

## WORK ON LAND LEASE BILL

NEXT FEW DAYS MEAN MUCH TO WEST NEBRASKA.

LETTER FROM A CATTLEMAN

The Lease Bill is said to be the Only Method of Settling the Problem. Fair to Small Man as Well as Large. Fences are a Necessity.

Within the next few days action will be taken in congress on the land leasing bill, and the result will be of most vital importance to the state of Nebraska and especially the western part of the state. The News is in receipt of letters and telegrams from "small cattlemen," as they are termed, regarding the lease bill which was drafted by C. H. Cornell of Valentine and introduced by Congressman Kinkaid. The cattlemen of the western part of the state, so far as can be ascertained, are in favor of the bill.

The bill as introduced by Congressman Kinkaid provided that the mammoth tracts of sandhill country in western Nebraska shall be leased out to cattlemen, going to the highest bidder, in an unlimited quantity, and that the lands shall be fenced by the tenants.

Congressman Lacey of Iowa, who is chairman of the committee that has charge of the bill, has introduced a bill of the same sort, but limiting the number of acres that shall be let to any man at 3,200. Mr. Cornell, as was reported in Saturday's telegraphic report, objected to this bill on the grounds that it was not adequate in that 3,200 acres are not enough to allow a man to make a living, and that in Cherry county there are now 200 herds occupying the entire county while under this law, these same 200 herds would have but one-third the county to feed on, which, he claims, is not enough.

A letter printed in an Omaha paper last week from someone in the eastern part of the state objected to this bill on the ground that the fencing provision would drive out the small man, as he could not afford to fence his lands. The News has received a letter from a prominent "small cattleman" of western Nebraska, who answers this argument by saying that the fences are just what the "big" man does want, as well as the big man.

"The fences are absolutely essential," he writes "in the first place, we can not get credit at the bank unless our herds are under fence. We must have credit in order to borrow money with which to handle our cattle. The banks won't loan on a herd that is milling around over the range. Years ago there were no fences and herds mixed on the plains. This mixed the breeds and it was impossible to improve the standard of the breeds. I have recently bought a high priced bull for my herd. What is the result of my cattle are all turned loose on the plains? It is not the "big" man to be benefited by the lease bill, more than the small man. The small man can't afford to herd his cattle if he has but 100 or 200 head. The result is, if he has no fence he is driven out of business.

"The untaken lands next the homesteads are of no use except for grazing and not good for that unless there is running water in them and meadow land with which to provide hay for the winter.

"The Kinkaid homestead bill was the worst blow ever dealt to western Nebraska. Homesteaders can't make a living on these lands by farming. They tried and failed years ago. They can't do it even with unlimited government land adjoining, so how could they do it with the addition of only 480 acres. This was a piece of railroad legislation to get poor people into this country to lose what little money they do have.

"In my opinion the only way this problem can ever be settled will be by means of a fair lease bill."

### BUYS NEW HOME.

One of New Houses Built by A. J. Durland Goes to Thomas Patras. Thomas Patras purchased a home of A. J. Durland on South First street yesterday and is moving into it today from his old home on North Eighth.

### WILL SHUT OFF WATER.

Consumers Who Do Not Pay Bills to City by April 1, Will Lose.

The city water will be cut off from every consumer who does not pay his water rent by April 1. Water Commissioner Brummond has decided to take this stringent step because of the difficulty which he has met with in trying to collect rentals from a number of users of city water. More than \$500 in rentals is outstanding and the users ignore the bills sent them. With the consumers who have meters, bills have been met promptly in most cases. It is those using the flat rates who have become delinquent. About one-third of them have paid no heed to their bills. Many of them have been sent four or five notices to pay up or have their water cut off, but they have paid no attention to it.

As a report of the water commissioner must be made out on April 1 he desires to have his collections up. If collections cannot be secured by any other means he intends to force them. The flat rate consumers who have not paid, received their bills on November 1. These were for the preceding half year and the next half year's water rent is about due so that

if they do not settle up the city will lose an entire year's water rent from these consumers. It is to remedy these conditions and to guard against a continued abuse on the part of consumers that the water will be turned off where the rent is not paid by April 1.

### DR. M'KNIGHT IS APPOINTED.

Brown County Commissioners Accept Bates' Resignation. Ainsworth, Neb., March 7.—Special to The News: The county commissioners met yesterday afternoon and accepted the resignation of Luke M. Bates and later appointed Dr. H. P. McKnight of Long Pine to fill the vacancy. The commissioners at present are as follows: Frank Lessig, Ed Moore and Dr. McKnight.

The commissioners also appointed A. J. Warrick as justice of the peace for Ainsworth precinct.

## ICE SHORTAGE RELIEVED

SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS MORE TO THE GOOD TODAY.

ICEMEN WORKED ALL NIGHT

Ice House at Sugar Factory is Being Filled by George Stalcoop—Oertwig Began Hauling This Morning—Ice Thin But of Good Quality.

The ice situation is growing brighter. Today there are a half a thousand tons of ice more in the icehouses of Norfolk than there were yesterday, and each day of freezing weather will see an additional 600 to 800 tons stored. Three icemen are straining every effort to fill their houses and provide for the coming summer. Yesterday they all got started at the work and today are in full swing. The ice, too, while quite thin, is of excellent quality.

Yesterday George Stalcoop put two and a half layers of ice from the bayon into the sugar factory icehouse, which he was stopped from filling a week ago by a sudden turn in the weather. Oertwig started hauling ice from Boche's slough this morning to his new icehouse on First street.

At Waldo & Dillenbeck's pond the work of harvesting ice was kept up from early yesterday morning until 4 o'clock this morning. Working under the flare of arc lights both on the pond and in the ice house the harvest went on as rapidly as in daylight, and when they quit for the day they were several hundred tons better off than when they started Monday morning. The work of harvesting ice on all of the ponds goes much more slowly than usual because of the thinness of the ice, but the quality is better than that put up earlier in the winter in most cases.

### NEW ICE HOUSE BUILT.

Two Retail Firms Build House of Own and Fill With 500 Tons.

A new ice house was built in Norfolk Saturday by independent parties to protect themselves against the ice shortage which is promised for next summer, and tonight the new ice storage will be filled with 500 tons of frozen water, taken from Klug's slough. The new ice house was built by E. B. Kauffmann and Irvin & Melcher, and the ice housed in the building will be used by them next summer. Irvin & Melcher will use their share of the ice for their meat market and other parts of their store and Mr. Kauffmann will use his share for ice cream and his bakery.

The new building is eighteen feet high and 24x40 in width and length. Its capacity is 500 tons.

Thirty-three men worked at the ice house, getting it built, on Saturday and this large force was rushed on the pond ploughing ice all day Sunday and Monday. By tonight it is thought the entire half thousand tons will be put up.

### A Son.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Swett yesterday at her home northeast of the city.

### RUN AWAY AGAIN.

Team of Gottlieb Rohrke Took Another Lively Spin Today.

The team belonging to Gottlieb Rohrke of Hadar, which ran away on Norfolk avenue several days ago, took another spin through the city today and went down to the Junction before they were captured.

### BOGUS INTERVIEWS ANNOY POPE

Three Alleged Statements From the Pontiff Denied as Spurious. Spurious interviews with the pope are causing his holiness the greatest annoyance, says a Rome cablegram. Three of these have appeared in the course of the week.

The longest and most astonishing was in the London Daily Express. It occupied two columns on the first page and was adorned with a double column "scare" head. It purported to give the pope's views on the delicate question of France's papal relation.

The two other interviews were less extraordinary, but they ostensibly unfolded quite fully the holy father's views respecting many important matters. It is alleged that none of these conversations took place.

The vatican authorities will issue a warning to the Catholics of the world that utterances attributed to the pope in alleged interviews must be regarded with the deepest suspicion.

## NO TRUTH IN THE REPORT

OMAHA PAPER SAYS BONESTEEL TRAIN TIME CHANGES.

NO FOUNDATION FOR STORY

The Report that the Bonesteel Trains Will Run Earlier and Leave Omaha Later is Denied at Northwestern Headquarters Here.

The report of the Omaha World-Herald to the effect that trains from Bonesteel and Norfolk will, after April 1, run into Omaha earlier and leave later at night, is absolutely without foundation and is untrue. No change will be made, whatever, in the running time of the Bonesteel or the Black Hills trains. This statement was given out from the Northwestern headquarters here to The News today, when Superintendent Reynolds was asked in regard to the story.

The World-Herald railroad editor had been taking the wrong kind of dope when he wrote the story, as is evidenced by the fact that he has bunched Bonesteel, Norfolk and the Black Hills all in on the same line. He probably heard that the Okadale train will run into Omaha earlier and leave later and his limited knowledge of the extent of this country prevented a more accurate report than that dished up by the Omaha paper.

The report is absurd in view of the fact that the Bonesteel trains now leave that point at midnight and have but a few hours layover as it is. It will be impossible, considering the distance from Bonesteel to Omaha to give the same favorable conditions to Omaha merchants as are enjoyed by those of Norfolk.

The Omaha World-Herald says: The Northwestern proposes, on April 1, to make a change in the time of trains No. 102 and 105, between Omaha and the northwest—Norfolk, Bonesteel, Rapid City, Deadwood, Lead and others.

It is said that these trains will be so changed that they will be of much great benefit to Omaha merchants. As the time now stands the train comes in from the northwest at 10:35 o'clock a. m. and goes out at 2:50 p. m. Its arrival in the morning is too late for the last mail delivery in the city in the morning. Consequently the merchant does not get his mail from this train until about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. That is too late practically for an answer that day. Now if these trains are changed so that the arrival will be earlier in the morning, and the departure later in the evening, the Omaha man can receive mail from that section and answer or fill orders the same day.

Changes contemplated by the Northwestern, it is promised, will bring about this desirable state of affairs, and the business of the jobber to the northwest along the lines of the Northwestern will be greatly facilitated.

### BUSINESS CHANGE AT MADISON

Store is Bought by Stock Company of Farmers—News of Madison.

Madison, Neb., March 6.—Special to The News: The store formerly owned by M. F. Thomas and which had lately been run by John Lenn of Allen, has been sold to a stock company, most of the stock being subscribed by farmers. The store will be closed the remainder of the week. This move is made to meet the changing conditions.

Frank Scheer and Miss Lena Denninger were married at the Green Garden Lutheran church yesterday. The bride is the oldest daughter of Rev. Denninger, the groom is a son of Valentin Scheer, a wealthy German farmer. They will make their home on a farm six miles west of here.

Mrs. Brake and little son of Norfolk visited with Mrs. Evangeline Dodge here yesterday.

Robert Cato, sr., has sold his barber shop to Bert Taylor, who took possession today.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Burnham of Norfolk were Sunday guests of Mr. Field and family.

### PROPOSED NEW ROAD.

Line From Canada to the Gulf Might Strike Norfolk.

Some local interest attaches to a report from Highmore, S. D., because of the fact that Norfolk would probably be in the line of the proposed north and south railroad which it mentions. The report says that there was incorporated in Pierre on March 1 a \$50,000,000 railroad company and a \$200,000,000 construction company. The former has the name, by its charter, of the Canadian Southern railroad, and the latter is the American Construction company. The local incorporators are E. A. Jacobson, H. S. Anderson, A. P. Sawyer, Lew W. Sandys and Milo Brown. After the incorporating papers were filed with the secretary of state a meeting was called at the Locke hotel, at which time W. E. Rowsey, of Muskogee, I. T., was made a member of the board and also afterward vice president in both companies. C. M. Rawlings of Kansas City, also was made a member of the board and the treasurer of both companies.

This line of railroad from Canada to the Gulf, it will be remembered, was agitated most actively some fifteen to eighteen years since by a strong farmer element in the west, but nothing definite, or at any rate of public moment, ever developed from the agitation. Afterward, and some

time previous to the death of the late James G. Blaine, certain measures were introduced in congress in which considerable sums of money were appropriated for the development of the same enterprise—that is, a line from Canada through the great wheat belt of the United States and southward through Mexico and Central America into South America; and while desultory reports have at various times found their way into public prints relative to the possible continuation of the same work, yet it seems that nothing effective was accomplished.

In the event that the Northwestern line now building westward to Rapid City is to become the ultimate direct continental connection with the Pacific ports, then the crossing of this great north and south line at Pierre would certainly make of this town, since it is the permanent capital of the state and occupies logically the correct geographical distributing vantage point, one of the best cities in all of the northwest.

By its articles of incorporation the present length of the road is estimated at 1,400 miles, and in its passage through South Dakota it traverses one of the richest regions in the greatest wheat belt in the world. What it would finally become as a great feeder to the powerful east and west lines is beyond the estimation of even the greatest railroad men. Its terminal in the north being the starting point of the world's wheat supply, and its terminal in the south being the shipping point of the world's wheat upon the high seas, would make the traffic of those roads enormous almost beyond computation.

After the election of directors it leaked out and was confirmed by one of the men present that the syndicate which has had this interest in control secured, less than a week ago, the entire assets of the Omaha, Kansas Central and Gulf railroad, the price paid being \$1,000,000.

## 2,000 ACRES IN SHOSHONE

PRINCIPAL USE OF THE REGION WILL BE GRAZING.

ANNUAL RAINFALL IS 13 INCHES

Climate is Too Arid for Raising Crops Without Irrigation—The Only Settlers Now in the Ceded Portions are a Few Indians.

The ceded portion of the Shoshone Indian reservation to be thrown open to settlement this summer is the area lying north of Wind river and east of Popo Agie and Big Horn rivers. It lies in the northern-central portion of Fremont county, Wyoming, and includes also a small corner of Big Horn county, adjoining Big Horn canyon, south of Thermopsis. The total area is about 2,000 square miles. The northern third of this area lies in the Owl creek and Shoshone mountains, and the southern portion comprises a wide area of rolling plains in the Wind river basin. The area is bordered on the mouth of Wind river and its eastern margin is crossed by the Big Horn river. These streams carry a large volume of water and flow in narrow but flat bottomed valleys, along which there is a moderate acreage of land which is immediately valuable for agriculture.

### Rainfall Only Thirteen Inches.

With a mean average rainfall of about thirteen inches a year the climate is too arid for the raising of crops without irrigation, but a large amount of water in the two large rivers is available for this use. Along the bottom lands bordering the rivers the water can be taken out in small ditches, although, owing to the spring floods, there will be difficulty in maintaining these and especially their headgates, so the amount of land that can be irrigated by this means is small. By the construction of irrigation canals, however, wide areas of the basin lands could be brought under cultivation, especially if the flood waters of the mountain slopes could be stored for grazing, and this undoubtedly will be its principal use. Fully two-thirds of the land bears a fair growth of nutritious grasses and water for stock is within reach, excepting in a few districts.

### Gold and Coal.

In portions of the Owl Creek mountains granites and associated schists are exposed which contain gold and other ores, which may possibly occur in sufficient amount to be of economic importance, while in the southern end of the Shoshone range, which constitutes the north-western corner of the ceded area, there may possibly be found a southern extension of the mineral value of the Kirwin region. Coal deposits occur in the center of the ceded area, and although probably they may not merit extensive working they will afford a useful local supply.

The only settlers now in the ceded area are a few Indians and white men who have married squaws, and the ranches of these persons are widely scattered along the rivers and on the creeks near the foot of the mountains.

A report on the geological formation of a portion of this area will be issued shortly by the United States geological survey.

### Fire Loss, \$2,850.

The fire loss at the Chicago Lumber Co. was adjusted yesterday and amounted to \$2,850.

### Daughter.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Druliner Sunday evening.

## MAKES A FINE SHOWING

NORFOLK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN BEST CONDITION.

A GOOD DIVIDEND IS DECLARED

At the Annual Meeting of the Elkhorn Valley Life and Accident Insurance Company Held Yesterday, Affairs Proved Superior to Many Big Ones.

The policy holders of the Elkhorn Life and Accident Insurance company met yesterday afternoon in the offices of the company for the annual election of directors and the reading of the annual reports. A small number of policy holders were present and the remainder were represented with proxies. The report of the business for the past year was considered very encouraging especially in view of the short fifteen months that the company has been in business.

The report showed that the ratio of admitted assets to liabilities was \$1.16, while the average of forty leading established companies in the country as compiled by the Spectator is but \$1.11. Four of these companies exceed the showing of the local company and four equal it, the remainder falling below it.

The money loaned by the company is bearing an average interest rate of 5 1/2 per cent and is all on first mortgages not exceeding twenty-five per cent of the value of the property.

### Dividend on Policies.

It was voted to pay a 6 per cent dividend on all policies written in 1904. This is the first dividend which has been paid on any policies of the company and is on all policies written during the first year of the company's existence.

The increase in business for the year over the preceding year was 45 per cent on both number of policies and their face.

The directors elected were Dr. P. H. Salter; T. F. Memminger, Madison; J. B. Maynard; R. E. Williams; Jack Koenigstein; Burt Mapes; Edward R. Mittelstadt, Laurel; Joseph C. Osborn, Battle Creek; Dr. P. H. Morse, Wisner.

The executive committee consists of J. B. Maynard, Jack Koenigstein and R. E. Williams; the finance committee of Dr. P. H. Salter, T. F. Memminger and Burt Mapes.

The officers elected by the board of directors are: Dr. P. H. Salter, president and medical director; T. F. Memminger, vice president; J. B. Maynard, second vice president and auditor; R. E. Williams, secretary; Jack Koenigstein, treasurer; Burt Mapes, counsel.

### WEDNESDAY WRINKLES.

Dr. Bear went up to Hoskins this morning.

Hon. W. M. Robertson is in Omaha on business.

E. A. Billock went to Sioux City this morning.

J. E. Hamilton of Hoskins is in the city on business.

Orion Porter of Fairfax is in the city on business.

Herman Koel of Stanton is in the city on business.

C. S. Bridge went to Plainview on business at noon.

John R. Hays has gone to Omaha for a couple of days.

I. M. Macey will go to Sioux City on business tomorrow.

City Attorney Weatherby went to Omaha this morning.

Burt Mapes and M. D. Tyler went to Omaha this morning.

C. B. Scott came down from O'Neill yesterday on business.

August Deck of Hoskins was in the city on business yesterday.

Miss Selma Braasch has gone to Wayne to enter the normal.

Mrs. Ed Mully has returned from her trip to Hot Springs, S. D.

Jack Koenigstein went to Madison on business yesterday afternoon.

George Graves of Winslow came down last evening on business.

O. T. Schauble of Pilger spent last evening in the city with friends.

R. F. Taylor came down from Cedar Rapids on business last evening.

John Roth and Joseph Roth of Hartington spent last night in the city.

H. W. Anderson and F. Phillips of Hoskins stopped over night in the city.

Mrs. C. E. Burnham left for Tilden this noon to visit with friends until Thursday.

Mrs. Joseph Schwartz and her son George returned from Chicago Monday evening.

Mrs. A. Dryden and son have returned from a visit with friends in Missouri Valley.

Mrs. Stevenson of Pierce was in the city today enroute to Leigh to visit with her husband.

G. W. Harper came down from Plainview last night to visit with his son, J. Earle Harper.

Mrs. John Spellman has returned from Nickerson, where she had been visiting with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Macey went to Sioux City this morning to attend a photographers' convention.

O. P. Shoff returned from Omaha last evening where he had been purchasing new furnishings for the Ox-nard.

H. L. Harper of Beatrice spent last night with his brother J. Earle Harper, while enroute to the Bonesteel country.

F. C. Ballewegh, accompanied by his daughter Ida, came down from Atkinson this noon to visit with his son C. A. Ballewegh.

Mrs. Arthur Pilger of Madison is in

Norfolk visiting with her mother, Mrs. Mary Davenport, and her sisters, Mrs. Gentle and Mrs. Odiorne.

Mrs. Lillie Parker Scott will spend tonight with her brother, Dr. C. S. Parker while enroute to Plainview, where she will visit her father Rev. J. J. Parker who has been ill for several weeks.

Trainmaster E. O. Mount has returned from the western end of the state, where he went when the North-western's train became stalled by the blizzard. He was out in the storm for three days. He says that the drifts were very deep but that the weather was warm so that there was no suffering on account of the storm.

Miss Elsie Case entertained a number of friends at her home in the Junction last evening on the occasion of her birthday.

Mrs. F. Patras left for Cheyenne, Wyoming, yesterday noon upon the receipt of a telegram announcing that her mother was dying.

Lyman Waterman, who is pushing the new Midland Central railroad from Spaulding to Springview, has moved his headquarters from O'Neill to Newport.

Martin Sporn of Norfolk, who recently moved into the city with his brother, W. F. Sporn, from rural route No. 1, is planning to enter a barbers college in Omaha within the next few days.

The month of March is itself again. Fair weather dawned this morning, Mother Earth has been disrobed of her snow blanket and the weather wire says there will be a fair day tomorrow.

"The Honeymoon" will be the attraction at the Auditorium tonight. The play comes with an excellent company and is said to be first class. It is probable that a full house will greet the performance.

The Trinity Social guild were very delightfully entertained last evening by Miss Dorch at her suite in the Cotton block. A pleasant social evening was spent, after which delicious refreshments were served.

Lumber went down on Norfolk avenue at an early hour this morning when Mr. Lee, who was driving west over the rough streets, lost all of the lumber that was loaded in his wagon. He loaded the long boards back into the wagon box and lumber rode west at par again.

Norfolk friends will be pleased to learn of the steady improvement in condition of Mrs. George A. Latimer at Spokane. A letter was received today from Miss Mattie Davenport, who arrived there safely, stating that Mrs. Latimer is improving rapidly and that there is every chance for her recovery.

A letter received this morning by Mrs. J. W. Humphrey from Mrs. J. C. Meyers, says that Dr. Meyers, who underwent a surgical operation in an Omaha hospital for appendicitis a week ago, is getting along in excellent shape and expects to be out of bed next Sunday.

The first issue of the Stuart Advocate has made its appearance. The paper is neat in typographical make up, of unique size and shape and its editor, R. A. Haskins, says he intends to make it succeed. Mr. Haskins formerly worked in the newspaper business at Spencer and Anoka.

E. H. Luikart, the Tilden banker who was recently operated upon for appendicitis, has now completely recovered from the effects of the operation and is in good health. Guy Barnes of this city, who had been filling the vacancy during Mr. Luikart's absence, will remain in the bank at Tilden probably all summer.

The water commissioner's office is already reaping results from the announcement that the city water will be cut off April 1 from those who have not paid their water rent. He only made the announcement Monday and the collections for today have been larger than those of the average week. Each mail has brought in remittances from delinquent users of the city water and the water fund promises soon to have a much heavier balance.

The Norfolk members of the company which was formed to buy Texas farm lands some years ago and which went into the hands of a receiver a few months ago, do not hope to get much of anything out of the deal. Those who wanted to get as much back as possible, turned in their certificates of stock but it is feared here that after the sifting is done there will be little money left. There were some twenty-five or thirty Norfolk people interested in the concern and they paid in from \$50 to \$300 or \$400 each.

Aleck Snyder, a farmer living two miles southwest of Warnerville has a flowing well under his house, which broke through the ground recently. Mr. Snyder was preparing to build an addition to his house, when the well suddenly broke through the ground and sent up a considerable flow of water that gurgles and bubbles up continually from the ground. The flow is sufficient to make a good-sized creek and Mr. Snyder is now moving his house away from over the well and will build the addition to the house at a less wet place.

### MAY CALL PASTOR.

Second Congregational Church May Retain Rev. P. F. Murphy.

Rev. P. F. Murphy, who preached at the Second Congregational church, will conduct the services again next Sunday after which the congregation will decide whether to give him a call. He comes from Wisconsin, where he has been uniformly successful in church work. Today he left for Neigh to visit with an old classmate of his.