## FOR EQUITABLE TAXATION

Real Estate Exchange Committee Begins Campaign Against the Railroads.

WILL URGE CHANGE IN CITY CHARTER

Principal Undertaking is to Amend Law So that Railroad Property May Be Assessed Same as

Other Property.

The tax committee of the Real Estate exchange has begun an active campaign for the repeal of that provision of the city charter which compels the tax commissiener to accept as the assessed valuation of the railroad property within the city limits the returns of the State Board of

In furtherance of its plan a meeting was held yesterday at the Commercial club rooms between the committee and the Douglas county delegation to the legislature. All members of the delegation were present Not except Riggs and Mangold. The meeting epened with a short talk by W. G. Ure secretary of the committee, in which he outlined the object of the committee and stated the conditions existing in Omaha by reason of the provision of the charter which he maintains was in contravention of the provision of the state constitution. Mr. Ure submitted a statement of the

Few Legislators Talk. After citing the constitutional, statutory and charter provisions in regard to taxa-

tion and assessment, Mr. Ure said: Railroads Get Off Easy.

Railroads Get Off Easy.

For the 1903 city assessment Tax Commissioner Fleming has listed all property at what he considered fair cash value. As a matter of fact, we all know of large amounts of property listed at much more than it can be sold for. On the other hand, the State Board of Equalization consists of fair cash value. And as a matter of fact, assessed it at one-eleventh of fair cash value, for I am reliably informed that railroad and kindred property in Nebraska is worth \$125,000,000 for purposes of income and sale, and this value is confirmed by investigation made by The Omaha Bee. All the railroad property in the state and kindred property is assessed in 1902 at \$25,000,000, which is a little less than one-eleventh of \$225,000,000. If we must follow the charter provision the railroads will pay a tax of a certain namber of mills on one-eleventh of fair cash value, while every other property owner in Omaha will pay a tax of a certain namber of mills on full value.

But that the tax is much more unfair than this is evident when we look into the method of the state board assessment. They assess the railroad as a unit, that is, they assertain the value of the main track and the right-of-way; they add to this the value of all side and passing tracks, and the value of Nebraska's portion of the rolling stock. This total is divided by the number of miles of main track each has. The result of this method is that \$25,000.000 worth of property entirely within the limits of Omaha is taken by the state board and distributed over the state board and distributed over the state board and sees back an assessment of \$130,246 on the Union Pacific, Northwestern and Burlington systems, the only Omaha roads over which the state board has jurisdiction. Thus it is seen that the railroad property in the Commissioner Fleming and the Board of Review has journed to be worth \$25,000,000 shall so Scott\* free of taxes, for the tax the railroads will pay on the \$130,246 assessment is inconsiderable.

Comparison of Assessments.

Comparison of Assessments. Compare It with some other assessme

Compare it with some other assessments. The First National Hank building and 66x 132 feet of ground is assessed at \$240,000. This building in which we meet foday (the Board of Trade) and 66x132 feet of ground is assessed at \$155,000. and the New York Life building is assessed at \$550,000, or just five times as much as the state board's assessment of the Omaha terminals of the three railway systems, which include more than 600 acres of land, much of it in the heart of the city, 120 miles of track, three freight and three passenger depots, and the west half of the Missouri river bridge. The M. E. Smith company is assessed on merchandise \$312,500; Paxton & Gallagher, \$357,000, and F. P. Kirkendahi, \$120,000.

The terminal facilities of the Burlington, including about 150 acres of land, thirty miles of track, the new passenger station and the large freight depot, is assessed at \$25,300, Guy C. Barton's at \$45,350 and G. W. Wattles' at \$27,475. The fact is, gentlemen, there is nothing in all the list that appeals to you for relief as does this matter of the repeal of this clause in our charter, because if it must remain and if we must be governed by it every taxpayer in Omaha directly and every citizen indirectly is made to carry a burden that is not his own. By this method the street car company must pay about \$12,000 that the railways ought to pay, the gas company about \$1,000, the First National bank about \$1,000 and any taxpayer who pays \$5 city taxes on his home, his vacant lot or his household and any taxpayer who pays \$6 city taxes on his home, his vacant lot or his household goods pays at least \$1 that the railroads ought to pay; or put it the other way, pays \$1 for the railroads.

No effect on State.

Possibly the impression is out that the railroads pay their share of taxes. And doubtless the argument will be advanced that if Omaha gets a larger share there will be that much less for the other counties. In reply to this we have only to say that the state-county taxing district is entirely separate and distinct from the city taxing district. The state and county governments collect taxes for purposes entirely distinct and separate and perform offices that have no connection with the functions of city government. All property within the corporate limits of Omaha enjoys special privileges and advantages and has increased protection for which the city limits should bear its share of the cost. Without taking up the question of whether or not the railroads pay, their share of taxes in the state, we want to say that the Union Pacific railroad in the fiscal year ending July 30, 1902 made a profit on operation of a little less than \$22,00,000. It receives benefits from the city of Omaha it does not pay for. If it is made to pay \$100,000 city taxes it is only what it owes and out of their \$22,000,000 profits it would never be missed. Under the present methods the Union Pacific receives the benefits and other people pay the bilis.

To show we are not asking too much, we want to say that the assessment of railroad property by the State Board of Equalitation not only results in inequalities, as I benefits and other people pay the bills. To show we are not asking too much, we want to say that the assessment of railroad property by the State Board of Equalization not only results in inequalities, as I have shown in the city taxes, but the county of Douglas suffers by this method as well. There is \$5,000,000 to \$30,000,000 worth of railway property in Douglas equinty. By the methods of the railroad assessment by the State Board of Equalization this is taken out of Douglas county and distributed over the railroads of the state and the state board sends back to Douglas county an assessment on railroad property for county and state purposes of \$50,28,28,28, which brought to fair cash value shows that while we have probably \$50,006,000 worth of railroad property in the county we get an assessment from the state board on \$6,50,176,80 of it. The balance, the greater part, is distributed over the state and every county, township and school district through which the roads pass levy taxes on Douglas county propert. Unfair as this is, we do not make complaint and do not now ask an adjustment of it. Possibly it is right that the railroads be assessed

# GRAIN COFFEE

it is right that the railroads be assessed units for said purposes, but there is no

If you use Grain-O in place of coffee you will enjoy it just as much for it tastes the same; yet, it is like a food to the system, distributing the full substance of the pure grain with every drop.

TRY IT TO-DAY. At grocers everywhere; 15c. and 25c. per packag wlement of fairness in the method of assessment of railroad property under the city charter. We give all the railroad property within the city limits fire and police protection, the advantages of lighted, paved and sewered streets, we give splendld school privileges and all the property within the city limits sharing in the protection, advantages and privileges should share in paying the bills.

In closing I have only to say that ours is not a calamity how! We simply stand for what is right and fair. We want the burden placed where it belongs, and that is all.

After Mr. Ure had concluded members of the feginlative delegation talked, but the expression was limited to a few, the majority seeming to prefer to listen rather than to speak. The expressions generally were in harmony with the position of the tax committee, and there was much discussion as to the best means of accomplishing the purbeen one of the questions settled upon by

pose desired, this apparently not having his daughter, Mrs. Robert B. Stevenson, the members of the delegation at this time. The tax committee has decided to issue a Mr. Band is engaged in business in Sidney. series of papers dealing with this question He has recently made an extensive tour of railroad taxation in Omaha, with data through Australia, New Zealand and many

### DOUGLAS COUNTY UNPLEDGED Committed to Thompson for Speaker as Reported in

Central City.

torial, says the Douglas county delegation to the legislature is unanimously in favor of W. T. Thompson for speaker of the house. W. T. Nelson, the only Dougtaxes paid by certain people and firms las county member who could be seen compared with the taxes of the railroads. report. "While we have a rule," said Mr. Nelson, "which forbids us discussing pub-lic questions in print without unanimous agreement of the entire delegation on the subject, I think I am warranted in saying that there is no truth in this Central City report. So far as I am concerned, I have made no promise and in this, as in other things, I think no promise will be made until the delegation reaches a unanimous agreement."

A SAN FRANCISCO PHYSICIAN

Uses Herpicide Successfully in Treating Sycosis of the Beard.

He says: "I recently treated a case sycosis (similar to 'barber's itch') of the lower lip, with Newbro's Herpicide. There was an extensive loss of beard, with infiamation extending well down on the chin. The result of the application of Herpicids was most gratifying. The loss of beard ceased and a new growth of hair is now taking place over the once inflamed area. "(Signed.) Melville E. O'Neill, M. D.,

"San Francisco, Cal." Herpicide kills the dandruff germ and causes the hair to grow abundantly. PERSONALLY CONDUCTED

Florida Excursion Via "Dixie Flyer" Route.

On Tuesday, January 6th, an excursion will be run from Nepraska to Florida-with through sleeping cars from Omaha and Lincoln, via Burlington Route to St. Louis and the "Dixle Flyer" Route from there to Jacksonville.

This excursion will be a personally conducted one and will be in charge of Mr. George W. Bonnell, C. T. A., B. & M. R. R., Lincoln, Neb., who is thoroughly familiar with the points of interest enroute and in the state of Florida.

As you pass through Cairo, Martin, Nashville, Chattanooga, Atlanta and Macon, and make a 12-hour stopover at Chattanooga, where an experienced guide will conduct the party through Chattanooga Park, pay a visit to Lookout Mountain and tions escaping their just share or imposing other points of interest; the trip will be hardships upon them or other taxpayers.

An early application for sleeping car Pass. Agt., Illinois Central Railroad, Omaha, Neb.

Announcements of the Theaters,

The entire community is on the qui vive over the opening of the "Ben Hur" sale of seats at Boyd's, which opens tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. The famous spectacle opens its week's engagement here next Monday-no Sunday performance being given of "Ben Hur"-and if one can judge from the enthusiasm and interest already manifested, it is safe to predict a very heavy sale tomorrow. Naturally, the first applicants will have the best choice of seats, as a clean box office sheet will be presented to the first purchaser. The coming of "Ben Hur" to Omaha is an occasion of unusual importance, and as the big production is already booked three years ahead in other territory, this will probably be the only opportunity residents in this section will have of witnessing its presentation The performance will start promptly at 8 o'clock Monday evening with the beautiful opening tableau, "The Star of Bethlehem," during which the entire auditorium will be darkened, and no late comer will be seated until the act is over.

## A Beautiful Calendar.

The Milwaukee Railway has published an artistic calendar for 1903. Six sheets, 10x15 inches, of beautiful reproductions in colors of pastel drawings by Bryson. Price, 25 cents. On sale at City Ticket Office, 1504 Farnam street.

HOLIDAY RATES-THE NORTHWESTERN LINE. Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota. December 24, 25, 21, January 1. Very low fares. 1401-1403 Farnam street.

Mortality Statistics.

The following births and deaths were re-ported at the office of the Board of Health turing the forty-eight hours ending at noon during the forty-eight hours ending at noon Monday:

Births—James Arlington, 2234 Lake street, girl; James W. Convey, 808 South Nine-teenth street, girl; William Saunders, 3253 South Thirteenth street, boy; Wilbur H. Dickinson, 5214 South Thirteenth street, girl; John L. Cowger, 381 North Twenty-fifth avenue, girl; Charles Dohae, 569 Lincoln avenue, boy; Jesse Hambright, 2611 North Fifteenth street, girl; Anton Dusell, 2621 Martha street, girl twins; Charles N. Freyer, 4618 Isard street, boy.

Deaths—Grace Lurelia Baker, 423 South Tenth street, aged 8 months; Stella Koetter, Child Saving institute, aged 2 months; Arnold C. Koenig, 1525 South Twenty-sixth attreet, aged 2 years; H. S. Gideon, 206 South Twentieth street, aged 65 years; Elizabeth H. Tinley, 1612 Burdette street, aged 79 years; Robert Connolley, St. Joseph's hospital, aged 25 years; Louise Lage, 1102 South Ninth street, aged 55 years; John G. Ritchie, Thirty-eighth and Ida streets, aged 64 years; Lillie Wenningheff, 255 South Twenty-sixth street, aged 6 years.

## LOCAL BREVITIES.

Christiana Kluge aues for divorce from Charles, alleging cruelty and drunkenness. They were married December 5, 1885.
The first annual ball of the Omaha Bartenders' union will be given at Creighton hall, Pifteenth and Harney streets, to-night.

The Thurston Rifles will give their annual New Year's party at the armory, 1810 Harney street, on the evening of December 31.

ber 31.

Boxes of burning excelsior in the basement of the store occupied by Mueller & Johnson, 619 South Sixteenth street, caused an alarm to be sent to the department Monday afternoon at 3:28. No damage.

Just to show that he is still on earth the retiring deputy county attorney, ignatius Jehovah Dunn, has filed in district court an affidavit to the effect that John Briggs, chief of police of South Omaha, is disregarding the mandamus issued August 2 by Judge Slabaugh insomuch as he is permitting owners and manipulators of gambiling devices to keep on owning and manipulating them.

## PUBLIC OWNERSHIP SUCCEEDS

H. F. Band Tells of Government Bailroads in Australia and New Zealand.

FARE IS ONLY ONE CENT PER MILE

compulsory Arbitration Law Shuts Out Strikes and Brings Constant Advancement and Development in Labor Interests.

Henry Frederick Hand of Sidney, Ausralia, has arrived in Omaha and is visiting wife of Superintendent Stevenson of the American Smelting and Refining company showing some of the glaring inequalities. of the South Sea islands, including the Fill

and the Samoan "The two things that impress me mostly in Australia and New Zealand are their management of the railroads and their equitable systems of taxation. All ratiroads save a small and unimportant one, are under the control of the government, and that one, which is run by private owners under The Central City Nonparell, in an edi- a concession granted by the government, is about to fall into the government's

"All the railroads under government control are paying good dividends, but this little line, conducted by private individuals, has never paid. The owners are glad enough to relinquish it to the government. The average passenger rate on government lines is 1 cent a mile and this is sufficient to yield good returns and place the roads upon a basis substantial enough to make the credit of the government strong with England and enable it to get all the money it needs for improvements and extensions. You could never make an Australian or a New Zealander think for a minute of turning the railroads over to private concerns. Of course the rolling stock there is not entirely equal to what we have in America, but they are rapidly improving and will, in time, show wonderful progress. Their trains make good time and afford reasonable comfort in travel, so I don't know but that they meet adequately the demands of the pub-

"A humorous incident occurred not long ago in Australia. The government bought a lot of Pullman sleepers from this country for use down there. But when an attempt was made to run them it was found that the cars were too large to pass through some of the numerous tunnels, and as a result the tunnels had to be hewn out, and then many bridges had to be reconstructed to give passage to the Pullmans.

"One constant stimulus to both New Zealand and Australia is the eternal rivalry between them. One is ceaselessly bent on outdoing the other in commercial development and in political advancement, and this brings about mighty good results. Both countries have many notable laws and systems in common. The compulsory arbitration law, for instance, is the bulwark of their industrial systems. No strikes there and yet constant advancement and development in the labor world.

"In the regulation of wages and wage workers' schedules in general these countries are ahead of most. One good exaction that is made of every employer is that they must have a fixed minimum for all workers. They can't get more than that and must be advanced regularly and systematically. "As to the system of taxation, it is such as to preclude the possibility of corpora-

The income tax puts a check on accumulation of exorbitant and unreasonaspace is suggested. Ask for copy of illus-trated booklet outlining the trip at 1402 the country in the hands of a few individ-Farnam St., or write W. H. BRILL, Dist. uals. I believe this law is largely responsible for the fact that there is very little, if any, actual poverty in those countries. Everybody gets along with apparent comfort and all seem satisfied."

End of Recent Coal Stelle.

The recent anthracite coal strike is practically ended, the miners and operators have decided to allow a board of arbitration to adjust the differences. The quickest way to settle any disturbance in the stomach or kidneys is to take Hostetter's Stomach Bitters at the first symptom. It has cured thousands of cases of loss of appetite, insomnia, indigestion, dyspepsia, heartburn, constipation and iver and kidney troubles during the last fifty years and it won't fail you. Try a bottle; also obtain a copy of our 1903 almanac from your druggist. It is free.

VERDICT IS AGAINST LINTONS

Amount is Not Sufficient, However, to Satisfy the Plaintiff in the Case.

A jury that has been "hung" since Saturday forenoon came into district court yesterday at 10 o'clock with a verdict finding for the plaintiff in the case of John T. Cathers against the Lintons, and assessing the amount of his recovery from Phoebe R. E. E. Linton at \$3,128, and from Adolphus F. Linton at \$500.

Cathers had sued for \$6,156 for attorney's services in eight cases and proclaimed himself disappointed by the amount awarded Attorneys have come to feel considerable interest in the case, partly because it was forever in the way of their own, and partly because it involved the value of a lawyer's services.

No Venom in 'Em

No poisonous purgatives enter into Dr. King's New Life Pills. Easy, but prompt. they cure or no pay. Only 25c. For sale by Kuhn & Co.

Have a Care.

Don't fool with a cold; no one can tell what the end may be. Pneumonia, catarrh, chronic bronchitis and consumption invariably result from neglected colds. Nothing can be compared with Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as a quick cure for colds and influenza and by its use these diseases may

Holiday Rares.

On December 24, 25 and 31 and January the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway will sell round trip tickets to points within 200 miles at fare and one-third. Final Hmit, January 2. City Office, 1504 Farnam St.

TELLS OF CHURCH TROUBLES Rev. Becknell Reports to the Monday Club on Condition in

England.

Publish your legal notices in The Weekly

Bee. Telephone 238.

At the meeting of the Monday club yester. day Rev. Bicknell, pastor of the North Side Christian church, spoke of the condition of the Christian church in England, from which country he came but recently. He said that what is necessary there is evangelization and that there is a branch of the church, organized many years ago along lines somewhat similar to that of the Christian church of this country, which causes much confusion in the minds of the people and that steps should be taken to bring about a unloy of the forces.

Big Price Reductions in Every Department

Children's 75c Dresses at 25c All of our dark colored, polks dot, fleece lined children's

dresses, with large braided collars, in ages 1, 2, 3 and 4, \$1.00 Petticoats at 50c All of our wood yarn knit petticoats, mercerized and 50c

at, each......

\$1.50 Silks at 49c Yard 4,500 yards of plain and fancy silk novelty velours, 27-inch and 36-inch, fine itning silks, Roman stripe silks, black peau de sole, pretty Foulards, etc., also a lot of fine lengths in waisting and

trimming silk, worth up to \$1.50, go at, yard ..... 75c Wrappers at 25c

All of our percale and dark colored wrappers, also indige print wrappers, on main floor bargain square, clearing sale

75c Children's Cloth Hats at 10c

00 dozen of cardinal, navy, brown, castor, pearl, prettily embroidered cloth hats, just the thing for winter school wear, formerly priced at 75c, to clean them 

\$2.00 Velvet Hats at 75c

dozen black, cardinal, navy, brown castor and green, fine quality velve hats in about 8 different shades, ju the article for finishing up the lon winter season, to complete you 75c

\$10.00 Cloaks at \$3.85

Monte Carlos and 27-inch jackets, silk and satin lined, of ker-

\$10 and \$12.50 Suits for \$3.50 Blouse, eton and Norfolk suits, all new cloths and colors, odds 

Ladies' \$2.50 Dress Skirts at 85c

Ladies' and misses' skirts, black, pavy and brown, satin lined and flounce trimmed, worth up to \$2.50, at .....

Underwear—All the misses' and children's bargain lots of winter underwear worth up to 35c, go at.......... 10c-15c Laces-Thousands of yards of all kinds of laces in all widths worth 5C up to 25c, go at, yard..... Wool flittens-Big lots of ladies' and children's all wool

mittens, double knit, worth up to 25c go at, pair ..... 5c-15c Golf Gloves-All the ladies' high grade, all wool silk mercerized 39c golf gloves worth 50c and 75c a pair, go at .....

Watch Our Windows

hoarseness or loss of voice Ask your druggist or send 25c to How ell Drug Co., Omaha.

## **LEKLOWF LKICE?**

Figures below tell the rest—dollar bettle Lundborg's Daisy Queen for for 1 two dollar bottle Ext. D'Eglantine for \$1.00 2 fancy bottles assorted perfumes which retailed for 50c, will sell for,

for 22 25c size Red Stocking perfume for, tion for, each 75c bottles Wright's Maud Mulier for, each \$1.00 bottle Wright's Maud Muller for 50 \$1.00 bottle Wright's Grand Duchess \$1.00 bottle Wright's Grand Duchess Extract for \$1.25 bottles VIOLETS-Marechale, for, each
6 85c bottles Dabrook's Parisian Violet
for, each
2 85c bottles Dabrook's Parisian Pink
for, each
32 25c baskets of perfume for children, for, each 13c Each price quoted above is just half the regular value of goods named and is quoted to close out—our "odds and ends."

Sherman & McConnell Drug Co. Corner 16th and Dodge Sts., Omahs



## If you are thinking

of fitting your home out with new fixtures- gas or electriccome in and look over our elegant line. We can please you.

F. M. Russell 313 South 15th St. Telephone 503 A SKIN OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOREVER DR. T. FELIX GOURAUD'S ORIENTAL CREAM, OR MAGICAL BEAUTIFILE



W Great James St., N.

TWENTIETH CENTURY FARMER

For the Boys

A special shoe-special selected uppers and soles-uppers heavy grain or box calf-sail cloth lined-extra heavy oak sole leather soles with the extension edges-full round toes that give the boy comfort from the beginning—the best wearing boy's shoe ever put together-sixes 18 to 2 at \$2.25-21/2 to 51/2 at \$2.50. We take as much care in fitting the boys' shoes as we do the fathers. Catalogue free for the asking.

DREXEL SHOE CO Omaha's Up-to-Date Shoe House 1419 FARNAM STREET.

## Anti-Toxineand Vaccine

81.00 genume Temptation Tonic... 81.00 genuine Peruna 81.00 Pierce's Prescription 81.00 Pierce's Medical Discovery Se genuine Castoria St. genuine Castoria
\$1.00 fler's Malt Whiskey (want it?)
\$1.00 Canadian Malt Whiskey-pure
\$1.00 Herpicide (want it?)
\$1.00 Parisian Hair Tonic-guaranteed.
\$1.00 Butler's Female Regulator, guaranteed

anteed 75c
genuine Chester's Pennyroyal Pills 1,00
75c Moller's Cod Liver Oil 66c
66c Pozzoni Face Powder, any color. 25c
55c Graves' Tooth Powder—special 10c
55c Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets 15c
51.00 Hossack's Sarsaparilia 65c
51.00 Horlick's Malted Milk 75c OPEN ALL NIGHT SCHAEFER'S CUT PRICE DRUG STORE

Tel. 747. 3. W. Cor. 16th and Chicago

## GREAT SALE

Men's

Today and as long as they last we will place on sale 600 men's overcoats at \$8. The overcoats in this sale are of extraordinary values. They are the best overcoats ever produced for the price. In this assortment are overcoats made of fine kerseys, each garment is lined with extra durable Farmer satin lining. Of course perfect fit is assured in every case before the garment leaves the store.

Sale Starts Today, Tuesday.



December 30-31 **Return January 3** 



TICKET OFFICE, 1323 FARNAM ST. AND UNION STATION

No Railroad Runs

Three through trains daily to California, Oregon and all Western points, except the Union Pacific, viz.:

"THE ... California Express" Pacific Express"

and that great California train "THE ... Overland Limited"

NO CHANGE OF CARS ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Full information cheerfully furnished on CITY TICKET OFFICE, 1324 FARNAM ST.

'Phone 316.

....WHY STAY .... IN A COLD OFFICE? Warm Rooms \$10.00 Up

...IN... THE BEE BUILDING.

Rental price includes lieat, Light, Water and anitor Service. R. C. PETERS & Co.,

Rental Agents.

**Ground Floor** 

WHEN YOU BUY A

MERCANTILE

You are not paying for CHROMOS, SCHEMES, FREE DEALS, BTC., but for PINE QUALITY HAVANA TOBACCO. EQUAL to IMPORTED CIGARA F. R. RICH MERCANTILE CHIAR CO., Mant, St. Louis. Union Meda.