

OUR LINCOLN LETTER

Gossip from the State Capital, Legislative and Otherwise

The proposed reform legislation of the present session of the Nebraska legislature was inaugurated in the senate, when both Senators Root of Plattsburgh and Aldrich of Butler county introduced lengthy bills giving the newly created state railway commission full and complete powers over the railroads of the state. Both bills have some different and distinctive features, yet the general effect is to give the state railway commission the same power over the state railroads as the interstate commerce

Senator King has introduced a bill to change the law of the succession of estates, a bill that many club women of the state have advocated. The provisions relating to descent of real property where husband or wife survive are that one-fourth part shall go to the husband or wife if the survivor is not the parent of all the children of the deceased and there are one or more children, or the issue of one or more deceased children, surviving; second, one-third part to the husband or wife if the survivor is the parent of all the children of the deceased and there be two or more children, or one child and the issue of one or more deceased children, surviving; third, one-half to the husband or wife if the survivor is the parent of all of the children of the deceased and there be only one child, or the issue of a deceased child, surviving; fourth, two-thirds to the husband or wife if there be no child nor the issue of any deceased child or children, surviving.

A bill by Senator Root defines the qualifications of railroad commissioners, providing that each shall receive an annual salary of \$2,500, and the commission may appoint a secretary at a salary of \$1,800, and may appoint not more than two clerks at a salary not to exceed \$1,200 per annum each, and such other persons or experts as may be required of them in the administration of the law. No one shall be qualified to hold the office of railroad commissioner unless he shall be a resident of this state, nor unless he shall be at least 30 years of age; nor shall any person be qualified to hold the office if he is directly or indirectly interested in any railroad in this state or out of it, or in any stock, bond, mortgage, security or earnings of any such road, or any telephone, express or telegraph company.

There having been some question as to how the legislature should buy supplies, the chairman of the board of public lands and buildings was instructed to notify the legislature that the law, as interpreted by the board is that all such supplies shall be bought through the board, and that the board is ready to furnish anything that the legislature desires in the way of legislative supplies. The chairman and the secretary of the board will look after the work of purchasing.

Affairs of the state university are likely to come in for considerable attention. There is some talk for abolition of the 1-mill levy, giving the university in its place a specific appropriation. Under the present plan of giving a 1-mill levy there is no way the exact amount of money the university fund will receive can be determined, and for that reason some of the members think it would be better for the regents to ask for a specific appropriation.

The liberality with which Governor Mickey exercised the pardoning power has given rise to a bill for a state board of pardons, introduced in the house by Mr. Jennison. His measure provides for the appointment by the supreme court of this board, to consist of three members, who will merely have the right to suspend sentence until the next session of the legislature, when it shall decide whether a pardon shall be granted.

The senate chairmanship of the railroad committee, about which there had been some contention, was given to A. Wilsey of Frontier county. It was he who introduced in the senate the resolution providing for the arrest and exclusion of "lobbyists" found in that part of the state house under the jurisdiction of the senate and for the punishment of employees who act as lobbyists.

Supporters of the bulk sales bill are active in its behalf. It has the endorsement of the wholesale dealers of the state, and provides that before a merchant shall sell his stock in bulk he must notify his creditors of his intentions. The bill that was killed provided he must file with the county clerk of his county his intentions to sell five days before the deal was closed.

Both houses will attempt to take a shot at the Christian Science method of treating disease, bills having been introduced in line with the ideas which the state medical society has on the question. These bills provide that Christian Science healers must subject themselves to an examination by the state board of health.

Speaker Nettleton in the presence of witnesses had a railroad pass mailed to an office of the St. Joe & Grand Island railroad, a line which runs through his home county. The pass was sent to him and he now returns it to the person who gave the same.

The most important chairmanships in the house are distributed as follows: Judiciary, E. P. Brown of Lancaster; finance, ways and means, Kiefer of Nuckolls; railroads, Harrison of Otoe; cities and towns, Knowles of Dodge; university and normal schools, McMullen of Gage; revenue and taxation, Dodge of Douglas; claims, Armstrong of Nemaha; labor, Leader of Douglas; constitutional amendments, Tucker of Douglas; internal improvements, Lee of Douglas; Agriculture, Walsh of Douglas.



NORRIS BROWN, Endorsed by Republican State Convention for United States Senator.

commission has over interstate traffic. Senator Root's bill gives the commission not only full power over the railroad companies, both as to passenger and freight traffic, but also, as was suggested in Governor Sheldon's message, over the telephone and telegraph companies as well. Railroads shall have ten days' notice of proposed change in rate and after that a hearing.

Following shows the make-up of the senate and house by occupation: Lawyers, 10; bankers, 4; contractors, 1; real estate dealers, 2; physicians, 3; farmers, 7; ranchers, 3; grain dealers, 1; horsemen, 1; druggists, 1; implement dealers, 1; school superintendent, 1. Gould is a banker, grain dealer and rancher combined in one. House—Lawyers, 9; farmers, 43; real estate dealers, 3; merchants, 3; laborers, 1; publishers, 1; bankers, 6; grain dealers, 2; dentists, 1; ranchers, 1; physicians, 5; druggists, 1; creamery men, 1; millers, 2; firemen, 1; livery men, 1; insurance, 1; registrar at Peru normal school, 1; hotel keeper, 1.

The child labor bill, if enacted, will practically prohibit labor by children under 14 years of age. It prohibits the employment of children under this age by theaters, concert halls, places of amusement or where liquor is sold or in any mercantile institution, store, office, hotel, laundry, manufacturing establishment, bowling alley, passenger or freight elevator, workshop or as messenger or driver in any business or service during school hours.

This resolution was introduced by Harnon of Otoe: That the attorney general be and he is hereby instructed to begin and prosecute an action of quo warranto in the supreme court of this state to test and determine the validity of the constitutional amendment recently adopted pertaining to the state railway commission, and that he make application to the supreme court to have said cause advanced for hearing, to the end that the question involved may be speedily determined.

What is considered an important measure is the primary bill introduced by Dodge of Douglas. It is the same as that introduced two years ago and later amended to apply to Douglas county alone and became what was known as the Dodge primary law. The bill contains the original provisions for a state wide direct primary and goes away with conventions of every sort, save when new parties are formed or when special elections are held. It also provides for the registration of voters.

Two measures designed to regulate the powers and duties of the railroad commission in its regulation of common carriers were introduced in the senate. If either bill passes and becomes a law it will be necessary for the three railroad commissioners to again take the oath of office, thus doing away with any question as to the right of Robert Cowell of Omaha to a place on the commission.

A correspondent, writing of Speaker Nettleton, says: "Born November 2, 1840, he attended school when he could and he studied at his home, gradually accumulating a library, until now it is said he has one of the finest private libraries in the entire state. He has made a special study of political questions and is well informed of the needs of Nebraska. He believes every dollar spent by the state should bring in a dollar's worth of goods and he believes every employe of the state should earn his salary. He believes a public office is a public trust."

RUSE OF THE GIBEONITES

A STORY OF THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

By the "Highway and Byway" Preacher

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Scripture Authority:—Joshua chapter 9.

SERMONETTE.

"And they asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord."—These words explain why Israel failed to keep herself free from unholy alliances, and it is the explanation of every misstep of the Christian to-day.

The world is able to bamboozle the children of God because they look on the evidence which the world submits, rather than looking to God who giveth wisdom to all men for the asking.

To Israel the case seemed so plain, I suppose, that it seemed positively silly to ask God about it. Like the little boy who prayed for the protection of God only at night, because during the day he could take care of himself, so the Israelites thought that in the present situation they needed naught but their own judgment in deciding their course of action.

And it was just when they felt the wisest and most able to take care of themselves that the enemy turned the trick upon them.

Life is full of mistakes and tragedies because everybody else and everything else is consulted rather than the source of all light and all wisdom.

But how is God to be consulted about everything?

By subordination of the personal inclination and the conscious recognition of a higher will and higher purpose than our own.

By diligent use of our God-given powers, while at the same time there is an appreciation of the limitations of human wisdom and judgment.

By the exercise of patience. Take time to decide a point at issue. A misstep is taken through haste which prevents a clear reading of the sign-post at the intersection of the ways.

By the spirit of prayer pervading the life. Pray without ceasing is the Scriptural admonition. How? Surely not staying on bended knee in the secret chamber and audible repetition of words and phrases. Surely not by going about with closed eyes and mind absorbed in spiritual contemplations. Surely not by any outward cloak of sanctimoniousness. No. What then? Prayer is communion with God. And that communion consists in the conscious and unconscious domination of God in the life. It marks the perpetual attitude of the soul, so, that whether immersed in business for the time being, or what not, God's spirit is operative in the life. This is prayer without ceasing.

THE STORY.

THERE seemed no way but for the Gibeonites to joint forces with the federated kings in the proposed war upon Joshua and the armies of Israel. Never before had the entire country between Jordan and the great sea been so aroused as at the present time. Tidings of the coming of the hosts of Israel had reached the land while yet the Israelites were in the wilderness far to the south and west, but since the miraculous crossing of the Jordan and the destruction of Jericho and Ai the vague fears which had filled the minds of the inhabitants had taken definite form in the desperate resolve to unite and give battle to Israel.

That very day a deputation from the kings of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and others of the lesser tribes of the country urged them to make alliance in the common cause against Israel.

"It is plain," the messengers said, "that these Hebrews seek war. They arrogate unto themselves great importance, and have openly declared contempt for our gods. They have destroyed Jericho and Ai with the inhabitants thereof, and they would do so to us. And because of this, oh, men of Gibeon, the kings of all the country to the north and south and along the coast of the great sea are raising a great army to give battle to Israel, and have sent us to urge that your fighting men join them in this war."

This speech of the messengers was received with evident favor by the chief men of Gibeon who had been called together in council, and they would at once have given assent to the plan, had not old Second-Thought, as he was called—because of his invariable habit of saying: "Don't be in haste! Think it over! Think it over!"—counseled delay!

"We will be better able to give answer in the morning, after we have considered well the matter," he urged, and to this the rest had finally reluctantly agreed, and later, when they had come together to talk the matter over, old Second-Thought said: "We all know the mighty things

which the people of Israel have done right before our eyes. Surely their God is a mighty God that he could make a pathway through the Jordan and lead his people dry shod right in our very midst. We have seen the smoke of Jericho and Ai ascending into heaven, and we know that the strong armies of those cities could not stand before Joshua and his men. Then why, should we hope to be more successful than they? And even though the armies of the allies should be victorious, our country would be devastated, for it is here that the battle would be waged. Let us make league with Israel and thus save our lives and our city.

"But," quickly interposed several voices, "have you not heard that Israel will make no league with any of the inhabitants of the land, saying that their God has forbidden it?"

"True," assented the old sage, unperturbed by the seemingly insurmountable difficulty, "but let us disguise ourselves and come to them as from a far country. We shall put old sacks upon our asses, and old shoes and old garments upon us, and we shall take old and rent wine bottles and dry and moldy bread, and we will come to them, and tell them that we have heard in the far country the fame of their God and how mightily he has wrought and we have come to pay homage to him and to worship him. Peradventure they will hear us and will make league with us."

This plan at once met the approval of the chief men of Gibeon, and the next morning when they had sent the messengers of the kings away they at once began preparations to carry out the plan.

And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal. Their arrival created no little stir, and quickly Joshua and the chief men assembled, and the strangers were admitted to their presence, and to the statement that they had come from a far country, Joshua made answer:

"Our God has commanded us saying that we should not make league with any of the inhabitants of the land. Peradventure ye dwell among us."

"Nay, but from a far country are thy servants come," they replied. "Because of the name of the Lord thy God are we come. We have heard the fame of him and all that he did in Egypt, and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Hesbon, and Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashteroth. Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants spake to us, saying: 'Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them: We are your servants. Therefore now make a league with us.'"

"Nay," interrupted Joshua, "but how do we know that ye have come from a far country?"

Dramatically they turned, and lifting the covers from their provision baskets, they said: "Behold the evidence of our long journey. See this our bread we took hot out of the ovens on the day we came forth to come hither, and behold now it is dry and moldy. See these bottles of wine! When they were filled as we started they were new, and behold, now they be rent. And behold our garments and our shoes, for they have become old and ragged by reason of the very long journey."

Such seemingly indisputable evidence quickly swept away all doubt from the minds of the men who stood with Joshua, and they persuaded him that it would be well at once to make league with these people.

Joshua therefore made peace with them, and made a league with them to let them live. And the men gathered with him, the princes of the congregation, ratified the league.

During all this time the people of Israel were talking one with another concerning the coming of these strangers, and as they saw them depart and learned that a league had been made with them, they selected some of their number to follow these men, a thing which had not occurred to Joshua or to the princes with him to do.

As a result on the third day when these men returned they reported that the strangers had dealt with them deceitfully and had not come from a far country, but were really their neighbors living only a short distance from Gilgal. And they were wroth with Joshua and the princes for making the league and were for going at once against the Gibeonites, for, said they: "There is rich spoil in their cities which should be ours." But Joshua and the princes because of their oath which had been given, would not permit them so to do, but made the Gibeonites servants, that they would work for them continually.

Makes Great Gains.

Cheering news comes to hand of the progress in Japan. Bishop Harris, who has charge of the American Methodist Missions in Korea and Japan, says that during the recent war the churches made great gains in membership, and that they are now unusually active in evangelistic efforts. As regards audiences, ministers of churches, baptisms, and the circulation of the Scriptures, things have not been so bright for a long time; and the gospel is receiving a better hearing than at any period since its introduction a generation ago. Another very healthy feature of Japanese Christianity reported by the Record of Christian Work, is the steady progress towards independence of foreign aid. In a short time it is hoped that the Japanese churches will be self-sustaining, and even become missionaries, sending out native teachers to China and Korea.

TRADE AT HOME

Why Farmer Should Give His Support to the Local Merchant.

PRESERVES HIS OWN MARKET

Depreciation of Village Property Must Inevitably Mean Depreciation of Agricultural Property and Encouragement of Monopoly.

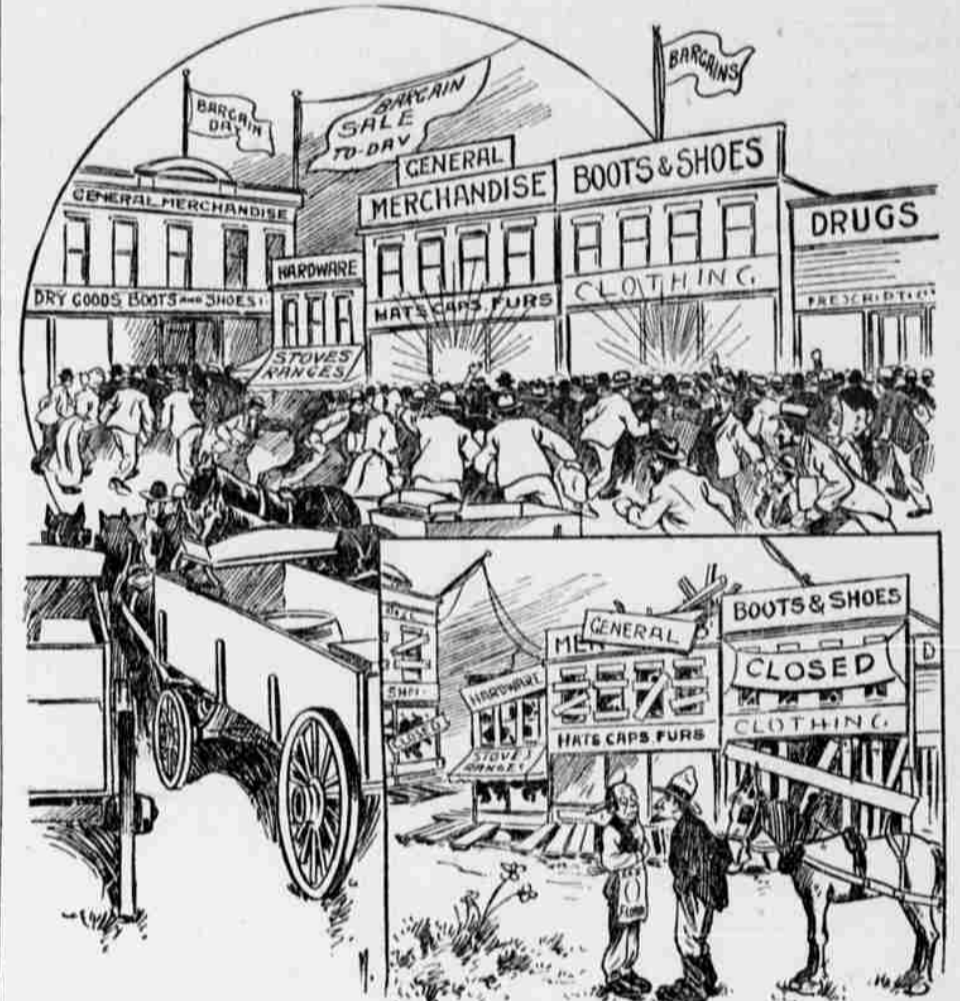
(Copyright, 1906, by Alfred C. Clark.)

The most serious problem that confronts the rural towns and villages of this country is the competition of the local enterprises by the catalogue houses of the large cities. It is a problem for which a solution must be found if the prosperity and stability of the nation is to stand.

And the solution of this great problem lies in the hands of the people of the towns and villages and the farms, especially the farms.

The people of the rural communities have everything to lose and nothing to gain by sending their money to the catalogue houses, by passing by their local merchants and sending their dollars to the concerns who have absolutely no interest in their communities.

These catalogue houses do not pay taxes in your town; the local merchant does. They do not build sidewalks in your town; the local merchant does. They do not contribute to the building of roads over which the crops of the farms are hauled to market; the local merchant does.



Give your town a chance by patronizing your local merchants and you may confidently expect its growth in business and population and a raise in real estate valuation. Send your money to the catalogue houses and you may look for the reverse. The picture tells the story of the possibilities.

They do not help to build school houses for your children; the local merchant does. They do not assist in the support of your churches; the local merchant does.

But there are some things the catalogue houses do for you and the first and greatest of these is to assist materially in bankrupting your community. The dollars they take away never come back to you. They will never help to make a city of your village. They will never increase the value of your real-estate holdings by making local improvements.

Let us look at the subject from the standpoint of the farmer, for it is the farmer who is the greatest patron of the catalogue houses.

The town or village one, two or three miles from his home is his market for the butter and eggs and other produce of his farm. The half dozen or more merchants of the town, each anxious to obtain his full share of the business of the community, maintain a competition that affords to the farmer at all times top prices for the products of his farm. It is these half dozen merchants that make farm profits possible; the profits are in no way due to the catalogue houses of the cities.

But the farmer persists in sending his dollars to the city. He wants a buggy, or a set of harness, or a pair of stockings, or any of the necessities or luxuries of life, and to get them he takes out his mail order catalogue and looks at the finely printed cuts, reads the well written description, and, passing the local merchant by, the merchant who has purchased his produce at the best market prices, the merchant who has helped to build the community, he sends his dollars to the catalogue house in the city and takes what they choose to send him.

What is the result?

One after another the doors of the local stores are closed, and where at one time there were half a dozen merchants, each bidding for his share of patronage by offering fair prices for that which the farmer had to sell, there is now but one merchant who has a monopoly, not only of the selling, but of the buying as well, and he pays what he pleases for the farmer's produce.

The farmer can continue to send his money to the catalogue house in the city for his supplies, but he cannot send his produce to the same place.

In disposing of that he is absolutely dependent upon his local merchant, and by his patronage of the catalogue houses he has killed competition, and must now take whatever is offered for what he has to sell.

Mr. Farmer, are you helping to kill the goose that is laying your golden egg?

Are you sending your dollars to the catalogue houses and by so doing killing the local industries of your town?

Are you putting your merchants out of business, and creating a monopoly that will pay you what it pleases for the products of your farm?

If you are doing these things it is time for you to stop and consider the future. You will have to look but a little way ahead to see the result, and it will not be an attractive picture that greets you. The prosperous community of which you are now a part will fade like the summer flowers before the winter winds, and almost as quickly.

It is the fact that there is a market within close proximity to your farm that makes your acres valuable. The men who maintain this local market for you are the men who cause the railroad trains to stop at your town. Take them away and soon the town will be wiped off the map. The churches will cease to be a pride, and your sons and daughters will lack the opportunity that is theirs by right of birth, and your acres, that are now valuable because they lie in close proximity to a market, will show a depreciation that will astonish you.

Your interests are identical with those of the merchants of your town. By sending your dollars to the city you may cause the merchants to close their establishments, but when they are forced to this they can pack their

stock of goods and go elsewhere, but you cannot pack up your farm and move it; your acres must lie in the bed you have builded for them whether it be fair or foul, and it is "up to you,"

Mr. Farmer, to spend your money at home, and in this way you can solve the greatest problem that now confronts this country.

Will you do it?

YANKEE IN DIAMOND FIELDS.

Commissions to Study a Country Which Produces Such Men.

Mr. Alfred Mosely is an Englishman who admires American ways so much that he sends commissions here to study us.

Mr. Mosely does not admire us without a reason. It is not a very specific reason. Its name is Mr. Gardner F. Williams, and it is by way of being an American mining engineer. Mr. Williams directs the diamond output of the world.

Mr. Mosely made his fortune in South Africa. He watched Cecil Rhodes' dream of empire develop and knew the men who made it real. The one who took his imagination was Gardner Williams.

Here was a man who had left Michigan at the age of 15 to go with a pioneering father to California in the flush days of the early mining camps, had had a taste of California mining, had gone when still a young man to explore in South Africa and had become a general manager of the great monopoly of the diamond mines.

A fighter of financial battles and a manager of men, a writer, a scientist and one of the world's greatest engineers, he so stamped his personality on the people among whom he lived that he was feted and cheered by all South Africa when he retired last spring and came back to the United States to build a home for his leisure years in the land of his birth.—World's Work.

Keep Your Money at Home.

Don't send money to mail order houses to deposit. Your home bank is the only safe place to keep it and will pay you as good interest as can be had, and then you run no risk as in such cases as the "Cash Buyer's Union" failure. The home bank will grant you favors and mail order houses never do.