

THE PANHANDLE GEOGRAPHICALLY

Lying in that section of the United States that has come to be known as "The New Southwest," occupying about 25 thousand square miles of territory in the northwestern corner of Texas, is the "Panhandle."

It is a remarkable geological formation—an elevated prairie. Its general location is almost directly south of western Kansas and southeastern Colorado. Western Oklahoma lies immediately east of it, and the soil of Oklahoma's western counties is identical in quality with the lands of the Panhandle. These Oklahoma lands however, were government property and subject to homesteading and because of that fact were occupied by farmers almost as quickly as they became available. There is also a strip of Oklahoma, Beaver county, extending westward along the northern border of the Texas Panhandle and the eastern edge of New Mexico adjoins the Panhandle on the west. Both of these regions are well settled for the same reason—they were subject to the homestead laws.

There are no free homestead lands, no government lands in Texas, and there never have been. Texas came into the Union on a basis differing from that of any other state. This explains to quite a large extent why adjoining states have become settled with farmers and others while Texas has been overlooked waiting for an increased population and a consequent increase in the value of lands elsewhere would cause the homeseeker to turn in this direction for better land and low prices. Settlements are beginning to dot all parts of the Panhandle. The transformation of the old Panhandle into the new is really one of the modern wonders.

We go to the Panhandle country every

First and Third Tuesdays

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I. H. HOLMES, President.

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ROGERS IN DENIAL

FILES ANSWER IN GOVERNMENT SUIT AGAINST U. P. MERGER.

Oil Magnate Avers That He Bought No Railroad Stock for Conspiracy Purposes and Asks That He Be Granted Damages.

Salt Lake, May 5.—H. H. Rogers and James Stillman, named as defendants with the Harriman and other railroads in the so-called merger suit of the government, filed their answers in the federal court here. They, with E. H. Harriman, Jacob Schiff and others, and the Union Pacific, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, Southern Pacific and other railroads are charged with unlawful conspiracy in attempting to gain control of other railroads and restrain and control commerce between the states. Mr. Rogers makes a sweeping denial of every allegation and demands that the case against him be dismissed because he is not a resident of the Utah district and therefore not within the jurisdiction of the court. He also asks that he be granted costs and damages for injury to his character by reason of the allegations made against him.

He denies that he is or ever was a member of any body of men who attempted to gain control and restrain commerce and traffic between the states or that he ever bought into any railroad to gain control. He admits that he bought heavily into the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, but says that he did so purely as an investment, even though the purchase was heavy enough in some cases to absorb half the stock, and there was not the slightest intent to conspire or gain control to an unlawful end. Mr. Rogers gives as his belief, through information and observation, that no one of the defendants in the big merger suit had any idea of creating a combine for the unlawful control of the Southern Pacific. He denies acquaintance with all deals made prior to Oct. 8, 1901, the date he became a director and before which time the government claims that all the attempts to gain control were made. Since that time, Rogers avers, neither he, Harriman, Stillman, Kuhn, Frick or W. A. Clarke have made in anyway an effort to get control of the road. Similar admissions and denials are made concerning the purchases of Union Pacific stock through Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and the Oregon Short Line.

James Stillman, whose answer was also filed, follows the lines laid down by Mr. Rogers, admitting investments of money, but denying a monopolistic or other unlawful purpose. Mr. Still-

man became a director of the Union Pacific Dec. 6, 1907.

THAW IS OUT OF MATTEAWAN

Secures Release from Asylum Until Case is Settled.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., May 5.—Temporarily, at least, Harry K. Thaw is out of the Matteawan asylum for the criminal insane. As a result of the proceedings on the writ of habeas corpus brought in an effort to have him declared sane, he will remain in Dutchess county jail until the final decision on the writ is handed down. The formal hearing in the case will come before the supreme court here next Monday. The adjournment was taken upon the request of a representative of the district attorney of New York county to give District Attorney Jerome an opportunity to appear in person to oppose Thaw's release from the asylum. In the meantime Thaw will remain in the county jail here instead of being returned to Matteawan. Thaw appeared to be in excellent health, having gained fully twenty pounds in weight since his transfer to the asylum from the Tombs.

One of the interesting features of the proceedings was an announcement that Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, although she has brought suit for annulment of her marriage, will appear if necessary as a witness in her husband's behalf.

ATLANTIC FLEET AGAIN UNITED

Battleships Leave Santa Cruz for San Francisco.

Santa Cruz, Cal., May 5.—The Atlantic battleship fleet was united once more when the ships of the second squadron arrived from Monterey and the flotilla of six destroyers joined it from San Pedro, the latter after one of the stormiest voyages of the cruise. The second squadron, headed by the Alabama, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Sperry, came across Monterey bay, arriving at 5:30 p. m. yesterday. The flotilla came in at 1:30. Admiral Thomas moved from the Connecticut to the Minnesota. The Connecticut will proceed to Monterey and take on board Admiral Evans, who returns to resume command of the fleet. No ceremonies whatever will attend the return of Rear Admiral Evans.

The fleet will sail for San Francisco this afternoon, arriving off the lightship at the entrance about 9 p. m. They will anchor there until the morning.

Demarest is Amateur Champion.

New York, May 6.—Calvin Demarest of Chicago won the international amateur billiard championship by defeating Lucien Perolle, the five-time amateur champion of France, by a score of 400 to 216.

NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

CUT RATES OR RAISE WAGES

Railroads Seeking Aid of Business Men Meet Dilemma.

York, Neb., May 4.—The employees of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad of this city, who circulated a petition to be signed by business shippers and citizens of York and York county, asking for a let-up in north railroad legislation and that no more petitions be made for lower freight rates on the ground that it meant a reduction of salaries to employees, did not meet with the reception they secured. The representative of the company was asked to change the wording of the petition and have it read, "that if the present rates be maintained the railroad company increase the wages of all employees at least 20 per cent," and he was promised that if this was done the petition would be signed.

It is understood the railroad companies have employees in every city and town in Nebraska circulating petitions of this kind, hoping to have influence with the state railroad commission and probably to be used when the next Nebraska legislature convenes.

GOVERNOR FINDS OLD FRIENDS

Former Residents of Nebraska Give Tourists a Picnic at Long Beach.

Long Beach, Cal., May 4.—Almost 2,000 former residents of Nebraska gathered in Long Beach for the annual picnic of the Nebraska society of Los Angeles. The feature of the occasion was the visit of Governor Sheldon, his staff and a big party from that state. A meeting was held in the Auditorium immediately after the arrival of the distinguished visitors, at which numerous speakers toasted Nebraska and the state of their adoption, California, and showered greetings on Governor Sheldon and his officials.

The reception and exercises were conducted by Judge W. H. Morris of Los Angeles, president of the society, and M. M. Davidson, secretary. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Richardson, Smyzer, Ludden, Senator McKesson and Governor Sheldon. A quartet of women from the Long Beach Nebraska society sang several selections.

ENGINEERS OBEY ALL SIGNALS

"Surprise" Tests on Harriman Lines Prove That They Are Alert.

Omaha, May 4.—A summary of the results of "surprise tests" on the lines of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads for the month of March shows an efficiency of 98.8 for the engineers. During the month 1,258 tests were made.

The "surprise tests" consist of flashing all kinds of signals upon unsuspecting engineers. At dozens of places, at all times of the day and night, the tests are made. They must be obeyed absolutely, else severe discipline is meted out. Running past a danger signal means dismissal for the culprit. In the March tests the small number of violations, amounting to about 1 per cent, were not of the kind that might have caused serious accidents.

WOOL MARKET IN OMAHA

Site Selected for Warehouse and Work Will Begin at Once.

Omaha, May 4.—Arrangements were completed by Charles H. King, banker and promoter of the wool market of Omaha, for a location for the first storage house and work will begin tomorrow on a house 190x300 feet, with a capacity of 20,000,000 pounds, half way between Omaha and South Omaha, and accessible to all the railroads.

The first season's clip, which is already being sheared, will be stored in Omaha, four railroads and the Commercial club of Omaha asking the interstate commerce commission to grant special permission to put the wool rates in force May 5, instead of May 27.

Protest on Rate Reduction.

Lincoln, May 4.—Representatives of railroad labor organizations have been holding conferences in this city during the week and concluded their work. The meeting had to do with wage scales, and a protest will be made to the state railroad commission against any further reduction in railroad rates, because the loss will eventually fall on the employees.

Hotel Clerk Tries Suicide.

Beatrice, Neb., May 2.—John Kerr, employed for the last three months as night clerk at the Paddock hotel here, attempted suicide by shooting himself behind the left ear and is lying in the sanitarium with slim hopes held out for his recovery. Domestic trouble is supposed to have been the incentive for the act, as Kerr and his wife had separated but a few weeks ago and since the separation Kerr has appeared morose.

Burglars Busy at Weston.

Weston, Neb., May 2.—Burglars broke into the safes of the Weston Grain and Stock company and the Chi-

ago Lumber company. From the latter place they got about \$25. A cashier's check for \$400, received too late for banking, was left untouched. They made their escape.

\$5,400 Verdict for Mrs. Bond.

Lincoln, May 2.—A jury in the federal court has awarded Mrs. Rebecca Bond \$5,400 in her suit against Herman Schaben of Nebraska City, for the libel against her husband, Frank Bond, had been made an habitual drunkard.

STATEMENT OF STATE CASH

Almost Half Million Dollars in Hands of the Treasurer.

Lincoln, May 2.—The report of State Treasurer Brian for the month of April shows a balance on hand of \$481,096.17 in all funds, of which all but \$14,361.59 is on deposit in state depository banks. The balance on hand April 1 was \$510,153.58. The receipts during the month were \$480,556.51, and the disbursements amounted to \$597,943.95. The largest balance in any fund is \$316,731.09, in the temporary school fund. This fund will be disbursed the latter part of May for the support of school districts throughout the state. The receipts from the 1 mill levy for the redemption of state warrants were \$22,919.56, and the payments, \$1,729.17. At the beginning of the month the various state institutions had on deposit in the state treasury as cash funds, \$9,798.26. During the month \$6,823.66 was added to this and \$4,323.95 drawn out by the various institutions, leaving a balance of \$12,998.87.

The state now has \$8,099,388.05 invested in interest bearing securities, of which \$7,033,687.59 is in bonds and \$1,165,700.46 is in Nebraska warrants.

BAN PUT ON STOCK WATERING

Nebraska Railroad Commission Prevents Issue of Street Railway Stock.

Lincoln, May 6.—By ruling that the Citizens' Street Railway company of Lincoln may not issue additional stock or pay any dividends on stock already issued until it puts more money into the plant in operation, the Nebraska railroad commission takes jurisdiction of the stock issue of common carriers of the state. The question is one of great import to Nebraska citizens and corporations.

Application has been made by the company to add to the stock issue, which is \$326,752.50. City Attorney John M. Stewart filed his objections before the railway commission and after a long hearing, the order was promulgated. The board holds no additional stock may be issued at present and that until the sum of \$15,000 is invested in the plant no further dividends may be paid on the stock already out. The company is ordered to devote its resources to payment of all obligations outstanding March 31, 1908.

HEAVY REWARD FOR TAYLOR

Kearney County Board Offers Fifteen Hundred Dollars for His Arrest.

Minden, Neb., May 5.—The county board offered \$1,500 reward for the arrest of Bert Taylor, who brutally assaulted his sisters-in-law. The board met in regular session and the offer has the county treasury behind it.

Pearl Taylor, who was most seriously injured, is slightly better, though there is little hope of her recovery. She was able to take two tablespoonsful of milk, one of the most encouraging symptoms, since she has been constantly in convulsions and suffering from extreme nervousness. She has at no time been rational enough to make an ante mortem statement. When approaching consciousness, she constantly calls for her parents. No further trace has been found of Taylor. The search made at Atlanta proved fruitless.

Coon Case May 25.

Lincoln, May 5.—The trial of William Coon, charged with manslaughter for having run down and killed Nellie S. Smith with his automobile, has been set for May 25. Coon is now under bond, having waived preliminary hearing. The killing of Miss Smith has had an effect on automobile owners, the result being greater care is exercised in running machines.

Burglars Carry Away Sixty Watches.

Omaha, May 6.—Burglars hurled a bucket through the Douglas street show window of the Mawhinney & Ryan jewelry store, at Fifteenth and Douglas streets, seized about sixty watches valued at \$600, and escaped. The glass door at the Miller, Stewart & Beaton furniture store, at Sixteenth and Howard streets, was also broken in, and the store ransacked, but the burglars secured nothing there.

Lakewood, N. J., May 5.—Former President Grover Cleveland continues steadily to recover from an attack of digestive trouble, which has prevented him from returning to his Princeton home. All reports from the Lakewood hotel were to the effect that he continues to improve and that his condition is not alarming.

Ten Inches of Snow in Wyoming.

Cheyenne, May 5.—About ten inches of snow has fallen here. The precipitation is general throughout the state and is of great benefit to the farmers.

HOW H. H. TUCKER WORKED

Evidence in Case Reveals Methods of Uncle Sam Oil Company.

Topeka, May 6.—H. H. Tucker, Jr., secretary of the Uncle Sam Oil company, invested \$1,500 when he entered into the Publishers' Oil company, which was later changed to the Uncle Sam company. This testimony was brought out under examination at Tucker's trial here on a charge of using the mails to defraud. Tucker said that later he bought some stock. Out of the dividends and sale of stock, he said, he personally made \$15,000. He said other stockholders also received dividends and had the opportunity to make money by selling stock when it went up.

Tucker testified about a \$5,000,000 bond issue. He said the issue was made for the purpose of buying crude oil at 40 cents a barrel, refining it, selling it at \$4 a barrel, and thus raising \$225,000,000 upon which to float the \$5,000,000 bond issue. The bonds did not sell at par. The sale price was made 25 cents on the dollar and the balance in stock.

Police Shoot Two Porto Rican Soldiers

San Juan, P. R., May 6.—Two privates of the Porto Rico provisional regiment were shot during a clash between soldiers and the insular police. One of the soldiers died later and the other is quite seriously wounded. The fight resulted from an attempt on the part of the police to quell a disturbance.

Lawyer Elected Mayor of St. Paul.

St. Paul, May 6.—Daniel Lawlor, the Democratic nominee for mayor of St. Paul, was elected over Joseph McKibbin (Rep.) by an estimated plurality of about 3,000.



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Very low round trip rates commencing June 1st for attractive coast tours, only \$60.00; slightly higher via Shasta Route and Puget Sound.

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Republican Convention excursion tickets at low rates in June; also summer excursion rates in connection with Convention and Summer Tourist rates to eastern resorts.

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Daily excursion rates commencing June 1st to Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Black Hills, Yellowstone Park; great Democratic Convention at Denver in July.

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