

## TO BUILD ELECTRIC ROAD

Route Proposed is From Red Willow to Hayes Center, in Western Nebraska, a Distance of 50 Miles

McCook, Neb.—There is a movement on foot to build an electric railroad from Red Willow station, on the Burlington, up the Red Willow Creek valley, past Box Elder and Osborne to Hayes Center, the county seat of Hayes county, a distance of about fifty miles. Interested parties who have gone over the proposed route with an engineer, to find out the best place to locate the roadbed, report that the route is entirely feasible. Behind the enterprise, besides the business men of Hayes Center, are John F. Helm, Stephen Bolls, James Doyle, David Osborne, Joseph Allen and Judge Robert C. Orr, all wealthy ranchmen, residing along the proposed route who are amply able to build such a road. There is to be an early meeting of the interested parties and a company incorporated.

### COAL DISCOVERERS DISPUTE

Owner of Land and Successful Prospector Each Claim \$5,000 Reward Offered by State for Find.

Some question has been raised as to who will get the \$5,000 offered by the state to the person discovering a vein of coal 36 inches thick. The coal has been discovered near Peru, and a lump of it is now on exhibition in the office of the governor. The reward was offered in 1903 by the legislature and the appropriation has lapsed, but the law still remains on the statute books and it is said it will be the duty of the governor to order the auditor to draw the warrant. It may be, thought, that the warrant cannot be cashed until the next legislature makes another appropriation.

The coal was discovered by F. M. Medley on the farm of A. M. Vorst. Medley leased the land to prospect for coal, and in addition he has secured an indefinite lease on many other acres adjoining.

He agreed to pay Vorst 50 cents a ton royalty on all the coal mined. Now that the coal has been discovered, however, it is said Vorst claims the mine because it is on his ground, and therefore he wants the \$5,000 reward.

It was reported that Vorst had offered to give Medley a certain per cent of the reward, but Medley believes he is entitled to all of it and there will likely be a hot fight for the money. Medley, it is said, has put in much labor in prospecting for the coal and is a poor man. It is understood now, however, he will have no trouble in getting good backing to work the mine. As he has a lease on the property, it is said Vorst will have a hard time getting the reward or in stopping work at the mine.

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### TRAVELING MAN SUICIDES

Otto F. Tappert of Norfolk Takes Carbolic Acid in Elks' Club Room.

Norfolk, Neb.—Selecting the room where he had enjoyed the most of his fun-making and joking during life as the place of his death Otto F. Tappert, for thirty-five years a commercial traveler for the Standard Oil company and the oldest traveling man in northern Nebraska territory, went into the paraphernalia room at the Elks club in this city, of which lodge he had been tyler since its organization here six years ago, and committed suicide. The cause was supposed to have been despondency. He leaves a wife and four children. Mr. Tappert

was one of Norfolk's most prominent citizens.

Mr. Tappert had never missed a meeting of the Elks lodge but once in his life and that was when he was snowbound out in western Nebraska one night. He telephoned in to ask that he be recorded as “present.” As tyler of the lodge he had charge of the paraphernalia of the organization and he took personal pride in conducting the initiations. By accident the porter unlocked the door of the paraphernalia room and found Mr. Tappert's body.

He was under supervision of the Sioux City office, but formerly under the Omaha office of the Standard Oil company. Within a couple of years

he would have been pensioned by the company.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict of death by carbolic acid, self-administered.

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