

The Nebraska Independent.

The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. IX.

LINCOLN, NEBR., THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1897.

NO. 11.

IT IS WELL MANAGED.

The Nebraska Insane Asylum is a Model in Every Particular.

SAVINGS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE.

Dr. L. J. Abbott and Steward E. C. Rewick Deserve Much Credit.

The Employment of Patients.

The history of the management of the Nebraska insane asylum at Lincoln forms an interesting story. It is well known that in that institution have been perpetrated some of the greatest frauds and public robberies committed in the state outside the state treasurer's office. The stealing and robbing continued for many years, it continued as long as the institution was under republican control. The matter was brought to light in 1892 when Mr. E. C. Rewick, the present steward, delivered a lecture at Lincoln and other places in the state charging and proving with indisputable figures, that great frauds were being perpetrated on the state by the officers of the institution. As a result of Mr. Rewick's charges the legislature of 1893 appointed a committee to investigate and determine whether the charges were true. Mr. Rewick substantiated all of his charges before the committee and their report showed that the state had been robbed of thousands of dollars. Mr. Rewick travelled over the entire state and the matter was thoroughly discussed in the next campaign. It was an important factor in securing the election of Governor Holcomb in 1894. In recognition of his valuable services in this line and his peculiar fitness for the place, Governor Holcomb appointed Mr. Rewick to be steward at the asylum which position he is holding at present. The governor appointed Dr. L. J. Abbott of Fremont one of the best known practitioners in the state, to be superintendent. He had been an active member of the party for many years and was everywhere recognized as a man well qualified for the place. The management of the institution is in control of these two men. A representative of the INDEPENDENT visited the institution one day this week without giving any notice of his intended visit. It was just at noon and the patients were all preparing for dinner. Notwithstanding the fact that they are crazy the patients nearly all understand the meaning of the dinner call and will fall in line to march to the dining room without disturbance. The attendants would take those that did not voluntarily get in line, by the shoulder and gently move them to the line where they would follow without further disturbance. The dinner was well cooked and was liberally served. Every patient had all that he could eat. There were two kinds of bread, there was beef, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, raisin pudding and tea, coffee and milk to drink. Those patients who are sick or for any reason cannot eat the regular meals are given a special diet of whatever they may ask for. Everything is kept neat and clean.

At the farm they are building an addition to the barn. The addition will consist of a basement and two stories above all constructed of stone and brick. The work of construction is under the direct supervision of Dr. Abbott and Mr. Rewick. Two or three skilled workmen are employed and the balance of the work is being done voluntarily by the patients. Patients are not compelled to work but are merely allowed to work when they desire to do so. Dr. Abbott believes that light work is better for them than complete idleness and encourages them to work when they are able to do so. Much of the work of farming and care of the stock is performed by the patients. When it is stated that there are 55 cows, 16 work horses, and many pigs and calves nearly all cared for by the patients the importance and value of their work is apparent. There is a large farm operated in connection with the institution. The garden alone occupies 60 acres and contains everything that can be grown in a garden. It is free from weeds and the crops are the best in the locality. There is 300 acres of corn, 75 acres of oats, a large millet field and an abundance of potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, onions, melons, squash, pumpkins, everything that can be grown in a garden. The tomato patch is yielding about 10 bushels per day and there are about 10,000 cabbage plants. Large quantities of these are being canned and stored for winter use. The same care and attention is given by the management that is given by a first-class farmer to his farm. Anyone who will visit the institution will be convinced that the management is all that could be asked for.

There have been very great savings in the cost to the state when compared with the cost under former administrations. From 1890 to 1892 the expense to the state for each patient was \$245.71. This was the last two years before the expense made by Mr. Rewick. Governor Boyd appointed Dr. Bowman, a democrat, who served a part of the next two years, the period from 1892 to 1894 who succeeded in reducing the expense for each patient to \$163.11. The

present management took charge in May 1895 and the period of 1894 to 1896 shows a still further reduction to \$166.68 per capita for a year. For the first six months of 1897 the expenses have been running at a rate of \$162.98 per patient per year. It therefore appears that in spite of the opposition of the republican board of public lands and buildings and the many other obstacles the populists have been gradually reducing the expense from \$240 per capita to \$163 per capita. Mr. Rewick's exposure has saved the taxpayers of Nebraska many thousands of dollars. The current expense account, board, clothing fuel etc., for 1890 to 1892 (republican) was \$164,377.38 for 341 patients. For the period 1894-96 (populist) the current expenses amounted to only \$118,778.93 and the average number of patients was 355. In other words the populists took care of 14 more patients for two years with \$45,598.45 less than the republicans. The republicans expended for fuel and lights during two years \$27,983.50. The last legislature appropriated only \$11,000 to pay for the fuel and lights for the ensuing two years, and Mr. Rewick says there will be no deficiency.

In the face of such figures by what right can the republican party ask to be returned to power in the state of Nebraska? When did they ever furnish the state of Nebraska with a superintendent and steward that performed their duties in a manner equal to Dr. Abbott and Mr. Rewick?

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION.

If Sustained will Make a Considerable Saving to the Taxpayers.

Attorney General Smyth, at the request of the auditor, has given his opinion on the question of the amount of fees county treasurers may retain as collection agents of the state. Under the law the treasurer receives a certain per cent for the collection of state moneys, this being fixed on a sliding scale. Ten per cent is to be counted for the collection of the first \$13,000, and as the amount increases the per cent decreases. The county treasurers have construed this to mean that they are to have 10 per cent on the estimate of state money and on the estimate of compensation the county and other moneys collected by them was not to be counted. The attorney-general holds that all moneys collected must be counted.

The opinion of the attorney-general was given to the auditor in the following letter which clearly explains the points involved:

LINCOLN, Neb., July 30.—C. C. Pool Esq., Deputy Auditor of Public Accounts: My Dear Sir—Your favor of July 13 with draft of voucher attached was duly received. The question upon which you ask the opinion of this office is substantially as follows: In making the computation to ascertain the amount of fees which a county treasurer is entitled to for collecting state money, should the amount of money collected for the county and from all sources upon which that official is entitled to fees be taken into consideration? My answer is that they should, except the school funds. Section 20 of chapter 28 of the compiled statutes makes this clear. It is therein provided that on all moneys collected by the treasurer he shall receive ten per cent on the first \$3,000, etc., and in computing the amount collected for the percentage, all sums from whatever fund derived shall be included together, except school funds. In the case of the state vs. Broderick, 25 Neb., 529, the supreme court was asked to say whether or not the treasurer of Gage county, in collecting the amount of fees which he was entitled to receive should separate the city money from the county and state funds and figure upon the city moneys alone. The court decided that he could not; that he must calculate the amount of his fees upon the entire amount collected by him upon which he was entitled to receive fees, always excepting the school fund. The same principle applies with respect to the question submitted by you. Very truly yours,
C. J. SMYTH,
Attorney-General.

This construction of the law will result in a considerable saving to the taxpayers of the state.

JUDGES AND CLERKS OF ELECTION

Must be appointed by the County Judge From the Several Parties.

The last legislature passed a law providing for the appointment of judges and clerks of election by the county judge instead of their election. The new law was drawn and introduced by a republican, Paul F. Clark of Lancaster county. It was designed to correct the evil of the old system by which a party in the majority of a precinct selected and controlled all of the officers and clerks of the election board. The new law provides that the county judge of each county shall at least one week prior to election day appoint two judges and two clerks of election precinct in the county to serve for the term of one year. They shall each be of good character, approved integrity, well informed, who can read, write and speak in the English language and have resided in the election precinct in which he is to serve for one year next preceding his appointment and be entitled to vote therein. Said judges and clerks shall, during their term of office act as all general, special and municipal elections held in the county, precinct or city of which the voting precinct in which they reside forms a part. Provided, that the county judge shall appoint as judges and clerks

of election three judges and two clerks nominated for such offices in precinct primaries.

The county judge shall select for each precinct one judge of the highest number of votes at the last general election in the precinct, one judge from the party having the second highest number of votes at the last general election in the precinct, and one judge from the party polling the third highest number of votes in the precinct. In cases where there is one or more parties still to be represented on the ticket, he shall appoint a clerk of election from each of the two parties not represented on the election board, polling the highest number of votes.

If there are only two parties with tickets on the official ballot then the party polling the highest vote shall have two judges and one clerk and the other party one judge and one clerk and in cases of three parties on the official ballot, he shall appoint a clerk from each of the two parties receiving the highest number of votes. Vacancies on the board on election day may be filled by the remainder of the board belonging to the same political party.

It should be observed that the precinct primaries of the several political parties make the nominations of their judge or clerk as the case may be and the county judge is required to make the appointment in accordance with the recommendation.

Should be observed that the precinct primaries of the several political parties make the nominations of their judge or clerk as the case may be and the county judge is required to make the appointment in accordance with the recommendation.

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Professor F. W. Taylor Actively Pushing

This Department of the Exposition.

Professor F. W. Taylor, the superintendent of the horticultural department of the Trans-Mississippi exposition is crowding his department to the front. Through his efforts the apple raisers will meet on August 12 to consider the advisability of holding an "apple carnival" on one or more days of the exposition. Representatives of the apple growers associations from many states will be in attendance. It is intended to make the "apple carnival" one of the leading special attractions.

Professor Taylor is making an effort to have the blue grass raisers construct a blue grass palace similar to the one constructed at Creston, Iowa. The parties who constructed the one at Creston have the matter under consideration and it is believed that they will decide favorably.

The National Nurserymen's association and the American association of agricultural colleges and experiment stations will meet in Omaha next month as a result of Professor Taylor's efforts and he is now making an effort to secure the meeting of the National Forest association.

The directors have set aside \$35,000 for a horticultural building. There should be a complete exhibit of all Nebraska plants. The farmers who desire to save grains, grasses or other products for exhibit at the exposition should write to Professor F. W. Taylor, Omaha, Nebraska, for particulars as to the best manner of preparing the products for shipment, information concerning freight charges or any other information in that line desired.

NEBRASKA IN THE LEAD.

The Chicago News Publishes a Comparative Wheat Crop Statement.

The Chicago Daily News says that this year Nebraska has come to the very front rank as a wheat-producing state, with her splendid crop of 35,000,000 bushels of spring wheat, averaging over twenty-two bushels to the acre, and 5,000,000 bushels of winter wheat, which will average twenty-one bushels to the acre. The table given below, which has been carefully compiled, shows what will surprise many, that Nebraska stands third among the states as a wheat producer, and it must be borne in mind that the states that outrank her are almost exclusively wheat states, whereas Nebraska is a country of diversified crops, corn being her principal product.

Actual figures for 1896 and conservative estimates for 1897:

Minnesota	55,000,000	44,599,261
Kansas	48,000,000	36,734,432
North Dakota	42,000,000	39,849,361
Nebraska	35,000,000	19,300,992
South Dakota	25,000,000	27,528,456
Indian Territory	8,000,000	3,526,980
Oklahoma	7,000,000	3,601,756
Texas	7,000,000	3,529,310
Missouri	10,000,000	16,581,271
Iowa	19,000,000	11,473,157
Oregon	15,000,000	10,747,141
Arkansas	2,000,000	1,300,720
California	2,000,000	42,001,120
Colorado	2,000,000	2,737,183
Washington	1,000,000	3,338,191
Nevada	200,000	180,000
Utah	1,750,000	3,474,117
Montana	800,000	3,204,187
Wyoming	100,000	274,178
New Mexico	850,000	818,000
Idaho	1,000,000	2,850,755
Arizona	200,000	325,000

A Good Company.

The Royal Highlanders Insurance company of Aurora, Nebraska, a fraternal insurance company, have filed \$1000 worth of good securities with the state auditor. This is the first deposit made by a fraternal company under the new law, which provides that an insurance company having a reserve fund may invest it in interest-bearing securities and deposit them with the state auditor. The securities deposited are of good quality and consist of \$1200 worth of district school bonds and a first mortgage on real estate.

J. O. YEISER COMPLAINS

That the Charges for Telephone Service are Extortionate and Excessive.

WANTS IT \$2 PER MONTH.

Will Test the new Law and Determine the Authority of the Board.

Present Company Shuts Others Out.

Hon. John O. Yeiser of Omaha, who was a member of the last legislature has filed a complaint drawn in accordance with the provisions of the new law placing the telephone and telegraph companies under the control of the board of transportation. The law provides that the board may regulate the charges, but a test case will be made and carried to the courts where it will remain for several years. The complaint is well drawn and it is generally believed that the court will eventually sustain the law. The points raised by Mr. Yeiser in his complaint are as follows:

- First—That the respondent owns and operates a system of telephones in the city of Omaha and in connection therewith also in the city of Lincoln and in many other cities and towns of Nebraska.
- Second—That complainant is a citizen of the state of Nebraska, and a resident of the city of Omaha, being engaged in the practice of law.
- Third—That as a resident of such city and state he is greatly interested in preventing obstruction to the extension and more general use of telephones by the exacting of extortionate rates fixed by the respondent, a common carrier of messages.
- Fourth—That complainant is in constant need of a telephone for the carrying on of his business, but is denied the use of such telephone by said respondent excepting upon payment of the extortionate rate of \$5 per month.
- Fifth—That said respondent is a common carrier of messages and delivers such messages from point to point in the state by means of central office switchboards.
- Sixth—That the respondent charges its patrons for each delivery of messages by the month under a system termed "rent for instruments."
- Seventh—That said unjust rates complained of are \$5 per month for delivering messages from residences in Omaha and about the same rate at all other places in Nebraska.
- Eighth—That such rates are unjust, exorbitant and extortionate and annually return to respondent an amount greatly in excess of what would be a fair, reasonable and just return upon the cost of the plant in the state of Nebraska and the reasonable and necessary operating expenses.
- Ninth—That such rates are unjust, exorbitant and extortionate and annually return to respondent an amount greatly in excess of what would be a fair, reasonable and just return upon the cost of the plant in the state of Nebraska and the reasonable and necessary operating expenses.
- Tenth—That the statements in the two foregoing paragraphs are true with respect to that part of the plant located respectively in Omaha, Lincoln and each and every other city or town in Nebraska where any part of said plant of respondent is located.
- Eleventh—That also the rates charged for delivering messages between the different cities and towns of Nebraska are unjust, unreasonable and exorbitant and also the revenues from such source greatly contribute to the unreasonable profits of respondent company.
- Twelfth—That the respondent is pretending to pay salaries and other expenses which are fictitious and unreasonable, paid or pretended to be paid, for the sole purpose of defrauding the subscribers for telephones and people of this state by swelling expenses to try and prevent a reduction of rates.
- Thirteenth—That said respondent has also fraudulently and by design caused the city councils of the cities of Omaha and Lincoln to pass ordinances requiring telephone companies to place their wires under ground for the sole and only purpose of preventing other companies from entering said cities and reducing said outrageous rates. Therefore, the expense of placing such wires under ground does not constitute a legitimate or necessary cost of plant upon which any return should be reckoned.
- Fourteenth—That the other items for outlay are claimed by respondent, but they are of the same nature and for similar purpose.
- Fifteenth—That to a great extent free telephone service has been and is being furnished to politicians and officials for political influence and favors and that the cost of such legitimate expense would be forced upon the paying subscribers unless such items are taken into consideration to ascertain and fix a fair and just rate herein prayed for.
- Sixteenth—That a uniform rate of \$2 per month would yield a reasonable dividend and return upon said plant over and above the cost of maintenance and operation.
- Seventeenth—That such reduction would increase the revenue and render nearly the same enormous profits. Therefore, complainant prays that your honorable board establish a reasonable rate for the carrying of telephone mes-

sages by the Nebraska telephone company or any other telephone companies succeeding to the right of said respondent in said companies business or connecting therewith, whether such rate be a certain sum per switch or message, according to European systems, or whether it be by the system or monthly payments for all messages desired to be sent within the period.

THE RAILROADS REPLY

To the Complaint Filed Before the Board of Transportation.

The several rail roads that were made defendants in the complaint filed before the board of transportation have filed their answers. The Union Pacific denies the jurisdiction of the board for the reason that the company is no longer a common carrier it being under the control and supervision of the receiver appointed by the judge of the circuit court of the United States. The company asks that the case so far as it affects their interests be dismissed and intimate that the only proper place for complaint is before the court at the present time controlling and operating the road. Answers of the same tenor have been filed by the Omaha and Republican Valley and Kearney and Black Hills branches of the Union Pacific.

The Rock Island denies that the freight charges are excessive or extortionate. The St. Joe and Grand Island file a similar answer.

The Northwestern answers that the complaint is ambiguous and uncertain and asks that the complaint be made more specific and that the classes of freight where rates are extortionate be stated.

The Sioux City, O'Neil and Western denies the jurisdiction of the board for the reason that the road is in the hands of a receiver appointed by the United States circuit court. The B. & M. answer is short. It is as follows:

"Comes now the Burlington & Missouri River Railway company in Nebraska, one of the defendants in the above entitled cause, and moves the honorable board to require the said complainant to make his complaint more definite and certain in this: 'First—That he state wherein this defendant is demanding, charging or securing for the transportation of freight within the state of Nebraska unfair, unreasonable and extortionate rates. 'Second—That he state the commodities upon which the rates are unfair, unreasonable or extortionate. 'Third—That he state whether he is a shipper and wherein he is aggrieved in respect to local rates.'

It is generally admitted that the complaint is insufficient and will have to be amended in some particulars. This can easily be done and the companies can file supplemental answers.

FROM ONE WHO KNOWS.

The Nebraska Mercantile Insurance Company Pay Their Losses.

The following communication should be sufficient explanation to refute some of the slanders which have been circulated about the Nebraska Mutual Mercantile Insurance company:

DAVID CITY, NEB., July 31, '97.

"The Nebraska Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co., Lincoln, Nebraska. Dear Sirs: Your esteemed favor of the 27th inst. came during my absence from home. Allow me to thank you sincerely for the payment of this second policy, making \$2,000 in all, the time for payment has been considerably inside the terms of the policy and is entirely satisfactory to me.

While my insurance barely exceeded 25 per cent of my loss, this money comes opportunely, and is being used in building on a smaller scale and with the hopes of gaining lost ground. I am not unmindful of this heavy loss and the payment of it by so young a company, and I want to thank every member of your directory individually, and especially those whom I know and esteem.

Very Truly Yours,
JAMES BELL.

This is one of the losses which was sustained by the Nebraska Mercantile Mutual insurance company, and which has been advertised over the country by the stock insurance companies, stating that the Mercantile Mutual denied liability upon, and would not pay this loss; that it would break up the company, that Mr. Bell was dissatisfied with his treatment and many other untruthful statements. We desire to say that every just loss of this company will be adjusted and paid as promptly and in the same satisfactory manner as has the loss of Mr. Bell.

W. B. LINCOLN, secy.

MONKEY FACED OWL.

On Exhibition and For Sale at the Land Commissioner's Office.

The World Herald says that when Land Commissioner J. V. Wolfe returned from his trip to Nuckolls and Jefferson counties he brought home with him a fine specimen of the monkey faced owl, which was captured by a boy in Nuckolls county. The boy commissioned Mr. Wolfe to bring the bird to Lincoln and offer it for sale to parties interested in such things. Bids for the purchase of the owl have been received during the day and have run up to over \$5. Commissioner Wolfe thinks that if it is not sold before August 20th there should be no difficulty in disposing of it to the republican state convention to be used as a party emblem. He thinks that the convention, if the owl is once seen, will at once recognize that it will be entirely appropriate, because it looks so wise and is so simple. As Commissioner Wolfe says: "It pretends to know so much and performs so little, just like the republican party."

BY GOVERNOR HOLCOMB.

Proclamation Issued Concerning the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

EVERYBODY SHOULD ATTEND.

The Appropriation Made by the State is now Available.

The State's Directors Appointed.

Governor Holcomb has issued his proclamation formally announcing the Trans-Mississippi exposition and declaring the appropriation made by the last legislature available for use. The proclamation is as follows:

To the people of the state of Nebraska—Greeting:

Whereas, Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Trans-Mississippi congress of 1894, participated in by all of the states and territories west of the Mississippi river, there has been organized in the city of Omaha, Nebraska, the trans-Mississippi and International Exposition association, for the purpose of holding an exposition of the products and resources, the manufactures and arts of the great west, at the city of Omaha, from June to November, 1898; and

Whereas, The twenty-fifth session of the legislature of the state of Nebraska duly passed a bill entitled "An act to provide for the participation by the state of Nebraska in the Trans-Mississippi and International exposition, to be held in the city of Omaha, state of Nebraska, in the year 1898," et cetera, which act was duly approved by me and became a law on the 10th day of July, A. D. 1897; and

Whereas, Said act provides that the governor of the state of Nebraska be and is hereby authorized and directed to appoint a state board of directors of six members, consisting of one representative citizen from each congressional district, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act," et cetera; and

Whereas, In accordance with said provision, the following members of said state board of directors were duly appointed and commissioned by me on the 12th day of July, A. D. 1897, to-wit: First district, H. M. Boydston, Nebraska City. Second district, C. A. Whitford, Arlington. Third district, W. A. Poynter, Albion. Fourth district, C. D. Casper, David City. Fifth district, W. M. Dutton, Hastings. Sixth district, William Neville, North Platte.

Which said directors immediately organized, as provided in said act, by electing the following officers: President William Neville; vice president, W. A. Poynter; secretary, C. D. Casper; and

Whereas, Said act further provides "that for the purpose of enabling the state of Nebraska to make an appropriate exhibit in said Trans-Mississippi and International exposition, the sum of \$100,000 be, and the same is hereby appropriated from the state treasury out of any funds not otherwise appropriated. Provided that no part of the appropriation shall be available or used until at least \$200,000 in cash shall have been paid into the treasury of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition association by the stockholders of said association;" And

Whereas it has been made to appear to me, by the certificate of Gurdon W. Wattles, president, and John A. Wakefield, secretary of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition association, under the seal thereof, being dated July 19, A. D. 1897, that there has been collected in cash from the stock subscriptions made to and in aid of the exposition and paid into the treasury of said corporation, the total sum of \$211,512.

Now, therefore, I, Silas A. Holcomb, governor of the state of Nebraska, by reason of the facts set forth, do declare that all the preliminary requirements of said act having been fully complied with, the appropriation therein made is now available for the purposes and ends intended by said act, and that under the provisions thereof the state of Nebraska will participate in the Trans-Mississippi and International exposition. And I would request all citizens of the state of Nebraska, all organizations, societies, counties, cities and other municipalities to lend their assistance and best efforts in behalf of this worthy enterprise to the end that the state of Nebraska may be properly represented, her varied products, unexcelled resources, her rapid progress in manufactures, arts and industries fittingly displayed, and that the success of this exposition may reflect due credit on the great state in which it is to be held.

In testimony whereof I have herewith set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the state of Nebraska. Done at Lincoln this 3d day of August, in the year of our Lord, 1897, the 31st year of the state and of the independence of the United States of America the 122d.

By the governor:
SILAS A. HOLCOMB,
W. F. POYNTER,
Secretary of state.

The American Federation of Labor, representing nearly every national labor organization in this country, has concluded to extend assistance, financial and moral, to the striking coal miners in their struggle for living wages.