

NOT GOOD ARGUMENT

SPECIOUS TALK AGAINST DIRECT ELECTION OF SENATORS.

"Stand Pat" Republicans in Vain Fight Against the Will of the People—No Real Power Taken From Congress.

At the session of congress that ended March 4 direct election of senators came within four votes of getting the necessary two-thirds majority in the senate. Recently the house voted overwhelmingly for direct elections. Apparently enough Old Guard Senators have gone, and enough new progressive senators have taken their places, to insure favorable action by the present senate.

But the opposition will die hard. It is not without hope. It will fight the direct elections amendment with the same argument by which Uncle Joe Cannon sought to justify his negative vote. Certain senators will say that they are in favor of direct elections, but that they cannot vote for any amendment which alters the first paragraph of the fourth section of the first article of the Constitution.

In its present form this paragraph reads: "The times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the congress may at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators." The direct elections amendment that passed the house takes from congress the power to alter in any particular the regulations made by a state for the election of its senators.

The argument against taking this power from congress is that congress would thus be left powerless "to protect itself against fraud, violence or corruption in the methods by which its legislative officers are selected." This argument is either insincere or ignorant. Congress will still have ample power to protect itself against violence in the election of its members, and against corruption and against fraud. The first paragraph of the fifth section of the first article of the Constitution provides that "each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members." This paragraph gives congress ample power to protect itself against fraud, corruption and violence in elections, or against any combination or permutation of the same. This paragraph is left untouched by the direct elections amendment as it passed the house.

If any more nests can be discovered by the opponents of direct elections they would better hurry up. The time is getting short.

No Legal Bar to Reciprocity.

What little objection there was on the ground of its possible legal invalidity, to the passing of the Canadian reciprocity measure, has been removed by a decision of the customs court.

It has been held in some quarters that the favored nation clause in the American treaty with England would extend automatically to England any reduction in duty made on the product of another nation. It was not, of course, the intention of the United States to make concessions to England in connection with the agreement with Canada, but the point was raised that the Washington government could not help itself once it had made a deal with Ottawa.

The decision that set aside this objection was a simple case in which there was difference of opinion on the amount of duty to be laid on whisky coming from England and France. The court held that the duty on the English product must be paid as specified; that the existing trade agreement with France could have no influence on any other business.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Good Democrats!

Action of the Democratic majority in the national house of representatives in deciding to abolish a lot of unnecessary positions in that body is most significant. In it are promise and hope of an era of much-needed economy in national affairs.

The significance of the action is not by any means so great in connection with the actual amount of saving as with the fact that it diminishes the opportunity of members to furnish patronage to political and personal friends.

One hundred and eighty-two thousand dollars a year is the sum to be retained in the national treasury as the result of abolishing the offices. That is a comparatively small item in the total of the cost of government. But it will be remembered that every one of those offices might be filled by the appointee of some Democratic congressman. In thus voluntarily abandoning the opportunity for patronage, the Democrats hold out a most pleasing hope of economy in larger matters.

Up to the Republicans.

If the Republicans are in earnest in their desire to relieve the farmer of burdensome taxes they will gladly embrace this opportunity which the Democrats have offered to them. The policy agreed on is in our opinion both wise and shrewd. The Republicans who really favor tariff reduction and who oppose the present tariff can not, we should think, afford to oppose it. If they do oppose it they will find it very difficult next year to convince the people of their sincerity.

NEED FOR AN INVESTIGATION

Congress May Well Devote Some Time and Attention to Doings of Steel Trust.

That recent ruling of the interstate commerce commission forbidding increases of freight rates must have a bearing, eventually, on the steel business.

The one feature of overmastering significance in the ruling is the dictum that the railroads must economize. As important element in railroad expenses is the cost of steel rails. With prevailing conditions in the market for products of steel mills, how can any economy be exercised in the purchase of rails?

Ever since the days of John Stuart Mill the business world has recognized the principle of supply and demand as having a controlling influence on prices—that is, the business world except the steel rail portion thereof.

No matter how great or how small the demand or the supply, steel rails fluctuate but slightly in price. For the last ten years—regardless of the conditions of general business—the price of steel rails has remained practically the same. Demand of railroad managers may be great or small. The rail manufacturers may be pushed with orders; or they may have an immense surplus of product on hand. No matter. Prices remain at practically the same point.

Is this condition the result of artificial methods of controlling those prices? Such appears to be the case. And, so soon as possible after completing the pressing business before it, congress should take up and pass that resolution to secure radical investigation of the steel trust!

The Only Answer.

There is only one answer to the tariff question, and that is justice.

Politicians complain that every tariff law that is passed means certain defeat at the polls for the party that passed it. The why is plain enough. The country knows that the law was not made in the general interest, but for special interests.

Not that the people know anything about the tariff. They know no more about it than Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Taft. They can't analyze the schedules and detect all the little jokers concealed in their dreary verbiage. But they know injustice when they see it.

This is the intuition of a self-governing people. And the American people revolt at the sight and smell of a secretly made, lobby-framed tariff, not because they are free traders, but because of their passion for simple fairness.

Its Purpose.

What is the real purpose of the Democratic party?

To stand against special privileges, is the answer given by Governor Woodrow Wilson to the National League of Democratic clubs at Indianapolis last night.

Not to uphold state rights or to give the least possible government, or to carry out any of the transient policies that happened to enlist the support of various eminent Democrats in dealing with conditions of the past. Traditions do not make a fighting platform for the present age.

The only reason to justify the Democratic party's staying on earth is to fight for the square deal. His effective comprehension of this fact—effective, not merely theoretical—is what has made the governor of New Jersey the great figure that he is today before the country.

Democratic Opportunity.

Ability to appreciate the tenor of public demand and to act accordingly will do the Democrats vastly more good than to seek credit for petty-fogging and duplicitous acts of legislation. The extra session demands plain sailing over a charted course, and the Democrats will be wise enough not to seek to generate cross-currents. Some legislative freedom may be accorded the present session, provided that this legislation shall not act counter to the purpose of its assembling. Nothing can possibly be enacted into law without the consent of the Republican senate and the approval of the president. Yet neither of these checks will be used drastically, but effectually, to prevent partisan or narrow use of the power the Democrats have measurably obtained.

A Golden Opportunity.

Why is this not a favorable time for another popular, nonpartisan and stable tariff, really and truly "taking the tariff out of politics" by taking politics out of the tariff?

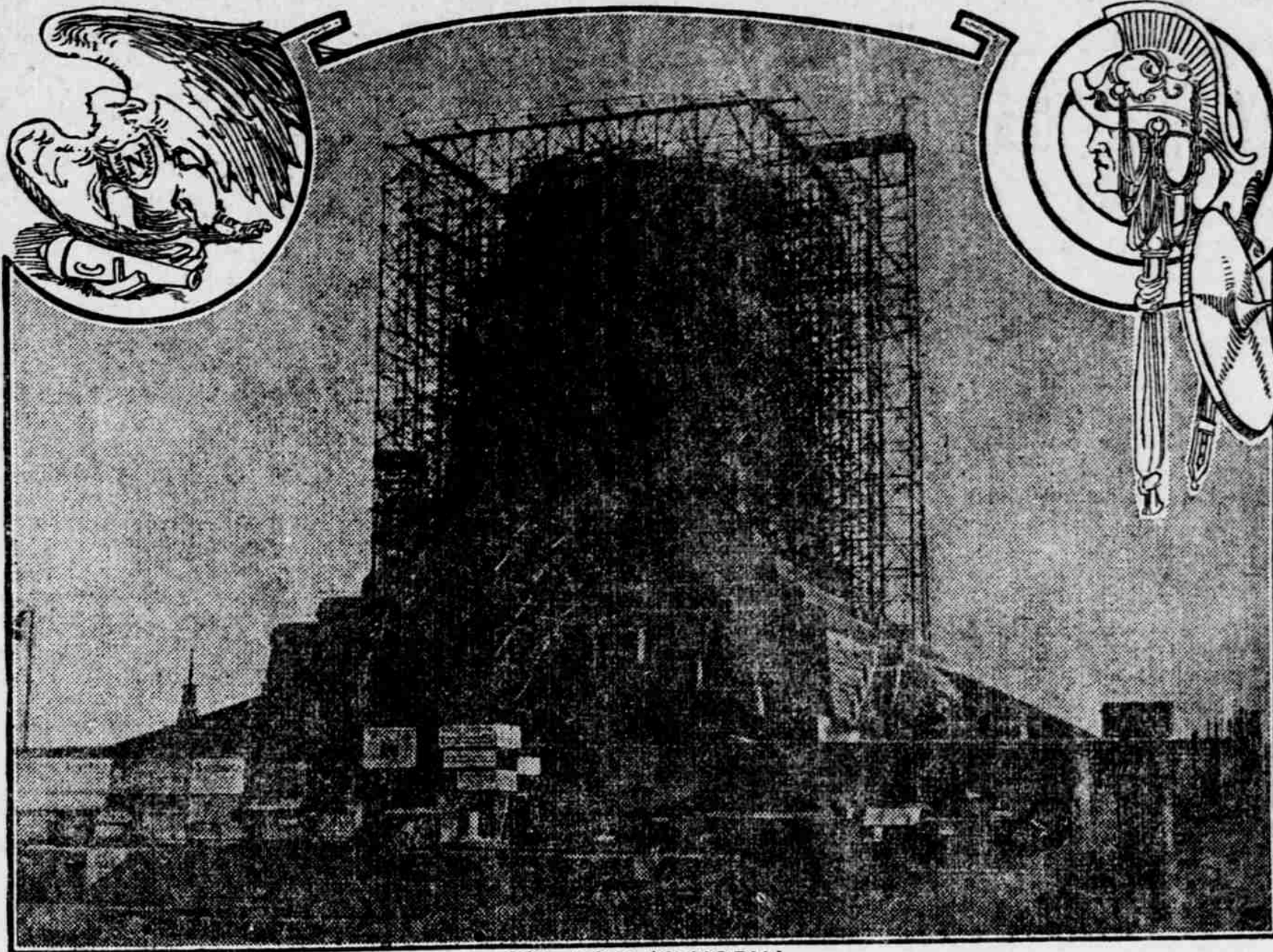
Surely no one doubts that this is the earnest wish if not the settled determination of the great masses of people. Senate and house are divided between the parties as in 1857 and President Taft has long advocated a modification of the rates.

It is a golden opportunity for that statesmanship which, placing country above party and preferring the hopes of the many to the demands of the few, never fails of its reward.

Senator Penrose is now spoken of as the "new Aldrich" of the senate, but probably the more accurate phrase would be the "near Aldrich," and even at that he does not look much like the original, nor is it probable that he will wear as well.

Bishop Tuttle, in a defense of Wall street, says it "furnishes sinews for millions on millions of agricultural production." The farmers generally were under the impression that they were furnishing their own sinews

GERMAN PEOPLE'S WAR MEMORIAL



THE WAR MEMORIAL

LEIPZIG, Germany.—Before long preparations will be completed for the dedication of the People's War Memorial, a ceremony that will attract the attention of the civilized world. The massive monument is being erected to commemorate the battle of Leipzig, which was fought between the French under Napoleon and the allies under Prince Schwarzenberg, October 16-19, 1813. This mighty conflict marked the triumphant issue of the Prussian war of liberation and effectively shattered the power of Napoleon. It is known as the Battle of the Nations, from the number of nationalities that participated.

SUPPLY OF TIMBER

Tremendous Increase in Consumption of Late Years.

Methods of Cutting Are So Wasteful That Exhaustion Is Within Measurable Distance, According to London Times.

London.—An article in the London Times concerning the world's supply of timber and its wasteful handling is attracting much attention. According to the figures given, the situation is rapidly growing serious. The Times says:

"The savants of all nations have been foretelling for years the approaching extinction of the world's forest reserves, but, with one or two exceptions, little apparent effect has been produced on the policy of government respecting afforestation."

"There may now be said to be only six countries in a position to supply unlimited quantities of merchantable timber, namely, Russia (including Finland), Austria-Hungary, Norway and Sweden in Europe, and Canada and the United States in America."

"Of these the reserves in the United States, Russia proper and Austria-Hungary are now seriously threatened by the rapid growth of their own requirements consequent on the natural increase of the population, while in Norway the reaping of the timber crop has been so wasteful as to bring exhaustion within measurable distance. The resources of Finland are still large, as are also those of Sweden, while Canada now represents the world's greatest reserve."

"As already indicated, the European countries, with a large surplus avail-

able for export, are Austria-Hungary (with which may be coupled Bosnia and Herzegovina), Russia (including Finland), Sweden and Norway. From all of these countries, with the exception of Austria-Hungary, Great Britain imports largely of timber for constructional purposes, and our interest in the depletion of their forest reserves is no mere academic one."

By far and away the largest forest reserve in Europe is in Russia and Finland, which have between them over 500,000,000 acres under timber. Austria-Hungary comes next, but a long way behind, with 50,000,000 acres. Sweden following with 48,000,000 acres, Germany with 34,000,000 acres, France with 23,000,000 acres, Spain with 20,000,000 acres, Norway with 17,000,000 acres and Italy and Bulgaria each with 10,000,000 acres.

The eyes of the world are now directed to North America in their search for future timber supplies. The area of land under forest in the United States is prodigious. The total amounts roughly to 700,000,000 acres, of which nearly 150,000,000 acres are under state management or control. Estimates naturally vary widely as to the actual reserves of merchantable timber, the government census of 1900 putting the stand at 1,390,000,000,000 feet board measure, while two years later Dr. R. E. Fernow of Toronto, Canada, estimated it at 2,000,000,000,000 feet.

This latter figure was substantially corroborated by the American Lumbermen of 1905, but a conservative estimate by a well-informed correspondent, which appeared in the Times at the close of 1908, put it at 1,500,000,000,000 feet.

Though it is almost impossible for the lay mind to realize what these figures mean, attempts have been made to place a value on the timber, the figure which is generally accepted by competent authorities being roughly \$4,000,000,000.

The present lumber cut amounts to 28,000,000,000 feet, and is increasing at a truly remarkable pace. The rapid growth of population would, of course, prepare one for an increase in the timber consumption year by year, but the actual rate of increase has been very much in excess of what might reasonably be looked for on that basis.

YOUTHS HAVE TRAVELED FAR

Eldest, Aged Six, Has Record of 150,000 Miles of Sailing, While Baby Has Never Been on Land.

Philadelphia.—With his wife and three children, one of whom has never been on land, another who has crossed the equator 30 times and traveled more than 150,000 miles, and a third who has traveled 15,000 miles by water, Capt. Nantitz Christiansen of the Norwegian steamer Sildra, will leave in a few days for his home in Bergen, Norway, to try living ashore for awhile.

Captain Christiansen was married seven years ago, and soon left on the Sildra. A year later Mrs. Christiansen joined him at Sydney, Australia, with their first child, Elsie, who is now six years of age. Both have accompanied Captain Christiansen on every voyage he has made since that time.

Two more children were born aboard the ship, Sildra, age four years, and the youngest, Sydney, age four months, came into the world while the ship was in port at Sydney. He has never been on land. Two weeks after he was born the ship sailed for Japan, with which country the Sildra trades on most of her voyages.

TEA DRINKING ON INCREASE

New York Hotels Are Forced to Enlarge Accommodations for Afternoon Parties of Women.

New York.—The increasing popularity of the English custom of drinking afternoon tea among New York women has forced the big hotels, one after another, to devote special rooms to that purpose. The new Hotel Marlborough has announced that one room with a seating capacity of 250 persons will be open for tea from 4 to 6 o'clock every afternoon.

It has been said by some of those opposed to the custom that the popularity of afternoon tea was due to the fact that it enables those who prefer something stronger to have the insidious cocktail or the popular highball served in a cup instead of attracting attention by taking the liquor out of the ordinary glass. However that may be, the big hotels serve hundreds of their patrons with tea daily, and especially on Saturday afternoons, after the matinee.

Many of the large hotels, like the Waldorf-Astoria, Plaza, Astor, Knickerbocker and Manhattan, have music from 4 to 6, but others, notably the St. Regis, the Gotham and the Ritz-Carlton, dispense with music, as their patrons seem to prefer social conversation.

Mr. Barse, of the Waldorf-Astoria, said yesterday that more women really came to drink tea, and that it was a libel on the sex to say that they preferred the highball disguised in a china cup.

"When the old Waldorf hotel was opened by Mr. Boldt sixteen years ago," said Mr. Barse, "the palm room was turned into a tearoom to accommodate guests who had contracted the tea-drinking habit in Europe."

"Since that time the demand has

grown from year to year, until now several rooms are devoted to afternoon tea. The reason why the women predominate so largely at the Waldorf is because men are not admitted to a tearoom unaccompanied by women, and no smoking is permitted."

The Plaza, Knickerbocker and Astor hotels have had to enlarge their tea room accommodations, as it has become the fashion more this season than before for women to give tea parties at hotels instead of inviting their friends to their own homes.

GOAT HAS A GLORIOUS TIME

Animal With Ravenous Appetite Eats Bric-a-Brac and Its Master Settles Claim for \$60.

Youngstown, Ohio.—A goat with a ravenous appetite was responsible for a lawsuit in Squire Kiefling's court.

Mrs. John Stanach of Brier Hill went to visit a neighbor and forgot to shut the kitchen door. Antonio Tanti's billy goat went visiting about the same time. When Mrs. Stanach returned curtains had been pulled from their fastenings, tablecloths yanked from the tables and bric-a-brac trampled upon and several rugs eaten.

Then Mrs. Stanach confronted the goat, which showed battle.

When the case was called the owner of the goat settled for \$60, which is said to be \$58 more than billy is worth in the open market.

Lincoln Services June 3.

Louisville, Ky.—The dedication of Lincoln Memorial Hall on Lincoln Farm has been set for June 3, according to a telegram from Richard Lloyd Jones. President Taft and Cabinet will take part.

ALL OVER NEBRASKA

Becomes a National Bank. Washington dispatch. The controller of the currency has approved the application of the Commercial Bank of Wausa, Neb., to convert into a national bank with a capital of \$50,000.

Seven Business Houses Burned. Hamilton County.—Fire of unknown origin destroyed seven business places in the village of Phillips, 16 miles east of Grand Island, at a total estimated loss of \$12,000, with insurance estimated at 40 per cent of this sum.

Licenses Are Exhausted.

Lancaster County.—The first 10,000 hunting licenses printed for the state this year have been exhausted by the demands of county clerks and Game Warden Miller must wait on the printer before more blank cards can be supplied.

New Court House for Custer.

Custer County.—The county supervisors will meet soon for the purpose of awarding the contract for building the new court house. No bids will be received after that date and the board will waste no time over selecting the contractor, as it is anxious to get at the work.

Fire Loss is \$75,000.

Otoe County.—The loss resulting from the fire in Unadilla, which wiped out the entire business section of the city, was not so heavy as it was at first estimated. It is thought that the damage will not amount to over \$75,000, about half the amount estimated when the town was burning.

Warrants for Wolf Bounty.

Lancaster County.—Five hundred wolf bounty warrants were mailed from the office of the state auditor. This is the first installment of about 5,000 warrants that will be issued. The last legislature appropriated \$29,000 for the payment of these claims. Most of the claims are small, for \$2.50, \$3.75 or \$5. A few run up to \$65.

Arbor Day at Nebraska City.

Otoe County.—Arbor day was observed in a general way by the people of Nebraska City, and for years the home of the originator of the movement, J. Sterling Morton. All over the city, both old and young observed the day by following the motto of Mr. Morton, which was to "Plant Trees."

Nebraska's Egg Crop.

Douglas County.—Speaking to the Manufacturers' association in Omaha, upon invitation, J. H. Rushton, president of the Fairmont Creamery company, estimated the annual egg crop of Nebraska at \$15,000,000 in value. Of this nearly \$10,000,000 worth is marketed, and the other third consumed by farmers and other home consumers.

Fatal Family Quarrel.

Morrell County.—As a result of family troubles, C. C. Hewson killed his mother-in-law, Mrs. George Jenkinson; shot his wife three times and wounded Leland Jenkinson, 14 years old, after which he killed himself. Mrs. Hewson will die, while the boy, who was shot in the neck, will recover. The Hewsons had recently separated.

Good Roads Banquet at Nelson.

Nuckolls County.—The Nelson Commercial club held the second annual love feast and good roads meeting. The opera house was crowded and many were turned away. Several local speakers made short addresses and then D. Ward King, of Missouri, made the address of the evening. Every one was greatly interested in Mr. King's plan for making good roads.

Mother Kills Self and Children.

Douglas County.—Apparently mentally unbalanced from brooding over domestic troubles, Mrs. Joseph Matusek, of South Omaha, murdered her two children by forcing them to drink carbolic acid and then swallowed a quantity of the deadly drug herself. In a letter which she wrote just before her terrible act the crazed mother blamed her husband for her unnatural deed.

A Fiddlers' Stunt.

Cass County.—The Improved Order of Redmen, at the Farnelle theatre in Plattsmouth, pulled off a stunt, which was one as amusing as has been in this city for some time, in the shape of the "Fiddlers' Contest." There were 22 contestants, and how they made Rome howl was a caution. William Balfour, living four miles south of Nehawka, was the winner, playing a piece which he had not tried for 20 years. This man had something peculiar about him, in that he has lived for 46 years within 25 miles of Plattsmouth and the visit to this contest was his first.

Boy Killed by Lightning.

Dawes County.—John Mullinex, aged 17, was instantly killed by lightning during a heavy thunder storm. He was returning from the field with a team when struck.

Arrested as Deserter.

Merrick County.—Because he talked too fluently about his past experiences, and was overheard by attendants at the jail, Fred Belto was arrested here, and will be returned to Norfolk, Va., as a deserter from the navy.