

RIGHTS TO OIL UNDER LEASING LAW EXPLAINED

Amendment Issued by Interior Department Clears Up Confusion of Wyoming Homestead Entrymen.

By E. E. SNYDER.
Washington, D. C., April 3.—Wyoming homestead entrymen appear to be greatly confused as to their rights to oil under the leasing law—and not without reason, it may be said. With the enactment of the leasing law the newspapers carried a story to the effect that homestead entrymen, if bonafide, would be entitled to a preference right to oil limitations. Such was the intention of congress, but one can never be sure of a law until it has been interpreted by the department administrative regulations.

In the original regulations issued governing the leasing law, it appeared to be the intention to extend the preference right only to those whose entries had been patented. This was so far from the intention of congress, however, that the Interior department has now issued an amendment, which in some detail, explains this preference right. The amendment reads:

"Preference right to owner of surface: A preference right to a permit is given to an owner or entryman to the land with a reservation of the oil deposits to the United States, under the following conditions: (a) the land must have been withdrawn or classified as oil or gas lands; (b) entry must have been bona fide and made prior to such withdrawal or classification and prior to the date of the act; (c) in case of an assignment, same must have been prior to January 1, 1918; (d) the land must not be claimed under any railroad grant."

Under the general homestead law entries under the stockraising homestead act specifically reserve to the United States all minerals, including oil. Entrymen under the enlarged or 320-acre homestead law are required to make affidavits that to the best of their knowledge and belief the land does not contain valuable minerals; where oil has been found under such entries the department has declined to issue patent until the entryman has signed a waiver of all mineral rights.

Pershing Had Splendid Head for Mathematics, Intimate Friend Says

Brookfield, Mo., April 3.—Everybody in the country says that of all Pershing's friends, Charles Spurgeon, who is in the clothing business in Brookfield, was his most intimate associate.

"We knew each other as only two boys can who are always together," Mr. Spurgeon said meditatively, as he leaned back in a leather chair in the lobby of the hotel in Brookfield. "We were in school together at Laclede and in the normal at Kirksville. What a head for mathematics he had! Many a night when I would close up my books at 10 o'clock he would stay up until midnight wrestling with a problem."

"If he struck a hard one he wouldn't stop until he had solved it and he wouldn't accept any help. He would finish the job alone. Nothing seemed to upset him. He was always level-headed and clear minded, but he was hard. There was something about him that went true to the mark. You could tell that he was headed somewhere, even then."

"I remember when he was going to Trenton to take his examination for West Point. He wanted me to go along and take it, too. I didn't get it, he thought I might, and he even offered to pay my way to Trenton, but I was working in a store and wouldn't go. His idea at that time wasn't military. He wanted an education and he figured that it was a great chance to get it at West Point."

160 Per Cent Increase In Valuation of Holt County Land Ordered

O'Neill, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—An increase in the average valuation of Holt county farm lands for assessment purposes of 160 per cent was agreed upon at a meeting of the precinct assessors of Holt county Thursday. Under the proposed new valuation the average value of farm lands in the entire county will be placed at \$29 per acre. The meeting, presided over by County Assessor Winchell, acted upon advice from the state board of equalization at Lincoln.

The increased valuation is due to the many sales of fertile farm lands at high prices in the last few years and the failure of values not to be advanced on lands not changing hands. The assessors also decided to value all personal property on the market value April 1.

Advocate Club Work To Relieve Shortage Of Labor on Farms

Fremont, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—Faced with an acute shortage of labor, Dodge county farmers are backing the boys' and girls' club work as a means of keeping the youngsters on the farms and away from the city's lure.

"Club work will keep 'em on the farm" is County Agent Houser's answer to the question, and an effort is being made to enlist the aid of every rural school teacher in formulating cooking and garment-making clubs for girls and pig and poultry clubs for boys.

Twenty-eight farms have calls for help listed at the county agent's headquarters. In the effort to compete with city wages, farmers are offering as much as \$80 a month for capable men, with living accommodations and the best of food—chicken, country ham, milk, cream and eggs—thrown in.

Two Cases of Sleeping Sickness Reported in Beatrice Hospital

Beatrice, April 2.—(Special.)—Miss Mae Seaman of this city is seriously ill in a hospital here, suffering from what physicians declare is sleeping sickness. Her condition is said to be critical, but physicians hold hopes for her recovery.

Dr. O. E. Wood, Oketo, Kan., has been brought to the hospital and is undergoing treatment for the same disease.

Albion Ex-Service Men Will Live on Homesteads

Albion, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—Harold and Carroll Krause, Dean Lehr, James Fox and Victor Fritton, ex-service men who filed on homesteads before enlisting, will leave Wednesday for Douglas, Wyo., where they will reside. Victor Krause, another Albion boy, has gone out on his land.

Teachers in North Nebraska Meet at Wayne State Normal

Wayne, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—Teachers from all towns in the North Nebraska Teachers' association are in Wayne attending their annual meeting. A Junior Red Cross conference at which L. W. Trester of Omaha spoke to the county superintendents, and a declamatory contest featured the Thursday meeting.

General sessions, rural, secondary and elementary sections and round table meetings were held Friday. A new feature on the program was the social hour when President and Mrs. U. S. Conn of the Wayne state normal received all the visitors.

All meetings were held in the normal buildings. Dr. David Smedden of Columbia university, superintendent J. M. Beveridge of Omaha, and Miss Olivia POUND of Lincoln were the principal speakers.

Between 500 and 600 teachers attended. The association has a membership of 2,598 from 22 counties.

Greeley Man Charged With Violation of Mann Act

Lincoln, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—When James Stark of Greeley, Neb., came to the county jail to visit his friend, Ben Casey, who is being held for federal authorities of Nebraska on a white slave charge, Sheriff Miller arrested him and put him in jail, too.

Saturday morning United States Attorney T. S. Allen filed a complaint against Stark charging a violation of the Mann act in transporting Mrs. Edith Hancock on November 25 from Grand Island, Neb., to St. Joseph, Mo., for alleged immoral purposes.

Offers Fremont Boy Scout West Point Appointment

Fremont, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—Fremont's only first class Boy Scout, 18-year-old Warren Buchanan, son of Dr. A. E. Buchanan, has been offered an appointment to West Point by Congressman Evans.

Y. M. C. A. Boys' Conference Held at Chadron Normal

Chadron, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—The older boys' conference of southwestern South Dakota and northwestern Nebraska was held Y. M. C. A. of Nebraska Sessions were in the state normal building, including the supper given by the

domestic science department of the normal, at which 300 were feasted. M. V. Arnold, district state secretary; O. R. Diehl, state school secretary; Ray Edwards of Alliance, and L. C. Eberly were among those in attendance. Music was furnished by Professor Yarnley, with his various orchestra and bands.

See Want Ads Produce Results.

DeWitt Business Men Will Construct Sales Pavilion

Beatrice, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—Business men of De Witt have subscribed 8,000 for the construction of a sales pavilion. The building will be constructed of hollow tile, and work will be started on the structure within the next few days.

Boone County Teachers To Hold Meeting in Albion

Albion, Neb., April 3.—(Special.)—The Boone County Teachers' association will meet in Albion Friday, April 16, for a one-day session. Superintendent Beveridge of Omaha will give his address, "Americanism."

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