

MR. GARDNER WILL NOT GO.

Commissioner Sparks Tells the Senate It Would Be a Serious Mistake.

THE OFFICE SHOULD CONTINUE.

The Editor of The Bee Argues Against a National Railroad Commission—Western Patent and Postal News—Capital Notes.

The Nebraska Surveyorship.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—(Special Telegram.)—A reply was received by the senate today from the secretary of the interior to Mr. Gardner's resolution of January 7 last, regarding the advisability of abolishing the office of surveyor general of Nebraska. It came in the form of a letter from the land commissioner to Secretary Lamar. Mr. Gardner's resolution inquired whether any surveys of public lands had been made within the last two years in the state of Nebraska, whether any surveys had been made of public lands within that state; also, what recommendations have been made within the past three years by the surveyor general of that district as to the continuance of the office, and whether it was advisable that the office of surveyor general of that district should be continued under provision of section 221 of the revised statutes of the United States.

The land commissioner, to whom the matter had been referred, replied: "I have the honor to report that there are no unsurveyed public lands in Nebraska, except one township, which is under contract, but at the date of the last annual report of the surveyor general June 30, 1885, the survey had not been returned to his office. The original contract was made in Nebraska during the last year. The returns of twenty-seven townships previously surveyed were transmitted during this period. Surveyor General Stevenson stated in his annual report dated July 28, 1885, that he had contracted for the survey of all unsurveyed public lands in the state, and under the title of 'Contract for the survey of the public lands of the forty-third parallel, bounded by the Missouri, Nebraska and Koyah Paha rivers, attached to the state of Nebraska by act of congress, approved March 23, 1882, should be extinguished, there would remain after the close of the year ending June 30, 1884, little more for his office to do than to close up its affairs and accounts, which would probably be done during the year ending June 30, 1885. In his annual report, dated July 29, 1884, he states that the work to be done in completing, arranging, indexing and binding the records, supplying copies of missing plats, etc., referred to in the annual report for 1884, has scarcely been commenced, but will be taken up as soon as the office work on surveys, now in arrears, is completed. This work has not been reported as finished, and I have no further information in respect to the time which will be required to complete it. Neither am I informed whether the state has made provision for the reception and safe-keeping of the surveying archives as public records as contemplated by section 221 of the revised statutes.

"If no other question existed besides that of the time required to close up the office as it stands, and to turn over the records to the state, there would perhaps be little difficulty in the way of an early discontinuance of the office of surveyor general, but I have great doubt in respect to the character of the surveys executed, or reported to have been executed, within the past few years. These were under the defunct system, which, according to general report and the best information I am able to obtain, had been largely availed of, especially in the years of 1880 and 1885, for speculative and fraudulent purposes. Examinations made in different parts of the country develop the fact that to a great extent such surveys had been made in haste and inaccurately, and frequently wholly fictitious. Contracts for the closing surveys in Nebraska, embracing a large portion of the western and northwestern portions of the state, were rushed through in haste, and were for lands occupied chiefly as stock ranges, being at the time generally beyond the progress of the survey, and the result yet to be known to how great an extent difficulty will be experienced in finding the corners of alleged surveys when an actual inhabitant makes a correct description of tracts necessary. I deem an investigation of these alleged surveys indispensable, and under these circumstances should regard it a mistake in public policy to hastily hasten the closing of the surveyor general's office.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST. Before the house committee on commerce, which for the past two weeks has been occupied with hearing arguments on railroad regulation, Mr. Blanchard, attorney of the Vanderbilt lines, who today, with others, urged the creating of a national railroad commission, was followed by Mr. Rosewater, of the Omaha Bee, in opposition to the railroad commission project and in favor of direct railroad regulation by law. The main points of his argument were that commissions were a mere subterfuge supported in the interest of the railroads, and cited many facts in support of his position, as well as the unpopularity of the commission states with railroad commissioners, notably, California, Kansas and Nebraska. Mr. Rosewater will continue his argument to-morrow, when the debate before the Reagan committee will close.

THE TIMBER CULTURE REPEAL BILL. The bill for the repeal of the timber culture and plantation laws will in all probability come up for consideration in the senate this week. It has been decided by the senate public lands committee to incorporate in the bill two amendments, submitted by Congressman Strat of Minnesota. The first provides that in the event of suspension of an entry and its subsequent report to the attorney general for action, he shall be required to report on the same on the next day following. The second amendment provides that the words "or conveyed" shall be stricken out in the clause which exempts lands that have been sold to third parties from the effects of the act. These amendments will, it is thought, aid the final passage of the bill in each house.

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL. The Indian appropriation bill has been completed and will be reported to the house to-morrow. The total amount provided is about \$70,000 less than last year. The following are some of the items affecting the northwestern Indians in Montana, Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes items like 'For the Crows in Montana', 'Increase of expenditures for Indian service in Dakota, Chipewas, etc.', 'White Earth agency', etc.

A Tough Boy. George Scott, whose parents reside at the corner of Eighteenth and Center streets, is a model youth after a fashion. A year since he lost his leg under the car wheels at the stock yards and has since made a splendid recovery. A week ago he was stabbed on crutches. A week ago he was stabbed on crutches. A week ago he was stabbed on crutches.

THE PEOPLE'S THEATRE. The success of "Miss Merton" at this theatre has induced the management to give the same piece again to-night. This will positively be the last opportunity to see Miss Vincent's great acting of the title role.

MR. ROSENSTOCK AND WIFE. Mr. Rosenstock and wife, of San Francisco, are in the city, stopping at the Paxton.

FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

Sheriff Melick's Mysterious Dauid City Prisoner Proves a Lying Bastard.

THE DISTRICT COURT JURORS.

The Fitzgeralds Going to New Orleans Saturday—School Land Leases Forfeited—Brief Local Mention.

[FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN BUREAU.]

The marshal of David City came to Lincoln yesterday to take a look at Sheriff Melick's mysterious prisoner, who, in a letter written to a friend in Harper (Kan.), accused himself of having broken jail, and being a "bad" man generally. The marshal identified Rider as a former resident of David City who last spring robbed his uncle of \$8, for which offense he was arrested, and released on \$300 bail, his brother becoming his bondsman. The marshal says Rider may have jumped his bail, but that there is no truth in his story of having overpowered the jailer and left the prison a la Jack Sheppard. The David City authorities, however, would like to get their hands on a chap named Williams, who really did get away in the manner described by Rider. Sheriff Melick will hold Rider until he certifies whether he is wanted for forfeiting his bail or not.

THE PETIT JURY. The following "good men and true" have been selected to serve as petit jurors at the February term of the district court for Lancaster county:

Isaac Whitehead, Lancaster; Harvey Day, Yankee Hill; S. S. Royce, Capitol; James Hutton, Nemaha; Lewis Loder, Waverly; Morris Humphrey, Capitol; Uri Welton, Stephens Creek; Edward Morgan, Capitol; S. C. Loudon, North Bluff; J. S. Strong, Garfield; William Gillespie, Capitol; J. C. McBride, Antelope; A. G. Spellman, Oak; J. S. Howard, Antelope; M. C. O'Connell, and Henry Veith, Millard; R. E. Lasse, South Pass; William Charlton, Centreville; L. B. McFarland, West Oak; Zack Hummel, Government; S. W. Barnham, Yankee Hill; Isaac Oppinger, Government; E. B. Slawson, Denton; J. A. Cultra, Capitol.

MEN OF MUSCLE. The Fitzgerald racing team of twenty-four men will start for New Orleans Saturday in charge of Manager Hohman. A special car has been engaged, in which the boys will not only journey to and from the Crescent city, but make their home during their stay there. The car will be fitted with sleeping berths, cooking apparatus, and everything else necessary for the comfort and welfare of the occupants. The route decided upon is the Union Pacific to Omaha, thence by the Wabash to St. Louis, and from there to New Orleans.

SCHOOL LAND LEASES FORFEITED. At their meeting yesterday the board of public lands declared a large number of leases of school lands forfeited for non-payment of interest. Among the lands which will have contracts annulled under this order are E. F. L. Sheldon, C. L. Baum, and Lanham & Baum, all of this city, the former being interested in nearly 100 leases. The school sections in Sheridan and Hayes counties were ordered appraised at once so that the lands can be put on the market. To-day the board will consider the acceptance of the addition to the Home for the Friendless lately conveyed by contract.

BRIEF MENTION. At the meeting of the city council Monday night the treasurer presented his report for January, showing expenditures of \$1,517.55 and receipts of \$1,270.85, resulting in a cash balance of \$247.70. While this is a good showing on its face, the fact is that out of the gross receipts of \$1,662.90 only \$1,199.32 was applicable to general purposes, the balance being applied to the city debt and interest funds. As the ordinary expenses of the city average \$3,000 a month, the Bee's question of "whether are we drifting?" is a very pertinent one.

THE TEMPERANCE BOOM. The Bee Ribbon boys had a most enthusiastic meeting at the W. C. T. U. Buckingham hall last night. The club now numbers about 200 members and still the good work goes on. The song service led by Messrs. W. B. Gration and J. D. Moore, Past Grand High Priest of the program, was the most interesting feature and was followed by "the boys" in short minute talks, among the speakers being Reverends Ingram, McKaig and Woodbury. Miss Anna Saunders, worthy chief temptress of Nebraska, being present, made an earnest appeal to the boys to sign the pledge and henceforth be men.

Robbed of His Rins. "Where's those rins?" ejaculated Captain Wood, deputy city clerk, as he was about entering his carriage in front of the city hall last night at the close of the council meeting. His loud tone of voice, and evident vexation, attracted the attention of several policemen, and a reporter, who inquired the cause of the difficulty.

Pilgrim Cigar-Makers. The Northwestern team of Monday transferred to the Union Pacific cigar-makers en route to California to fill the vacancies made by the recent boycott of Chinese. They were joined here by ten men who had dropped off from the first party going through. The pilgrims were a motley crew, including a few straight American, German and Bohemian. A few of the local Knights of Labor were at the train, but there was no demonstration.

Suing a Contractor. The suit of Van Cott vs Dewitt to recover \$900 for breach of contract was on trial all day yesterday in the county court before a jury. Arguments will be continued this morning and the case will probably go to the jury this afternoon.

Absolutely Pure. This powder never varies. A marvel of purity, strength and wholesomeness. More economical and efficacious than any other. Sold in competition with the multitude of low cost, inferior brands, which are sold under the name of "Coca-Cola" and "Pepsin." Sold only in the States. Power Co., 100 Wall St., New York.

THE PERPETRATOR.

TRACKING THE PERPETRATOR. Councilman Leeder Looking for the Man Who Forced the Midnight Closing.

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The city engineer submitted a request to be allowed to employ a competent engineer and draughtsman in the city engineering department at a cost not to exceed \$150 per month. The request was referred to the committee on public works.

By Mr. Miller, from the banking and currency committee, a report authorizing the receiver of any national bank to use so much of the money of his trust as may be necessary to purchase any property on which the bank may have a claim. Placed on the house calendar.

By Mr. Davis, from the committee on commerce, a report on the petition for the discovery for preventing yellow fever by inoculation. Referred to the committee on the whole.

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Advertisement for Omaha Medical and Surgical Institute, highlighting its comprehensive medical care.

Advertisement for Union Sewing Machines, showcasing their products and quality.

Advertisement for Union Man's Co., providing information about their goods and services.