

Nebraska REGENTS AMEND THEIR RULE Will Permit Political Meetings of Certain Kind on Campus. PROF. H. R. SMITH RESIGNS Animal Husbandry Expert, who was Censured by Regents for Lobbying, Goes to University of Minnesota.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—The university board of regents at the meeting held this afternoon related a trifle in the matter of holding political meetings on the campus of the state institution and amended the present ruling which absolutely prohibits all such gatherings to permit the holding of meetings as long as they are nonpartisan.

The letting of the contract for the construction of the new plant industry building was put over until later, inasmuch as some of the bids were not complete. The building is to cost \$80,000 and was authorized by an appropriation of the last legislature.

The board asked for additional estimates along with the bids, providing for a reduction in the construction of the building in case a switch to the state farm was secured. Some of the bidders neglected to do this. When all of the estimates are in the entire matter will be submitted to the property committee, with power to act, and they will decide whether to accept the bids with or without the switch.

The board turned down the proposal made by the Young Men's Christian association of the university to operate a cafe in the Temple building, deeming it not feasible. When the basement is vacated, it is likely that permission will be granted for the operation of a cafe there, but the basement is now occupied by the Temple high school. The proposed set of rules governing the student loan fund was unanimously adopted by the board.

Prof. Smith Resigns. The resignation of Prof. H. R. Smith of the state farm, an expert of national reputation in animal husbandry, was accepted. Prof. Smith resigned in order to accept an offer from the University of Minnesota.

The board sent to the mayor and city council of the city of Omaha a request that the street and alley now leading through the grounds of the medical college be closed. The board also tendered a vote of thanks to Dr. R. C. Moore, who recently tendered his library, a very valuable one, to the medical college. The board granted Prof. F. D. Barker a sabbatical leave of absence, and several minor changes in the faculty were made.

Week's Short Course Begins at Upland. UPLAND, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Upland considers itself fortunate this year in having one of the three state short courses in agriculture and domestic science. The school will be held from December 11 to 16. Dr. Carlson, Prof. Pugsley, Mr. Gramlich, Val. Kushe, Mr. Godfrey and Miss Rosner are here to take charge of the classes. About 300 tickets have been sold and the large crowd on the opening day was very gratifying to the men who had labored so hard for the success of this course. The York Harp orchestra has been engaged to furnish the music for the week.

SHENANDOAH BANK SUES TO GET CONTESTED NOTE. (From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—This afternoon the case of the Shenandoah National bank against C. A. Ingersoll was submitted to a jury in the district court. The bank sues for \$175, alleged to be due on a note given by the defendant. The defendant alleges that the note was fraudulently obtained by a salesman for a food agency assuring him that no capital was necessary. Later a contract was made between the parties and the defendant affixed his name to what finally turned out to be the note he is now sued upon.

SMITH MAY COME OUT AS CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR. (From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Whether Tom Smith of York, former warden of the state penitentiary, will enter the gubernatorial race is creating a great deal of speculation among the democrats of this city. According to several democrats here, members of the party in Douglas county are extremely anxious that the York man announce himself as a candidate. Tom Curran, owner of the York Daily News, an independent newspaper, was in Lincoln recently. He said that he felt sure Smith would be a candidate.

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Nebraska Secretary of State Has Primary Plans. (From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Just how Taft, LaFollette, Harmon Clark, Wilson, Folk and maybe Roosevelt and Bryan, if the latter two take a notion to run, or any others who may want to run for the presidency, will get their names on the primary ballot in Nebraska at the primaries next spring is a question.

According to the provisions of the new primary law, voters may express their preference for president and vice president. Secretary of State Witte does not care to encumber the ballot with the names of a dozen or more who look upon it as their duty to file for president of the United States.

The law is to be strictly enforced, and any names of names may be placed on the primary ballot. It provides that the names of the presidential and vice presidential candidates shall be placed on the ballot "by petition of their supporters." It does not specify the number of petitioners necessary. Possibly a petition signed by two or three names might have been accepted by the secretary of state.

Witte intends to write to all of the political committees in this state to submit to him a list of names of the candidates of their respective parties who probably will be candidates for these two offices. The committees may prepare petitions and names mentioned therein will be placed on the ballot.

However, the secretary of state does not rule that he will accept no other names, but he desires to eliminate as far as possible who for mere notoriety ask to have their names on the ballot.

OREGON TRAIL MARKERS READY IN FEBRUARY. (From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Markers for the old Oregon trail will be ready for delivery February 1, next, according to an announcement by the Oregon Trail commission made public today.

When the commission receives the markers it will send them here and there along the route as orders are received. It is expected that there will be several more orders than the commission will be able to fill with the present appropriation of \$1,000. The commission will assist in the dedication of these monuments as far as possible, but the details of the programs will have to be worked out by the local committees.

The following is an extract from a pamphlet issued by the commission: All school officers and teachers of the state are requested to observe March 1, 1912 as Nebraska day and to provide an appropriate historical and patriotic program for that day, and receive voluntary contributions from the school children to aid in this work.

The commission has decided upon a definite style of marker to be made of dark gray Bashaw granite, from Vermont quarries, 1 foot 6 inches by 1 foot 6 inches to be set in a cement base. All of these regular markers bear the inscription, "Oregon Trail, Marked by State of Nebraska, 1911-1912." The cost of these, f. o. b. Lincoln, is \$18.00 each.

DECIOUS CHARGED WITH SELLING MORTGAGED GOODS. BROKEN BOW, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—A warrant is out for the arrest of H. C. Decious, formerly of this place, charging him with selling mortgaged property and misappropriating funds. It appears that Decious, who has lately been running a restaurant at Ravenna, sold the property to William Lintz of Merna, this county, but after taking possession Lintz discovered that a large range and various other articles in the place were heavily mortgaged. It is also alleged that the ex-restaurant keeper had appropriated \$100 that should have been turned over to Lintz. Decious has disappeared, but Sheriff Kennedy has hopes of locating him somewhere in South Dakota, as he was last heard from at Edgemont.

SCOTT'S BLUFF WOMAN REMARRIES TOO SOON. SCOTT'S BLUFFS, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—The law and the prophet are the part of a legal complication at this place. Mrs. Schmaul secured a divorce and overlooking the important fact that it was not effective for six months, she was a few days later married at Cheyenne to D. K. Proffit of this place. On their return their honeymoon was rudely shattered by the information of the court that her decree of divorce had not been signed by the honorable presiding judge, R. W. Hobert, and which left her and Mr. Proffit in a most embarrassing position. The outcome, if the full force of the law is given, is serious.

NEWS NOTES FROM BEATRICE. Discharged Police Officer Accuses Mayor of Unfair Tactics—Mrs. George Darwin Dead.

BEATRICE, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—In a communication to a local paper, Officer Munroe Land, who was removed from the police force last week, because he was found sleeping at the police station by Mayor Griffin, charges the mayor with working to get him off the force. The mayor charges that Land and the chief of police worked against the other officers in order to make a record, but Land denies the accusation. He states that his record is open to inspection, and that it will compare favorably with that of the mayor.

Nebraska Assessment Clerk Deplores Laxity. (From a Staff Correspondent.) GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Deploping what he termed a tendency of recent legislation in this state to weaken rather than strengthen the administration of assessment laws, Henry Seymour, secretary of the State Board of Assessment, addressed the convention of county assessors here this afternoon on "Real Estate Assessments for 1912." He urged the reduction of levies, if taxes are considered too high, instead of the ordinary method of poor and low assessments and equalization of property values.

An investigation of the figures published by the government census of 1910 in Nebraska were slightly less than 50 per cent of the valuation of the lands as reported by the government census of 1910. Absolutely nothing is gained by this low valuation. A better showing and better advertisement for the state would be a higher valuation and a lower levy. I have not as yet received the government figures on the value of city real estate. But presume that they will show considerable discrepancy when compared with assessed valuations.

You men here, county clerks, commissioners and supervisors, are all members of the County Board of Equalization, and this equalization is a matter that must be met and handled by yourselves and by the state board without delay if we are going to really equalize valuations. I believe that if we all work together with a view to getting the assessment of our property without fear or favor, and then look the matter squarely in the face when equalization is made, a better and more just and equitable result will be obtained and will in the long run be more satisfactory to everybody concerned.

Judgement Against Prof. Ertel. SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—The Ertel case, which involves the support of a child, which has created a mild sensation at Gering, came to a conclusion late last night with a verdict for the plaintiff. Prof. Ertel was the superintendent of Minstare schools and the

mother was one of his pupils. The decree says that the defendant must pay \$10 a month for the support of the child for ten years.

DISTRICT COURT IN FAIRBURY. Dr. Brenn Found Not Guilty of Statutory Charge—Fred Heldstrom Convicted.

FAIRBURY, Neb., Dec. 12.—Judge L. M. Pemberton of Beatrice, after disposing of a number of important criminal and equity cases, adjourned district court. Dr. Brenn was acquitted of the statutory charge filed against him by Miss Alta Chambers. Both were employed in Dr. Lynch's hospital at Fairbury, August 8, when Miss Chambers alleged he attacked her.

The case of the state against Fred Heldstrom, on a charge of slandering Fred McPherson, July 10, with a razor was one that attracted considerable attention. Heldstrom testified that he met Fred McPherson at the corner of the Harbison bank, July 10, and in company with several other fellows, went to the Little Blue river and engaged in a game of poker near the boat house. During the game, McPherson and several others accused Heldstrom of cheating and they caught him and took away his money. He then attacked McPherson with a razor, inflicting a gash over his cheek and forehead. The defendant was found guilty of assault and battery. Judge L. M. Pemberton gave him forty-five days in the county jail at Fairbury.

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