

### PREDICTS STRIKE OF OIL IN STATE

Dr. James E. Condra of State Uni. Makes Prophecy at Recent Convention.

#### SURVEYS SHOW EVIDENCES

Three or four things of interest to real estate men of Nebraska came out in the convention of the State Association of Commercial Clubs in Omaha during the past week.

The most startling was the statement made by Dr. George E. Condra, director of conservation in the University of Nebraska.

"It is a fifty-fifty shot," said Dr. Condra, "that oil wells will be struck in Nebraska within the next two years."

This was a somewhat startling statement, and Dr. Condra refused to develop the subject much further than to say that surveys have been in progress for several years in different parts of the state with the result that some excellent evidences of oil have been found in various localities. He does not go into detail as to where the best and strongest evidences are found, perhaps for fear of starting a stampede, but he assured the delegates that the survey had turned up some of the highly dependable evidences of oil in certain regions of the state, and that some drilling would be done to see what could be found.

#### Urges Water Rights Co-operation.

Another matter that came out was the urgent request that all the Commercial Clubs co-operate in seeing to it that irrigation water rights are obtained for Nebraska before the states on the west get ahead of them; also that water power rights be obtained on these rivers without delay.

Again, the convention voted to do all in its power to get federal aid for the project to conserve the flood waters of the Platte for use in soaking the subsoil of some of the semi-arid counties of the state, where crops in the past have never been entirely sure without artificial moisture.

Then there was an endorsement of the movement for the reforestation of the Nebraska sand hills.

This came after Woodruff Ball of Alliance, member of the state reforestation commission, had made his excellent report on the success of the federal forest reserves, already some ten to fifteen years old in the sand hills of Nebraska.

#### Jackpine Comes to Front.

It develops that the jackpine, which was at first thought to be of little commercial value, is rapidly developing now into good fence post material.

When these forests were started in Nebraska, it was said that the jackpine would be of little use, except to get forests started, hold the soil and create a condition under which the moisture could be held and the sand prevented from blowing. Once these forests of jackpine could be well started, it was thought that other timber of real commercial value could be made to take root in these reserves.

Now, however, since the jackpine forests in the Bessey reserve, near Halsey, and the Niobrara reserve in Cherry county, is fully fifteen years old, it will soon be ready to be cut for fence posts, and it is said by those who make a study of these reserves that the revenue from these posts will yield the government 4 per cent on all the money it has invested in the reserves thus far.

Now, however, Mr. Ball reports that the western yellow pine which was interspersed in the reserves after the jack pine had taken root and got well started, is coming to the front nicely.

#### Great Commercial Value.

Some of the western yellow pine is already as much as 9 and 10 years old. This yellow pine has a great commercial value as lumber. It is expected that in time the jack pine can be cut out and sold as fence posts, and the yellow pine left to develop into good lumber timber. Then it is hoped that the forest can be kept up through all time by a systematic supervision, preventing the cutting of the smaller trees and seeing to it that a good young growth is constantly encouraged as the older trees are cut out.

Dean C. E. Bessey, the late head of the department of botany and forestry in the University of Nebraska, was the father of this idea of getting the worthless sand hills of Nebraska covered with timber. He was laughed at.

#### Farms "Blew Away."

Only those who have seen the sand hills at their worst, can appreciate why the idea of making forests of them seemed ridiculous at first. The sand hills shifted for years in the wind until, it was often jokingly said, a farmer could never tell when he went to bed at night whether he would find his farm at home in the morning, or whether it would be deposited in drifts on his neighbors' acres.

But Dr. Bessey was not to be ridiculed out of his notion.

He wrote to congress repeatedly. He talked to members of the Nebraska contingent of congress, every time he could meet them, on the subject of the reforestation of the sand hills. At last, to turn the tables and put the responsibility upon the shoulders of the old dean himself, the congressmen and senators told him if he would start a little forest of his own and show that trees would grow in the sand hills, they would consider an appropriation to let him go ahead with his idea on a large scale.

They were bluffing.

#### Calls the Bluff.

Dr. Bessey called their bluff. In the sand hills of Holt county, twenty miles south of Atkinson, is located the Bruner ranch.

The Bruner boys of the Bruner ranch are brothers of Prof. Lawrence Bruner of the University of Nebraska. So Dr. Bessey went to see Prof. Bruner. Through him he negotiated to plant a few jack pines in the sandy pastures of the Bruner ranch.

It cost him some money and pains, but he got them planted. The seeds germinated and whipped the trees out by the roots, and blew them away. The cattle stampeded, and their sharp hoofs cut the trees out.

Then Dr. Bessey planted more, and put some fences around them to keep the cattle away.

Again the winds blew some of them out by the roots, and the prairie fires

destroyed others. But a few dozen of them survived.

When these came to be ten feet high and began to bear cones for themselves, the government began to believe.

Then the appropriation followed. Then the Halsey reserve, now known as the Bessey reserve, was founded, with some 85,000 acres in all, in Thomas county.

Then the Niobrara reserve followed in Cherry county, with a total of 125,000 acres. It is on these reserves that the jack pine and yellow pine is today flourishing, and the unbelievers in congress are no more.

### ELECTRIC CHAIR IS WAITING FOR DENTIST WAITE

(Continued From Page One.)

other emotion than relief that the ordeal was over. When he had given his pedigree to the clerk of the court and had been taken to the Tombs, he was allowed to exercise. He marched up and down a corridor whistling "La Paloma."

Warren W. Waite of Grand Rapids, the dentist's father and Frank and Clyde Waite, his brothers were in the court room when the verdict was returned. Frank Waite led his father from the room without having spoken to the convicted man.

#### Wife Hears Verdict.

Clara Peck Waite, the dentist's wife, whom he admitted he might have killed, had she inherited her father's fortune heard the verdict in one of the rooms adjoining the court room. "God's will be done," was her only comment.

Percy Peck, son of the murdered man heard the verdict without giving evidence of any emotion. It was reported tonight that Peck had said to Assistant Attorney Brothers, the prosecutor when the trial began:

"I realize the importance of keeping any apparent desire for vengeance on my part out of this case, but I want to ask you just this one favor; give me a seat in the court room from the beginning of the trial to the end where I can keep my eye on that man and so moment by moment, watch the hope fading from his face."

### Navy to Depend Upon Oil Supply

Washington, May 28.—The seriousness with which naval officials view the threatened loss to the navy of the California oil reserve fields through enactment of legislation, legalizing certain entries on the lands was reflected today in the announcement by Rear Admiral Griffin, acting secretary of the navy that a special board of officers had been appointed to study the question of oil resources in the United States, with particular attention to the present and future supply available for the naval fleet.

Admiral Griffin said it would be unwise, if not impossible, to continue modern construction of naval craft unless it was positively assured that there was an adequate oil supply for present use and a vast reserve for the future.

### Neville to St. Louis With State Demos

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—Keith Neville, democratic candidate for governor, was a visitor at the state house yesterday and called at several offices presided over by those of his political faith.

Mr. Neville will go to St. Louis with the Morehead boosters on the special train which starts from Omaha.

#### HYMENEAL

##### Waterhouse-Williams.

Shenandoah, Ia., May 27.—(Special.)—The wedding of Miss Nell Williams to Hugh Waterhouse of Ferguson Falls, Minn., at noon yesterday was the most prominent social event of the week in Shenandoah. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Williams and the marriage was performed at their country home, said to be the prettiest in Page county. The bride is a former student at Oberlin university at Oberlin, O. Mr. Waterhouse is a merchant at Ferguson Falls and is a son of F. W. Waterhouse of Algona, Ia.

##### AN OLD SCHOOL.

Kepler Military Academy Holds Seventy-second Annual Commencement. The seventy-second annual session of the Kepler Military school, Booneville, Mo., closed with the graduation of thirty-three

### Schools and Colleges

St. Edward, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—The commencement exercises of the St. Edward high school were held at the Presbyterian church Thursday. The address to the class was given by Fred M. Hunter, superintendent of the city schools of Lincoln. Following is the class roll:

- James Agan, Alice Heany, Harold Edmondson, Lottie Easley, Raymond Fonda, Oris Foron, Shirley Wilson, Asher Long, Francis Moran, Harold Nickerson, Harry Rich, Floyd Shadlock, Eldon Surface, William Wilson.

All the young women and Eldon Surface received teachers' certificates for normal work. Class honors were won by Floy Shacklack, and he was presented a scholarship to the Nebraska Wesleyan university.

Columbus, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—Last night the graduating exercises of the Columbus high school took place, when thirty-four young men and women received their diplomas from Superintendent R. M. Campbell. Superintendent Clark of the Sioux City schools delivered the address of the evening.

West Point, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—The concluding program of commencement week of the West Point high school was given at the City Auditorium on Thursday night, when twenty-one graduates received their diplomas. The graduates were: Lillian Beckenhauer, Charles R. Korb, John E. Bros, Clara C. Kondele, Constance M. Cary, Leo A. Mannfeld, Donald C. Dill, Redone E. Newhall, Leona H. Primm, Clara C. Kondele, Harry R. Grunka, C. Clifford Rich, Mildred P. Herrmann, Dean L. Sharrar, Edna H. Howard, Tillie F. Solfarmon, Jerome E. Jernan, Walter V. Roedel, Melvin V. Kappius, Frieda R. L. Zepfin.

Albion, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—Commencement exercises were held Wednesday evening. The graduates: Edward Riley, Ella M. Stetner, Ruth M. Gartin, Ruth O. Whiting, Edward G. Kurth, Dana B. Williams, Esthelle I. Hughes, E. Fern Spangler, Jennie L. Hosford, Cecelia E. Miller, Nora Shellenbarger, Clara C. Kondele, Harold Thompson, Guy Quiter, Clarence Nichols, Charles E. McHenry, Reimer Nore, Alta M. Birss, Mary T. Median, Otto M. Miller.

Freemont, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—County Superintendent J. M. Matzen made the commencement address at the graduating exercises of the Snyder schools Thursday evening. The six pupils who finished their school work gave orations. They are: Carl Jungbluth, Arlan Schonenck, Carl Jungbluth, Walter Biehl, Rosa Kovarik.

Burwell, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—The graduating exercises of the Burwell high school were held at the opera house Thursday. The class address was delivered by Dr. J. A. Beatie and the diplomas were presented by Superintendent G. R. Hooper. The class this year consists of:

- Gene Biebing, Pearl Conner, Eva Bonecutter, Mildred Delashmutt, Duane Bryan, Elmer Nare, Margarette Beau, Ray Jones, "Champ," Burnice Mitchell, Catherine Boyle, Marguerite Meyers, Beattie Gram, William Novak, Clifford Clark, Joy Schuyler.

Edgar, Neb., May 27.—(Special.)—Commencement exercises were held in the opera house Thursday by the class of 1916. There were twenty-eight in the class this year, and all graduated.

Aurora, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—Amid much school and class enthusiasm, twenty-eight seniors received their diplomas Friday night. Orations were delivered by seven members of the class, Gladys Brandt, Mildred Anderson, Edwin Hanson, Myrtle Hartnell, Margaret Donelson and John Nordgren.

Wood River, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—The commencement exercises of the Wood River high school was held in Moore's opera house Friday evening with Judge Bayard H. Paine as speaker of the evening. The graduating class numbered fifteen, eleven boys and four girls, as follows:

- Myrtle Boone, Nellie Caverly, Marie Dunn, Thomas Ewing, Lester Daniel, Edward Hanson, Marie Julian, Paul McGuire, Bert Quackenbush, aged 16, and youngest member of the class, won the class honors.

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AN OLD SCHOOL. Kepler Military Academy Holds Seventy-second Annual Commencement. The seventy-second annual session of the Kepler Military school, Booneville, Mo., closed with the graduation of thirty-three

cadets. Rev. Burris A. Jenkins of Kansas City delivered the commencement address and Dr. Paul M. Linn, president of Central college, Fayette, the final sermon to the seniors.

The festivities of the week were on a elaborate scale. A field day and the commencement dance came Friday, a water carnival and a big mock national political convention Saturday. The progressive and republican conventions were joined, and a big stampede resulted for Roosevelt, which resulted in his nomination.

#### BIG COMMENCEMENT WEEK.

Graduates from Immaculate Conception Academy, Hastings, Hold Exercises. Today is commencement day at the Immaculate Conception academy, Hastings. The address will be delivered by His Lordship, the Right Rev. J. Henry Tihen, D. D., bishop of Lincoln in the Kerr opera house. A large mass of thanksgiving at 7 a. m. will be followed by confirmation at the academy chapel.

The baccalaureate sermon was delivered yesterday by Rev. D. A. O'Brien after high mass. May procession and solemn benediction were at 7:15 p. m.

Class day was celebrated last Wednesday and the junior-senior reception and banquet was held at the Clarke hotel Thursday evening.

The May fete was held on the academy campus Friday afternoon.

Saturday was a busy day, with initiation of new members, business session, banquet and ball.

ENGINERS GRADUATE. Twenty-eight Night Students Finish Course at Finlay Engineering College. Papers were read at the annual commencement exercises of Finlay Engineering college, Kansas City, as follows: "Refrigeration," Gus E. Stiering; "Education," Jas. McQuay; "Coal Bridges," C. F. McGuire; "Ball Joint Welding by Electricity," J. H. McCowen; "Experiences in Hotel Engineering," V. A. Van Heuvel.

Papers were presented by Prof. H. Finlay to the following: D. E. Harlan, L. M. Morgan, J. G. Moore, J. M. Hill, H. L. Ventrop, James Hartson, Edna Rosenquist, C. H. Adams, W. J. Crawford, R. T. Parker, C. D. Dark, A. J. Hale, Lee M. Shragrad, R. H. Adams, Carl Heinlein, Gus E. Stiering, Richard Ratliff, D. M. Kreigh, C. P. McGuire, V. A. Van Heuvel, Thomas Hewa, George H. Chase, Floyd E. Clark, J. W. McManus, W. H. Miller, C. P. White.

ST. MARY'S, NOTRE DAME. Graduates Read Interesting Essays at Commencement Exercises. The annual commencement exercises at St. Mary's college and academy, Notre Dame, Ind., were opened May 22, with the public reading of the graduating essays and poems by students who are finishing that high school course. Besides the faculty and student body, there were present members and friends of the graduates.

The assembly hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion with ferns and roses. The papers read were brief, on account of the large number of them, but substantial, their quality, thought and expression. The sensible, vigorous treatment of a variety of themes held the interest of the hearers to the very end of the long program.

### Falls City Saloon Men Lose Cases in The District Court

Falls City, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—District court in the hearing on the appeals from the action of the city council in granting saloon license to Curly Alexander, and in refusing one to William Johnson, reversed the decision of the council in the former case and upheld it in the latter one. The record as made by the city council was reviewed by the court to see whether the mayor and council had made any error in the trial or in their action. The question was considered of so much importance and there were so many questions of law raised that Judge Raper asked Judge Penberton to sit with him.

In the Johnson case the following entry was made by the court: "Court finds no error in the action of the mayor and council in refusing to grant license to applicant and said action is affirmed." The council had by a vote of 4 to 2 refused to grant Johnson a license.

In the Alexander case the court made this entry: "The court finds for the remonstrants and finds that applicant is not entitled to a license and that the mayor and council of the city of Falls City committed error in granting him license and said action is hereby overruled and reversed and said license cancelled."

This ends the chance of either Alexander or Johnson getting a license in Falls City in 1916.

### THOMAS RED BLANKET BEST INDIAN DANCER

Gordon, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—The second annual Indian congress came to a close last night after one of the most successful sessions yet held. Besides the Pine Ridge Sioux Indians, many were here from Rosebud, Yankton and other Sioux reservations. The most notable affair of the congress was the winning of the Indian dancing championship of the world by Thomas Red Blanket.

Besides the thousands of Indians present there were thousands of white people here to watch the American Indian at his play.

### JURY FINDS THAT DEATH OF RICHARDS WAS SUICIDAL

Sag Harbor, N. Y., May 28.—After an inquest into the death of Lieutenant Clarence Alvin Richards, commander of the United States torpedo boat destroyer Fanning, who was killed yesterday when he took hold of two live wires in the substation of the Sag Harbor Light and Power company, a verdict of suicide while under the influence of liquor, was returned today by Coroner Lewis.

### SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND NAMES ON PETITION

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, Neb., May 28.—(Special.)—Secretary of State Pool has scanned the petitions presented last week for the adoption of a prohibition amendment and announces that 66,718 names have been passed as having a right on the petitions.

Portland in a Daylight Plan. Portland, Ore., May 28.—All Portland night schools will begin next Monday the "daylight plan." The school board announced today that the high school clock would be set ahead an hour so that the session would begin at 8, instead of 9 o'clock in the morning.

### Guggenheim Wins First Round in Suit

New York, May 28.—William Guggenheim today won the first round in his legal fight to recover \$10,000,000 from his brothers, Isaac, Daniel, Murray, Solomon and Simon, when Justice Benedict of the supreme court denied a motion of the defendants to have the case dismissed because the facts stated in the action were not sufficient.

William Guggenheim charged in his complaint that he had signed away his co-partnership rights as a member of the old firm of M. Guggenheim's sons, in Chile mining properties worth \$60,000,000, without knowing their value.

### Jacksonians to Have Banquet Next Month

The Jacksonian club will hold a big banquet June 21 at the Paxton for the ratification of the renomination of Wilson for president. Invitations are now being sent out and a special request is made to editors of democratic papers in Nebraska. The club has written to the democratic central committee, asking for a speaker of national prominence, for the day. The four democratic delegates-at-large also will be on the program for speeches.

### Boston Gets Out In Big Parade For Preparedness

Boston, May 28.—Boston sentiment for national preparedness found expression yesterday in the greatest street demonstration that this city ever has witnessed.

Forty thousand men and women, by actual count, marched under the American colors over a route of three miles, while perhaps 500,000 others applauded the paraders.

### Bulgars Occupy Two Greek Forts

London, May 28.—At the French headquarters in the Balkans it was announced today that Bulgarians had occupied the Greek forts of Rupel, Dragotin and Spatovo, and were advancing from Demir-Hissar to Kavalla. This information was received here today in a dispatch from Athens to the Exchange Telegraph company.

### BURLINGTON AGENT PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT

Loomis, Neb., May 27.—(Special.)—F. L. Forbes, Burlington agent here for some six months, pleaded guilty before the county judge at Holdrege this week to the charge of embezzlement. While the shortage in the express and freight funds amounted to about \$600, it was not all appropriated by his individual use, negligence in collection and an inefficient method of recording transactions accounting for part of the deficit.

### SUICIDE, IS THE VERDICT OF CORONER'S JURY

Suicide, is the verdict that the coroner's jury rendered in the probe of the death of Mrs. Deavers, whose body was found in a room at the residence, 306 North Eighteenth street, Friday evening, with a bullet wound in the right temple. The husband, who had been placed in custody until an investigation was made, was released last night.

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### HILL'S CONDITION IS HELD CRITICAL

Minnesota Railroad Magnate Passes an Unsatisfactory Day with Physicians at Hand.

#### TEMPERATURE CONTINUES HIGH

St. Paul, Minn., May 28.—James J. Hill, critically ill at his home here, passed a restless, unsatisfactory day. While the pioneer railroad builder's pulse was good, his temperature was unaccountable. Members of the immediate family, together with the surgical and medical staff gathered in St. Paul during the last few days, kept in almost constant touch with Mr. Hill's bedside, while a number of business associates were on hand much of the day.

#### Priest at Bedside.

Shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon, waiting newspapermen and others were aroused sharply when Rev. Father Thomas J. Gibbons, vicar-general of the St. Paul diocese and pastor of the St. Paul cathedral, hurried from the cathedral, where he had been saying mass, to the Hill mansion. At that time it was reported that Mr. Hill had suffered a slight sinking spell and that members of the family had been called to the sick room. At 4 o'clock it was said that Mr. Hill had rallied somewhat.

### Serbian Army Now on Saloniki Lines

Paris, May 28.—After crossing the Aegian Sea without loss, the Serbian army in full strength has been landed at Salonki, according to a dispatch received here today by wireless telegraph.

### TURN GRAY HAIRS Mildly and Healthfully

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