

BERGE VISITS LEE HERDMAN

Democratic Candidate for Governor Talks with Boss.

POLITICIANS ARE GUESSING Most of Them Are Still Uncertain as to Just Whom Big Chiefs Are Going to Decide Upon.

George W. Berge of Lincoln, candidate for the democratic nomination for governor of Nebraska, is in Omaha looking after his interests as to this nomination.

Yesterday The Bee announced that preparations are being made to circulate petitions to file the name of Governor Morehead for the nomination for re-election.

Public Schools Will Open Monday

Public schools will open Monday morning after a vacation of two weeks. The teaching staff, with two exceptions, will resume work intact.

BURLINGTON MAN SEES GOOD FUTURE FOR BUSINESS

General Passenger Agent Lalor of the Burlington at St. Louis in the city in conference with headquarters officials, and is most optimistic over the future.

Decision in Grain Rate Case Against the Omaha Exchange

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Protest of the Omaha Grain exchange against the proposed advance in the freight rates on wheat and corn from Omaha and lower Missouri river cities to destinations in Wisconsin has not been sustained by the Interstate Commerce commission.

The decision of the Interstate Commerce commission is not one that has any material effect upon the Omaha grain market. Several months ago the Omaha Grain exchange protested against a proposed advance of from 3 to 4 cents per 100 pounds to grain consigned to four important stations on the Soo line in Wisconsin.

Bogus Policeman Gets Ninety Days for Misdemeanors

George Brown, 72 North Sixteenth street, was arrested by Officer Brinkman Friday night on the orders of Sergeant Ferris, who received complaint from several women of the streets that Officer No. 184 was demanding money from them in lieu of his protection.

Brinkman investigated and found that Brown, with the aid of a bogus police badge, was reaping a considerable harvest from underworld women in the vicinity of Seventeenth and Cummins streets.

RASMUSSEN PROVES A PUZZLE TO AUTHORITIES

Christ Rasmussen, laborer, who surrendered himself to Detective Kennelly and Dunn Thursday for the murder of Christ Robinson, who he asserts he committed at Metropolis, Ill., seven years ago, is considerable of a puzzle to the local detective department.

LA FEVRE GETS HEAVY FINE FOR MISCONDUCT

Harry Le Fevre, 1906 Bancroft street, was fined \$25 and costs in police court for an attempted assault upon Mrs. Jeanette Maize, 194 Bancroft street, who for some months has been in a delicate condition.

WILL ANSWER GAS COMPANY City Asks Permission to Withdraw Demurrer Filed in Case.

TO FIGHT FOR DOLLAR GAS Sets Forth Reasons Why the Ordinance Asking for Cheaper Gas Should Be Upheld by the Federal Court.

City attorneys have asked permission to withdraw the demurrer filed in the federal court before Judge Mungin in the suit brought by the gas company to enjoin the enforcement of the dollar gas ordinance and will file an answer to the gas company's petition, setting forth in detail the reasons why the gas ordinance should be upheld by this court.

Among other reasons the city will assert the following: First, that the gas company secured legislation by "ill-advising" legislative officials and that its representatives were guilty of other misconduct.

Second, that the city has the omnipotent right to regulate rates and that the dollar gas ordinance is simply the exercise of that right.

Third, dollar gas is not confiscatory, according to the admissions of the company itself, but is a fair rate, allowing the company substantial profits.

To Take Offensive. This sudden move of the city, which indicates that the city legal department will now take the offensive and force the suit to a conclusion on its general merits, followed a visit of Attorney Will H. Herdman to the city hall, where he discussed the case with the city attorneys.

The city attorneys came to the conclusion that "the gas company was sleeping over" and if permitted to continue in its present course would soon have the city admitting things which were not true, admission which would tend to support the company's contention and might even pave the way for establishing a perpetual franchise right.

NEGRESS IS BOUND OVER TO THE DISTRICT COURT

Cora Callender, colored, against whom is a charge of cutting with intent to wound, was bound over to the district court Saturday morning on bonds placed at \$1,500.

Cora, with another negro woman, strangled Louis Kazaks at Thirteenth and Davenport streets Tuesday night, robbing him of a purse and \$5. In the struggle a cut seven inches long was inflicted on the left cheek of the victim. Kazaks succeeded in holding the woman, but the other escaped with the money. Four officers, returning from a call, happened by at this juncture and placed Cora under arrest.

MC'REARY HONOR GUEST AT BIG FAREWELL BANQUET

W. H. McCreary, who has been a prominent figure among South Omaha live stock commission men for fifteen or twenty years, was the guest of honor at an elaborate farewell banquet given at the Henshaw restaurant Friday evening by the South Omaha Traders' exchange.

Missouri Roads to Discontinue Eight of Their Fast Trains

In order to keep expenses down during the dull months of winter and in order to keep the balances on the right side of the ledger, the Burlington, the Missouri Pacific, the Wabash and the Alton, beginning next Monday, will start retrenching.

Heretofore the four roads named have been running trains between Kansas City and St. Louis, each train leaving each town at 11:30 o'clock at night. Next Monday these eight trains will be discontinued, during the winter at least. They were put in service by the roads several years ago and were the swiftest trains between the Missouri cities.

Several weeks ago the Burlington, Missouri Pacific, Wabash and Alton asked the Missouri State Railway commission for permission to discontinue the eight trains, but the request was denied. This week officers of the interested roads, headed by President Bush of the Missouri Pacific, again appeared before the commission at Springfield and made their showing. They contended that business had fallen off to such an extent that the trains for a long time had been operated at a loss and that the additional service was sufficient to fully accommodate the public.

Forty-Four Years as Conductor on the Rock Island

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Cook of Des Moines are spending a week with Mr. Cook's sister, Mrs. W. I. Kierstead. Mr. Cook is the oldest conductor on the Rock Island in point of service, having been with the road for forty-four years.

W. E. SHEPARD TO LEAVE NEBRASKA NATIONAL BANK

W. E. Shepard, for twenty years connected with the Nebraska National bank for a number of years as cashier, has resigned to engage in other business that will not confine him so closely to a desk.

The resignation becomes effective January 15, the date when the annual meeting of the bank directors will be held.

At the Nebraska National it is stated that the question of a successor to Mr. Shepard has not been given any consideration, but that there are a number of parties whose names will come before the directors, but that so far no decision has been reached as to who the new officer will be.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORTS ON CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The city health department, reporting on contagious diseases during the year 1913, shows that Omaha mostly had the measles and suffered severely from measles, fever, scarlet fever and diphtheria. Cases of contagious diseases reported are as follows: Diphtheria, 17; scarlet fever, 259; smallpox, 234; chickenpox, 114; measles, 371; mumps, 44; tuberculosis, 65; arterio-sclerosis, 3; cerebro spinal meningitis, 15; erysipelas, 44; typhoid contracted in city, 38; typhoid contracted out of the city, 29; supposed cases of diphtheria, 549; diphtheria release cultures taken, 269.

NEW YORK WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT DANCING IN OMAHA

Miss Muriel Davis, 147 Broadway, New York, has written City Clerk Thomas J. Flynn that in her opinion modern dancing needs supervision and requests the names of all Omaha dancing teachers and their addresses that she may take the matter up with them.

JAPANESE CHAUFFEUR ASSAULTS AGED DOMESTIC

A complaint was filed in police court against John Joe, Japanese chauffeur, who assaulted Alva Johnson, an aged domestic employed by Dr. J. E. Summers, 321 Lewey avenue. Joe, according to the complaint, is said to have struck the woman with a heavy instrument, rendering her unconscious. Dr. Summers feared to disclose the case when questioned about it.

STATIONARY ENGINEERS TO HOLD MEETING FRIDAY

Members of the Omaha Association of Stationary Engineers No. 1 of Nebraska will meet Friday evening at Washington hall, Eighteenth and Harney streets, to formulate plans for the rest of the winter. All of the members of the organization have been urged to attend, as various committees for the year are to be named and topics of interest to all engineers are to be discussed.

RESOLUTIONS ON DEATH OF E. WAKELEY READ TUESDAY

John J. Webster, as chairman of the resolutions committee, will Tuesday morning present to the supreme court at Lincoln a memorial on the death of E. Wakeley, pastor of the Nebraska bar. Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock has been set as the time for the reading of these resolutions.

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With the Home Builders

TIMELY REAL ESTATE GOSSIP Dealers Optimistic as to Business Outlook for 1914.

LEGISLATION IS NOW SETTLED President Myers of Real Estate Exchange Looks for Business to Start Off with Good Impetus Now.

The fact that real estate transfers in Omaha did not compare favorably in 1913 with those of 1912, causes not the least spark of apprehension in the minds of the real estate men of the city. In spite of the fact that the total number of transfers in real estate deals during the year was not as great as that of a year ago, nevertheless the total was greater by some \$200,000 than that of 1912. That it did not reach the enormous total of 1912 real estate men say is simply due to the retardation of the business due to waiting during the whole year for the outcome of the tariff and currency legislation. They look for the business to start off in good shape this winter and spring.

Complaint is being heard of the practice of filing deeds giving a consideration of \$1, when as a matter of fact the transfer may have been for \$100,000. The returns from the figures will show the \$1 transfer at the end of the year. This largely explains the apparent falling off of the real estate business in the last year, as this practice of giving in a merely nominal consideration of \$1 for record purposes is rapidly growing. Especially is this growing among those who buy real estate for speculative purposes, as they do not wish the public to know what has been paid for the piece of property on which they hope to make a profit.

Should this practice continue to grow it is entirely possible that a record year in the matter of real estate transfers in Omaha might at the end of the year show not more than \$500 or \$600 from the falsified records at the end of the year.

"The tariff legislation pending throughout most of the year, and then the long pending of the currency bill kept the business back and made money a little tight," said F. H. Myers, president of the Omaha Real Estate exchange. Loans were not to be had readily. Many men seeking to buy ground on which to buy cast about for loans for building purposes, and finding that loans were hard to get, gave up the proposition. That was the case all through the year. There was no especial demand in the east for our mortgages.

"But now that both the tariff and the currency are settled, money will no doubt be easier. In fact, I look for money to be easier soon now. And with the 'hoodoo' year of 1913 dead and gone, and with the prospects of an easier money market, the real estate business should start off real nicely in the spring. When the new list of assets off and a few other large propositions, I think things will open up splendidly."

From outside the ranks of real estate men one also hears opinions on the subject. "I believe we are right on the eve of better conditions in real estate now," said Joseph Hayden of the Hayden Bros. department store. "An examination of the statistics will show, I think, that we have about two or three years in every ten in which the real estate business is especially active. Real estate is a peculiar commodity in that respect, but I believe conditions will be good in that line now."

"Real estate would seem like a good investment in Omaha this time," said Robert Cowell, of the Thomas Kitzschke department store. "With the exception of three or four localities in Omaha, there has been no great appreciation of real estate values in recent years. There are places in Omaha where real estate has no greater price set upon it than it had twenty-five years ago. It would seem to me that Omaha property ought to be a good investment at this time."

Large Profits in Real Estate. Six years ago last July a resident of central Nebraska bought the property at 214 Farnam street, consisting of 22,222 feet with a two-story frame building, for \$5,500, paying \$1,000 cash and giving a mortgage of \$2,500 for the balance. In February, 1913, the administratrix of the estate of the purchaser resold the property for \$12,500 cash, the mortgage referred to being paid off out of the proceeds of the sale. The same property was resold in the fall of 1913 for \$15,000 cash. This advance in price was not due to boom conditions, but was brought about by the expansion of business and increase in population.

Belief that Lopez Escaped is Growing

BINGHAM, Jan. 3.—That a man whose wife are quick as his trigger finger had escaped from the Utah-Apex mine was the growing belief of those who continued the search for Ralph Lopez today. Nothing had been found so far to indicate whether the slayer of six men was dead or alive in the workings where he took refuge on November 27, after leading seven sheriffs and over 300 deputies on a week's chase in the open.

A fresh posse that took up the hunt in the network of passageways early today had nothing new to report up to noon. So far the search has been confined to the levels where the desperado might be found. Since yesterday, when the mine was opened, after having been sealed since December 14, about twenty miles of tunnels, stops and inclines has been gone over thoroughly.

On the shelf of the cliff, where the Andy tunnel arises 1,000 feet above the canyon floor, a large crowd of curious miners, talking in a dozen tongues, awaited developments and bet on the outcome. As the day wore on the odds grew that Lopez had escaped, until the demands of the takers grew prohibitive. Sheriff Smith announced that it would require at least a week to search all of the mine.

H. L. WILSON TO SPEAK BEFORE PALIMPSEST CLUB

Henry Lane Wilson of Mexico City will speak before the Palimpsest club on the night of January 13. He will arrive directly from Mexico in time to speak at the Omaha club on that date.

Persistent Advertising is the Road to Big Returns.

Hy-Tex Company is Conducting Contest for Home Designers

A contest for the best design of a brick house, to cost \$7,500, and to be faced with Hy-Tex brick, is being conducted by the Brickbuilder, monthly magazine, devoted to the brick industry. The prizes offered are \$500 for the design taking first place, \$250 for the one winning second, \$100 for third, and \$100 for fourth place.

The problem is a detached house, with the style and plan of arrangement left entirely to the designer. It must, however, provide the usual accommodations and conveniences for a small American family of moderate means. It is especially desired that the design should show generous appreciation of good brick work. The location may be assumed in a town, small city, or suburb of a large city. Shape and size of lot may be assumed arbitrarily by the designer; the land is level. Other specifications are provided in the announcement of the contest. The contest is open to everybody, including architects and architectural draftsmen, and will be judged by three or five members of the architectural profession, representing different sections of the country.

Telephone Company Announces a New Exchange Building

The Nebraska Telephone company announces the purchase of two lots at Thirtieth street and Fowler avenue, where in the spring it will build a new telephone exchange to help handle the load of the northern part of the city. No name has as yet been given to this exchange. The new plant is to cost about \$100,000 and will be similar to the Harney street exchange and will handle the phones in the territory between the present Webster exchange, Florence and Benson.

TO THE PUBLIC

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After paying the semi-annual dividend of 7% on the book value, equivalent to 7.56% on the par value, a sum sufficient to make all shares worth \$1.10 each was carried to surplus. Shares will now sell at \$1.10 each.

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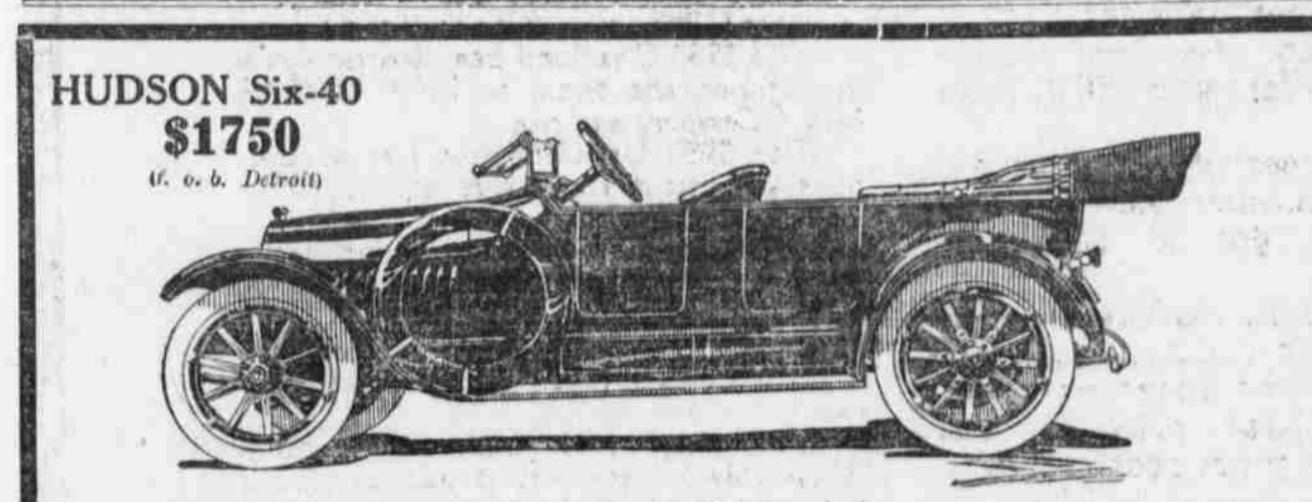
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