

# The State Capital

Matters of General Interest FROM Nebraska's Seat of Government

## Grain Doors are Necessary.

The railway commission has issued the following emergency order requiring railroads to furnish shippers of grain with box cars properly equipped with inside doors.

"Complaints having been made that certain of the railroads doing business between stations in the state of Nebraska have failed to furnish box cars properly equipped with inside doors, the commission upon investigation finds that it has been the universal and long-continued practice of the carriers doing business in this state to furnish with box cars ordered for grain shipment inside doors known as grain doors; that such inside or grain doors are necessary for the prevention of loss of grain by leakage in the course of transportation and are a facility which may reasonably be required of all carriers engaged in the transportation of grain between stations in this state. In the opinion of the commission the above findings are indisputable and a formal hearing unnecessary. The failure of the carriers to furnish such grain doors to each shipper places an undue burden upon and unjustly discriminates against the grain shipper not furnished with cars so equipped. Without action by this commission the only recourse left the shipper is to furnish the said doors at his own expense and await the pleasure of the carriers in adjusting his claim and reimbursing him therefor.

"By reason of the foregoing the commission deems that an emergency exists. It is therefore ordered that the common carriers engaged in the transportation of grain between stations in Nebraska be and the same are hereby notified and directed in filling orders for cars for grain shipment within Nebraska to furnish box cars properly equipped with inside or grain doors. This order shall become effective March 30, 1918."

## Railway Commission Upheld.

The supreme court upheld the decision of the Richardson county court compelling the Missouri Pacific railroad to build a switch to the property of the Farmers Elevator company at Strausville. Commissioner Duffie, who wrote the opinion, indulges in a statement of the inevitable consequences of allowing railroads to dictate what they shall or shall not do and upholds the power of the commission, although the case has no direct bearing.

Following the decision given two weeks ago in the case of the Manley Co-operative Grain association of Cass county the court holds that the statute of 1905 relating to the building of transfer switches to elevators is not subject to the objection of being special legislation or of allowing the taking of private property without just compensation, and the power of determining the duties of railroad companies toward the public is vested in the courts of the state.

## Governor to Help Stockmen.

Governor Sheldon has gone to Washington with members of the South Omaha Live Stock exchange, to interview the secretary of the interior regarding the quarantine against Nebraska. He will urge the department to accept the quarantine proclamation issued in this state. This proclamation quarantined only those counties in which cattle affected with scabies were found. The government, however, quarantined against the entire state. If this quarantine is strictly enforced it means an immense loss to cattle men, for the reason that all cattle shipped to South Omaha for eastern shipment are placed in quarantine division. This prevents speculators bidding on the cattle and leaves the shippers at the mercy of the packing houses. South Omaha is hard hit by the quarantine because shippers can get their cattle inspected by the government and shipped to Kansas City and Sioux City.

## Call Issued for Jury.

A call for a petit jury in the Lincoln division of the circuit court has been issued by Judge T. C. Munger of the federal court for April 14. Of the thirteen cases that may come up before the petit jury, eight are against the Burlington railroad, two of them being \$50,000 damage cases.

## Governor Adds to His Staff.

There is no limit to the number of members of the governor's military staff and he has appointed as additional members Col. William Bishop of Nebraska City, an old officer of the guard, and Othniel G. Thorne of Syracuse, with the rank of colonel.

## Bonds for School Fund.

The State Board of Educational Lands and Funds invested \$424,000 trust funds in bonds of other states. The bonds were bought through a Lincoln bond broker.

## Briefs in Saloon Case.

In briefs filed in the supreme court brought by the Anti-saloon league of Wayne to compel the council to refuse a license, Elmer Thomas, attorney for the Anti-saloon league complains of the various methods of the courts in treating such questions, and Charles L. Fritscher, attorney for Thomas whacks at Thomas for being "Big I." Mr. Thomas complains in his brief, because the courts have no definite rule by which liquor license cases are to be tried.

## Perkins County Favored.

Governor Sheldon, chairman of the board of educational lands and funds, has made a tabulation which shows that school lands in Perkins county are appraised for lease purposes lower than school lands in adjoining counties and also lower than the assessed valuation of other lands in that county. The county commissioners of Perkins county last fall appraised all school lands in the county at 57 cents an acre. This appraisal was rejected by the state board as being too low and not in accordance with the actual value of the different tracts, and the board has ordered a new appraisal by three freeholders. Under the existing appraisal school land in Perkins county is appraised at 35 cents an acre for leasing purposes. A lessee pays 6 per cent of the appraised value to the state which in the case of Perkins county under the existing appraisal is .021 per acre. The average appraised value of school land in adjoining counties is as follows: Chase, \$2.39; Keith, \$2.50; Hayes, \$2.48; Lincoln, \$1.56.

## Board Need Not Answer.

The supreme judges refused to issue a writ of mandamus to compel the state board of equalization to explain its method of reasoning in assessing railway property in 1901. The court holds that a writ of mandamus will not lie to compel the board to make a record of objections and requests for rulings which are not required by law to be spread upon the record of its proceedings. Such matter should, if desired, be preserved and made a matter of record by a proper bill of exceptions. The railroad company may present requests for special findings which should be considered by the board and may object to the rulings made thereon and take exceptions to such rulings, but if it desires to have such matters and rulings reviewed it must preserve the same by a bill of exceptions settled and allowed as provided by statutes.

It was understood when the Union Pacific railway asked for a writ of mandamus that such writ was necessary to enable the company to appeal to the courts from the assessed valuation agreed upon by the board.

## Accountant Stands Pat.

Some time ago State Accountant Fairfield filed a report of his investigation of the Institute for the Feeble Minded Youth at Beatrice, in which he commented on the lack of an invoice of the storeroom. To this state officers took exception for the reason that an invoice of the storeroom was taken last September, when the head of the institution was changed. Mr. Fairfield has filed a second report, in which he shows that there are two storerooms at the institution, one in which the supplies bought by the state are kept and one in which supplies for the sewing room are kept. The goods in this storeroom are bought by parents, guardians or counties from which inmates have been sent. No invoice of this storeroom is on file at the state house, so the supplemental report says.

## State Fair Attractions.

Members of the board of managers of the state fair who have been heard from, favor securing the services of Liberati's band and grand opera singers at the next state fair. The band has been increased to sixty members, including eighteen singers who present Italian operas. If the board constructs an auditorium for such entertainments and employs this company this fall the expense will be about \$8,000. An auditorium will be built some day, it is predicted by members of the board and the only question to be settled is whether or not it shall be done this year or at some future time.

## Journalist in Penitentiary.

Louie Howitson, alias Lewis Hewittson, journalist, whose parents live at Birmingham, England, has asked Governor Sheldon to release him from the penitentiary on parole or otherwise. He is serving a term of one and one-half years for larceny from the person committed in Buffalo county. He was received at the penitentiary September 9, 1907.

## Silver for Battleship.

Governor Sheldon has received a letter from Victor H. Metcalf, secretary of the navy, informing him that the battleship Nebraska will take part in the naval review at San Francisco, May 8, and suggests that the silver service be presented to the officers of the ship at that time.

## Must Get out of Nebraska.

Insurance Commissioner John L. Pierce has notified the Ridgely Protective association of Worcester, Mass., that its agent or organizer, Marion Morris of Omaha, is working in Nebraska contrary to law. The company has not been admitted to Nebraska, and is not authorized to transact business.

## Governor Prepares Cattle Map.

Governor Sheldon has made a map of Nebraska showing the regions quarantined in his proclamation where cattle are infected in this state. East of the line of his quarantine there are only 1,961 cattle infected according to the reports he has received, or .00125 per cent of the cattle in that region. He will urge the government to accept his quarantine instead of quarantining the entire state. West of the line established by the governor's proclamation the reports show that most of the herds are infected.

## Oil Rate Remains.

Because the National Petroleum company of Cleveland informed the railway commission it intended to send a bunch of cars of oil out to Scott's Bluff and Crawford for distribution, the commission has turned down the application of the Burlington to put back the old oil rate. The railroad had made application to be permitted to put back the rate as it was previous to the promulgation of oil rates. The company said the rate was a paper rate anyhow, and no shipping of consequence was done.



## SYNOPSIS.

Burton H. Barnes, a wealthy American touring Corsica, rescues the young English lieutenant, Edward Gerard Anstruther, and his bride, Marina, from the murderous vendetta, understanding that his reward is to be a fortune. He is aided by the English lieutenant, sister of the English lieutenant. The four fly from Ajaccio to Corsica in a motor launch, the steamer Constantine. The vendetta pursues and as the quartet are about to board the train of the Corsican railway, Marina is handed a mysterious note which causes her to collapse and necessitates a postponement of the journey. Barnes and End are married. Soon after their wedding Barnes' bride disappears. Barnes discovers she has been kidnapped and taken to Corsica. The groom secures a fishing vessel and is about to start in pursuit of his bride's captors when he hears a scream from the villa and rushes back to hear that Anstruther's wife, Marina, is also missing. Barnes is compelled to depart for Corsica without his bride. He searches the shore for Marina to her husband while he goes to hunt for End. Just before Barnes is discovered hiding in a corner of the vessel. She explains her action by saying she has come to help Barnes rescue his wife from the Corsicans. When Barnes and Marina arrive in Corsica he is given a note written by End informing him that the kidnapping is for the purpose of entrapping Barnes in Corsica. Barnes and Marina have unusual adventures in their search for End. They come in sight of her and her captors in the Corsican mountain wilds just as night approaches. In seeking shelter from a storm the couple enter a hermitage and there to their amazement they discover Tomasso, the foster father of Marina, who was supposed to have been killed by De Belloc's soldiers, and for whose death Barnes and Tomasso were held responsible. Barnes learns that Marina's husband did not kill her brother. Many wrongs are righted. Barnes is sure she has come to help by Rochini and Romano, the two detected bandits, who had been searching for him to murder him for his money. The bandits attempt to take away Marina. Barnes darts out the door. The bandits start to pursue him as they run down the door both are laid low by Barnes' revolver. Members of the Bellacocia and Barnes is honored for his great service to the community in killing the hated Rochini and Romano. End is promised. Barnes is conveyed in triumph to Boccagnano. Marina acquiesces to the Bellacocia's plan to take her against her husband and the people are instructed to vote against him at the coming election. End is taken to the mansion of the Paolis to meet End. Marina receives a telegram.

## CHAPTER XIV.—Continued.

They are soon at the doors of the country house, which are being thrown open by some of Marina's old servants. The great bandit bows and says laughingly:

"You seem to be in a hurry, Signore. Your meeting with your abducted bride should be a private one. I do not wonder at your eagerness." Barnes has already turned to the house. "My young men who conducted your lady from Sallotti's tell me she is of most marvelous beauty, though somewhat overcome by fatigue and anxiety for you and her faithful ones. We take our leave, deadly pistol shot, but will watch over you and your spouse to see that no harm comes to you."

Then, it being whispered that the enraged Sallotti has notified the gendarmes by telegraph that the Bellacocia have come down from the mountain, the illustrious bandit and his followers silently disappear in the shadows of the night.

"During these words Mrs. Anstruther has hurriedly gone into her house. Barnes now, with the eagerness of happy love upon his face, runs up onto the veranda and steps into the hallway.

Here he is met by Marina. "Don't be too impatient," she observes, smiling slightly. "I haven't seen your wife, but she is upstairs in her chamber, the great front room on the second floor. Though perfectly well, my servants say, she is worn out by the constant excitement and anxiety of the last 24 hours."

"Yes, I can understand that. The front room on the second floor, you said," whispers Burton, and turns to spring up the great oak staircase to the upper story.

"You are in a great hurry," says Marina, laying a light hand upon his arm. "You will hardly be coming down for some little time and in two minutes I shall be on my way to Bastia, so I will have to bid you good-by now."

"To Bastia?" queries Barnes, turning to her, astonishment in his face.

"Yes, I shall see my husband to-morrow morning," she remarks, in joyous excitement. "Here is a telegram from Edwin telling me he will be in Bastia by noon. I must meet him there. Everything in the house is yours, dear Burton. I know you will be as happy here with your wife, as I shall be with my husband. Ah, Tomasso is already at the door."

"For at this moment there is a noise of wheels and hoofs upon the avenue. "Better wait for the diligence to-morrow," dissents Barnes.

"No, Tomasso shall drive me toward Bastia through the night. Besides, going by the diligence, at the post-stations there will be gendarmes, and my foster father is still a fugitive. It will be best that Edwin and I take him out of Corsica entirely. I have given orders to my servants—make this place your home as long as you like. She has already stepped out upon the porch.

"Too bad better see End first," remarks Burton, following her.

"No, I think not. Your interview should be before mine and I haven't time. The drive to Bastia is so long." Barnes hurriedly enters her into the vehicle. "May you be happy as I am," she calls to him, and the young Corsican wife is driven rapidly down the great avenue of chestnut trees. Tomasso being, apparently, also eager to leave the gendarmes that have hunted him over the mountains.

## CHAPTER XV.

A Little Surprise for Mr. Barnes. The American springs up the steps into the house again, and rapidly ascending the staircase to the second floor, sees a faint gleam of light shining under the door of the great guest chamber in the front of the old Corsican mansion.

"That I shall not tell you—at least, not without a bribe. Shall I have a farewell kiss for the information?" "Never!" "Oh, Burton, don't kill me!" she gasps, for Barnes' hand, in his agony and rage, is nearly on her white throat. "Fish, you are not worth it." Unconsciously he tears himself from her and commands: "Tell me where I will find her now; tell me so that I can go back to her and dare to kiss my wife's lips, knowing that I am true to her. Think—think what you once were when your father and mother in Ohio loved you and believed in their little girl. By heaven, I know there is good in you, Sally—only let it come out, just this time," he entreats. "Just tell me where I can find my darling, so that I can rescue her in time, for you know these are villains who have stolen her from me."

A being of impulse, La Belle Blackwood wrings her hands, her head droops and she sobs: "Then, Burton, I'll forgive you and tell you. There is a little good in me—I'll tell you all I know of your bride, which is very little. I think the road they took her was north of the path that I was followed. But where End is, I know not."

"Then Sallotti! I'll tear it from him."

"I hardly think he can tell you. His followers were strangely frightened and embarrassed when the Bellacocia young men demanded your bride from them, and as an evasion, substituted me." Then, noting the fearful look on Barnes' face, she cries: "Don't waste your time here; ask the man who knows."

"Ah!" "Cipriano Danella! The head of this affair didn't want you to find her—not until they killed you, if it were possible. Oh, this Corsican count who is playing with you is a great man—not a boy."

"This is all you can tell me? Is it the truth?"

"Yes, as God will never forgive me—"

"Very well," says Barnes. "I thank you for the information. I will now see that you get out of Corsica safely."

"How?"

"My friend, the great Bellacocia, will do it for me."

"The great bandit! He will take me from Corsica? Diable, the magnificent bandit—that would be an adventure," laughs the voluble lady airily.



"I Thank You for the Bandit, Mr. Barnes."

Then bizarre Cipriano, he is so funny to—she said to me: "Ma chere, you want to evade yourself with Barnes of New York? I had told him you were such a gallant knight you wouldn't even kiss an old sweetheart because you were going to be married to a pretty-faced, fair-haired, blue-eyed English ingenue, and so, at Cip's suggestion, I came over to Corsica by Cipriano's fast yacht yesterday."

"But where is End and by what devil's chance did you take my bride's place?" asks Barnes.

"Oh, the Corsicans—they wanted you to follow them. They expected that. They didn't intend for you to get your bride, at all events not until you had given them several chances to kill you. So I was on the shore at Sagone waiting for them when Sallotti arrived per schedule on the Seagull. I saw them from a distance. They brought your bride off the yacht all right. Great Scott, she has a fine nerve, that young lady of yours. Haughty as a captured goddess."

"By the Eternal, have they killed her?" Barnes is white to the lips.

"Oh, not yet anyway. Sallotti, with two friends, hurried her on a long way ahead of me through the mountains. Some dark-eyed gentleman escorting me gave you a distant chance to see us. You were never on the same road as your wife after you left Vico—you were pursuing me!"

"My God!"

"It was such an exciting affair," she half laughs; "something so out of the ordinary, an adventure so bizarre that I liked to do it. Word was brought you were in pursuit up the mountain path. I knew they wanted to ambush you. So I told a shepherd to give you warning at the inn of Guagno. I hope you got it."

"Where did they take my wife?"

# Gossip of Washington

What is Going On at the National Capital.

## Red Tape of the District Government



WASHINGTON.—Don't give a policeman a present, particularly money, unless you want it to get mosey covered and rusty with age before he is permitted to receive it. There is red tape and formality in the District government, particularly that branch governing the police department, which calls for much routine before any employee can receive anything from a citizen until it has been investigated and marked "approved" by the three commissioners several times, as well as the major and superintendent and some minor officials.

More than two months ago a much petted and beloved Angora cat grew tired of its daily life of continual fondling, and the atmosphere of its home, and without giving "due notice," as a cook's or other rare and valued pets do, took leave. There was sadness in the household. There was gloom about the place for more than a month. Then the clouds parted and the sun shone again.

Policeman Stott was responsible for the uplifting of the gloom. It was

he who, while prying about dark alleys and on vacant lots, found the wandering Thomas. As a reward for Stott's great act of kindness the cat's owner showed a crisp dollar bill in the officer's hand as he relieved him of the pet.

Aside from being a brave and courageous policeman, Stott is a stickler for duty, and after receiving the dollar he hurried to the commander of his precinct, Capt. Boyle, and told him of his good fortune.

This was the starting point of the big ball of red tape that was to wind around that crisp dollar bill before Private Stott could really call it his own.

The next day Maj. Stryester received a letter from Capt. Boyle relating the facts in the case. Capt. Boyle in turn forwarded the document to Commissioner West.

After carefully reading the communication and looking up the laws upon the subject Commissioner West placed his stamp of approval on the document. The paper was sent to Commissioner Macfarland and Commissioner Morrow in turn, who, after due official consideration, followed the example of Commissioner West and gave their rubber-stamped approval.

Then the jacketed document started upon its return journey, and some day Stott will get his dollar.

## Best Woman Campaigner at the Capital



MRS. BIRD SEGLE M'GUIRE, wife of the dean of the delegation representing in congress the new state of Oklahoma, has the unique reputation for being the best campaigner of her sex in the official circle at the national capital. It is even claimed that to her tact and cleverness is due no slight part of her husband's political success. The voting records of Oklahoma as a territory seem to bear out this claim, for they tell of his winning his first public office by a majority of two, the year in which the lady who was destined to become his wife, but who was then unknown to him, cast her maiden vote along with that of her mother, for him as district attorney of the county in which they both re-

sided. Since their marriage Mrs. McGuire has campaigned with her husband from one end of their adopted commonwealth to the other and entered upon the social duties of her position in Washington with the same enthusiasm when in the last days of its territorialism Oklahoma sent Mr. McGuire to plead her statehood cause in the lower house of congress.

Long afternoons were spent scattering her own and her husband's cards everywhere official etiquette required—and sometimes where it did not—if only the opportunity offered a chance for her making a friend for the would-be youngest state in the union. Moreover, she never failed to be in the family gallery of the "big house on the hill" whenever there was anything on the tapis concerning the future of Oklahoma. Thus, for four years she watched the rise and fall of the statehood hope of that vast section of the middle west for many years marked "Indian Territory" on the map of the United States, and which was finally admitted to Uncle Sam's bosom.

## Humor of Reporter Fails to Please



A COUPLE of weeks ago one Jimmy, a gentle reportorial soul, who has drunk deep of the milk of humor kindness, and who is never happier than when plucking the blushing violet from its sheltering nook and putting it on the pan, decided it was up to him to do a good deed. So he looked around for a mark and finally selected one, James S. Davenport of the Third Oklahoma district, a first-terminer and a hard worker.

So in due course of time there appeared in print a highly veracious account of how James S. Davenport of the Third Oklahoma district, finding in front of his door in the house office building two blushing bunches of what he supposed were public documents, seized them, hugged them into the seclusion of his office and, by the judicious use of the franking privilege, sent them broadcast throughout his district.

Then, in throbbing minor tones, the story told of the astonishment, disappointment and chagrin of James S. Davenport of the Third Oklahoma dis-

trict when he learned that in his well-meant effort to hand his constituency all the unattached public documents in Washington he had inadvertently flooded his district with the monthly issue of the local telephone directory. Having thus shown to an admiring world the most sterling qualities possessed by James S. Davenport of the Third Oklahoma district in the way of energy, acquisitiveness and love for his constituency, the gentle reportorial soul and violet plucker set back in a receptive attitude, waiting the thanks of the violet.

They never came. Mr. Davenport fell out of his high chair while quite young, and, as a result of the complications that ensued, it was found necessary to amputate his sense of humor. But he is long on dignity and has an active stenographer and an elaborate vocabulary. He worked all three over time. He hopes eventually to be able to tell each of his constituents personally, or over his own unforgivable signature, that the tale of the telephone directories was an outrageous malicious and unqualified seizure of his office and, by the judicious use of the franking privilege, sent them broadcast throughout his district.

And while James S. Davenport of the Third Oklahoma district writes letters, one Jimmy, a gentle reportorial soul, is waiting for the thanks that never came.

## Senate Seat Number 23 Proves a Hoodoo



SUPERSTITION in the senate? Read this story of "23."

Senator Wetmore of Rhode Island occupied seat No. 23 on the Republican side. After a long and bitter contest in which he was opposed by two Republicans, the legislature of his state on the twenty-third day of the month gave up the effort to elect and adjourned, leaving a vacancy and Wetmore out of the senate.

The new legislature tried it again this winter and Wetmore was chosen to succeed himself. He was elected in time to be sworn in on January 23, but respectfully declined and waited several days.

His resumption of his seat gave the senate a full membership—92 senators, the largest in its history, Oklahoma having meanwhile entered the union.

Now, it is a tradition—not a superstition, of course, of the senate that whenever that body has a full membership, which doesn't often happen and never continues long, there will presently be a senatorial death. This has been the experience so many times that the exceptions are forgotten. So when Wetmore came in the probability of a death was whispered about. Twenty-three days elapsed between the day of Wetmore's resumption of his seat and the day Senator Latimer of South Carolina died.

Senator Wetmore, by reason of being out of the senate for some months, had the luck to lose seat 23. That seat

was drawn by Senator Kittredge of South Dakota, who would now be occupying it but for the fact that he is staying at home to look after his interests in a desperate campaign for control of the next legislature. Gov. Crawford wants the senator's seat and the 23 story has done a good deal to convince senators that Kittredge's days of statehood are numbered. Reports from South Dakota tend to confirm the impression that the 23 hoodoo has fixed its eye on Kittredge.

## After Hydrogen Was Discovered.

In 1767, following immediately after the discovery of hydrogen, Dr. Black of Edinburgh pointed out that a vessel filled with this gas would rise in the air. Almost simultaneously the brothers Etienne and Joseph Montgolfier, who were paper manufacturers, as a result of reading Priestley's "Experiments Relating to Different Kinds of Air," invented the hot-air or fire balloon and on June 5, 1783, the first Montgolfier ascended at Annonay, Auvergne, France. In August of the same year Prof. Charles of Paris sent up the first balloon filled with hydrogen, or "inflammable air." After traveling 15 miles this balloon was torn to pieces by the superstitious peasantry.

## Waycross Has Good Record.

Waycross, Ga., with a population of 3,000, has no poorhouse, nine out of ten of the white population own their homes and 93 per cent of the children attend school. Incidentally it may be stated that the saloon license has annually for the last 16 years been fixed at \$20,000—and no one has offered to pay the amount for the saloon privilege.—Exchange.