

THIS IN NEBRASKA

EVENTS OF INTEREST OF MORE OR LESS IMPORTANCE.

Money Nebraska Has Invested in Lincoln Interest Bearing Securities and Which Belongs to the Schools.

School Funds.
LINCOLN—The state of Nebraska has \$7,458,716.57 of trust funds invested in interest bearing securities. The biennial report of Auditor Searle shows the funds to be invested as follows:

Permanent school \$6,787,345.89
Permanent university 166,000.00
Agricultural college endow-
ment 433,471.31
Normal endowment 71,941.46

Total \$7,458,716.57
The permanent school fund investment includes \$1,584,835.69 of state general fund warrants. The total amount of these four funds invested in general fund state warrants is \$1,761,317.65. As the total outstanding indebtedness of the state consists of \$1,918,671.31 in the form of state warrants, it is shown that the state is the owner of 92 per cent of its debt. Some of these warrants will soon be purchased by the state and it is estimated that all but 5 per cent of the outstanding warrants are held by the state as an "investment." The state is thus placed in the attitude of paying interest to itself on its own debt. The only advantage gained by owning the outstanding warrants is that the interest goes to the support of the public schools, being apportioned semi-annually to the various counties and then to the school districts.

Bogus Check for Good Lot.
FREMONT — Jens C. Johnson, an old man of Danish extraction, sold a house and lot south of the tracks to a man giving his name as Sam Tommes and received in payment a check on the Fremont National bank, which proved to be worthless. After receiving his deed and on the same day he went to the Security Savings bank, which occupies the same rooms as the Fremont National bank, and borrowed of them \$300, giving a mortgage on the lot as security. Johnson went to the bank to deposit the check and learned he had been swindled. Tommes has not been seen since.

Nebraskan for Richards' Place.
NIOBRARA — Friends of Nelson Switzer forwarded strong endorsements to the Nebraska delegation at Washington asking that he be appointed commissioner of the general land office. Mr. Switzer has for years been employed by the general-land office in adjusting government surveys, and is said to understand thoroughly the many intricate questions in field work. His friends claim that his land office record is the very highest. The endorsements compose leading men in the state, and the entire congressional delegation.

Cuts 17 Cents a Day.
LINCOLN—The crippled waifs at the orthopedic hospital have been maintained at a per capita cost of less than 17 cents a day. This is shown by Mrs. Johnson's biennial report. She is superintendent of the home of the friendless, and has supervision over the orthopedic hospital. She expended \$26.50, according to her report, for a brass bedstead for her room, and the table of the superintendent is separate from that of the patients or other employees. There will be a deficiency for the legislature to meet.

Frowns on Tobacco Users.
LINCOLN—The chewing of tobacco must cease at the state university. Dean Pound of the law school posted a letter from Chancellor Andrews ordering the expulsion of students who chew. Dean Pound announced that the rule would be rigidly enforced. More than a year ago smoking was tabooed on the campus. Now the smokers adjourn to a place south of Eleventh street. It is expected that the chewers will join them.

After the Speakership.
LINCOLN—Representative Dodge of Douglas county today engaged quarters at the Lindell hotel for his campaign for speaker of the house of representatives. Representative McMullen of Gage county also engaged quarters for the same purpose at the same hotel.

Gift from Ex-Senator Dietrich.
HASTINGS—Former Senator Dietrich has ordered the apparatus for a gymnasium paraphernalia for the new Young Men's Christian association building. The gift is much appreciated.

Money for Third Nebraska.
Two drafts aggregating \$28,240.96 have been received by Governor Mickey from the national government. These have been awarded for pay due the members of the Third Nebraska regiment for time which was spent between their enlistments and their mustering into service of the national government.

The Scavenger Act.
The supreme court must decide whether or not the "scavenger act" is unconstitutional. The law is attacked by the attorneys for Mary A. Trainor and her brothers and sisters of Box Butte county, who claim that the state is trying to deprive them of their title and vested right in a certain quarter section of land without due process of law. The plaintiffs, who are heirs of William H. Trainor, are trying to get back a deed to property sold for taxes to the Maverick Loan and Trust company of Alliance.

NEBRASKA BRIEFS.

Mrs. Lillie is seeking a parol from Gov. Mickey.

In the revival at Fremont there were 550 conversions.

Several new cases of diphtheria are reported at Clearwater.

The district court of Cuming county will convene January 7th.

Postmaster McNally of Edgar has resigned and will remove to Iowa.

Work is to be started at once on the new Catholic parsonage in Beatrice.

Sioux City, Ia., and Dakota City, Neb., are to be connected by Interurban.

Bogus ten dollar bills were passed in Fremont and a half dozen or more merchants are losers on account of them.

John Close of Columbus charged by Josie Sturek with being father of her child, has been bound over to the district court.

George Meyer of Platte county was injured in a runaway accident, and his leg has been amputated to prevent blood poisoning.

Measures are being taken to organize an anti-tobacco league among the young men who are students in the normal at Peru.

Nebraska has no outstanding bonds and has \$2,022,881 invested in the bonds of other states and \$3,616,747 in bonds of Nebraska counties.

The new state bank at Rosalie, a new town on the Great Northern extension, located a few miles from Bancroft, opened for business last week.

A man was found a mile from Greenwood, lying in the road with his throat cut. He was taken to a city hospital and it is thought he will recover.

Andrew Arnold of Red Cloud was so badly injured by the horse on which he was riding falling with him that very small hopes are entertained for his recovery.

Columbus is jubilant over the expectation of a \$46,000 appropriation for the new public building. Sealed offers have been put in by a number of people who have sites to sell.

Thieves entered the Burlington tool house in Wymore and stole a wagon load of valuable tools. Bloodhounds were put upon the trail, which was lost before proceeding very far.

E. J. King, sentenced to the penitentiary for two years and six months for burglary from Douglas county, was discharged by the governor, who commuted his sentence to a term something over nine months.

The Board of Supervisors of Butler county has employed John Streeter as superintendent of the county poor farm for another year at a salary of \$300. He has held that position for several years and has made a good superintendent.

Jay O'Hearn, an Omaha boy murderer under sentence of death sentenced for the killing of Nels Lausten, a saloon-keeper, has filed a brief in support of his petition in error in the supreme court. The brief is filed by Attorney James P. English.

The semi-annual school apportionment which has been made by the state treasurer gives Antelope county \$3,176.32. The amount will be at once apportioned to the different school districts by Superintendent Ward and the directors notified.

The Nemaha county fair grounds, located at Salem, were sold at sheriff's sale in Falls City, to satisfy a mortgage held by the Salem Interstate Chautauque association. The property was purchased by the Richardson County Fair association.

A conference is now on whereby eastern capital figures to install an electric light and power plant in Alliance. In case proper arrangements can be made. The town for some time has been considering the feasibility of establishing such a plant.

A check for \$24,955.84 was received by County Treasurer Troupe of Buffalo county from the Union Pacific Railroad company in payment of a part of the taxes of the company for the year 1906. The total amount of the tax is \$37,112.25, leaving a balance of \$12,156.54 unpaid.

A campaign has been instituted to do away with the orthopedic hospital at Lincoln, and to distribute the crippled children among the general hospitals of the state, using them for clinical demonstrations and keeping them at the expense of the state. This movement meets with strong disapproval on the part of most physicians.

Governor Mickey has informed Dr. F. M. Sisson of the Omaha child saving society that he will not commute the death sentence of Jay O'Hearn of Douglas county, to life imprisonment. Dr. Sisson visited the governor to intercede for the young prisoner. Mrs. O'Hearn visited her son at the prison and an affectionate interview followed.

State Oil Inspector Ed. A. Church broke the monthly record for the year during the month of November by turning into the state treasury a balance of \$1,434.67, as the surplus of receipts over expenditures. He received \$2,530.40, and expended \$1,095, including salaries for himself and office force and deputy inspectors and supplies for the office.

He is a candidate for commandant of the soldiers' home. He is one of the oldest residents of the southeastern part of the state and is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Steady improvement in efficiency of marksmanship in the Nebraska National guard is shown in the annual report of Lieutenant E. H. Mulleney, inspector of small arms practice. The percentage of the first regiment came up from 12.89 to 22.8 per cent; that of the Second regiment from 7.32 to 19.87 per cent.



One of the unique features of the coming Jamestown exposition will be the display of the great Dismal Swamp to visitors. The management of the exposition is planning for a water service which will enable those who wish to do so to penetrate the 1,000 square miles of wild scenery comprised within this almost worthless section of Virginia and North Carolina. And in preparing for this feature of the exposition, the management declares that the word dismal is a misnomer.

Everybody, of course, at one time or another has heard of the Dismal Swamp. Over 100 years ago Thomas Moore, the Irish poet, made a wonderful ballad about it, immortalizing a lady in a white canoe, the opaqueness of the mystery of the swamp, the unending search there of an unhappy lover. Moore's poem was full of weird beauty; perhaps to it are traceable many of the customary impressions of the country. Moore sang:

"Away to the Dismal Swamp he speeds:
His path was rugged and sore,
Through the tangled juniper, beds of
reeds,
And many a fen where the serpent feeds,
And man never trod before.

"But off from the Indian hunter's camp
This maid and her lover so true,
Are seen at the hour of midnight damp,
To cross the lake by a fiery lamp
And paddle their white canoe."

During the ante-bellum days, the Dismal Swamp used to be the hiding



Sportsmen Penetrate the Swamp's Depths.

place for runaway slaves. Hither they made with common purpose; everywhere in the south, among the blacks, the Dismal Swamp came to be known as a place of refuge for renegades from the plantations and Simon Legrees.

But the tragic element of the whole fugitive situation was not the swamp with the repellent and malignant name, but the paths leading thither, the long routes across the southland slavery states. So the possibility of a runaway negro from Louisiana reaching the swamp was always remote enough, yet if he were successful in making that region, the swamp was very truly a heaven to him. In it were always plenty of game and security.

There, said the ante and post bellum legends, were whole tribes of negroes, strange black tribes wherein a descendant of African kings might again be the ruler of his kind and of blacks from every corner of Africa, wherein a descendant of a plain subject or slave of kings was very likely the ruler of all he surveyed.

Here, at all events, the negro soon relapsed into a primitive state, that is, lived a lazy, semi-savage life, hunted, fished and slept, fought when elemental passions aroused themselves, committed occasional depredations on the border settlements, and acknowledged allegiance to the strongest individual. Few negroes voluntarily left the swamp for civilization.

Necessarily the word "dismal" had tremendous power of suggestion for all manner of weird tales and delusions. For years the region was commonly looked upon as a place of dread and malignity, an unfertile, unhealthy and unprofitable section of the map. Of other value, practical or aesthetical, or both, to men of past generations the Dismal Swamp had little or nothing at all.

However, that far-seeing personage, George Washington, ventured to have some respect for those 1,000 square miles of the new country. As early as 1763, Washington surveyed the swamp; subsequently he formed the

GOOD TIDINGS

OUR CHRISTMAS BIBLE STORY

By the "Highway and Byway" Preacher

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Scripture Authority:—Luke 2:8-20; especially 17 and 18, and John 9:1-25.

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SERMONETTE.

The good tidings proclaimed on that first Christmas day, by the shepherds who heard the Heavenly message of a Saviour born, who made haste to find Jesus, and who then went and told what they had seen and heard, has gathered force and meaning with the centuries which have rolled by since then until now all the world echoes with the message of the shepherds. We say all the world, for while the kingdoms of the world and the peoples thereof have not yet become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ, there are those to-day in almost every clime and nation whose hearts respond to the good tidings of a Saviour born. But however slight the world's appreciation of God's great gift is, certain it is that there has come to be universal recognition of the day which commemorates the birthday of God's son. Multitudes upon multitudes of people who share in the Christmas cheer, know nothing of the real Christmas blessing. Popular custom has given them a Christmas holiday, without bringing to their hearts a realization of the meaning of the good tidings of great joy from Heaven. They have the Christ day without having the Christ. This is the one discordant note in the Christmas song, the one dark shadow that shuts out the glory of God.

What thing more needful than that those who have heard the good tidings and have found the Saviour should, like the shepherds of old "glorify and praise God for all the things they have seen and heard," and should "make known abroad" the message concerning the Christ?

The first Christmas day was a day of good tidings, let every Christmas day be so characterized. To this end we need the inspiration of the angel's message and the song of the celestial choir. When and where may we hear God speak and catch the harmony of the Heavens-born music? In the quiet hour apart, in the secret chamber, where the world is shut out and the soul is sensitive to the Divine influence. It is then that God's messenger, the Holy Spirit, comes with some new word of revelation and the Saviour is born anew in larger, fuller meaning to the soul.

And with the new vision comes a fresh note of joy which rises and mingles with the Heavenly music. Such blessed experience, which may be the privilege of every child of God, brings the heart into personal touch with the Christ, and sends him forth with a full glad message.

The shepherds made known abroad concerning those things which they had heard and seen. It is the seen and the heard testimony which is needed. The disciple must needs hear God speak, must needs look upon the Christ and feel the inspiration of his presence. Good tidings, the Christmas message. Good tidings, indeed, if the soul shall realize that God has given it a Saviour. Good tidings, indeed, for all the world, because good tidings which were told forth on that first Christmas day.

THE STORY.

A GREAT sorrow had come into that humble Judean home. The baby was blind. The coming of the first born son had been the occasion of great rejoicing in the household, in which neighbors and relatives had joined, for no event in the Jewish home was of greater importance than the coming of the first baby, and the hope of every Jewish mother was that it might be a boy. And when such it was, the devout heart of the mother dreamed fondly of his future. And so with the coming of this beautiful baby boy, Jose and his young wife Ruth, found a new hope and inspiration for the years to come.

But as the weeks passed and those great dark eyes should have taken note of the things about, the parents suddenly realized the awful truth that their boy was blind.

Because of this the hearts of the parents were filled with bitterness, yea almost rebellion against God, and they searched their hearts to find answer to the question, "Why had the affliction come?"

Such was their state of mind when on the last Sabbath day they had gone to the synagogue as was their custom, for they were a devout couple, and had heard the Rabbi read from one of the prophets of the promised

Messiah, who was to heal the broken-hearted, to give deliverance to the captives, the recovering of sight to the blind. The words seemed to come to their hearts like a refreshing draught to a parched soul. They heard nothing more of the reading, and in their preoccupation of mind passed out of the synagogue without scarcely a greeting to their neighbors and friends.

But when at home, they had spoken together of the work of the prophet, and, as they bent over the rude cradle of their boy and looked into his sightless eyes that were turned to theirs with such pathetic appeal as though he would say: "I hear your loving, tender words, but I cannot see you," they sighed and cried out in the yearning of their hearts:

"Oh that the Promised One would come and give sight to our boy."

And during the days which followed they had found the growing hope within their breasts that there was yet help for their boy and that when God sent his deliverer to Israel it would be all right.

"But when will he come?" impatiently cried the mother, one day as Jose was starting off to his work.

The good man shook his head and then with an effort to be cheerful and force a smile, he said:

"But he will come. Hark! what is that? he exclaimed, as the sound of music and the chanting of a Psalm of praise floated in to them from the street. And they both hurried to the doorway just in time to see a group of shepherds passing, while in their train was a crowd of curious, wondering villagers, listening to their shouts of praise, and to the strange words they were speaking.

"Messias has come! Messias has come!" they heard the shepherds shout. And as the crowd pressed close around them and half in wondering amazement and half in ridicule, asked them what kind of wine they had been drinking, they stopped and shouted:

"Nay we are not drunk, as ye may suppose, but God has given us a vision of angels who told us that Messias has come."

Jose and his wife Ruth had been eager listeners to all that had transpired, and now eagerly pressed forward, demanding almost fiercely:

"Where is he? Where is he?"

"In Bethlehem, whither we went last night, as the angels bade us, and we found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

"A babe?" questioned Ruth, the hope that had bounded upward dying within her heart. "What can a babe do?"

"But he is Messias, for the angel declared that unto us was born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And we have seen and worshipped him."

"The word of the prophet," repeated Ruth over and over again to herself as she returned to her humble little dwelling, while her husband continued on his way to his work and the shepherds passed through the village shouting their psalm of praise and glorifying God for His great gift. "And it was the word of the prophet which said he should give sight to the blind. Some day perhaps he will come and touch thine eyes," she concluded, as she leaned over her baby's crib. She lifted him to her arms and then sat and let the glimmering hope comfort her heart.

Thirty years have passed since the beginning of our story. The little blind baby has grown to manhood, while the parents have hoped on and on for the deliverance which has not come. What place for the blind save by the roadside, or near the temple at Jerusalem, where they might receive the alms of the people.

But one day rumor came to the blind man of a prophet which had come to Israel and was doing wonderful things in Galilee. Instantly his thought reverted to the words of his parents years before and when his father came that night to lead him home, he eagerly told him what he had heard.

"Is not this the one of whom the shepherds spoke so many years ago?" he asked.

As they talked together concerning the matter, the purpose grew within him to go and find this new teacher. Perhaps he would help him. After much persuasion he won the consent of his parents to take him to Galilee. But when they had come thither they found that he had departed, and they set out to follow. Thus began a search which dragged its weary, disappointing length through the remainder of that year, on through the next and on well into the third. Oh, those weary journeys, those rising hopes as they neared the place where it was said they would find him, and the bitter disappointment as they slowly gained the point only to find that he had passed on to another part of the country. And so it had continued and Jose and Ruth had at last persuaded their son that it was useless, and they had returned to Jerusalem, and he had again taken up his accustomed place among the mendicants near the temple asking alms.

And one day as he sat there disheartened and sad, he heard the crowd passing and caught the words: "I am the light of the world." His heart leaped within him. With a bound he rose to his feet and went towards the voice. He felt the gentle pressure of hands upon his sightless eyes, and heard the words, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam," and he knew that at last he had met his deliverer. And he went and washed and came seeing, and when they had cast him out of the synagogue because he testified of Jesus and what he had done for him, he followed him, bearing with a glad heart the good tidings of a Saviour found.