

erage charge at the harbor of New York is 3 cents. The lighterage privilege is controlled so closely by the same interests that control the railroads that the latter have never been able to be free from it. These allowances did not matter so much when grain rates were higher. Now that the export rate from the Missouri river is 23 cents it means something to take out of this rate almost 6 cents, leaving only 17 cents to be divided among the railroads for a 1,500 mile haul.

**TROUBLE FOR HOMESTEADERS**

**Government May Cancel Many Filings Made at Valentine.**

"The government land office at Valentine has been closed since the first part of December," said Attorney Andrew M. Morrissey at the Lindell. "The special agent who is in charge files the mail which comes in but no one can go into the office and make any filings. I suppose there will be 'something doing' when the new officials come in. Undoubtedly, a number of homestead entries will be cancelled at that time. I believe there will be a large influx of homeseekers as soon as the office gets organized. Many inquiries reach our office.

"Receiver Pettijohn and County Attorney Tucker were the only men arrested in our county. The three squads of government surveyors who were at work in the county have sold their outfits and scattered. They did not survey more than a third of the county. I understand that a number of secret service men are still at work ferreting out alleged illegal entries."

Mr. Morrissey states that Cherry county raised a rousing grain crop last year on land adapted to it.

"The table land north of Valentine produced thousands of bushels of corn last year. Men who bought quarters at \$300 a year ago are now refusing to sell at \$1,000. I know of many men who paid for their land with the first crop and made a living besides. Alfalfa and brome grass, which has been planted on land which drains well, has shown great adaptability. I had a few acres of alfalfa on my ranch near Crookston from which my man cut three rousing crops and could have had another. Another strip of alfalfa was planted on ground which overflowed and it did not do well. We had more water in Cherry county last summer than ever before."

**REST FOR THE WEARY EDITORS**

**Will Hold Annual Meeting in Lincoln on February 27 and 28.**

The thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Nebraska Press Association will be held in Lincoln February 27 and 28. The meeting promises to be the largest in the history of the association, and a program of unusual interest has been arranged. Chief among the numbers on the program will be a discussion of the "Railroad Advertising" question, the business office view to be presented by J. C. Seacrest of the Nebraska State Journal, and the editorial room view to be presented by R. L. Metcalfe of the Commoner. The general discussion promises to be unusually spicy. Hon. Lafe Young, editor of the Des Moines Daily Capital, will deliver an address on "Newspapers of the Orient," and this feature will be well worth all the trouble entailed upon the members attending.

The local newspaper fraternity has arranged a series of social events that will make the meeting one long to be remembered. John T. McCutcheon, the celebrated cartoonist of the Chicago Tribune, will deliver an illustrated lecture, and the visiting newspaper men and their wives will be the guests of the local men on this occasion. A visit to the State Farm is also on the list, and a theatre party will be arranged if possible. The Lindell hotel has been selected as headquarters, and unusually low rates have been offered by that and other hotels in the city. The attendance promises to exceed 300.

**IT IS LORD OF THE SEA**

**DREADNOUGHT, GREATEST OF WARSHIPS, IS LAUNCHED.**

**Bears the Heaviest Armor Ever Placed On a Vessel, Is Impervious to Torpedoes and Throws a Projectile Twenty-five Miles.**

The monster battleship Dreadnought, which when finished will have cost seven and one-half million dollars, was launched by King Edward.

The ceremony was the most simple possible, the king having vetoed all decorations and pageantry on account of the death of his father-in-law, King Christian. There was a moment of suspense after the king touched the electric button, removing the last block, as the huge ship hesitated and appeared reluctant to take the water. But, ultimately, she glided down the ways in safety.

Among the occupants of the royal stand were the American naval attache, Lieutenant Commander John H. Gibbons, and the other attaches, the admiralty officials and a few privileged persons.

**Most Formidable Boat**

The launching of the Dreadnought, the largest and most powerful battleship of the world's navies, marks the first stage in what the British admiralty claim as the greatest achievement in naval construction. On October 2, 1905, only a few days over four months ago, work was commenced at Portsmouth on the vessel, the first of what is to be known as the Dreadnought class. The promise was made then that she would be launched within six months. The admiralty has more than made good their boast and Britishers have another cause for pride in their navy.

Another twelve months, all going well, the Dreadnought will be commissioned and join the Atlantic fleet, thus beating all previous records in battleships building by six months.

**Reasons for Speed**

There are two reasons why work is being rushed on the Dreadnought. One is the great saving in cost, but the chief reason is that the ship is to some extent an experiment and it is desired to give her a good trial before commencing construction on any more of her class.

Great Britain, it will be remembered was the only power having attaches or observers on Japanese ships during the Russo-Japanese war, while expert British constructors were given every opportunity of learning wherein the ships of Japan proved weak or strong as the case might be.

These men were busy from start to finish of the war and immediately after the battle of the Sea of Japan came home with their data, which was submitted, with suggestions, to a special committee on which sat not only the most experienced naval experts but the director of naval construction, Lord Kelvin, and a number of the leading private ship builders.

**Ship Is Invincible**

The Dreadnought is the outcome of their deliberations, an embodiment of the lessons of the late war in the east, a ship apparently invincible, capable at one discharge of her guns of throwing with unparalleled force twice as much metal as any foreign man-of-war now afloat, while her armor will render her immune from attacks by any enemy's guns, and, some claim, even against torpedoes fired at the usual battle range. The details of the Dreadnought's construction remain a secret, so well has the admiralty guarded the plans.

Efforts of naval attaches to gather information for their governments

have been fruitless. No information is forthcoming, the answer to all inquiries being the candid one that Great Britain intends to maintain secrecy as to what her experts learned as a result of Japan's experiences for one year and by rushing to completion the Dreadnought will gain a year if not more in naval construction over all other powers except her ally.

**Not a Word of Information**

Usually when ships are building a board is placed at the head of the ship giving her name, displacement, principal dimensions, horsepower and speed. In the case of the Dreadnought not an item in the design is revealed, the board containing the simple sentence "His Majesty's Ship Dreadnought, commenced October 2, 1905." When ready for sea the ship will displace 18,500 tons, but this is the least remarkable thing about her, for besides the ideas introduced as a result of the far eastern war, Britain is placing on her new fighting machine the heaviest armament ever carried by a ship.

In the past British vessels have carried four 12-inch guns throwing 850 pound shells; the Dreadnought will have ten of these weapons of a new type with a muzzle energy of 49,568, as compared with the 33,622 of the guns carried in as recent battleships as the Majestic class, an increase in power of 50 per cent.

**Will Shoot Twenty-five Miles**

In a great sea fight the Dreadnought will be able to discharge every minute ten projectiles weighing altogether 8,500 pounds with sufficient velocity to send them twenty-five miles or to penetrate about sixteen inches of the hardest armor at a range of about two miles.

Unlike all British and foreign battleships built in the past thirty years the new addition to the fleet will carry no weapon smaller than the great 12-inch piece except eighteen 2-inch quickfirers for repelling attacks by torpedo craft. She will mount neither 9.2-inch, 7.5-inch nor 6-inch guns, she will be the biggest warship afloat and she will have only the biggest and most powerful guns.

**NO PUNCH BOWL FOR MISS ALICE**

**Temperance People Create Uproar and Ohio Decides on Loving Cup**

Columbus, O., Feb. 10.—The various societies representing the Women's Christian Temperance union in Columbus are up in arms at the announcement that the Ohio delegation in congress decided to give Alice Roosevelt a punch bowl as a wedding gift and their indignation is not abated at the later announcement that the delegation had decided to present her with a loving cup which many of the W. C. T. U. women take to be practically a punch bowl. At the meeting of the Memorial union of the W. C. T. U. yesterday at Miss Moore's it was decided to send a letter to Congressman Webber thanking him for his stand against the punch bowl and also to pray that the delegation shall not present the gift of a punch bowl.

**This May Bar Mortensen**

Some of the onhangers around the state house say they have found a constitutional bar that will cause the boom of State Treasurer Mortensen for governor to die aborning, because of a provision of that document that no executive officer shall be eligible to hold another state office during the time for which he has been elected. Mr. Mortensen's term as treasurer will not expire until next January, whereas the election comes in November, and the supreme court has held in several cases that qualifications to eligibility to office must date back to the date of the election, rather than the date of entering upon the office. This point, if well taken, would also rule out the gubernatorial ambitions of Lieutenant Governor McGilton, who in this respect is in the same boat with Mortensen.

**BEATRICE MEN BEGIN BORING**

**Commercial Club Committee Will Raise \$10,000 for Oil Prospecting**

Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 12.—The consideration of the oil prospecting has finally taken definite form. The committee to do the soliciting has been named and the \$10,000 to begin with will be secured at once. The committee as named by President Johnson of the Commercial club consists of C. C. Knapp, F. E. Morrison, H. L. Harper, J. E. Smith, H. A. Thompson, W. J. Pease, J. E. Lang, J. H. Jenner and Gerhardt Wiebe. They are all well known business men and from the expression of those who attended the numerous meetings, there should be no difficulty in raising the money. When this is done, a contract will be made with a well maker, who will sink the hole 3,000 feet more or less under the direction of the committee.

**HOW ENGLAND SMASHES TRUSTS**

**Tobacco Combine Which Thrives Here is Foiled There**

That trusts cannot find lodgment in England where they have no tariff protection and the laws are not made in their interest as they are here, is shown by the disaster that has overtaken the tobacco trust in that country. "American trusts of every description," says a dispatch from London, "have just received a severe blow in England. The decision given in the court of appeal in the litigation brought against Ogden's Limited, the great tobacco firm, by retail tobacconists, will have a far-reaching influence on every American industry which attempts to establish a monopoly in England.

"Retail tobacconists are jubilating over their really great victory. They will be able to compel the trust started in England by Mr. Duke to disgorge the best part of \$7,500,000, and besides this the trust will have to pay an additional \$3,500,000—making the colossal total of \$11,000,000.

"The legal fight has been one of the most gigantic battles of the law courts, though the proceedings have as yet attracted little public attention. The next step in the litigation, however—when the assessing of damages goes before a British jury—will undoubtedly be the one topic of conversation among smokers all over the world."

**Farmers' Institute Closes.**

Franklin, Neb., Feb. 10.—The Farmers institute closed a successful two days' session here Friday evening. Messrs. Barnard McKee and Loenard were the principal speakers. An interesting discussion was given by the farmers. C. Hildreth was re-elected president; H. V. Cyr, secretary. Dinner was served by the ladies in the new Conkling hall and about 250 were present at the afternoon meeting. The Academy Glee club furnished music for the program.

Postmaster W. H. Austin was in Lincoln this week.

F. W. Barber is in Lincoln and Omaha this week.

Several of the new residences are nearing completion and will be occupied by some of the retiring farmers of this vicinity.

George Brown has begun the erection of a new residence.

T. M. Cameron purchased a new automobile this week, making two new machines for this vicinity this winter. A. S. Merrifield of Grand Island college was in the city this week.

The Girls' Glee club of the academy school of music sang in Bladen, Neb., last evening.

A surprise was given by the ladies of the Congregational church for Principal A. C. Hart of the academy in celebration of his sixtieth birthday.