OH, MR. LANDLORD! HAVE SOME MERCY

Senate Bill Would Make Delinquent Tenant Mere Vassal of Angry Owner.

IS STREHLOW BEHIND IT?

Your boots, your overcoat, your piano, and even the potatoes that grow in your garden may be taken from you on very short notice by the landlord if you get in arrears with your rent, providing the bill now in the state senate is passed.

A slow awakening has just begun to occur on this bill. It was rather slyly handled, so that it has received little publicity.

While Senators C. E. Samuelson of Hildreth and W. Soost of Magnet introduced the measure and are taking the responsibility for it, it is coming to be well understood that it was really fathered by Senator R. C. Strehlow of Omaha, who is himself a landlord and owner of the Strehlow apartments in Omaha.

The bill would make delinquency in rent a chattel mortgage forthwith on all personal property on the premises. Yes, and it would include crops growing, or in the bins of the granary. It would include practically everything that is loose and movable, which has not standing against it a prior lien of record.

How It Might Work.

Thus the farmer paying cash rent would have to stand by and see his grain hauled off and his horses led away by the landlord if he hadn't the ready cash to meet the rent bill the very day it became due.

Thus the retailer who sends out a $150 bill of furniture to a home, takes a $20 payment down and agrees to take the rest in monthly installments would see his furniture hauled away from the customer's home if the customer became delinquent in his house rent.

For the landlords would grab everything in sight in accordance with the provisions of this bill. In England a law such as this prevails, and persons are afraid to loan a wagon or a fiddle to a neighbor over night, fearing that he may be delinquent in his rent to such an extent that the landlord will come and sweep the place clean of everything.

Gumshoe Jobbery.

So quietly have the senators worked with this bill that the farmers throughout the state have not discovered their corn was in danger of being shucked out of the field by the landlord on a moment's notice. So silently have they worked that the retailers did not know a bill of goods they send out on credit to a renter may be snapped up by the landlord the moment it reaches the premises. So slyly have they worked that the coal man did not know the coal he sends out on credit to a renter is apt to be shoveled out of the renter's cellar and hauled off by the landlord; and the jeweler doing a credit business did not realize that the diamonds he sells on credit might be adorning the fingers of his customer's landlord before they have the price tag fairly removed.

That Mighty Howl.

Some of the merchants throughout the state and in Omaha only recently discovered the bill was in existence. They howled. When the farmers discovered it, they howled. The howl was general, except from the landlords.

Then a kind of understanding was reached. It was understood, or at least the retailers in Omaha understood from Senator Strehlow, that there was to be a hearing on the bill before it should be reported out of the committee on miscellaneous. So they rested. A few days ago, Secretary Metcalfe of the Associated Retailers of Omaha wrote to Lincoln to know more about this hearing and learned, to his surprise, that the bill had been quietly reported out of the committee and no hearing was ever called.

The retailers are alarmed over the secret progress the bill is making and will now protest it to the end. They are hoping to interest the farmers throughout the state to oppose it also, on account of the direct effect it would have on the renter.

Big Demand for Grain, With the Receipts Heavy

Though the grain storage space is constantly becoming less, receipts, particularly corn, continue heavy, there having been 164 carloads of this cereal on the market. Corn prices hold up well, it selling at 95 to 96¼ cents per bushel, a quarter higher than Wednesday. Dealers are beginning to believe that farmers have given up the idea of realizing $1 per bushel on their corn and are letting go of their holdings.

The demand for corn right now is better than at any time during the winter, large quantities being bought for shipment to the southern plantations, there to be fed. Besides, even with the high prices, there is a good deal going to the feed lots out in the state and over in Iowa, where farmers and feeders are finishing off steers for market.

Wheat was up a cent, selling at $1.74 to $1.77. Receipts were comparatively light for the middle of the week, there being thirty-four carloads on the market.

Oats were practically unchanged from Wednesday, though, if anything, a bit higher, selling at 54¼ to 55 cents per bushel. Receipts were twenty-four carloads.

Comes On Crutches to Talk to the Credit Men

Fifteen men are coming from Lincoln today to attend the dinner given for the credit men of Omaha and the state at the Hotel Fontenelle. This information comes from E. W. Nelson, credit man of Rudge & Guenzel of Lincoln. Mr. Nelson is himself to be here, and is to be one of the speakers. He is coming on crutches. Some five or six weeks ago his leg was broken. When he wrote he would attend the meeting, he said not a word about the mishap which had befallen him. So those in charge of local arrangements put him on the program for a talk. When he learned of this he confessed that his leg was broken, but gamely said he would appear on the program even though on crutches, for he was anxious to do anything that would help the credit business of the state to get on a sounder basis.

COMES FROM WAR ZONE AND WILL SPEAK HERE.

COL. AND MRS. GAUNTLETT.

Colonel Gauntlett of the Salvation Army, who is coming to this country from Switzerland to take charge of the army's work in the western states, will speak in Salvation Army hall, 1711 Davenport street, Saturday evening, March 3. Brigadier and Mrs. A. B. Pebbles, who superintend the relief work in Iowa and Nebraska, will escort the colonel and his wife from Chicago to Omaha. At the Young Men's Christian association Sunday afternoon, March 4, Colonel Gauntlett will talk on "The War in Europe." He has been an eye-witness of many battlefield scenes.

Baby Giant Joins Army Because He Wants to Be an M. D.

Few recruits have contributed more to the army, at least in height, than Harold J. Richardson of Des Moines, whom the Omaha recruiting station has just sent to Fort Logan for training. He stands almost six feet three inches barefooted. He's only 17 years of age and "still growing."

Besides desiring the experience and training to be had in the army, he declared that he thought it the duty of every American boy to serve the colors. He hopes to become a doctor and was assigned to the medical department.

Louis W. Hill to Be Here Short Time This Morning

Louis W. Hill, head of the Hill system of railroads, is due to be in Omaha a short time Friday, enroute to the Pacific coast. His itinerary indicates that he will arrive early in the morning over the Omaha road from St. Paul. Here he will go west over the Union Pacific, his car being attached to the fast mail. He will be in town about an hour.

FRUIT GROWERS TO BATTLE WITH PESTS

Bugs Have Become Alarmingly Destructive to All Sorts of Vegetables.

UNIVERSITY HELPING OUT

For several years the insect pests preying upon the common garden vegetables, such as potatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, melons, squashes, peas, beans, radishes and turnips have become alarmingly destructive. So much so that these vegetables have become unprofitable to grow in this county. The directors of the Omaha Fruit Growers' association decided that, if possible, something had to be done to stop the ravages of these little pests.

They applied to the extension division of the state university, where they got in touch with Prof. M. H. Schwenk, who came to Omaha last Saturday and appeared before a large and enthusiastic audience of fruit and vegetable growers. While these insect pests have been reducing the quantity of these vegetables, causing an increase in price, Prof. Schwenk has been working overtime to find means to control them and in nearly every instance has succeeded.

He explained to the growers the result of his experiments, which all seem very practical. Much extra labor and considerable expense will be required to free our vegetables from these pests, but it can be done. Since the high price of meat products, flour, eggs and butter, etc., vegetables have become an important article in the bill of fare. While means have been found to control the insect pests of the potato, the most serious condition is caused by a fungus disease which is new to us in this section. This new fungus is called "wilt," which causes the stalks to die when the potatoes are about half grown. "Wilt" is the cause of the black streaks found in many of the potatoes.

If the seed potatoes planted contain these black streaks they will reproduce the fungus. Therefore, good pure seed is in great demand.

Many of the members of the Omaha Fruit Growers' association grow some vegetables for market. A large increase of fresh, pure vegetables will mean much saving to the Omaha consummers.

Omaha Boy Makes Great Record in Uncle Sam's Navy

Promotion in the navy has been remarkably speedy for Henry Preisman, 19-year-old Omaha lad, who is home for ten days on furlough to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Preisman, 2721 South Tenth street.

Only last October he joined the service here as an apprentice seaman, at $17 a month, plus clothing and "keep." Already he is ranked as yeoman third class and has been drawing the doubled salary of that petty officer rank for some time. Furthermore, he is now in line for annual additional promotions.

"Life in the navy is great," he declares. "I'm going to stay with it, and also get some of my Omaha pals to join."

Upon enlisting here last fall he was sent to the naval training station at Great Lakes, near Chicago. Within a week the authorities there learned that he was experienced in stenography and bookkeeping. They tried him out at the office duties of a yeoman and he promptly "made good" and was promoted to regular work in the court martial and later in the paymaster offices.

Night study at Commercial High school gave Henry his first business training. His parents were born in Austria, but are naturalized Americans and have lived in Omaha for years. Henry is enthusiastic over Uncle Sam's navy and his family and friends are proud of his patriotism and rapid progress so far.

WORKMEN JUMP TO SAVE THEIR LIVES

Interior Decorators Take Flying Leap Through Air When Platform Crashes Down.

ACT LIKE HUMAN FLIES

Quick acrobatic work and presence of mind probably saved two interior decorators from a serious fall from a twenty-foot scaffold onto the tile floor of the postoffice corridor Thursday morning.

Rex Thomas, 109 South Seventeenth street, escaped with a badly wrenched wrist, caused by hanging with one arm from the top of a column for several minutes, until Foreman George Miller, 1611 North Thirty-sixth street, set a ladder below him.

Olin McDonald, Thomas' roommate, suffered a sprained knee in the accident. Both men returned to work after resting and being bandaged.

The two workmen were on a plank at the top of the scaffold, cleaning and redecorating the ceiling. When other workmen below moved the scaffold, Thomas and McDonald lost their balance.

Thomas managed to jump from the falling plank and hang with one arm to the top of a column until Miller rescued him several minutes later. McDonald jumped some distance to another scaffold to save himself from the twenty-foot fall to the hard floor.

The falling plank ruined a section of marble wainscoting in the corridor, and falling buckets of cleaning fluid were spilled over the floor. The Thompson company of St. Joseph has the contract for the work. Their workmen are said to have had another narrow escape there recently.

McDaniel Appears to Prove Claim Against Road

Trial of the personal injury suit of Thomas O. McDaniel against the Union Pacific Railroad company has begun in federal court before Judge Woodrough and a jury. McDaniel asks for $25,300 for injuries he says he suffered at Sarpy Crossing, near Millard, when his vehicle mixed with a train in November, 1915. He appeared in court.