

MORTENSEN MAY WITHDRAW

Attorneys See No Way to Get Question of Eligibility Before Court.

MORE TROUBLE OVER TABITHA HOME

Gov. Mickey Commends Iowa Senate for Anti-Pass Law, but Thinks it Should Have Gone a Step Farther with Prohibition.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, March 9.—(Special.)—State Treasurer Peter Mortensen this morning held a conference with his attorneys, Stroh & Clements, regarding Mr. Mortensen's eligibility to be governor of the state, but no official announcement will be made of the outcome of the conference for a few days.

The attorneys have been looking into the matter of bringing suit to have the question of Mortensen's eligibility passed upon by the supreme court, but they have come to the conclusion there is no way this can be done except by quo warranto proceedings, which could not be started until after the election. For this reason it is probable the state treasurer will within a few days announce his withdrawal from the race for the republican nomination, as Mr. Mortensen has said all along he would not be a candidate should there be any doubt of his eligibility to hold the office.

Mr. Mortensen, however, would make no statement for publication this afternoon as he desired to further consult with some of his friends before taking any action. The decision of the supreme court in the Coney-Hyland case, which was to the effect that the court would not pass upon the eligibility of a candidate for office in mandamus proceedings, but instead would do this only in quo warranto, has taken away all hope of the treasurer setting into court before the election. It is believed, it is believed, it would not be doing the party justice and would be too severe a handicap to continue in the race for the nomination with his eligibility in doubt, and because of this his withdrawal is expected within a few days.

Unusual Episode in Court.

Charles E. Means, who has figured considerably in the courts of late, this morning developed a big case of remorse and went into court and paid the costs of a suit which he had won and in which the costs had been taxed to the plaintiff. Means had been sued for a lumber bill and when the case was tried he produced a receipt for the amount charged against him. This morning he said he had secured the receipt by unfair means and as he had started on the right and narrow path he wanted to pay the costs of the suit, which amounted to \$100.

More Trouble with Tabitha Home.

Tabitha home, which was taken over some months ago by a committee which first secured the removal of Rev. and Mrs. Heiner, the founders of the place and since its start its managers, is to again come under the limelight. So far it is asserted this committee has never been able to get a statement out of Rev. Mr. Heiner regarding his management of the home. Today Attorney General Brown, acting under the law, demanded a report from Mr. Heiner of the affairs of the home. Mr. Brown served Heiner with the following notice:

In accordance with and by virtue of section 14, chapter xvi, of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1924, I, Norrie Brown, as attorney general of the state of Nebraska, hereby demand a full report and statement of the affairs, doings and account of the transactions of your corporation under oath, as required by law since commencing business, and this you will do in no wise fail to neglect to do under the penalty of the law.

Conference on Grain Case.

Judge Sullivan of Columbus and Frank Howell of Omaha will come to Lincoln Monday or Tuesday at the invitation of Attorney General Brown for a conference in the matter of the grain suit now pending in the supreme court. Several of the grain dealers and companies have filed answers to the petition of the attorney general and the latter will now prepare a brief in reply.

Mr. Brown returned last night from Washington, where he went to argue his motion to advance the date of the trial for a speedy hearing. The attorney general brought back with him numerous stories of experiences in which he and Attorney Stanley were the principals. This was the first trip east ever made by the head of the legal department.

"I found quite a country back there," said Mr. Brown. "In fact, I didn't know we had such a country. I enjoyed the trip immensely, but it made me feel awful bad to see those poor farmers back in Pennsylvania and Virginia trying to raise corn out of gravel and rocks. Every once in a while you could see some poor little old root sticking out of the ground and the people on the train said they belonged to corn."

"Stanley and I both got scared at the big buildings and Stanley tried to carry off the Bible in the supreme court. We, with a lot of others just as green, had to take our oath when we were admitted to practice in the court and Stanley thought the whole we put our hands on when we took our oath was a souvenir. They have too many tall buildings and too little blue sky for a man used to the prairie and the green grass."

Mickey Commends Iowa Senate.

The announcement that the Iowa senate had passed the anti-pass bill, which prohibits state officials from receiving railroad passes or courtesies from telephone, telegraph or express companies; met with the approval of Governor Mickey.

"The fact that the bill was passed without a dissenting vote speaks well for the Iowa senate," said Governor Mickey, "but why didn't the bill go further and prohibit everybody from riding on passes? I should think a law which would put everybody on the same level would be the better law. I believe the Nebraska legislature will do better than the Iowa senate. Wait until the Nebraska legislature takes a law cutting down freight and passenger rates and then making everybody that rides pay fare. Then something will have been accomplished."

Cash Coming Into Treasury.

State Treasurer Mortensen today took in \$20,000 having made any effort at collections. The money was sent in by the various county treasurers. Mr. Mortensen then, with the consent of the State Board of Educational Lands and Funds, bought \$10,000 of Massachusetts state bonds, which will net the state \$11 per cent.

Asks Rehearing in Woodman Case.

Attorney General Brown will shortly file motion in the supreme court for a rehearing in the case wherein the State Board of Equalization is seeking to compel the assessment of the reserve fund of the Woodmen of the World and of the Woodmen Circle by the county clerk of Douglas county. In its opinion, handed down two weeks ago in this case, the supreme court held it would not pass upon the legality of assessing the reserve fund, but it held mandamus which was brought by the state was not the proper procedure, as the state was not the proper party to the decision of the county board to the district court.

YORK COUNTY DRUGGISTS FINED

All Except Those in Three Towns Are Convicted.

YORK, Neb., March 9.—(Special.)—The grand jury brought in indictments against nearly all the druggists in York county. No indictments were found against the druggists in Bradshaw, Gresham and Benedict. Against druggists in Mayer, Lush, Waco and all the druggists in York, excepting one firm indictments were found. District Judge Good lectured the defendants and told them that the evidence was such that there would be no trouble in proving one or more guilty on each indictment and fined each druggist \$50, and where the drug firm had two or more partners the fine was \$250 each. Charles Green was again indicted for running a hole in the wall and S. Williams of Bradshaw was indicted for selling liquor without a license. The fines will amount to about \$2,000 and the expense of the jury will be about \$1,000, making a nice balance that will go to the credit of the school fund.

Judge Good bound each over to the district court, admonishing them that although they had paid their fines, it found guilty between now and the next term of court he would make the fines much heavier.

Farmers' Elevator Organization.

LOUP CITY, Neb., March 9.—(Special Telegram.)—At a large and enthusiastic meeting of farmers at Society hall in this city this afternoon an organization of a farmers' elevator company was effected, to be known as the Sherman County Grain, Coal, Lumber & Live Stock association, and with the following official directory: President, Charles M. Snyder; vice president, Chris Zwick; secretary, R. D. Hendrickson; treasurer, W. H. Hughes; board of directors, James McBeth, A. W. Mason, J. N. Fisher, John Zink, J. B. Ford. Ex-Senator J. T. Brady of Albion, secretary of the State Association of Farmers' Organizations, was present and gave valuable information along the line of farmers' elevators. A constitution and bylaws were adopted and books opened for subscription to stock, which was placed at \$10 per share.

Hand Mashed in Elevator.

BEATRICE, Neb., March 9.—(Special Telegram.)—Today W. S. Carter of Polk county, while inspecting the Dempster plant in company with his wife, lost part of his hand by getting the member caught in the release spring of the elevator. He was removed to Hesperlein's hospital and it may be found necessary to amputate the

member. Fred Schreimacher, employed in the wood department of the factory, accidentally let a file fall to the floor, the end of which passed through his foot, inflicting a painful wound.

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