

HOW A CONTRACT WAS LET

Details of Some Acts of the State Board of Transportation.

SMOKE CONSUMER FOR BOILER HOUSE

Man with a Pull Ties the Job and the Amount of Smoke Decreases When a Change is Made in Coal Used.

LINCOLN, Jan. 28.—(Special.)—For a little while ago, about 1,000 tons of coal were used in the four days the Board of Public Lands and Buildings has authorized the payment of \$500 and a warrant for that amount was issued by the state auditor immediately upon the presentation of the claim.

When the last legislature was in session a bill was introduced calling for an appropriation for a smoke consumer in the boiler house on the state house grounds. An appropriation of \$500, which was much less than the amount of coal used, was finally voted by the legislature and a few weeks ago the Board of Public Lands and Buildings advertised for bids for the work. Among those presented to the board was one of a Chicago inventor and notwithstanding the price asked was equal to the full amount of the appropriation it was accepted. The inventor employed a bricklayer in this city to put in the consumer, which consists simply of a few bricks under the boiler, and then asked for his compensation, which was promptly given. As soon as the work was done the man in the boiler house ordered a new kind of coal that makes less smoke than the kind then in use.

The volume of smoke that issued from the big smoke chimney has been reduced, but probably by reason of the change of fuel. The Abraham Lincoln Republican club last night elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, J. W. Johnson; first vice president, C. H. Gould; second vice president, Alva Kennard; secretary, P. J. Kelley; treasurer, H. A. Babcock. The chief purpose of the club, as set forth in the constitution, adopted last night, is organization for effective political work.

The Lancaster County Agricultural society will hold its annual exhibit this year in conjunction with the Nebraska state fair. At a meeting held yesterday it was decided that all persons securing premiums of over \$3 should be required to join the association.

Although the sale was begun only three days ago, over 500 tickets for the Auditorium ball have already been disposed of. The opening of the new building promises to be the social event of the season.

Florence Notes. FLORENCE, Neb., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—A. Wilson of Tekamah was a business visitor here Tuesday.

Miss Goodell of Omaha is visiting her sister, Mrs. Hugh Suttle.

Miss Fannie Morse visited her sister at St. Joseph hospital, Omaha, Tuesday.

Mrs. Turpin of Omaha is visiting her sister, Mrs. Elmer Gray.

Captain Frank Reynolds, who has been spending a month in New York visiting relatives and friends, returned home Monday.

Mrs. Reynolds will remain a month longer on account of the health of her daughter Helen.

W. Barnes Lower, a former minister of the Presbyterian church of this place, now of Princeton, N. J., was visiting friends here this week.

Several friends of the Presbyterian church arrived at the Presbyterian church Thursday evening.

There was a masquerade ball given at the city hall Thursday night with a good crowd present.

Ed Reeves and Paul Baird were business visitors in Omaha.

J. S. Paul, Hugh Suttle and Joseph Taylor all attended the Scottish celebration at Creighton hall Thursday night at Omaha.

The ice in the river broke up during the week and all run out being clear of ice at present, except some places where there was an eddy.

Mrs. John Robb of Omaha is visiting her sister, Mrs. Nevel Burton, for a few days.

Normal School Notes. PERI, Neb., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—The usual number of season tickets for the lecture course has been ordered by the board. It being necessary to print a new supply.

The Oxford Musical club of Baron will give a concert at the Normal on February 10.

Miss Dally of the education department gave an entertainment last evening at Johnson, under the auspices of the Epworth league.

Prof. and Mrs. Whitcomb, assisted by Miss Ellis, entertained the married members of the faculty on the evening of the 19th.

The fifth lecture of the lecture course occurred Friday night, the chapel being very much crowded. Dr. Croft, the lecturer, spoke on "The Kingdom Beautiful."

The seniors are not only receiving training by teaching in the practice school, but are also doing a large amount of work in the chapel, two seniors appearing each morning at the opening exercises.

Some of the material for the Young Men's Christian association bath rooms has arrived and soon the rooms will be ready for use.

The second year of the banquet class reception last Saturday evening in the city hall.

At the recent meeting of the Normal Board, it was decided to have the standpipes, for supplying water to the dormitory, constructed as soon as favorable weather will permit. The tank will rest on a tower forty feet high.

Women Give a Reception. HASTINGS, Neb., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—The women of the P. E. O. society gave a reception Thursday in the Masonic temple, complimentary to the literary clubs of Hastings. Six different literary clubs were represented and plates were served to eighty guests.

Mrs. H. W. Main, president of the P. E. O. society, delivered the address of welcome, and Mrs. R. W. Wohlgast, officiated as toastmaster. Toasts were responded to as follows: "Rice," Mrs. Bragg of the American Literary club; "Second Ladies," Miss Dillon of Normal table club; "Our Babies," Mrs. Slaker of Elliot club; "Men," Mrs. Craig of Spakee club; "Sunshine," Mrs. McCleary of Odd Number club; "Wit," Mrs. Filson of Carlyle club.

News a Leg. PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—While working with a bridge gang near Miniere, William Nevill had one leg fractured in two places below the knee. He was brought home last evening. William Nevill, his father, has the contract for building the bridge on the Burlington extension from Alliance.

By order of Mayor F. M. Richey all the saloons were closed today.

Building at Columbus. COLUMBIAS, Neb., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—Many new buildings are already planned for this city on which work will begin in the early spring. On some of this work the material is even now being unloaded. E. J.

After Dinner To assist digestion, relieve distress after eating or drinking too heartily to prevent constipation, take Hood's Pills

Receiver for a Trolley Road. SARAOTHA, N. J., Jan. 28.—(Special.)—Receiver for the Philadelphia capital and county for \$250,000.

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Feasible Routes for a Railway Through the Copper River Valley.

LAYING OUT A MILITARY HIGHWAY

Interesting Information in an Army Officer's Report—Expedition Found Hundreds of People Dying of Scarcity and Starvation.

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Captain Abercrombie arrived at Valdez, the starting point of the expedition, on April 21, being received by a motley crowd which had just come across the Valdez glacier from the Copper river valley. He found that hundreds of people were dying of starvation and misery in the Copper river valley. The people at Valdez were in a most pitiable condition, crowded in miserable huts like sardines in a box. There were no facilities for bathing, no means of drying the clothes, no blankets and strips of gunnysack made shoes and socks for many of them. The stench was intolerable and 70 per cent of the inmates of the huts were mentally deranged. This was common to those who had been driven over the glacier, where so many had perished by freezing to death.

Old railroad and trail builders were the men selected by Captain Abercrombie to build a military road and they started for the Yukon on April 29 and proceeded to the mouth of Keystone canyon. The harbor at Valdez, owing to the proximity of the Japanese current, is accessible at all seasons of the year to ships of any size, except about a mile and a half to the head of the harbor. The site for a railroad terminal is a narrow strip of land three-quarters of a mile broad extending up the Lower river some five miles and south of a small stream flowing from Robe lake. There is practically a level grade up the valley to the head of the Keystone canyon with ordinary canyon work and emerging on the old plain of the inner canyon basin. From that point there are two feasible routes, one east of Marshall pass and the other west of the same pass. The route to the east of Marshall pass is a narrow strip of land three-quarters of a mile broad extending up the Lower river some five miles and south of a small stream flowing from Robe lake. There is practically a level grade up the valley to the head of the Keystone canyon with ordinary canyon work and emerging on the old plain of the inner canyon basin.

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