

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM IOWA

COUNCIL BLUFFS

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MINOR MENTION.

David, drugs. Brockert sells carpets. Fine carvings at Leffer's. Ed Rogers' Tony Faust beer. See Schmidt's elegant new photos.

MYSTERY IN REALTY DEAL

Large Tract of Land Between City and Lake Manawa Changes Hands.

RUMOR HAS IT A STANDARD OIL PROJECT

Anonymous Letter Only Foundation for This—Purchaser Refuses to Say What His Object Is.

Are there large deposits of oil and natural gas in the immediate vicinity of Council Bluffs? Is the recent purchase of a big tract of land between the city limits and Lake Manawa in the interest of the Standard Oil company?

Real estate dealers and owners of property in Council Bluffs have in the last few days been receiving a letter which is signed "Justice" and purporting to be written by a man who was in the employ of the Standard Oil company until about a month ago. The letter states that secret agents of the Standard Oil company have recently reported that extensive deposits of oil and gas are situated on a tract of land which a company is being formed to acquire by purchase a large tract of land here.

It is said that the attention of the people of Council Bluffs and vicinity to the public press to a private report that is here on file at the head office of the Standard Oil company, and which it is not their intention to make public until their object is accomplished. The report comes from their secret agents in the field and it is to the effect that on the east side of the Missouri river beginning at a point south of the small valley and extending southward toward the Missouri line is a rich bed of oil and natural gas under the city of Council Bluffs and extends about two miles south.

The report further speaks of Council Bluffs as having the best prospects before it of any city in the union, and that in less than five years it will be one of the most important cities west of Chicago. My object in writing to you is to urge upon you to sell their holdings to any party whatsoever, for in less than one year this deposit will be found by someone, and then the people can get a right price for their land, and not have everything go into the hands of rich octopuses that are already overburdened with wealth.

Henderson Man the Purchaser. The fact that within the last few days a tract comprising 80 acres between the city limits and Manawa has been purchased at high figures by an out-of-town party is believed to lend color to the statements made in the letters signed "Justice."

Mr. Sturgeon, whose mission here was unknown at the time, has been in Council Bluffs several days during the last month and while in the city stopped at the Grand hotel. Asked over the long distance telephone whether his purchases were for Omaha or local people, Mr. Sturgeon replied that he was not at liberty to say.

Two Buses for Firemen. A match dropped in a waste paper basket called the fire department last night shortly before 10 o'clock to the Rock Island passenger depot at the foot of Main street. The blaze was confined to the little room occupied by the telegraph operator. The woodwork and ceiling were gutted and the only other damage was to the telegraph instruments, but this was slight.

Employees of Venne's livery barn at 604 West Broadway were smothering out some rat traps in the back part of the building when the escaping smoke caused one of the neighbors to think the place was on fire and to turn in an alarm. The employees were much surprised when the fire department dashed up in front of the place. Wanted—Strong young man for delivering and to learn a good business. Letters P. O. Box 145, Council Bluffs.

FREAK ORDINANCE PASSES COUNCIL. Bachelors of Fort Dodge Must Marry or Pay Fine. FORT DODGE, Ia., March 21.—Every man in Fort Dodge between the ages of 25 and 45 years must become a married man as the result of an ordinance introduced by Mayor Chase last night and passed by the city council yesterday. Any man failing to comply with the law will be fined. The ordinance in part provides:

That all able-bodied men between the ages of 25 and 45 years, whose mental and physical condition is such that they are capable of normal and who are not now married, shall be required to obtain a license and a bride and straighten out their matrimonial affairs. Any person or persons failing to comply with the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined a sum not less than \$10 nor more than \$25, according to the degree of criminal negligence.

STATE-WIDE PRIMARY LAW

House Passes Senate Bill with Only Minor Amendments.

None Change Features OF MEASURE

All Amendments of This Nature Are Voted Down by Substantially Same Majority as Bill Received on Final Passage.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) DES MOINES, March 21.—(Special Telegram.)—By a vote of 34 to 13 the house late this afternoon passed the senate primary election law with no other amendments than to correct grammatical errors and perfect the bill. Every proposition to strike out the party declaration to otherwise was materially changed the bill was voted down. Those voting against the bill were: Balluff, Callahan, Clary, Dotts, Dunn, Dye of Pottawattamie, Greenwood, Kendall, Koontz, McAllister, Miller of Dubuque, Reitz, Ritter, Schultz, Springer, Stewart, Webster, Wolfe. There were six absentees or not voting. Those were Anderson, Cassidy, Earle, Geneva, Harding, Schroeder. All others voted for the bill.

The bill as it came from the senate was printed in the journal yesterday, and when called upon for approval order at 2 o'clock this afternoon the bill was taken up as read section by section and errors in the bill corrected by amendments, nearly twenty in all, but none of them changing the nature of the bill. Sparks of Wapello offered an amendment to strike out the party declaration of the Democrats. Judge Wheeler offered an amendment providing that the minority party can make nominations without a primary. Miller of Bremer offered the amendment offered in the senate by Gale providing that it be submitted to a vote of the people on a referendum in 1908 and 1912.

Following the reading of the bill by sections an attempt was made to send it back to the committee on elections to see that the corrections were made. The house voted it down and the previous question was ordered on a motion of Moore of Lincoln, with practically no debate on the merits of the bill.

House City Taking Advice. SIOUX CITY, Ia., March 21.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs. Est. Hyslop, general secretary of the Omaha Young Women's Christian association, was one of the speakers at a banquet at the Young Women's Christian association rooms this evening. The purpose was to launch a campaign to \$2500 for a building fund, the association already having secured a lot.

Woodrow Gets Rhodes Scholarship. IOWA CITY, Ia., March 21.—(Special Telegram.)—Jay Woodrow, a prominent athlete of the University of Des Moines, has today awarded the third Rhodes scholarship from Iowa. He succeeds Walden, the Grinnell student, who was appointed three years ago. Woodrow will take up his residence at Oxford next fall.

Telephone Men Busy. SIOUX CITY, Ia., March 21.—(Special Telegram.)—Without a doubt Cedar Rapids will this afternoon be debated for the 1908 convention of the Iowa Telephone association. F. C. Holdrege of Rockwell City is slated for re-election as president. The convention adjourns tonight with a banquet at the Hotel Mondamin.

FRENCH INCOME TAX TALK. Some Legislators Favor a Change to Relieve Heads of Large Families. PARIS, March 21.—The introduction of the income tax bill has resulted in the publication of many interesting statistics drawn up either by opponents of the measure, with a view of pointing out the difficulties to be grappled with by the treasury collectors in case it becomes law, or by supporters of the scheme who desire to detract from the attention of the authorities to the enormous number of small holders of the rents, about whom intricate inquiries will have to be instituted in order to discover whether they can be made liable for the new tax under any of the schedules.

Long Setting of Parliament. Opposition Keeps British Legislators Out of Bed for Twenty-Four Hours. LONDON, March 21.—2 1/2 p. m.—The session of the House of Commons which began at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon is still in full swing. The members of the house sat uninterrupted for twenty-four hours, with every prospect of continuing sitting for some hours longer. The measure under discussion is the annual army bill. In reality it is not controversial, but it is being utilized by the opposition to obstruct government business. Premier Campbell-Bannerman, who went home last night, returned to the house at 10 o'clock this morning and informed the jaded legislators that the government had no intention of yielding to the vindictive tactics of the opposition. The measure must be passed before the house is permitted to adjourn.

British Vessel on Beach. Ship Believed to Have Struck Mine in the Sea of Japan. HOKONADE, Japan, March 21.—The British steamer Fernly, from Tacoma February after having sustained extensive damage, is supposed that it struck a floating mine in the Straits of Tsugaru. Divers are examining the vessel, which must discharge its cargo before proceeding. The Straits of Tsugaru, between the main island of Japan, Honko, and the northern island, Yeso, was understood to have been carefully defended by submarine mines, etc., during the war with Russia. The strait

NEW TRANSVAAL PARLIAMENT

First Meeting of Colonial Legislature Under the New Constitution.

CHINESE LABOR IS CHIEF PROBLEM

High Commissioner Says No More Asiatics Will Be Imported, but Those in Mines Must Remain.

PRETORIA, March 21.—The first Parliament of the Transvaal under the newly granted constitution met here this morning in the hall in which the late President Kruger presided for so many years over the affairs of the Upper Volhorden of the Orange River. The first speaker in a speech at the opening of the legislature the earl of Selborne, high commissioner for South Africa, dealt with the all-important question of Chinese labor. In the course of his remarks Lord Selborne said: "My ministers have resolved that the employment of Chinese in the mines shall cease at the earliest possible moment. As to the Chinese already employed there, my ministers will not take any steps to prevent their repatriation at the end of their indentures, unless they are convinced that such repatriation will have to take place before an effective substitute, either in the form of other unskilled labor or improved mechanical appliances, has been found, in which case my ministers will be prepared to recommend to Parliament such legislation as will render a renewal of their indentures possible."

Miners to Be Assisted. "Excepting a small batch of 60, whose indentures expire at the end of June, no indentures expire before August. Therefore, as Parliament will recess in early June, my ministers consider it unnecessary to make a further announcement of policy at present."

Continuing, Lord Selborne said the government was taking steps to increase the supply of natives and would give the mining industries every assistance. The disposition of the new government from work in the mines is shown by the fact that the "Asiatic ordinance," recently disallowed by the earl of Elgin, secretary of state for the colonies after it had passed the late legislature, is again published in the Official Gazette here, indicating that among the first acts of the new Parliament will be a re-enactment of this measure, in spite of the opposition of the imperial government.

Effect of "Asiatic Ordinance." LONDON, March 21.—The "Asiatic ordinance" which the Transvaal Parliament proposes to re-enact, although at the present time aimed specially at British Indians, who are ousted the small white traders in the Transvaal, is equally intended to exclude the Japanese or other Asiatics, who are emigrating to South Africa in increasing numbers.

Joint Intervention Probable. Joint intervention by Mexico and the United States in the war which threatens to involve Central America is now regarded as probable by diplomats.

Secretary Root and Mr. Cress, the Mexican ambassador, have been in conference frequently since the outbreak in Central America, and the Latin-American diplomats would not be surprised by the announcement that Mexico and the United States have decided the war must cease. It has been pointed out to the State department that the co-operation of Mexico with the United States in restoring peace in Central America would disarm criticism of the United States and show that it has no thought of acquiring any territory of Latin-America.

State Department Dreads Claims. The State department is in dread of the claims which inevitably arise out of a war such as now is being carried on, and the protests of European nations against the destruction of the property of their citizens in countries where Europe cannot interfere are having their effect on the administration. Diplomats have pointed out to the Washington government that its position at the approaching peace conference at The Hague will be peculiar if it permits a war to progress which it might stop and which the Monroe doctrine prevents European powers from stopping.

Already the United States has four warships patrolling the coast of the beleaguered republic, and it is generally believed in diplomatic circles that a joint demand on the part of Mexico and this nation that fighting must cease will result in immediate peace and the settlement of mooted questions through a treaty. The joint action of Mexico and the United States and so constituted that justice to all of the belligerent powers would be insured.

Nicaragua Tells of Victory. PARIS, March 21.—The following dispatch was received by the Nicaraguan legation from the minister of foreign affairs of Nicaragua: "Five thousand Salvadorans and Hondurans have been decisively defeated at Poncha in Nicaragua after a bloody three days' battle."

The Honduran and Salvadoran army, numbering over 5,000 men, attacked the Nicaraguan positions at Poncha on the morning of the 16th and after three days and two nights of fighting the Hondurans and Salvadorans were completely defeated, leaving hundreds of dead and wounded on the battlefield. The Nicaraguans also captured many arms, besides two thousand rifles and great quantities of all kinds of war munitions.

The defeated Salvadoran officers included General Pedro Antonio de Caceres, and General Colacho. The Honduran commander defeated was General Licona. The Nicaraguans lost many men wounded and had a few killed. General Lopez Garcia and Colonel Pedro Nolasco have been defeated at Maricao by the Honduran revolutionary and Nicaraguan forces. Many Honduran soldiers and number of rifles with ammunition were captured by the allied forces.

SAN SALVADOR, Republic of Salvador, March 21.—According to advices received here last evening the battle between the Salvadoran and Honduran forces and the Nicaraguan army at Portillos de Namagan was still in progress. The Nicaraguans were holding its last position, which is the head of the battle between the Salvadoran and Honduran forces, late yesterday said that he expected soon to be able to announce a definite victory for Salvador and Honduras and the complete defeat of Nicaragua.

New Railroad for Nevada. SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—The Brock syndicate of Philadelphia, Pa., it is said, purchased the Mono Lake railroad in Mono county, this state together with 100,000,000 feet of standing timber in that section. The road is thirty-two miles long. It is to be broad-gauged and will be connected with the Carson and Goldfield road, which the Brock people own, by filling in the thirty-five-mile gap between Tonopah junction, Nev., and Bodie. It is expected that by connections with the Sierra railway and then by a line from Bodie to Salt Lake City, another transcontinental railroad will be established.

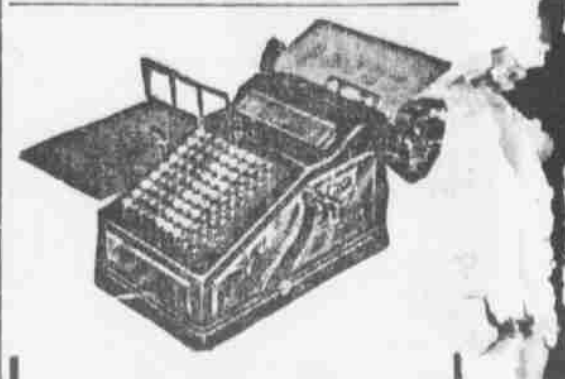
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THE CEMENT SEASON AT HAND

If you intend doing any cement work do not fail to call on George A. Hoagland for prices on cement, sand, crushed rock, etc. Have just unloaded 1,000 barrels of Portland cement and can make you very attractive prices.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Licenses to wed were issued yesterday to the following: Name and Residence. Age. Alexander G. Getel, Kearney, Neb., 30. Mattie M. Thralls, Granite, Okla., 19. Juna Nielsen, Omaha, 23. Louise Tueg, Omaha, 18.

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Real Estate Transfers. These transfers were reported to The Bee March 21 by the Pottawattamie County Abstract Company of Council Bluffs: Richard J. and wife to G. M. Mayne, \$100. Horst, lot 2, block 2, Avoca, w. d., \$2,300. Executors of estate of Horace Everett, block 4, Grimes, add., w. d., \$1,900. Edward C. Carroll and wife to Michael Austin, lot 4 and 5, block 4, Meredith's add., Avoca, w. d., \$1,000. Portsmouth Savings bank to H. Horst, lot 1, block 2, Harrison Street, add., w. d., \$100. E. Humphrey and wife to Paul C. Carroll, lot 5, block 4, Meredith's add., Avoca, w. d., \$100. Highland Place, w. d., \$100. W. L. Shierlock to R. A. Albert, lot 2, block 2, Central, add., w. d., \$100. Susan L. Rich et al to William G. Thorne, add., w. d., \$75. Susan L. Rich et al to Susan L. Rich, part sec. 33, part sec. 34, w. d., \$25. Susan L. Rich et al to Susan L. Rich, lot 1 and block 2, Harrison Street, add., w. d., \$100. Susan L. Rich et al to Susan L. Rich, lot 3, block 2, Harrison Street, add., w. d., \$100. Thirteen transfers, total, \$5,900.

The Pottawattamie County Abstract Company makes superior abstracts. Books in constant use for fifty-five years. 25 Pearl street. Both phones 37.

Local Branch of "The Glicons." A local branch of "The Glicons," a religious organization composed of traveling salesmen, is to be formed in Council Bluffs. A meeting has been called for tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock at the office of F. H. Orest at 20th St. South Main street, at which John E. Robertson, national organizer of the order, will be present. Sunday the members of the local