

Rock Island's Taxes to Be Cut by Court Order

Board is Told to Reassess
Road's Properties on
Basis of Valuation of
Farm Lands

By Associated Press.
Lincoln, Jan. 1.—Reassessment of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad company's property in Nebraska, on a basis which will substantially reduce the taxes of the company for 1923, was ordered today in a decision of the state supreme court, sustaining the appeal of the carrier from the action of the state board of equalization last June.

The decision sets aside the \$10,684,469 valuation placed on the properties by the board and directs the board to reassemble and adopt a new valuation which will place the road's holdings on same basis as farm lands in Nebraska.

The Rock Island contended its property was assessed in 1923 at 100 per cent or more of its actual worth, while farm lands were assessed far below their actual value. The high bench found that lands were assessed at only 63 per cent of their value as indicated by sales prices.

The court found that the properties should be valued at \$10,133,559 but that this estimate should not be binding on the board of equalization. The board shall use its judgment as to what the properties are worth after considering the inequality between the farm lands and the railroad assessments, the court opinion intimates.

While the Rock Island is the only carrier appealing to the supreme court other roads in the state obtained a decision in federal court to restrain collection of more than 75 per cent of the taxes assessed, and the decision is regarded as affecting a probable reassessment of all carriers' taxes.

Around Nebraska's State House

By R. H. PETERS,
Staff Correspondent The Omaha Bee.
Lincoln, Jan. 1.—Nebraska again springs into national prominence in the world of politics once more when Governor Bryan declared, in so many words, that he wanted nothing to do with W. G. McAdoo as a candidate for the presidency, and intimated that he is the man for the middle-western voter.

Whether or not McAdoo was depending on Bryan support at the democratic national convention is not known, but that he is anxious to go to the convention carrying the delegates of the middle-west in his pocket has been an open secret. If Bryan is to be believed the middle-west is just as anxious that he be denied in his political ambitions and it will be interesting to see if the governor's informers from the states in question have been pouring words of fact and wisdom in his ear.

No one believes that Bryan will get the democratic nomination nor that he would be elected if he were chosen as the standard bearer of the party that was so overwhelmingly repudiated in 1920. That is to say, no one believes it with the possible exception of Bryan himself, who can probably delude himself as easily as every other candidate who ever ran for office without a chance of election.

Bryan is a young man, as presidential candidates go, and would probably be happier if he could get in a term in the senate before making a grab for the democratic nomination. However, there is always that old stumbling block, Senator Norris, in the way. In fact, Bryan would unquestionably have announced himself a senatorial candidate weeks ago, could he have convinced himself that Norris was definitely out of the race.

Nebraska's road claims again took the center of the stage last week, after Governor Bryan had used them as a political football to back up his old stand that Nebraska is facing a big deficit which he will remove if two-thirds of the legislature will petition him on bended knee to call an extra session.

Federal engineers in this district, fortunately, are going ahead approving such vouchers as are sent them with a celerity that is bound to bring a shout of approval from the waiting contractors.

The federal government has displayed a spirit that is sure to create a favorable reaction throughout the state. It realizes that many contractors are financially embarrassed by the road situation and is ready to co-operate with the state department of public works to such an extent that it is bringing in its engineers from other states that Nebraska may have its money within the least possible time.

Another possible candidate for the senate on the democratic ticket dropped out last week, when Edgar Howard, of the long locks and slow speech, decided that another term in the house was more suitable to his disposition. That leaves Trenmor Cone of Waterloo holding the fort and it is understood that the sand and gravel merchant's candidacy is causing considerable annoyance to Governor Bryan.

Republicans in the state house chuckle every time they think of Cone and the governor and the whole state will chuckle with them when Cone starts pouring in the hot shot that he has accumulated to fire at Nebraska's chief executive.

From all over the state reports keep drifting in that voters for Bryan at the last election are beginning to search for some other candidate for whom to mark their ballots. Even the famous Bryan coal and the millions that the governor says it is saving its fortunate purchasers does not appear sufficient to keep the governor in the good books of his supporters.

Perhaps the governor has claimed too much and has failed to give conclusive proof that these millions are pouring into the pockets of Nebraskans. It is one thing to be told that you are saving money and another to pay taxes that are practically as high as those of war days.



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