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TAX HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

State Board Gives Two Days for All Who Are Dissatisfied.

REED TAKES SHOT AT POLLEY'S FIGURES

Shows Wherein Railroad Man's Computation of Land Values is Incorrect—Promises to Fracture Here Holes in It.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, July 20.—(Special)—Next Tuesday and Wednesday the State Board of Equalization has set apart for a public debate on the matter of equalization and every county that has a grievance is invited to send a representative to the meeting. When this public hearing shall have been completed the board will have three days in which to arrive at its conclusion; consequently there will be little time for anyone to make a talk after next Wednesday. However, the board will be in session every day, and before that time any person is privileged to come and make his protest. T. A. Polley of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad will be here Wednesday and he has told the board he is anxious for people to come from every county in the state through which his road runs. Three or four counties were represented before the board today, but merely informal discussions were held, as there are still five counties yet to make reports. Auditor Weston and Land Commissioner Polley were here and will be with the board until the finish. Mr. Polley intends by tomorrow to have his estimate of land values, based on land sales, compiled and ready for the board. A few of the counties in which he made estimates vary little from the value placed on land by the assessors. This table shows Mr. Polley's figures, based on the sales, and the average value of improved and unimproved land made by the county assessors.

County.	Value Based on Sales.	Value Based on Assessor's Figures.
Adair	\$2.34	\$2.34
Burt	\$1.34	\$1.34

Cuming 55.22 54.65
Polk 42.57 42.75
York 48.90 42.10

Reed Gets After Polley's

County Assessor Reed of Douglas county was down today from Omaha looking over the compilation of land sales made in Douglas county by T. A. Polley, and it is very evident that Mr. Reed will be able to knock to smithereens the figures that Polley intends to use as a basis of argument. Mr. Polley used the valuation made by City Tax Assessor Fleming for the year 1903 for a comparison to show the assessed valuation was much less than the sales value. There is a vast difference in the values fixed by Mr. Reed this year and Mr. Fleming last September and the comparison should have been made with the figures returned by the county assessor.

Mr. Reed said: "The figures of Mr. Polley are ridiculous in the extreme, for he has not made a comparison with my figures returned this year and besides that he has cut out of his calculations some of the biggest sales made during the year. For instance, Bebe & Runyan bought from the Barker estate a half block on Dodge street between Eighth and Ninth streets for \$20,000 which had been assessed at \$25,250. This he cut out. Another piece of property that sold for \$5,500 I had assessed for \$4,000. Fleming last year assessed the same property for \$4,200 and Polley has made his comparison with Fleming's figures. The Turner corner, which was sold for \$25,000 Fleming assessed last year at \$7,000 and it was with Fleming's figures that Polley made his comparison, though I assessed the same property this year for \$10,000. Last year Fleming assessed something like \$1,000,000 worth of railroad property in Omaha that the state board assessed this year and Polley cites that as a decrease without explaining why. Another piece of property that last year was assessed at \$1,500 by Fleming Polley says is worth \$4,000. A house has been built on that property since the assessment of last year and in the county assessment the house was included. His comparisons are absolutely ridiculous and should have no weight with the board."

Late this afternoon Mr. Reed went before the board for a few minutes and took a few shots at the Polley's figures and promised the board to come back and take a few more if needed. He told that he had

assessed land at its actual value and cited several instances to show that Polley's failed to cite. Where one piece of property had been sold for \$14,500 and assessed at \$8,500 as shown by Polley, Mr. Reed said the deed had been made out, but that the sale never occurred and he knew the reason why. Kountze Memorial had been sold for \$30,000 and Mr. Reed assessed it at \$88,000, which Polley failed to mention. One piece of property that Polley said sold for \$15,000 that was assessed by Fleming at \$47,000. Mr. Reed said he assessed at \$21,000. Another piece of property, the Young Men's Christian association, had been sold for \$200,000. Mr. Reed said he assessed for \$100,000, because he knew a fancy price had been paid for it. And Mr. Reed cited any number of instances to show why credence should not be given to Polley's compilation.

When the board met this morning Governor Mickey asked for expressions from the members whether the board should proceed and equalize between the different classes of property, taking up land first, or whether it should take everything into consideration. He talked as though he was not sure whether the law specified that the increase or decrease should be made by a per cent in each county, and finally asked the board would it not be a good idea to get an opinion from Attorney General Prout on the matter. Mr. Weston stopped the delay, however, by informing the governor there was no question about the law; that there could be no distinction between classes of property insofar as the board was concerned, for when it rated on one class that raise would be added to every piece of property in the county affected. While the board was sitting as an assessment board, it asked for several opinions from the attorney general, each of which the board promptly overruled.

Insurance Tax Law Pays Well.

The late legislature build well when it changed the manner of taxing insurance companies. The board is sitting as an assessment board, it asked for several opinions from the attorney general, each of which the board promptly overruled. The late legislature build well when it changed the manner of taxing insurance companies. The board is sitting as an assessment board, it asked for several opinions from the attorney general, each of which the board promptly overruled. The late legislature build well when it changed the manner of taxing insurance companies. The board is sitting as an assessment board, it asked for several opinions from the attorney general, each of which the board promptly overruled.

turned for the ring, but was unable to find it. He has appealed to the police to assist him in recovering the diamond, which he claims is stolen.

DESERTER SHOOT HIMSELF

Cedar County Man Has Unfortunate Love Affair.

HARTINGTON, Neb., July 20.—(Special)—Sheriff Rosenberger, in response to a telegram from the United States military authorities, last week arrested Edwin Johnson at the home of his parents, fourteen miles east of Hartington, on the charge of desertion from the army. When making the arrest the sheriff discovered that the young man had been shot, and upon inquiry was informed that young Johnson had shot himself in the left shoulder late the evening before, the evident cause of which was a love affair.

It seems that Johnson had been paying attentions to Miss Wingate, a Cedar county teacher, who resides with her parents in the neighborhood, until it was brought to a sudden termination by the interference of the young woman's father. The young man in his desperation resolved to enlist in the army. He did so and for about eight weeks was quartered with his regiment at San Francisco. However, he learned to his sorrow that his love for the young woman was stronger than his oath of allegiance as a soldier and he deserted his regiment and fled to his home and renewed his suit. Miss Wingate refused to listen to his entreaties, having been forbidden by her father to have anything more to do with him, whereupon Johnson threatened to shoot himself. Sunday evening Johnson insisted upon coming to the Wingate home and Wingate ordered him away with a threat that he would shoot him should he come back again. Then Johnson moved off to an adjoining field and deliberately shot himself. The prisoner is now lodged in the county jail awaiting the orders of the United States authorities. The doctors probed for the bullet this afternoon, but were unable to find it. This evening another effort will be made with the assistance of the X-ray to locate the bullet.

To Correct Officer's Mistakes.

PIERCE, Neb., July 20.—(Special)—The county commissioners have agreed to instruct the county attorney to take such steps as he deems necessary to correct the mistakes, if any, in settlement with C. E. Staley, ex-county clerk. Mr. Staley was for eight years the deputy of R. A. Lawrence, the first populist county clerk. Afterward he was chosen twice for the office of county clerk on the populist ticket. Last fall he refused to support the populist nominees for county clerk and worked for W. G. Hiron, the republican nominee. This aroused the ire of the democratic and populist bosses in this precinct and they vowed that they would make it hot for him. Some of them circulated a petition that was signed by many of the faithful asking that Mr. Staley's books be examined by an expert. This was presented to the county commissioners last March, but after some weeks' delay they declined to grant it, knowing that it was got up for political effect only.

Democrats Name Ticket.

BEATRICE, Neb., July 20.—(Special)—The democratic county convention was held here this afternoon, at which the following ticket was placed in nomination: For state senator, M. W. Terry; representative, A. R. Morris of Blue Springs; John Garcia of Holt township; T. E. Stewart of Beatrice; county attorney, R. S. Hibb. Delegates to the state and local conventions were also elected. The populists held their convention and elected delegates to the state and local conventions, but the nominating of a county ticket was deferred until July 20.

Fusion seems to be a thing of the past in Gage county with the democrats and populists, and indications point to a complete republican victory here this fall.

WOULD ALTER KINKAID LAW

Senator Dietrich Thinks System Can Be Changed to Advantage of State.

HASTINGS, Neb., July 20.—(Special)—In an interview today in regard to the taking up of Nebraska land under the Kinkaid act, Senator Dietrich expressed himself as follows: "I am satisfied from information I have received from a great many sources that the Kinkaid bill, increasing the homestead right in the western part of this state to 60 acres, is not a satisfactory solution of the problem, for the reason that the size of the homestead provided for is not sufficiently large to justify settlers in entering the land except in a very few places. While the bill will be of some benefit I confidently believe that something more must be done."

I have talked with a great many men on this subject, and the opinion seems to be quite general that a law should be enacted at the next session of congress authorizing the secretary of the interior to classify all lands which shall have been entered under the Kinkaid bill, and also all unappropriated lands in Nebraska. The purpose would be to sell at auction all or any land not taken within two years after the passage of the Kinkaid bill. This would furnish a fund for the settlement of the vast territory under existing laws, by making it possible for homesteaders to later on take an acre, instead of 1/2, as under the old homestead law, such commutation, however, not to be allowed until after two years' occupation and full compliance with all provisions of the bill. The major portion of the territory specified by the Kinkaid bill is of such a character that 60 acres does not make a tract large enough for the support of a family. The law should be amended to enable the settler to acquire additional land.

Funeral of Hans Peters.

GRETA, Neb., July 20.—(Special)—The remains of Hans Peters, sr., who was killed by a Northwestern train at Norfolk Monday evening, were brought to Gretna this morning. The funeral will be held from the family home in Gretna Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment will be made in Mohr's cemetery. Mr. Peters leaves a widow and two children. He was a pioneer citizen of western Sarpy county, in wealthy circumstances, his death was a great shock to this community, as he has been closely allied with its business interests for years.

Rain Helps the Corn.

SHELTON, Neb., July 20.—(Special)—One of the heaviest rains of the season fell here last night and now the ground is thoroughly soaked clear down. This rain will place the corn crop in the best shape it has ever been at this time of the year and corn is further advanced than in any former year and fully two weeks ahead of last season. Many fields are now tasseling and other crops in proportion. Fall wheat threshing commenced this week and the quality is good and the yield will be about twenty bushels per acre and 70c is being paid at the elevators.

News of Nebraska.

ASHLAND, July 20.—Jacob Egert, who was killed by a train at Gretna last night, died this morning, died this morning at 5 o'clock at his home, northwest of this city.
WEST POINT, July 20.—A very heavy rain fell this morning, accompanied by a severe electrical disturbance and a heavy wind. Standing small grain is considerably lodged.
HUMBOLDT, July 20.—The commercial club at its meeting last night decided to begin active preparations for the annual fair and fall carnival in this city, setting the dates for September 23, 29 and October 1.
ALBURN, July 20.—A heavy rainstorm visited this section this morning. The government gauge showed a precipitation of two inches. This, added to the rain of yesterday, makes six and one-half inches within twenty-four hours.
BEATRICE, July 20.—Local union No. 88, Painters and Decorators, met last night and elected the following officers: B. H. Oden, president; O. H. Hiron, vice president; Charles Freeman, precursor; Fred Henth, Julius Nauman, Fred Snow, trustees.
CHADRON, July 20.—Sitting at the dinner table, Olga Stranasky, aged about 30 years, dropped her head and died without a moment's warning. She had been a resident of Chadron for fifteen years and leaves a wife and one daughter, Mrs. Olga Chulavik.
HUMBOLDT, July 20.—This section was visited again this morning by a drenching rain, which was unaccompanied by wind, though bringing a lively electrical display. Considerable damage was done to hay and small grain, most of which had been cut and will spoil if some sunshine does not set in soon.
NEBRASKA CITY, July 20.—The county assessor of Gage county has completed the work of determining the valuation of the county's real estate and personal property, which is \$38,000,000. The amount includes the charges made by the Board of Equalization. The average value of farm property in the county is \$24.50 per acre.
PAPILLION, July 20.—John Hoy, while on his way to Beatrice, met with a painful accident. He was eating his lunch, when a small chicken bone lodged in his throat. He immediately returned to Papillion, but the doctor was unable to remove the bone. John then went to a hospital at Omaha, where the bone will be cut out.
NEBRASKA CITY, July 20.—The school census of Gage county just completed shows there are 7,300 children of school age in the county. This includes all the children between the ages of 5 and 21 years old. There are 3,178 boys and 4,122 girls. The census indicates there are twenty-one more children this year of school age than there were last year.
BERTHOLD, July 20.—When H. S. Knapp of this place opened his jewelry store for business Monday morning he discovered that all the goods in his window and some from the show cases had disappeared. Six gold watches, a dozen lockets, a large number of chains, brooches and cheap specialties were carried off. The goods taken represented a value of about \$15.
BEATRICE, July 20.—Mrs. Robert Heckathorn, an old resident of this city, was pronounced insane by the Board of Insanity Commissioners and ordered taken to the asylum.
BEATRICE, July 20.—Yesterday was farmers' day at the Chautauqua and quite a large number of farmers from various parts of the county were in attendance. J. L. McElrath of Lincoln, republican nominee for state superintendent of schools, delivered an address on "Twentieth Century Farm Life." Mr. McElrath's address was a scholarly effort and was enjoyed by all who heard it.
WEST POINT, July 20.—A merchants street fair and carnival now in progress here has so far proved a great success. The attendance has been large and the closing day, if rain does not intervene, will draw a large crowd. Theaters, minstrel shows, Ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds and a host of minor attractions fill the main street of the city. The grounds are very orderly and everyone seems pleased.
ALBURN, July 20.—A thief entered the barn of John H. Shook, who resides just outside of the corporate limits of this place, and stole a team of horses. From thence he brought the horses to town and went to the stable of Joseph Lettellar, living in the west part of town, and hid the stolen horses to his fence and harnessed up Lettellar's gray team, fed them out of the barn and was holding them, when Lettellar was awakened by the neighing of the horses. He jumped out of bed and ran to the barn, where the man who had the horses fed, leaving all the horses. The sheriff was called, but no clue to the thief was obtained.
CHADRON, July 20.—Coroner Blomre reports the death by suicide of William Bones of Alliance. The body was found about six miles west of Chadron in a draw, with the clothes on his back. He had tied a cord to the trigger of a shotgun and pulling it shot himself in the breast, setting his shirt on fire. Being near a field belonging to William Shimmick, the smoke was seen, but no one had heard any report of the gun. He had a team and wagon, containing provisions. Relatives at Alliance were telegraphed to and a non-law, G. W. Bower, came immediately, but allowed the body to be buried here, saying William Bones and his wife had lately separated, selling and dividing their property.

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