CITY TO PROBE HIGH BUILDING COST IN OMAHA

Realtors Start Move and Towl Assures Them Commissioners Will Investigate.

The Real Estate board may demand an investigation by city commissioners, of the alleged local building material dealers' combine. Action will be withheld one week, pending a probable meeting of lumber dealers in the interim.

Harry Tukey introduced the motion at the weekly meeting of the Real Estate board Wednesday noon in the Chamber of Commerce.

Sparks flew during the heated discussion of prevailing high prices in building materials, prices said to be so high that Omaha's whole spring building program was blocked.

"The lumber trust is the tighest combine in Omaha. Ever since the lumber men quit cutting each others' throats six years ago, on an armistice made possible by Omaha bankers, they have formed themselves into the tighest business combine there is," said one of the speakers.

W. R. McFarland, president of the board, said he could buy lumber cheaper in Council Bluffs than he could in Omaha.

Brick Prices Up.

Brick prices have increased beyond all reason, McFarland declared. "Brick in the new telephone company cost $8.50. That was a year ago. The same brick in my new moving picture house on Fifteenth and Douglas now in course of construction, cost $15.25."

Commissioner Towl, who was present at the meeting, promised to see that the resolution demanding an investigation would go through the city council.

W. V. Harrison, manager of the Lakeview Mill Works at Lakeview, Ia., believes he can furnish building materials to Omaha builders cheaper than they can buy in Omaha, he wrote in a letter to the Real Estate board.

In defense of Omaha realtors, Harry Tukey appeared before the Sales Managers club Tuesday night in the Fontenelle, to explain the present house shortage. At the last meeting of this organization the charge was made that real estate men are holding up rent prices, so that working people had no place to live.

"It is the high cost of building materials which prevented the necessary and normal construction of homes that is responsible. Real estate men have no houses to rent. They have houses to sell," Tukey explained.

Charge Big Profit.

"Lumber men are doing business at a profit of 33 1-3 to 35 per cent. Last year the profit of lumber was 22 per cent. That's why there is no building to take care of the demand for dwellings," he said.

A rumor is current in real estate circles that M. E. Smith company is seeking a large site on which to erect moderate-priced dwellings for its employes. Arthur C. Smith and Floyd M. Smith of the firm are both ill with grippe at their respective homes and could not be interviewed to confirm the report.

Silk Stages Real Holdup When State Booze Hounds Attempt to Enter His Home

Three of Gus Hyer's Men Forced to Quit Search When Druggist Hurriedly Appears on Scene in Response to Call From Wife; Reads Riot Act as They Pass Out.

The victims of Bill Hart, hero and hold-up artist of the screen, never thrust their hands high into the atmosphere with a more lightning-like rapidity and docile obedience than did a deputy sheriff and two state "booze hounds" Tuesday night obey the command to "put 'em up" by James J. Silk in his home, 1817 Pratt street.

And in regular melodramatic style Silk made them tremble with fright and stare with wide-eyed wonder into the muzzle of a '44. He made them like it. In Bill Hart's own way he made them "keep 'em up."

He made them line up against the wall, listen to a scathing rebuke redolent of fire and brimstone, and then he made them turn right around and march right out again without even a glimpse of red contraband whisky.

Boozeless Party.

This was the climax to the little boozeless booze party staged by "booze hounds," P. C. Smith and J. Peters and Deputy Sheriff R. K. Johnson.

The opening scene shows the three officers of the law with their heads together in the court house. They are engaged in earnest conversation behind closed doors in the sheriff's office.

Next Mrs. Silk is shown seated alone in her home. There is a work basket on the table by her side. She is darning her husband's socks and oblivious to the plans of the three men, who contemplate the invasion of the peace and quiet of the Silk home.

Nothing is farther from Silk's mind, as he fills a prescription in his drug store at 1324 North Twenty-fourth street, than the intrusion of unwelcome guests at his home.

Buckle on Weapons.

The three men in the courthouse buckle on revolvers and badges. They place saps in their pockets and sally forth in quest of the demon rum.

Mrs. Silk responds to the summons at the door.

"Madam, we have come to search this joint."

Without farther ceremony three men step across the threshold. Two go to the basement and one remains upstairs to search that part of the house.

Frantic, the woman rushes to the telephone. The next instant she is speaking to her husband over the wire.

"James, do come home. Hurry, hurry. They are going over our house."

A blood red blaze flames before the man's eyes. There is blood in his eye. He seizes his gun in his hand and does not stop running until he bounds in the front door of his house. He bellows a blank at the deputy sheriff and blanks a bellow at the "booze hounds."

"My house is my castle," Silk allows to the officer upstairs. "Get your mits up, and keep 'em up."

The man kept his weapon on the officer, who was delegated to search the upper part of the house.

"Now tell those fellows down there to come up here," he commanded, "and keep your hands in the air."

Backs to the Wall.

"You fellows, too." He covered the men who emerged from the basement. "Get the pose. Stick 'em up. Back up there. Back up against the wall, and all of you see how high you can reach. Keep reaching and mighty high, too, while I'm talking to you."

Then Silk reads the riot act, holds his door open and covers the three officers with his weapon as they pass out, single file, into the night.

Sam Melick, chief of the Omaha squad of state agents, declared he would have a warrant issued for Silk's arrest. He said the man would be charged with resisting and threatening an officer.

"I think my men showed splendid judgment in the way they handled the situation," asserted Mr. Melick. "They had a perfect right to shoot the fellow down. Had they killed the man, the law would have justified them. It is better, however, that the officers did not exercise their right and shoot him in his own home."

Four Are Granted Divorces; Five Ask for Sweet Freedom

One Man Says His Wife Disgraced Him by Parading Streets at Night — Woman Charges 17-Year-Old Hubby Makes Eyes at Every Woman He Sees Except Her.

Alleging that his wife "conducted herself in a disgraceful and scandalous manner," Oakley J. Hosack filed suit for divorce from Gladys Hosack to whom he was married July 5, 1918.

He charges that she "ran about the streets of the city at all times of the day and night with men other than the plaintiff and went with them to places of shady reputation."

Harry L. Peterson filed suit for a divorce from Ona B., Peterson, charging her with cruelty during the last four months.

Peterson is a clerk in the central postoffice. They were married May 16, 1917. The wife has returned to the home of her parents at 1415 Wirt street.

Nellie Atkinson alleges that her husband, Lloyd, misrepresented his age when they were married at Papillion in 1916. She says he swore he was 21, and that in fact he was only 17.

In September, 1917, he left her, she says. She charges that he devoted his attentions to other women. She asks a divorce and custody of their child.

The only time that Ella Uldin received any steady support from her husband, Samuel, was during the six months that he was in the navy, when she received the allotment of $30 a month, she alleges in a petition for divorce. Since December 24, when he was discharged from the navy, she says she has received about $40. She charges that he struck her, swore at her and stayed out all night frequently. She asks for the restoration of her maiden name, Carlson.

On St. Patrick's day of 1909, Frances Riley and John Riley were married and now she has filed suit for divorce from him, 10 years and a day after they were wedded.

The marriage took place in Fremont. She alleges that he deserted her in December, 1910, and she asks the custody of their child.

A divorce was granted to Mae Owens from Ormsby Owens with the restoration of her maiden name, Pilkens. Mildred Ahlstrand was granted a divorce from John Ahlstrand, who, she alleges, desterted her. Gwynne Evans secured a divorce from Lillian on the ground of cruelty, and Julia Crudup was awarded a divorce from Grant Crudup and the restoration of her maiden name, Gailey.

Strikers Heed Appeal.

New York, March 19.—Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, chief of the army transportation service, today appealed to marine workers at this port not to allow their strike to handicap the War department in handling troop shipments. Thomas L. Delehanty, head of the marine workers' affiliation, assured army officers here that members of the union would "do all in their power to aid the government."

DR. LOWE AND DEAN TANCOCK TALK TO D. A. R.

Nebraska Hospital Service Described and What War Has Done for Women Discussed.

Two of Omaha's representative patriotic workers in oversea service —Rev. Titus Lowe and Dean Tancock—were the speakers at the patriotic meeting of the D. A. R. conference Wedesday night.

"In our hospital only an average of 400 out of 40,000 patients died," said Dean Tancock in speaking of his work as chaplain with the Nebraska Base Hospital Unit No. 49, "which makes an average of less than 1 per cent, while here under the most favorable conditions possible the best record would average 15 to 20 per cent.

"We lost all account of germ theories and came even to enjoy germs while building the hospital in the most impassable French marshes. We made it from panels sent from Belgium which were fitted together into wards. Twenty or 30 of these made the hospital capable of holding 40,000 beds.

Hospital Generously Supplied.

"We had the best equipment of any ten hospitals in the center," he continued, "and it is due to the generous supplies from Nebraskans that the slogan for those in search of any equipment came to be 'go to 49 for it.'"

In speaking of the amusements for the patients suffering from shell shock and gas Dean Tancock told how he had seen boys for hours work hammering tin into pieces and in painting their names on laundry bags.

Rev. Titus Lowe choose the "Attitude of Womankind Both in Our Own and Other Countries" as his theme.

"The war has brought womanhood into a stronger place than could have been given her in 100 years," he said, "but it is in a different way than any feminist movement could have accomplished.

"Women must learn to hold together because they are women, for now they hold untold of destinies in their hands. With this attitude I am not afraid of any feminist movement and I am quite a 'he man,' too.

Day of Team Work.

"The day of team work has come —for husbands and wives, mother and son—and every type of team work that developes human rights.

"The women of France, Britain and America are strong enough to act as a lever and raise up the womanhood of the other lands—and Russia, where the soul of a woman is not sacred, but cheap."

Between the speeches there was an interlude of community singing lead by Harry Murrison. He explained the place that community singing had and was gaining in civil life as well as military and won smiles when he said:

"The boys over there would wonder why folks back home don't smile when they sing since they have gone through everything singing."

Two prizes for the greatest increase and in the largest number of new subscribers to the magazine of the D. A. R. were awarded to the Deborah Chapter at Lincoln through Mrs. Fred Williams, the delegate.

Actor Makes Life Contract With Manager at $40 Week

New York, March 19.—Lazar Zuckerman, famed locally as a Jewish character actor, is the envy of many other actors. He has just completed a contract calling for a weekly salary of $40 for life, whether he plays or not.

His contract is with Boris Thomashefsky, widely known as a Jewish theatrical manager. Thomashefsky suggested the contract as he wanted a monopoly on the actor's services. In addition, the manager contracts to entertain the actor each summer at his country home.

Baptist Field Secretary to Speak Here Today

Mrs. L. K. Barnes of Brooklyn, field secretary of the New York division of Woman's Home Missionary society of the Baptist church, will arrive today. Mrs. Barnes, who is a writer and traveler of note, has done research work among the Indians and will speak at 2 p. m. today at the First Baptist church. All women interested in the work are invited to attend. Preceding the lecture Mrs. Barnes will be honor guest at a luncheon given by the local Baptist women at the Y. W. C. A.

Engineers From France Assigned to Camp Dodge

New York, March 19.—The steamship Dakotan, which left St. Nazaire, March 7 arrived tonight with 57 officers and 1,763 men, comprising the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh aero squadron, Seventeenth aero squadron, Twenty-seventh Engineers complete, and casual company Number 185. The engineers will later be divided among Camps Dodge, Custer, Devens, Dix, Grant, Lewis, Pike and Sherman.

State Lunacy Commission Holds Japanese Slayer Sane

Baltimore, Md., March 19.—That Dr. Norboru Ishida, Japanese psychiatrist, on trial for the murder of Dr. George B. Wolff, was sane on February 13 last, when the members of the state lunacy commission visited him, was the report of that body at the trial today.

Great Dry Dock Ready.

Baltimore, March 19.—A 20,000-ton floating dry dock, which is much larger than the dry dock Dewey, also built here, received its first test today at the plant of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation. Work began on it two years ago.

D. A. R. Member Descendant Of Two Colonial Governors

Wife of Judge J. Thomas of Columbus Traces Her Ancestry Back to Mayflower Pilgrim Conant and Governors Winslow and Bradford.

A colonial governor's daughter as well as a Daughter of the Revolution is Mrs. J. Thomas, wife of Judge Thomas of Columbus, Neb., who wears proudly the names of Governor Bradley and Winslow on the twisted blue bars of her badge.

Mrs. Thomas is a charter member of the D. A. R. at Columbus and during all these years has missed only one conference.

Back to the Mayflower Pilgrim Conant, her entrance into the D. A. R. shows her cousins have all become members through the names of those pioneer governors—Winslow and Bradford.

Owns Colonial Plate.

Her sister owns one of the early colonial plates used in the Bradford home with the Bradford crest and coat of arms engraved on it.

Mrs. Thomas is treasurer of her chapter and was alternate delegate in place of Mrs. A. McAllister.

Should those outside wonder at the number of bars appearing on the badges at the conference they need only approach and read the names—names of revolutionary ancestors who fought in the revolutionary war—to understand.

Omahan Wears 20 Bars.

Among the most numerous are those of Mrs. J. J. Stubbs of Omaha, who could wear 20 such enviable bars.

Miss Dove Mitchell could claim 18, and Mrs. Thomas above has three.

Mrs. Laura B. Pound of Lincoln, honorary state regent, who spoke yesterday on "Fifty Years in Nebraska," is one of the oldest Daughters of the Revolution in this state.

The reports of the conference Wednesday morning showed that more interest had been taken in the work and the principles for which the organization stood during the past years of the war than previously. An increase of 67 members was announced.

The memorial service of the conference was held Wednesday at 1:30 p. m. for the 12 Daughters who died during the past two years. Mrs. R. W. Porter conducted a special memorial service for the three women who died during the year—Mrs. Loura S. Harris, Miss Jennie M. McKoon and Mrs. Eva E. Straight, whose death was very recent.

Mrs. J. Thomas.

ENGLER AUTO IS STOLEN TWICE IN PAST FEW DAYS

Police on Look-Out for Well-Dressed Young Men, Believed to Have Stolen Car.

Two well dressed young motor car thieves are worrying the police and causing Frank W. Engler, president of the Engler Coal company, sleepless nights.

Several days ago Mr. Engler's silver trimmed automobile was stolen from the Athletic club entrance. Twelve hours later Detectives Murphy and Pzanowski found the car stuck fast in the mud in North Omaha. Residents there saw two young men abandon the machine.

Monday the car was stolen again while Mr. Engler was in the Rialto theater. Detectives Rich and Anderson, scouting about the city in search of stolen cars, found the car mired at Twenty-first and Hickory streets.

Police have advised Mr. Engler to mount a guard with a machine gun to protect his property.

Missouri Woodmen of World Endorse Fraser

W. A. Fraser, sovereign commander, Woodman of the World, was sustained by the head camp of Missouri, which adjourned yesterday at Springfield, Mo.

An attempt was made by the "antis" to inject a recent Omaha Woodmen of the World labor controversy into the proceedings, but telegrams just received by Orson Stiles, chief clerk to Mr. Fraser, give advice of the election of administration men in every instance.

Congratulatory resolutions were adopted commending Sovereign Commander Fraser particularly and the other sovereign officers in general upon the splendid manner in which the society was being conducted. Resolutions were also adopted endorsing the action of department heads in dispensing with employes whose services were unsatisfactory.

Mrs. Catherine Appleby of Benson Is Dead

Mrs. Catherine E. Appleby, pioneer of Douglas county, died at her home in Benson yesterday at the age of 54 years. Mrs. Appleby came to Elk City, Neb., when 15 years old, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Scott, from Wisconsin. She was married in 1897 to John Appleby and since that time has lived in Benson.

Surviving besides the husband is one daughter, Mrs. H. E. Gaines of Elkhorn and two granddaughters.

The funeral will be held at the residence, 5804 Corby street, at 1 p. m., Friday, with burial at Elk City, at 2:30 p. m.

Mrs. Wilson Makes Visit to Y. W. C. A. Hotel in France

Paris, March 19.—Mrs. Wilson today visited the French hotel of the American Young Women's Christian association. She was greeted by several hundred French girls of the ministry of munitions, who presented her with a bouquet of red, white and blue flowers. The girls who made the presentation spoke in English.

St. Louis Bowlers Make Highest Double Score of Day in Tourney

Toledo, O., March 19.—More than 100 bowlers shot at the high marks in the doubles and singles events of the American Bowling Congress tournament today without touching the leaders in either division.

A St. Louis pair, J. Yarkes and G. Rautenberg, made the highest doubles score of the day with a team count of 1,224, which took them into third place in the list of first ten.

None of the bowlers was able to get into the first ten list in the singles, the highest individual score of the day being made by C. Gadko of Dayton, with 631. O. Zavakes of Dayton was second high with 623.

Sentenced for Seven Years for Forging Wilson's Name

Columbus, O., March 19.—John Thomas O'Brien today was sentenced to the Ohio penitentiary for seven years for having passed a worthless check for $100 bearing a forged signature of Woodrow Wilson.

NURSES FROM OVERSEAS TO COME FRIDAY

Young Women, Members of Unit K, Depart From New York on Last Lap of Journey Home.

A telegram received yesterday morning announced the departure from New York of the Unit K nurses during the forenoon and that the train bringing them home would reach Council Bluffs Friday morning. When they arrive every whistle in the city will be screaming and every bell clanging and everybody will be shouting a noisy welcome home to the young women.

There will be, however, a little formality about the reception. Automobiles, one for each nurse and her relatives, are being selected and these cars will have the right-of-way at the railway station. All other cars will be kept back and the street may be roped off.

As fast as the young women leave the train and reach the cars with relatives and friends, these cars bearing them will head a procession and drive through the streets. Their wishes and the wishes of their friends will be consulted, however, and the moment the desire is expressed to be taken to their homes the cars will drop out of line and go wherever ordered. They will be permitted to rest and Monday night they will be given a public reception at the Auditorium and Eagles' building. It will be along the line of the big event of February 5, when 500 returned soldier boys were welcomed.

Chicago Cubs to Pass Through Omaha on Way to Pacific Coast

Chicago, March 19.—Sixteen members of the Chicago Nationals left here tonight in charge of President Fred L. Mitchell for Pasadena, Cal., where they will begin training Sunday. Three players will join the party at Omaha and three others are already on the coast.

Pitchers Harry Weaver and Vic Aldridge held a conference with President Mitchell today over their contracts and Weaver came to terms. Mitchell hopes to satisfy Aldridge before reaching Pasadena.

Lithuania Wants Food.

New York, March 19.—Luthuania wants to buy food for its people, who are declared to be starving, according to a cable made public here tonight by Vincent Jankus, vice president of the Lithuania National Council.

Arrest Hungarian Countess, Alleged Hun Propagandist

Chicago, March 19.—Countess Aurelia Bethlen, Hungarian noble woman and Bahai priestess, is being held by federal authorities today pending a hearing on a charge of sending a threatening letter to President Wilson addressed to Paris. The countess, who claims she was a lady in waiting to Empress Elizabeth of Austria, was arrested last night by secret service operatives on a warrant sworn out by their chief, Capt. Thomas I. Porter.

According to Captain Porter, the countess criticized the president in a five-page letter which had been interpreted and also had acknowledged spreading German propaganda both during the war and since. The countess is 41 years old and she had been gathering sociological data for a series of lectures she had been delivering on capital and labor and the work of the peace conference. She came to this country in 1908. Her husband died at Budapest in 1892.

"I believe her to be a dangerous woman," Captain Porter said. "She is exceptionally well educated and is a rapid political orator.