

STATE ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Governor Thinks Legislature Made a Mistake in Killing the Bill.

GENERAL COLBY'S BOOKS A CASE IN POINT

Detectives Capture Three Men, One of Whom Confesses to Being Implicated in Recent Bank Robberies in Nebraska.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Now that the books of former Adjutant General Colby have been taken before the federal grand jury, Governor Mickey has been constrained to remark that the legislature made a mistake when it failed to pass an act to have appointed a state accountant whose business it would be to check up the books of the various state institutions and offices at any time.

At the present time, Governor Mickey said, he is too busy looking after his own administration to devote very much time looking into matters of previous administrations. He requested Adjutant General Colby to look into the books of the late general at his first opportunity, but the latter, owing to his inadequate clerical force and the great duties of his office, stated that he, too, had been too busy looking after his own affairs. The upshot of the business is that General Colby has been allowed to leave the office and turn it over to his successor without the formality of a final settlement with the present administration.

"Had the legislature enacted that law," said Governor Mickey, "General Colby's books would have been checked up by this time as well as the books of former adjutant generals. I did what I could to get such a law passed and I hope the next legislature will do it. There is no question in my mind that if we had had such an officer the Bartley shortage would never have happened."

George Bennett of the auditor's office went to Omaha this morning to appear before the grand jury in the Colby investigation and look with him the warrant for the \$2,350 that had been delivered to Colby.

Confesses to Bank Robbery.

Detectives Malone and Franklin this morning arrested Thomas Freeman, John Gardner and Fred Borman, charged with being bank robbers. Freeman confessed to having had a hand in the robbery of the Pleasantdale bank some weeks ago and implicated his companions. The latter, however, deny their guilt. Between them the men had about \$500. The arrest was made this morning in a rooming house on P street. All the men were armed and in the room was a quantity of nitro-glycerine and several feet of fuse. They were surprised at the arrest and offered no resistance. Freeman admitted that he had taken part in bank robberies in Howard county and at a small bank at Loup City, securing with his partners in all about \$1,000.

Freeman has served two terms in the penitentiary upon evidence furnished by Detective Malone. Once he was sentenced about twelve years ago and again about six years ago. The detectives will not say in which jail they have the prisoners or where they are guarding them, as they fear interference upon the part of the Finkerton crowd. The men can be tried, however, at the conference of Freeman, in three different counties. The arrest is considered an important one and Detective Malone is of the opinion that at least Freeman has been implicated in many of the robberies of recent date. The case of the Pleasantdale bank robbery is not acquainted with the records of Borman and Gardner.

Both Land Commissioner Folmer and Deputy Eaton have been out a greater portion of the last several weeks inspecting the county appraisers in their work in the reappraisal of school lands. To date returns have been received from these counties: York, Webster, Howard, Phelps, Harlan and Gosper. The increase in valuation by the reappraisal in these counties is from 150 to \$90,000,000 in the counties that are yet to make their returns are: Boyd, Custer, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Pierce, Madison, Boone, Lancaster, Thayer, Dodge, Nuckolls, Clay, Franklin, Kearney, Hall, Sherman, Greeley, Valley, Buffalo, Dawson, Furnas and Richardson. The land commissioner will make an effort to have the work completed by January 1.

Gas Company May Be Owners.

The people of Lincoln are just now worrying as to who is to own the traction company property which was bid in by a young man named Fruesauf last Friday. According to some it is beginning to look as though the gas company was back of the deal and men are holding up their hands for fear such is the case. Some say that under the recent ownership things were bad enough, but owned by the gas company would be too much. Others believe that W. J. C. Kenyon and the Armour people are behind the deal, but nobody seems to know.

The gas and electric light company is a part of the McMillan syndicate, and it was learned today that the Denver manager of that syndicate was named Fruesauf and that a year ago he was registered at the hotel here. The recent purchaser hailed from Denver, or at least was registered from there.

The advantage accruing by the purchase of the street railway company by the McMillan people is obvious. It would remove the gas company's only competitor in the lighting business in the city, or rather place the entire lighting business in the hands of the same people. A big consolidated company, combining both interests could be better floated than the present heavily burdened lighting company.

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NEW RATE BY ROCK ISLAND

Flat Proportional Announced to Mississippi River and North.

ORIGINATING TERRITORY UNRESTRICTED

More Than Meets Great Western, as It Applies to All Shipments from West of the Missouri.

(Special.)

The Rock Island has thrown a bomb into the camp of competing lines by announcing a flat proportional rate of 9 cents on wheat and 5 cents on corn to the Mississippi river and M'neapolis, and a rate of 14 cents on wheat and 10 cents on corn to the Chicago market. The rate applies on all grain and grain products originating west of the Missouri river, and as the unloading privilege is allowed in transit, it is virtually a milling-in-transit rate. The new tariff issued by the Chicago Great Western quotes the same proportionals, but they apply only on grain coming from a restricted territory.

The Rock Island crosses the state line of Nebraska into Kansas at Narika, a point almost due south of Lincoln, and runs west to the Kansas state line along the northern border of that state, consequently it may be seen that Omaha is very likely to handle some Kansas grain, which may serve in measure to offset the discrimination this place has always suffered in grain rates as compared with Kansas City.

Effect of New Rate.

The effect of the new Rock Island tariff, it is thought, will be the same as that of the first tariff issued by the Chicago Great Western, which quoted exactly the same rates as those quoted in the new Rock Island tariff, and as the territory of this place has always suffered in grain rates as compared with Kansas City.

Debate Philippine Question.

OAKLAND, Neb., Dec. 8.—(Special.)—The pupils of the Oakland High school held their first public debate in the high school room on Monday night on the subject, "Should the United States Retain Possession of the Philippines?" The affirmative was taken by Adolph Carlisle, Ray Nelson, Leon Gaffney, all of the eleventh grade, while Carol Steuffer, Leonard Everett and Mabel Nelson took the negative. The judges awarded the \$5 which had been previously given by Dr. E. J. C. Secord to the negative side.

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