This church had a difficult job, the conglomeration of people of all classes, with their different religious ideas, to amalgamate; here she showed wonderful patience, and labored without fainting.

These conditions exist today, and God knows it. But in all this activity to secure and achieve success, if not watchful she may lose her most precious possession, her "first love." What does that mean? It means that the church had lost that full, deep wide fervor, constraining power to God and the brethren, that loves the enemy. Her work was only perfunctory, it lacked the heartthrob, the

yearning, the intensity for the work. This is very much the case today. We have seen souls in the first ecstasy of love, their souls filled with rapture, their faces shining, shouting the praise of Him, who had given them the peace, that passed understanding, who had come in and made his abode in their hearts, how they would go and tell others, that they had found the pearl of greatest prize. Now so today, at present the most of them are "still-born."

Now comes the heartrendering exclamation: "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen." But there is yet a chance, repent, turn about, start all over, retrace your steps, you may again regain the favor of God, and become useful. What a sad condition for a backslider! Laying all for which he had labored so hard to obtain; the house he had reared, fallen down, he has to rebuild, and be quick about it; has lost precious time—eternity is coming, but it is yet possible for him to "overcome," to regain his first estate, and to eat of the tree of life, that was forbidden to Adam; but it may now be the portion of everyone, that will strive earnestly and sincerely, forgetting the things that are behind, and pressing forward, to the work for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Who would not be willing to give up the enjoyment of earthly pleasures for the eternal glory that awaits the "overcomer" in the paradise of God? L. NEITZEL.

### Strayed or Stolen.

Bay, bald face horse, either strayed or stolen from Ernest Bruckmeier home. Finder notify owner.

## United States Has Population of 122,775,046

Final Official Figures Indicate 17,064,426 Growth in the Last Decade

Washington—The 1920 population of the United States is 122,775,046. This figure was announced on Nov. 22 by the Census Bureau as the final total of the compilation it started at the beginning of the year. All revisions have been completed.

The census report shows the number of inhabitants of the 48 states increased in the preceding decade by 17,064,426, or 16.1 per cent. The 1920 population was 105,710,620.

In the column showing the percentage of increase by states was a key to several important trends of the past 10 years. Leading in this table was California with 65.7 per cent, Florida on its heels with 51.8, both showing the pull of climate attractions. Third with 32 per cent was Michigan, center of the fast-growing automobile industry.

Fourth in gain was Arizona with 30.2 per cent. New Jersey had 23.1 suggestive of the shift from metropolitan areas to adjacent suburban territory. Texas, 24.9, and North Carolina, 23.9, pointed to the southern advance in industry and agriculture. Oregon had 21.8 a symptom of the westward shift. New York, ninth in rank, had 21.2.

For tenth place West Virginia and Louisiana tied at 18.1 per cent. California led also in total gains, adding 2,250,399 inhabitants. While New York State gained 2,202,829, Michigan, Texas and Illinois were the only other states to gain more than 1,000,000. Only one state, Montana, lost population, dropping 11,283.

The announcement included the outlying territories and possessions, except for the Philippine Islands. Substantial increases were shown by Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Canal Zone, with the Virgin Islands the only loser.

### M. P. ACADEMY AWARDS AGAIN PROVE UNIVERSAL LEADERSHIP

Further dazzling proof that Universal absolutely dominates the industry this year is found in the annual awards of the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences, which heap envied honors on Carl Laemmle and the organization by making the three highest awards to Universal. First, best production of the year, "All Quiet on the Western Front." Second, best director of the year, Lewis Mileston, director of "All Quiet on the Western Front." Third, best art director of the year, Herman Rosse, who constructed the settings for "King of Jazz."

The Academy awards are made by the committee representing 600 of the biggest producers, directors and other executives in the business, and this year's big prizes go to the company which promises you twenty of the highest quality box-office productions you ever had... made by the company that made the best picture of the year!

### MRS. SINCLAIR LEWIS UNDERGOES OPERATION

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Sinclair Lewis, former newspaper woman whose husband recently won the Nobel prize for literature, underwent an emergency operation for appendicitis here Friday.

Lewis and his wife, the former Dorothy Thompson, who recently came here from Stockholm, attended a party Christmas night. Returning to their hotel, Mrs. Lewis was seized with violent pains and was taken to Mommens sanitarium, where Prof. Huegner of Berlin university performed the operation.

The Journal Job Department is equipped to turn out anything from calling cards to sale catalogs.

## Sentence Lightened for Alleged Slayer of Wife

Parole Board Commutes Sentence of Life Term, William Morris; Cited for Valor.

Lincoln, Dec. 23.—Three prisoners in the Nebraska penitentiary, one a life term, will receive Christmas gifts in the form of commuted sentences or parole by virtue of decisions announced today by the board of pardons on deferred cases.

One application, that of Chester Pierson, sentenced in 1928 in York county for a criminal attack upon a school teacher, was denied. The life term prisoner, William Morris, former McPherson county rancher convicted of slaying his wife in 1921, was given a commuted sentence of 25 years. With allowances for nearly 10 years served, he will be eligible for parole in October, 1938. N. T. Harmon, state parole officer announced.

The other commutation was granted H. L. Closson, 63, former Columbus salesman, sentenced to serve five to 17 years for robbing the bank at Lincoln in September, 1929. Action by the board reduced Closson's minimum term from five to three years, making possible his parole on January 22, 1932.

Closson recently told the board that he resorted to robbery only because of depleted finances. Single handed he held up and robbed the bank and escaped with \$1,200, only to be captured when he returned to his home in Columbus. He admitted the crime and made restitution of most of the money.

Morris was convicted after his wife's badly mutilated body had been found on a ranch. He vigorously denied the charge at that time and still declares Mrs. Morris was dragged to her death by a fractious horse while the two were riding one evening in a round up of their live stock.

The night of the woman's death, Morris returned to the ranch home declaring the horse had dragged his wife out of his reach and that he could not find her in the darkness. The next day the body was found.

In prosecuting the rancher, the state held that the woman's leg had been held up and robbed. The prisoner was led about dragging the body behind it. At his hearing a brother of the dead woman testified in behalf of the prisoner, declaring he believed the death was accidental.

Several years ago Morris was cited by Warden Penton for valorous conduct at the penitentiary when the prisoner retrieved a rifle knocked from the hands of a guard when the latter fell from the wall to the ground at the feet of a group of prisoners.

The third man paroled was Wilford Francher, sentenced from York county for forgery.—World-Herald.

### UNIVERSAL LEADS IN BRINGING KIDS BACK TO THEATRES

Universal is leading the move to bring back the kids to the theatres of the country, and its leader in that direction is the history-making serial, "The Indians Are Coming!"—the serial booked into the Roxy, New York; Paramount, Brooklyn, and scores of other downtown first-run houses in cities everywhere. (More than 1,500 theatres already have booked it.) No less an authority than John Dalaban, of Paramount Publicity, many of these theatres are playing "The Indians Are Coming," says the serial is being shown in the latter development, are again assuming proportions of the first war.

To which Lew Bray, booker in the Des Moines territory for Paramount Publicity, adds in a letter: "We are booking 'The Indians Are Coming' in our circuit and in the theatre already playing must say that the comments are very good and the serial is doing just what we expected it to do—It's Bringing the Children Back to the Theatre."

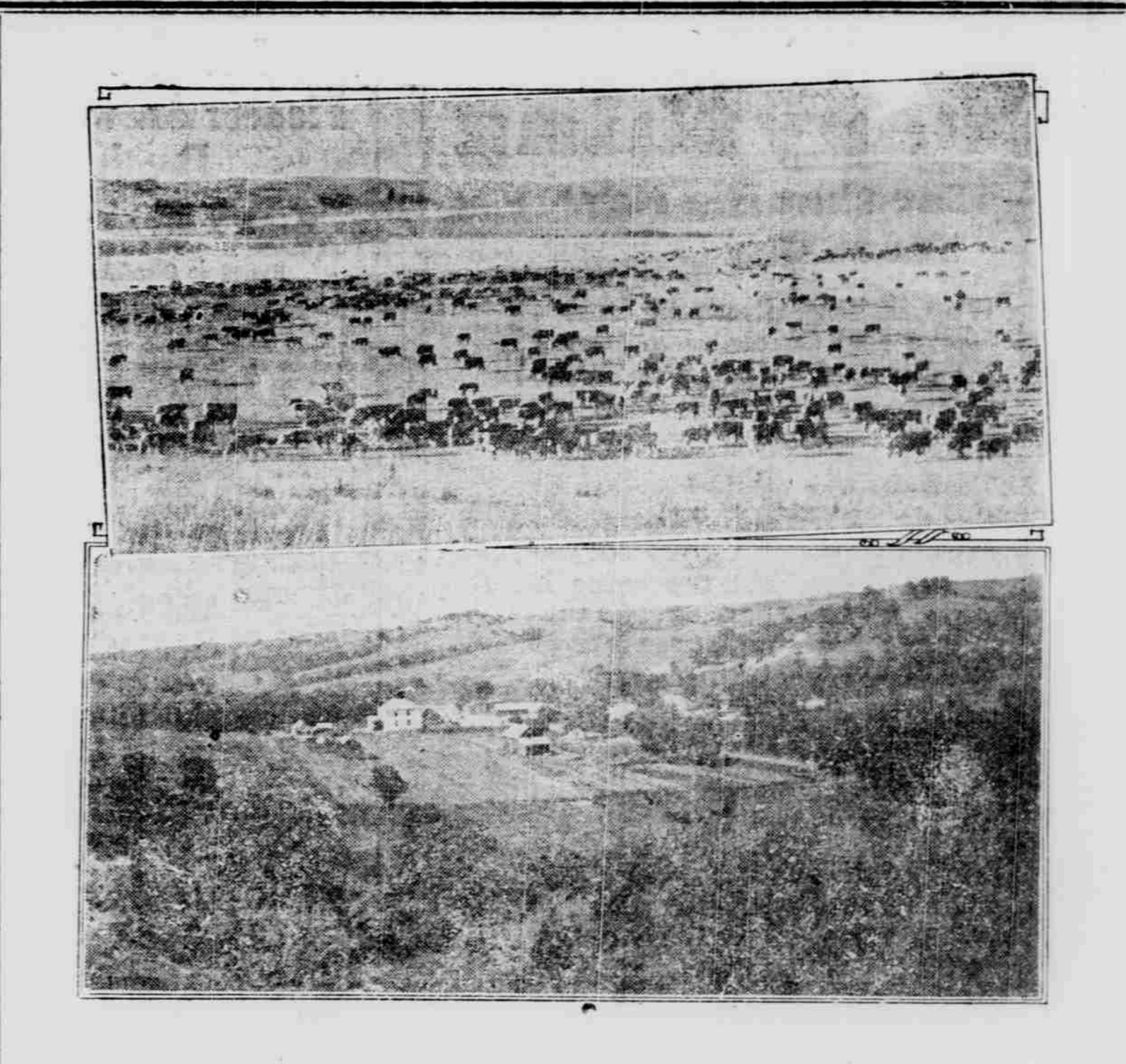
Add to this the fact that every day's trade papers carry articles on the merits of the serial, and have proof positive. For instance, you'll see headlines like this one, from the October 20 issue of Exhibitors Daily Review: "Children's Clam-pede Theatres to See Universal's 'Indians Are Coming,' and this from the October 21 'Film Daily': '009 Kids in Two Cities See Universal's Serial.' This serial will be shown at the Parnelle theatre Friday and Saturday and all kids will be admitted FREE. It will also be held over for Sunday.

### WOMAN ASSISTS SHEPARD

Denver—Expressing confidence Maj. Charles A. Shepard, is innocent of the charge of fatally poisoning his wife, the crime for which he was convicted last week in Kansas City, Mrs. Alice W. Watt, a Denver widow, Friday said she had advanced the money used as the premium on his bond of \$20,000. Posting of the bond enabled the army medical officer to return to Denver pending formal sentencing to life imprisonment and hearing on a motion for a new trial in federal court at Topeka in February.

### HOOPER MAY PARTICIPATE

Washington—The white house said Friday night President Hoover would participate in the dedication memorial at the home of the late president have been held up for a long period and no date for the ceremony has yet been set. Harding appointed Mr. Hoover secretary of commerce at the beginning of his term.



Pictured above are a typical Sand Hills lake cattle scene and the Serck ranch near Ainsworth.

## NEBRASKA SAND HILLS—KINGDOM OF CATTLE AND HAY

It was long after Nebraska began settling up before the sand hills section was considered habitable by human beings. The early comers saw the long ranges of hills, clothed with nothing but brush grass and yucca, shook their heads at the fearful waste of nature, and passed on another way. But land-hungry men have been the civilizing, developing force of every continent and when other lands in Nebraska had been taken by the early settlers, the late comers took a second look at the sand hills and concluded to move in. It will be interesting to note what has been accomplished.

At first the lack of transportation was a serious barrier to development. Then the Burlington pushed a line through the heart of that section, the Northwestern sent its Black Hills extension through the northern fringe, and the sand hills quickly assumed a new phase of development as well as an appearance of increased usefulness.

The sand hills section comprises about one-fourth the area of the

state. About 25,000 square miles are sand hills. Before Moses Kinkaid introduced the bill which opened lands in that area to small settlers, the cattle barons held full sway. Great cattle ranches of thousands of acres with cattle ranging a hundred miles and left for more fertile farming fields. Then the sand hills resumed the business of becoming one of the great cattle countries of the nation.

Some of the best wild hay that nature produces is grown in the hay flats and meadows of the sand hills. The hills give good grazing in the summer and fall. There is an abundance of water from lakes that dot the valleys and wells whose mills draw water from a very short distance below the surface of the ground. In fact, there is present in the sand hills all the elements essential to a prosperous cattle country. The vision of the early comers has been realized.

The estimate of cattle, other than

milk cows, in the sand hills section for 1929 was 495,713 head, valued at \$25,957,497. The carload shipments of feed cattle from that section in 1929 totaled 5,960. The feed cattle go to feed lots in eastern Nebraska and neighboring states to be again finished for the fat cattle market. The quality of the stock has steadily improved. Now the hills are full of white-faced cattle that cannot be exceeded for quality on any ranges of the world.

Sand hill Nebraska is hunters' and fishermen's paradise in the spring, summer and fall. The lakes are full of game. Fish, ducks and geese stop in immense numbers on their migrating flights, and in the fall, pheasants and grouse are plentiful, though the strict game laws of the state protect these birds from slaughter.

The state department of public works has been developing a type of oil-sand road, suited to the sand hills. One of these roads was recently completed in Hooker and Grant counties and another in Holt. An all-year road with a wear resisting surface seems to have been provided, but use will have to demonstrate its practicability. The extension of good roads into that section is an important factor of development now at work.

## Railways Force Bus Regulation Issue to Front

Believed Congress Will Soon Take Up Equalizing of Transport Taxes

Washington—Recent events have squarely joined the issue between regulated railways and allegedly unregulated and untaxed buses and trucks with the prospect that Congress will soon legislate in the matter. Rail officials declare that a crisis has come in which they can no longer compete with "untaxed" commercial motor vehicles, and urged regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission and Congress to redress what they declare is the unfair balance.

On the other hand, figures offered by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce show that motor trucks and buses already pay approximately \$250,000,000 in taxes annually. This compares with the estimate of the bureau of railway economics that the total railway tax bill of 1929 was \$420,000,000. This however, does not tell the whole story, rail officials declare. The tax imposed on commercial motor vehicles in gasoline and other forms of levies goes back into upkeep of the public highways on which the buses operate. But the taxes on the railroads go into the pocketbook of the states and nation, and the railroads have to keep up their own iron highways with no assistance from the outside.

The whole matter has been precipitated by testimony of Reading Company officials in New York City before Leo J. Flynn, attorney-examiner for the I. C. C., that one-third of Reading's passenger revenue on main line, and one-half on branches had been absorbed in the past decade by motor trucks and buses; by the blunt assertion of William Z. Ripley, Harvard economist and famous railway authority, that the time has come for federal regulation not only of trucks and buses but other competitors of the rail carriers, and simultaneously by statements from heads of various rail groups that the carriers face a crucial period, with growth of thousands of miles of new pipe lines, inland waterways, of gasoline competition,

public and private, and of the Panama Canal.

Congress has had pending since the last session a bill for regulation of interstate commercial motor traffic, and rail carriers undoubtedly see in this an opening for what they declare to be the necessity of "equality" between the two services. On the other hand, many rail companies have gone into the bus and truck business themselves, and maintain it is superior to rail in its own field of less-than-carload-lot short-haul.

### SIGNS OF NAVY AGREEMENT

Rome—Prospects for naval agreement between France and Italy are "a bit more optimistic than at any time since the London conference," a foreign office spokesman told a correspondent Friday. The present "naval holiday" accepted by the two countries last summer expires in five days. The government representative declined to make any statement as to Italy's plans for construction if an agreement is not reached by Dec. 31, but there was a general impression here the laying down of any new ships is unlikely for the time being.

Negotiations between Italy and France, halted several times, are again going on, and it is considered just possible they may reach a definite stage by the time of the meeting of the council of the league of nations Jan. 19.

The recent visit here of Robert L. Craigie, British naval expert and foreign representative, created a hope of drawing the two countries together along compromise proposals.

### THWAIT REVOLUTION PLOT

Havana—Authorities Friday night announced that a revolutionary plot, scheduled to mature Christmas eve, was frustrated by secret police. Cid Aurelio Ilevia, one of the leading figures in the nationalist union, was arrested in connection with the alleged conspiracy, and will be tried before a military court. Arms and ammunition had been procured and a demonstration had been set for Christmas eve, the authorities said. The demonstration, however, was cancelled by its leaders when they learned the government was aware of their plans. A number of nationalists and communists were asserted to have been involved along with some university students.

## Commission Names Miller as Secretary

Alma Attorney Chosen to Take Charge of Records for State Railway Body

J. F. Miller of Alma was named Wednesday by the state railway commission as secretary, effective Jan. 1, and for the last three years has been a resident of Alma. He is a practicing attorney, and a member of the law firm of Shelburn & Miller. He is also deputy county attorney of Harlan county, city attorney of Alma and a member of the city council.

Mr. Miller succeeds Miss Mary E. Sheehan, who was named temporarily following the resignation of Secretary Drake to accept an appointment as commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Commissioner Curtis. Mr. Drake was elected commissioner at the November election. Miss Sheehan's services have been highly satisfactory but it has been the policy of the commission for a number of years to have an attorney in order to avail itself of legal training. Miss Sheehan had been assistant secretary almost from the beginning of the commission's organization, and will remain in that position, her wide knowledge of its affairs and policies rendering her, in the opinion of the commission, invaluable.

Mr. Miller was born in Saunders county but lived in Lincoln for many years, having graduated from Lincoln high school, and from the University of Nebraska in 1924 with A. B. and L. B. B. degrees. During his residence in Alma he served as secretary of the public library and... one club in 1929 he was president of the Alma Lions club, and at present is the deputy district governor of Nebraska. He is a member of the Reserve Officers' association and served as a lieutenant of the 365 infantry.

Mr. Miller is married and will move to Lincoln in the near future. The new appointee is entirely unrelated to Commissioner John H. Miller.

Marvin Allen was a business visitor in Omaha today, going to that city on the early Burlington train to spend a short time.

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