

Land Grant to Railroad Is Opposed

Forest Service Shows Huge Profits Made by Northern Pacific, in Effort to Get Congress to Investigate.

Accounting Is Advocated

By Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 17.—A claim that the Northern Pacific railway company has received a total of \$136,118,533 from the sale of lands from its government grants, or nearly twice the \$70,000,000 cost of constructing the railroad, is set up by the forest service as a chief reason why congress should deny the railroad company the right to take over additional 3,000,000 acres of public lands which it now claims under the original grants.

A resolution directing the secretary of the interior to withhold his approval of the adjustment of the Northern Pacific land grants and the issuance of any further patents on them until a congressional inquiry can be made, has been introduced in the house. It is sponsored by the Interior and Agricultural departments and will be pressed.

More Acreage Sought

Asserting that the railway company is seeking acreage in the national forests of Montana, Idaho and Washington worth probably \$30,000,000, the forest service, in a summary of the controversy which became public today, argues that the Northern Pacific land grants have been fully satisfied. Moreover, it says, an accounting from the railroad, which accounting the government has a right to demand, may justify the cancellation of the patents to all granted lands still retained by the corporation.

To substantiate this claim, the forest service makes the following conditions:

"That the land grants were made for the purpose of aiding in the construction of the railroad. The total gross receipts of the Northern Pacific to June 30, 1917, from the sale of the lands from its grant amounted to \$136,118,533. The cost of constructing the road did not exceed \$70,000,000. The sale of lands has more than paid for the cost of constructing the railroad.

Subject to Forfeiture.

"That the Northern Pacific failed to construct 1,505.21 miles of its railroad within the time required by law, thereby rendering the granted lands subject to forfeiture.

"That the Northern Pacific failed to dispose of certain of its lands to settlers at not to exceed \$5.00 per acre as required by law.

"That the Northern Pacific failed to dispose of hundreds of thousands of acres of its lands at public sale, as required by law.

"That hundreds of thousands of acres of poor land in the Northern Pacific grant were erroneously classified as mineral and turned back to the United States.

"That the Northern Pacific failed to give mineral indemnity rights to those who were applied in part on more valuable lands in the indemnity limits.

"That under a rule of law laid down by the supreme court, the Northern Pacific has been erroneously allowed 1,500,000 acres too much land in the state of Washington.

Errors Are Reported.

"That over 500,000 acres of land credited to the Northern Pacific should be deducted because of conflict with the land grant of another road and the erroneous fixation of the land grant limit lines.

"That the Northern Pacific has been allowed to make over 1,300,000 acres of indemnity selections in its second indemnity belt, whereas these selections should have been confined to the first indemnity belt.

"That for lands erroneously patented to the Northern Pacific the government should be entitled to receive at least what the railroad received from the sale of these lands instead of \$1.25 an acre.

"That the Northern Pacific under the Mount Rainier Park act of March 2, 1899, relinquished to the United States thousands of acres of commercially valueless land and ready to thereafter select privileges in the finest lands they could find in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin."

Elevator Company Denies Trouble Over Its Manager

Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 17.—The Farmers' Elevator company at Kinney wishes to correct a statement appearing in newspapers to the effect that it had trouble in securing a manager. Manager Watkins has been in charge of the plant for a number of years, and has been very successful with his work. At the request of the board of directors of the company, he remained with the company for some time after he had intended to resign. He assisted in making the sale of the plant to Channing Lewis, farmer who recently bought it.

School Boards Electing Teachers Earlier in Year

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—There is a growing tendency upon the part of boards of education to elect teachers earlier in the season than has been the custom in previous years.

Nearly 100 Nebraska towns already have disposed of this problem, leaving only miscellaneous vacancies in the teaching staff to be filled. It is the opinion that this policy is of a mutual benefit to teacher and school district. In that it adds to the stability of the teaching corps and reduces teacher transiency.

Wounded Senator Improved



Washington, Feb. 17.—Slight improvement was shown today in the condition of Senator Greene of Vermont, who has been near death's door as a result of a bullet wound received last Friday night during a pistol fight between prohibition officers and bootleggers on Pennsylvania avenue.

Senator Greene's condition was very grave last night, after an operation for the removal of bone splinters from his brain, but the attending surgeons said he had reacted very nicely from the shock of the operation and had better than a fighting chance for recovery.

A chief concern of the surgeons now is to ward off complications, but it was stated at the hospital that there was no evidence of these. Senator Greene is conscious and is described as resting as comfortably as could be expected after such a delicate operation.

One and one-half square inches of the frontal skull structure was removed by physicians in order to take out the bone splinter which the bullet had forced into the brain. The bullet itself did not penetrate the skull, being deflected to one side.

Democrats Will Discuss McAdoo Chances Today

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Democratic leaders from 32 states are here tonight awaiting the "availability conference" scheduled for tomorrow to consider the presidential candidacy of William G. McAdoo, former secretary of the treasury. More than 300 party leaders are expected to participate in the conference, according to those in charge.

Mr. McAdoo arrived from Washington late this afternoon, but will not attend the conference unless formally invited to address the assemblage after its deliberations. The meeting will be open to the public.

A number of McAdoo supporters, all of whom predict a virtually unanimous ratification of the candidacy, issued statements tonight outlining their views of the party sentiment in their own states. The dominant note of the expressions was that "vicious political treachery," designed by "democratic enemies of democratic success," to connect McAdoo's name with the Teapot Dome scandal, would be repudiated by the rank and file of the party.

Homer S. Cummings, former chairman of the democratic national committee, who yesterday declared in behalf of Connecticut democrats "that we shall carry on the struggle to a triumphant vindication and to a sweeping victory," probably will be called upon for the keynote address tomorrow.

National Committeeman James D. Moyle of Utah, who accompanied Mr. McAdoo from Washington, said that "no one has been scared away from the McAdoo ranks by the treacherous and malicious attacks which have occurred when Mr. McAdoo's name was dragged into the Teapot Dome investigation."

Ex-Veterans' Bureau Head Wed Iowa Girl

Shenandoah, Ia., Feb. 17.—An extra interest is taken in the investigation of Charles R. Forbes, former head of the United States veterans' bureau, who is the contractor for the Elks club which was built in Shenandoah in 1912, about the time he married Mrs. Kittle McGogy Godwin, former Shenandoah woman.

He was an Omaha contractor at that time and she was employed as a stenographer at the Hayward Shoe company. They spent their honeymoon in Shenandoah and Forbes fell out of a cherry tree and was injured. The former Iowa woman divorced him last fall in Seattle, and, with her daughter, Marcella, is now living with her mother, Mrs. Hester McGogy, at Walkerton, Ind.

Cozad Bridge Saved From Destruction by Ice Gorge

Cozad, Neb., Feb. 17.—For several days the bridge across the Platte river, just south of town, has been in danger of destruction from ice gorges. Friday a channel broke through. That, with the colder weather, saved the old bridge. Some piling was torn loose and the bridge weakened. Repairs are under way and traffic continues, but at the haulers' risk.

A year ago the bridge was condemned, so far as heavy loads were concerned.

Plans are under way for the construction of a new bridge next summer. The state has appropriated \$50,000 and the county will expend the other \$50,000. The old bridge is eight-tenths of a mile long. The new one will be much shorter, with long fills for approaches.

Agreement on Roberts Predicted

Department of Philadelphia Lawyer as Counsel for Government in Teapot Oil Cases Expected.

Senators Against Delay

Washington, Feb. 17.—The last congressional act necessary to the institution of legal proceedings in the oil scandal is expected tomorrow by the senate in the confirmation of the nomination of Owen J. Roberts of Philadelphia to be a special government counsel in the oil cases.

Although Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, leader of the republican insurgents, has prepared to lead a fight on Mr. Roberts, administration senators predicted his appointment would be approved by substantially the same majority that the senate gave last night to the nomination of Allee Pomeroy of Canton, O., to be one of the two chief counsel.

While Senator Walsh, Montana, democrat, chief prosecutor in the oil investigation, and other senators, have voiced disapproval of Mr. Roberts' appointment, many members on both sides of the chamber hold that he is amply qualified for the task ahead. Moreover, they argue that there should be no further delay in counsel getting down to the stupendous task they must undertake.

Enormous Work Ahead.

The first move in what has come to be regarded as one of the most important legal battles to which the federal government ever has been a party will be applications in Wyoming and California for temporary injunctions to stop further extraction of oil from the naval reserves in those states operated by the Sinclair and Doheny interests, respectively.

Prompt action toward this preliminary step in what must necessarily be a long drawn out court fight is expected. Counsel has an enormous work ahead in studying the record in the case as developed by the senate oil committee and it is unlikely that the annulment suits and criminal prosecutions will be instituted until this has been completed and some independent investigations made.

After disposing of the nomination of Mr. Roberts, the senate will adopt the house resolution appropriating \$100,000 for special counsel. This measure was approved by the house more than two weeks ago and has been reported favorably by the senate appropriations committee.

Senator Walsh will be absent from the senate during the fight over Mr. Roberts' nomination. He left Washington tonight for an unannounced destination, but his friends said he would seek rest somewhere in the south and endeavor to rid himself there of a ail which has been giving him some inconvenience.

Accountants Busy.

While the oil committee is in recess this week, accountants in the federal trade commission will continue their work on the books of W. B. Hibbs & Co., and other Washington stockbroker firms in an effort to ascertain whether there were dealings by public officials in oil stocks of the Sinclair and Doheny companies subsequent to the granting of the leases by Albert B. Fall, as secretary of the interior.

The committee desires also to go into the records of firms members of the New York Stock exchange, but as it has taken no action on the letter of President Crowell in which he proposed an examination of the records in the same manner as was adopted at the time of the "leak" investigation.

E. L. Doheny, in a statement made public here tonight, took issue with Senator Walsh's recent statement to the senate that the government was getting only 6 per cent of the oil which his company was taking out of the California reserve. He contended that his company actually has paid 31 per cent of all of the oil extracted.

Engineer and Veteran Conductor Are Dead

Fairbury, Neb., Feb. 17.—Two Rock Island railroad men, both of whom had run through Fairbury, died last week.

Charles M. Sawyer, veteran conductor on Nos. 305 and 306, between Horton and Nelson, died at Horton (Kan.) hospital, following an attack of quinsy. He was a former Fairbury resident, having left here about 20 years ago. His family lives at Phillipsburg, Kan.

Frederick W. McKecher, 58, engineer, died at his home here. He had lived in the city since 1903. He is survived by his wife.

Turtle Doves Wax Alcoholic, Drive Away Farm Animals From Premises

If Game Laws Protecting Birds Not Lifted, Farmers Will Be Compelled to Destroy Their Silos to Halt the Evil.

O'Neill, Neb., Feb. 17.—Farmers and ranchmen of Beaver Flats estate must exterminate the large flocks of turtle doves which infest the community or destroy their silos to protect their herds of livestock and their domestic fowls. The doves, from feeding on the thawing ferment from frozen and leaky silos have reached a state of chronic alcoholism which has changed their docile nature to one of quarrelsome and pestiferous

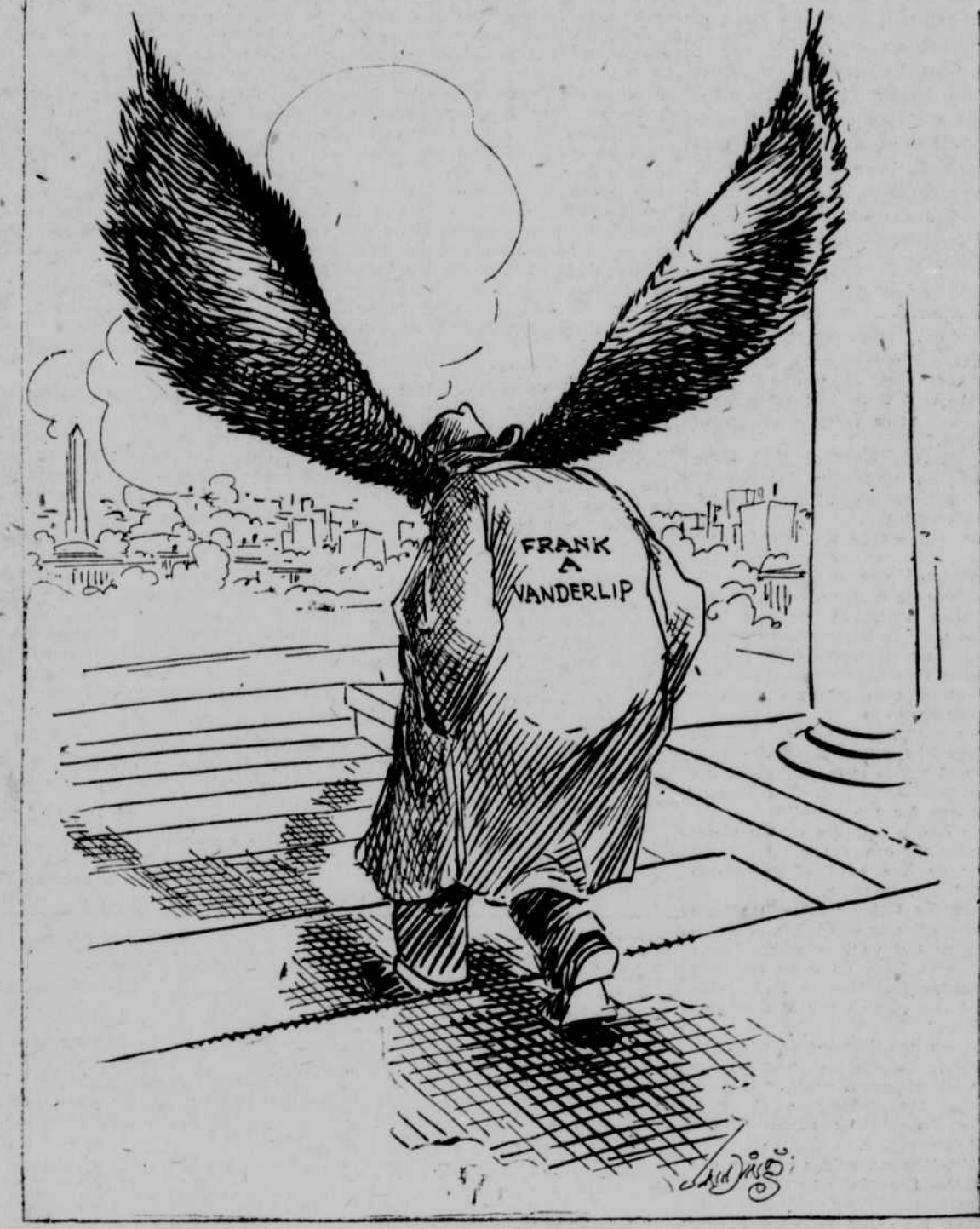
moods, during which they do not hesitate to drive the cows away from the feed yards or to pull the feathers from the peaceful ducks and chickens. The domestic creatures are so harassed and worried that they are losing flesh and becoming unfit for market.

The trouble largely is attributed to the open fall and early winter which caused the farmers to neglect the proper banking of the silos, with the result that when the cold spell of January came on, the contents of many silos froze and expanded until the staves of the containers were sprung and leaked. Then, when the warm weather came on, the fermenting liquors in the bottoms of the silos were the first to thaw and seep out upon the ground to gather in pools in the low places.

The doves, which infest the feed yards because they are protected by the game laws and are not harmed by man, soon acquired a liking for the beverage. Silo ferment is a liquid much more potent than would be approved by Mr. Volstead and in fact has to be diluted with moonshine before it is fit for human consumption. Its effects are as disastrous to the morals as to the physique and a prolonged course of it soon so changed the dispositions of the turtle doves that they would attack any other animals or fowls approaching, under the alcoholic delusion that there might not be enough for all.

While the removal of the silos would stop all the trouble, it would likewise mean the destruction of considerable invested capital and all effort first is to be made to get Judge Kirwin to suspend the portion of the game laws affording protection to doves, in his jurisdiction, so that a community hunt may be indulged in. If this is not successful the silos will be destroyed.

"Witness Is Dismissed"



Kearney College Leads in Students

Institution Reports 1,360 Summer Enrollment to 800 in Next Largest School.

Kearney, Neb., Feb. 17.—Kearney's educational leadership, under the administration of President George E. Martin of the Teachers' college, finds official proof in the recent report of the United States commissioner of education, Dr. John Tigert. The report is made up from the files in the commissioner's office and shows only the totals of college students enrolled in the various teacher training schools throughout the United States. Chief interest, of course, attaches to the fact that the three other state teachers' colleges in Nebraska also are listed with similar figures, but with much smaller totals.

While Kearney's total college enrollment in the summer of 1922 was 1,490, that of another Nebraska State Teachers' college was only one-sixth as large, or 23.6. Another reports only 643, whereas the fourth reported 600.

A similar lead was maintained in the summer of 1923. When other Nebraska teachers' colleges reported only 343, 480, and 800 respectively, Kearney's college enrollment was 1,360.

The objection that summer enrollments are large and therefore deceptive is answered by the figures contained in the same report, setting forth statistics for the regular school year. Here again, Kearney's lead in state service is apparent. From September 1922, to June 1923, 563 college students were enrolled. Kearney's nearest rival reported only 400, while the others reported 239 and 138, respectively. In October, 1923, when the fall enrollments were virtually complete, Kearney showed 488 college students with practical assurance of a final total of 715, while her rivals had 440, 256 and 140 each.

The activities of the placing bureau of the college at Kearney already have discovered a demand for nearly the entire product of this year's graduating class. Last year 780 calls were received for trained teachers; 2,414 different students were served in residence in the 272 credit courses by the 70 instructors. Thirty-five candidates for the A. B. degree are enrolled already, with prospects for many additions before August.

Shoe Fund Closed; Money Still Comes

The Free Shoe fund of The Omaha Bee is officially closed for the winter but still contributions are being received—and, indeed, there are little boys and girls of destitute families to use all the shoes we can provide.

The generous heart of the great country, outside of Omaha principally, is moved by these unfortunate little waifs. Three clubs of societies from all over the state are among the contributors to the fund reported here-with.

Widow of "Alfalfa King" Also Dies

"Now I want to die, too." This was the expression voiced a week ago by frail Mrs. H. D. Watson, 88, of 1906 Military avenue, when she was told that funeral services for her husband were over.

Mr. Watson, Nebraska's "alfalfa king," died a week ago Friday and funeral services for him were held Monday at 11 in the Forest Lawn cemetery chapel.

Having expressed this desire to quit life following the death of her husband, Mrs. Watson, who has been an invalid for 15 years, began falling rapidly. She died Friday, just a week after the death of her husband.

Her funeral will be held in Forest Lawn chapel Monday at 2, the same hour and day of the week as were chosen for the services for her husband. With the exception that her body is to be buried instead of cremated, the services also will be very similar.

A son, H. O. Watson of New Orleans, who could not be found before the funeral services of his father, has now been communicated with, and is expected to arrive in time for the services for his mother.

Stock Raiser Dies.

Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 17.—John N. Frey, pioneer resident of Jefferson county living four miles northwest of Plymouth, passed away after a prolonged illness, aged 74 years. He was survived by three sons, John, George and Henry Frey, his wife having died some years ago. He had been a successful farmer and stock raiser of Jefferson county for nearly 40 years.

Previously acknowledged \$1,638.12
E. J. Gaston, Mead, Neb., 2.00
E. Friend of the Kiddies, 1.00
Mary O'Brien, Adams, S. D., 1.00
Rural Home Society, Wayne, Neb., 1.00
William Brewster, 1.75
E. E. Randall, 1.00
Dunham Sew. Soc. Dunbar, Neb., 1.00
M. A. E., 1.00
No Name, Columbus, Neb., 1.00
Friend, Madison, Neb., 1.00
Mrs. R. L. Smith, Weir, Neb., 1.00
W. C. Conn, Clip, Coland, Neb., 2.00
A Friend, Imperial, Neb., 1.00
Total \$1,705.87

37 Per Cent Tax Rate Is G. O. P. Plan

House Leaders Seek to Increase Proposed Maximum to Break Deadlock With Insurgents.

Four More Votes Needed

Washington, Feb. 17.—House republican leaders determined today to boost the proposed maximum surtax rate in the revenue bill to 37 1/2 per cent in an effort to break the deadlock in negotiations with the insurgents, who hold the balance of power in the vote on the income rate schedule which will be taken up Tuesday.

The republicans previously had receded from the Mellon rate of 25 per cent, carried in the bill, and had centered on 35 per cent in an effort to unite the party against the democratic stand for a 44 per cent maximum.

The 35 per cent rate would win 29 1/2 republican votes, 19 less than a majority. Two conferences yesterday with the insurgent group, however, failed to bring an agreement, the organization led by Representatives Frear and Nelson, Wisconsin, holding out for a 40 per cent surtax rate and a reduction of 50 per cent in the normal income taxes. The Mellon rates call for a 25 per cent reduction in the normal taxes.

Republican organization leaders insisted today they would not consent to the added normal tax reductions, which are the same as those proposed by the democrats, because treasury estimates had shown such a cut would reduce revenue receipts below the estimated surplus on which tax revision is to be based.

Representative Beggs, republican, Ohio, who conducted a poll of the republican delegation as to their views on the income tax schedules, said today at least four of the insurgent group, which he declared numbered 10 votes, must be won over in the conference which will be resumed tomorrow if the republicans expect to defeat the democratic plan.

Democrats are bound by a party caucus vote to support the income rate schedules advanced by Representative Garner, Texas, and their leaders predict all but a few of the 207 members in the house will be present when the vote is taken.

General debate on the measure will close tomorrow at 4 under agreement. Chairman Greene of the ways and means committee, in charge of the bill for the majority, and Representative Garner, leading the democratic fight, expect to start the reading of the measure immediately thereafter.

The first part of the bill, over which practically no differences have developed, may be finished before Tuesday. At that time, the income rates will be taken up for amendment.

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Platte County Farmer Pays \$800 Rum Fine

Columbus, Neb., Feb. 17.—Liquor raids by state agents in Platte county and by state agents in Columbus, resulted in conviction of three men in county court.

One of the heaviest liquor fines of the season was paid in county court by Alois Micek, farmer living near Duncan, who was brought to Columbus in custody of State Agents Ebrody, Cromwell and Layman, following a raid on his farm home. A still, a gallon of hooch and 50 gallons of fresh milk were found on the Micek place. Micek rather than stand trial on charges of manufacture, made a plea of illegal possession and was fined \$800, or \$100 on each of eight counts.

Frank Robak, a Duncan soft drink hall proprietor, was fined \$100 after state agents found a quart of hooch in his possession. Frank Powell, Duncan soft drink place proprietor, whose place was also raided, was found with a pint of liquor and was fined on a first charge of illegal possession. The case of Charles Kula was continued until Monday.

Former Mayor of Norfolk Suing Wife for Divorce

Norfolk, Neb., Feb. 17.—Dr. C. J. Verges, former mayor of Norfolk, is suing his wife for divorce on grounds of cruelty. Mrs. Verges has filed a counter petition charging cruelty and infidelity. Judge Jason A. Welch held a hearing in district court here in this case and it attracted unusual attention. Both parties are members of pioneer families.

Boy Sent to Kearney.

Madison, Neb., Feb. 17.—Leo Jones, 16, of Norfolk, was sentenced to the state reform school at Kearney by County Judge Putney. The boy confessed to breaking into the locker house at the Norfolk Country club.

Iowa Pioneer Dies.

Shenandoah, Ia., Feb. 17.—One of the early pioneers of Fremont township, Frank Seidenberg, 79, is dead. His wife died seven years ago. They resided at Essex. There were no children.

Bank Named Receiver of Ord Gas Company

Ord, Neb., Feb. 18.—The First Trust company has been appointed receiver for the Ord Gas plant, owned and formerly operated by Frank I. Olsen of Grand Island. Mr. Olsen is under arrest here. He was implicated by Ed. Anderson of this city, who charged that he had been hired by Olsen to burn a sale barn in Ord, which Mr. Olsen owned or had an interest in.

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The Weather

For 24 hours ending at 7 p. m. February 17: Temperature—Highest, 25; lowest, 22; snow, 2 1/2; sun, 2 1/2; total deficiency since January 1, 17. Precipitation, inches and hundredths: Total since January 1, 8.85. Deficiency, .05.

Hourly Temperatures:
2 p. m. Monday 25
3 p. m. " 25
4 p. m. " 25
5 p. m. " 25
6 p. m. " 25
7 p. m. " 25
8 p. m. " 25
9 p. m. " 25
10 p. m. " 25
11 p. m. " 25
12 noon " 25
1 p. m. " 25
2 p. m. " 25
3 p. m. " 25
4 p. m. " 25
5 p. m. " 25
6 p. m. " 25
7 p. m. " 25
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12 noon " 25