

Nebraska

CHARGE IS A VINDICATION

Board Files Nine-Page Bill Against Dr. Thomas.

CLEAR UP DISPUTED POINT

Issue of Veracity Between Kearney Man and Board Decided by Record of Letter Against Itself.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Oct. 28.—(Special Telegram.)—State Superintendent Delsell, acting for the State Normal board, made the promised charges against Dr. Thomas of the Kearney Normal school this morning in a nine-page typewritten statement, in which the charge is made that Dr. Thomas represented to the board that he had been offered the chancellorship of the Arkansas State university and was granted a two weeks' vacation to go down and talk the matter over with the board.

The charges, if so they might be called, instead of proving anything against Dr. Thomas, are really a vindication, as it was simply a question of veracity between Dr. Thomas and the board as to whether the Arkansas board had considered the Kearney educator.

That the board had considered Dr. Thomas for the position is proven by copies of letters received by A. L. Caviness of the Nebraska board, who took the trouble to issue a circular letter to every member of the Arkansas board, as is shown in the so-called "charges."

A letter in the hands of State Treasurer George from one of the faculty and board of the Arkansas university also makes inquiry as to the qualifications of Dr. Thomas. This letter was written in December, 1912. Those who have taken the side of the board in the controversy openly speak of the charges this morning as a "joke" and really no charges at all.

Other Charges. The "charges" as prepared and given out by State Superintendent Delsell, one of the members of the State Normal board, contain nine pages of typewritten matter and are composed principally of an answer to the letter and resolutions sent to the board by the people of Kearney. The "charges" start out with the statement that "it is with extreme reluctance and regret that you force upon us no other alternative than to disclose certain facts which caused the board to lose confidence in Dr. Thomas."

As one goes through the "charges" it is easy to perceive why the board was so "reluctant to disclose certain facts." There is nothing but proof throughout the entire "charges" that Dr. Thomas had been considered for the chancellorship of the Arkansas State university, notwithstanding the fact that the Nebraska Normal board had fired Dr. Thomas because he represented to the board that he was being considered for the position and wanted a couple of weeks layoff that he might go down and confer with the Arkansas people.

In speaking of the Kearney Normal school the "charges" say: "The State Board of Education re-

Nebraska

joices in the fact that the Kearney Normal school since its inception has enjoyed a tremendous growth and takes pride in this as much as do the citizens of Kearney, but the board takes issue with the citizens of Kearney in their interpretation of the removal of President Thomas as a premeditated blow at the welfare of the school. The State Board of Education had lost confidence in the head of the Kearney Normal school, and having lost confidence, a change was imperative."

"Rumors" Reach Board. The "charges" then set out that rumors had reached the board that President Thomas was "unreliable and untrue, but credence sufficient to result in action was never given to these reports until the true version of the so-called 'Arkansas' affair came by chance into the hands of the board."

Just how the board went about to get hold of the evidence by "chance" is shown by the way in which A. L. Caviness, one of the board who voted to oust Dr. Thomas, wrote to the chairman of the Arkansas university board for "evidence" and then wrote to each member of the board for more "evidence." It looks as if the element of "chance" didn't have much of a show for escape.

The "charges" then go on to say that at a meeting of the State Normal board held September 2, 1912, President Thomas requested a leave of absence with the "understanding of the board" that it was for the purpose of visiting Arkansas and looking after an offer he claimed to have received of the chancellorship of the university of that state. "In ignorance of the true situation," the board granted the vacation.

Resolutions passed by the Kearney Commercial club, appearing in the daily papers, requesting the state board to not allow the Arkansas university to take Dr. Thomas away are spoken of in the "charges" as giving credence to the report that Dr. Thomas was wanted by the Arkansas university.

Receives Confidential Letter. However, Mr. Caviness received a "confidential" letter from the chairman of the Arkansas board, who "supposed" he was writing to the president of the Nebraska Normal board, saying that the name of Dr. Thomas had been suggested as president of the University of Arkansas, but the matter had not come before the board for consideration and the president did not know that it would. However, the president would like to know "confidentially what you know concerning Dr. Thomas, his character, reputation, for truth and veracity, his scholarship and his success as a school man."

For a man whom the Nebraska State Normal board has been trying to make the people believe had not been considered by the Arkansas board, the foregoing indicates that the members were at least interested enough to write to Mr. Caviness, "whom they supposed to be president," for their information.

The "charges" then contain the answer of Mr. Caviness that "President Thomas of the Kearney normal had reported to the board that a committee from the board of trustees of the Arkansas university had visited him and tendered him the chancellorship of the University of Arkansas at a salary of \$7,000 per annum and requested leave of absence. Mr. Caviness then asked the Arkansas man to send him the names of all of the members

Nebraska

of the Arkansas board of trustees that he might write each one of them. Right here was where the element of "chance" got another opportunity to make good.

Writes to Trustees. Mr. Caviness then wrote to each of the members of the Arkansas board of trustees asking them what salary had been offered Dr. Thomas. The answers as shown in the "charges" were of some length in some cases, but were to the effect that no specified amount had been offered Dr. Thomas, which might have been expected, as the letters written by Mr. Caviness stated that the people of Kearney were very anxious to keep Dr. Thomas, and the board would like to know how much the Arkansas board was going to offer so they could act "intelligently" at the next meeting.

This was an invitation to the Arkansas board to show their hand so that the Nebraska board would know what to play, and naturally they refused to give the amount or signify any very great interest in telling Mr. Caviness, who was so anxious to know that he wrote letters to all the members of the board, what they were up to.

H. B. McKensie of Prescott said that the place was being filled by a man who was doing very well and they did not think they would make a change "this year," if at all. He did not know anything about Dr. Thomas as chancellor of the university.

Was Not Considered. Edgar Brewster of Pine Bluffs, Ark., said it had been some time since the state board had met, but at the "last" meeting Dr. Thomas' name was not considered.

T. A. Turner of Jonesboro said that it was the opinion of the board that the salary now paid should be raised and was not able to inform Mr. Caviness of the amount of salary which would accompany an offer to Dr. Thomas.

And yet the state board attempts to say that Dr. Thomas had not been considered by the board.

Other letters run about along the same line, but Gustave Jones, who wrote from Newport, said: "We have made no offer of a salary, but if we are able to secure 'him' he can name his own salary. The board has not formally acted. We are waiting for the legislature to meet to see if the appropriation will not be materially increased."

It would look as if Mr. Jones had let something out which the rest of the board was trying to keep quiet, for who could the "he" and the "him" mentioned in his letter be but Dr. Thomas, to whom Mr. Caviness had referred in his letter of inquiry.

Governor G. W. Donaghey, who is president of the board, was very guarded in his answer to Mr. Caviness. He said that no "tender" of the position had been made Dr. Thomas and also that no "offer" of salary had been made.

In closing the "charges" the board explains that they look upon the whole matter as a scheme of Dr. Thomas to use the University of Arkansas story to work the board to raise his salary as president of the normal at Kearney, and for that reason they consider that he should go.

Be that as it may, there are other statements in connection with the disputed offer of the position of president of the Arkansas State university to Dr.

Nebraska

Thomas. In the statement made by the members of the Normal board which voted to dismiss Dr. Thomas, A. H. Vies, James E. Delsell, A. L. Caviness and T. F. Majors, who sign the "charges," it is set forth that the board "understood" Dr. Thomas that he wanted to go to Arkansas to look after an offer he had received as chancellor of the Arkansas university. They "understood" Dr. Thomas to say: "But they come out and make charges after the have removed him, giving the public to understand that they had caught the doctor with the goods on him. In their 'charges' they practically admit that they might have been mistaken."

State Treasurer George, who is a member of the board, said this morning after reading the "charges" that Dr. Thomas made no such statement, but that he understood him to say that he had been mentioned in consideration with the place and wanted to go down and talk with the board.

Another proposition which goes to show that Dr. Thomas was considered for the position is the fact that last December three members of the Arkansas state board, acting as a committee, came to Lincoln and made inquiry as to the standing of Dr. Thomas as an educator. They called at the office of State Treasurer George and were there interviewed by a Lincoln reporter on the matter.

Does this not indicate that Dr. Thomas was considered as a possible future chancellor of the Arkansas university?

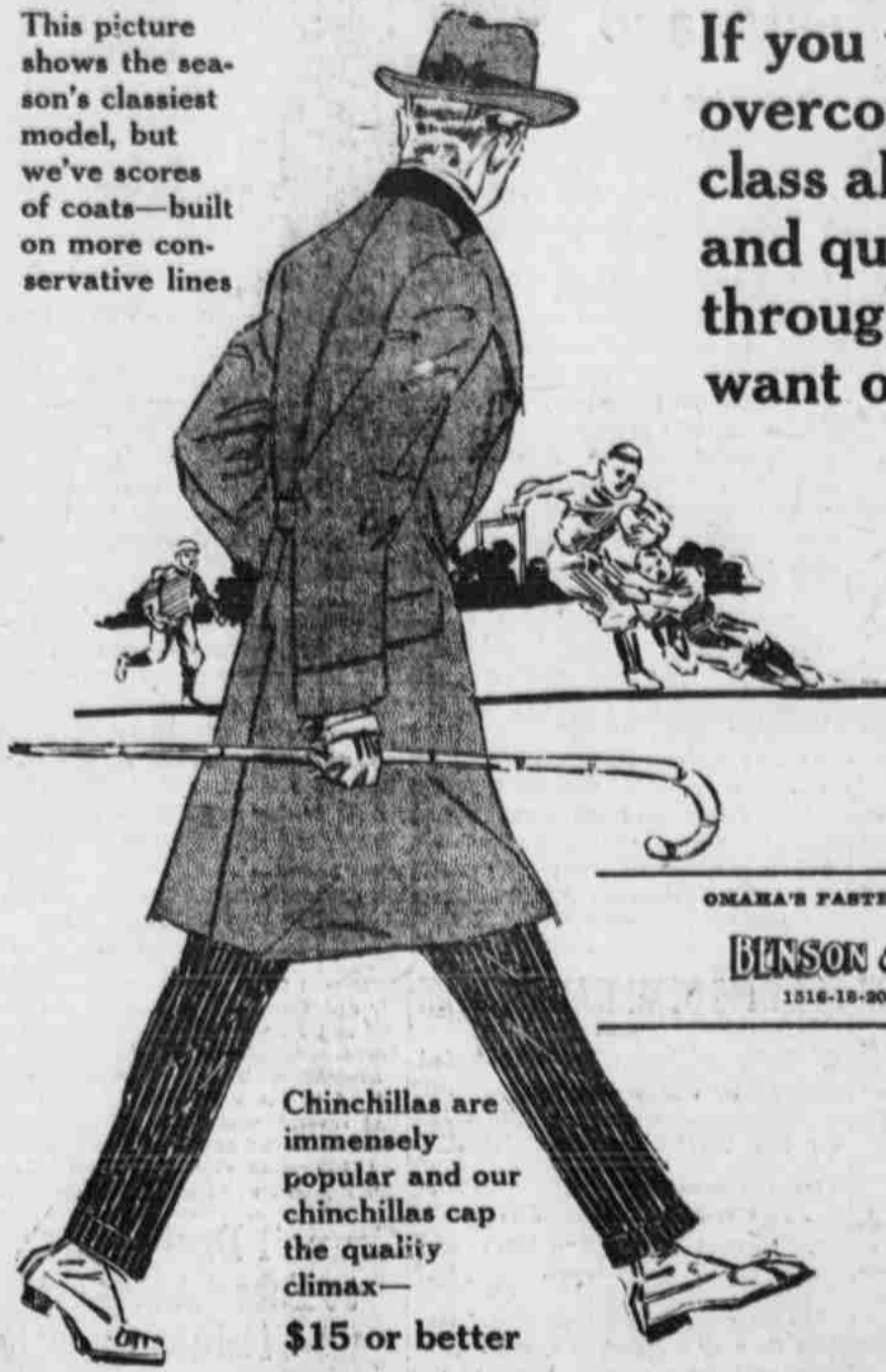
Congressman Kinkaid Goes Over Irrigation Dispute Along Platte

KEARNEY, Oct. 28.—(Special.)—After being presented with evidence so convincing that he could not acknowledge the injury done to the Platte valley in the last season by the lack of underflow and subirrigation caused by the impounding of the waters in the Pathfinder dam in Wyoming, Congressman Kinkaid came in the city Saturday for the express purpose of going over the situation with M. L. Hand and Freeman Merryman, president and secretary of the Platte Valley Protective association.

Before coming to the city last week the Nebraska congressman was not sure of what stand he should take in the situation along the Platte, but after having evidence presented to him by the local association office, he stated that there was no doubt of the injuries sustained by the farmers along the entire valley. To the association men he stated that he would take hold of the matter immediately upon his arrival at Washington and would insist that the reclamation bureau of the interior department send one of the best men in the service to make a thorough investigation of the Platte conditions.

The congressman said that he felt that the water should be so managed that the Platte river would not be robbed of its banks. The matter, added Mr. Kinkaid, is up to the reclamation officials and should be readily adjusted. Before leaving the city he told the officials that he was heartily in sympathy with their demands and would do anything in his power to help straighten the matter out in an equitable way.

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Wooster Appears in Behalf of Convict

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 28.—(Special Telegram.)—Charles Wooster of Silver Creek, appearing before the State Board of Control this afternoon, urged the board "to make a landmark in history" by ordering the warden of the state penitentiary to discontinue religious exercises Sunday afternoon at that institution.

Mr. Wooster appeared before the board principally in behalf of Convict St. Clair, who had been kept in his cell because of disobedience of prison discipline, one of the cases being a refusal to attend chapel exercises on Sunday. Wooster claimed that St. Clair had a right granted him by the constitution to refuse to attend chapel exercises. Judge J. L. Albert also appeared in behalf of St. Clair. Chaplain Johnson of the penitentiary,

Attorney Wolfenbarger, Sheriff Hyers and one other party spoke in favor of prison discipline. They contended that when a man was convicted of a crime and entered the prison his constitutional rights were lost and he was subject to prison rules. A man has a right to receive and open his own letters, but when he reaches prison that right ceases, as other constitutional rights conflicting with prison rules necessary to the temperment of discipline, according to the contention of those speaking for the enforcement of the rule.

The board will probably hand down its "decision" tomorrow.

Sunday School Convention. STELLA, Neb., Oct. 28.—(Special.)—The annual convention of the Richardson County Sunday School association will be held in Salem next Wednesday. Miss Margaret Ellen Brown and W. H. Kimberley, state Sunday school workers from

Lincoln, will be present. Miss Brown attended the world's Sunday school convention at Zurich, Switzerland, and but recently returned from a trip around the world. She was a member of the Heinz commission, whose privilege it was to study the condition of childhood in the orient.

NEW PETITION FILED FOR REQUISITION OF THAW

CONCORD, N. H., Oct. 28.—Another petition for the extradition of Harry K. Thaw was filed with the secretary of state by Bernard Jacobs, a New Hampshire lawyer representing the state of New York. The new petition is based on the indictment returned by the New York county grand jury last week and charges that Thaw conspired to escape from the Matteawan asylum.

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A joint guarantee, signed by both the manufacturer and ourselves, is handed to you in writing, which guarantees the material and workmanship of the piano for five years from the day you make your purchase.
You can get your money back at the end of thirty days' trial of the piano—if you wish.
At the end of the first year's use of the piano, should you wish, you can exchange it for any other new piano we sell of equal or greater value. This gives you a whole year to fully satisfy yourself, that the piano is all you wish it to be.
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If you wish, you need not take the full one hundred and ninety-five weeks' time in which to pay for your piano. You may pay in less time. This is wholly optional on your part. But for each and every week you do shorten the life of your agreement, you can earn a cash dividend or cash premium of fifteen cents.
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Sidney Lanier, the poet, the Christian, the greatest flute player of all time, said this: "To make a home out of a household, given the raw materials—to wit, a wife, children, a friend or two and a house—two other things are necessary. These are a good fire and MUSIC. And inasmuch as we can do without the fire half the year, I may say MUSIC is the one essential."

