

State Counties Show Decrease In Census Figures

Drift From Farm to City Believed to Be Cause of Population Slump in Nebraska.

Census returns from a third of the counties of Nebraska have been announced by the federal government, and in half of these decreases in population are shown. Douglas county has not yet been reported, but it will show an increase, as the population of Omaha is now greater than that of the entire county in 1910. Lancaster county increased 16.4 per cent through the growth of the city of Lincoln.

The loss in population is mainly found in rural counties surrounding Lincoln and Omaha, indicating a drift from the farms to the cities. The high price of farm land in these regions is said to make agriculture less profitable and stimulates the selling of farms and removal to cheaper lands.

The belief that more money can be made in the city than in the country is also said to encourage the movement away from the soil. Some farmers claim that farming must be made more profitable if the drift is to be stopped.

The bureau of publicity of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce has compiled the following table for the census for 1920 as announced thus far, with a star indicating a decrease:

Hall County Cities Grow; Farm Population Falls Off

Grand Island, Neb., Sept. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Hall county's city population shows a gain of 3,804 in 10 years, while the rural population shows a loss of 432. Alga village, not incorporated, is not included or the relative urban gain and rural loss would be even greater. The county population shows a total of 23,733 as compared with 20,361 in 1910. The big increase is in Grand Island, but the villages of Doniphan, Wood River and Cairo also show increases. The total city and town populations is 15,689 as compared to 11,885 in 1910, and the urban 8,044 as compared with 8,475 in 1910.

Parents of Man Killed in Auto Wreck Protest Will

Holding that the will of the late R. C. Martin is not valid because it is made in favor of his wife from whom he was divorced subsequent to the making of the will, his parents, Joseph and Sarah Martin of Madison, Neb., filed a protest in county court yesterday, asking that it be not admitted to probate. Martin was killed in a smash-up at Twenty-sixth and Leavenworth streets last July when he drove his automobile head-on into a street car. His estate is said to be worth more than \$150,000.

Governor McKelvie Will Make 7 Speeches This Week

Lincoln, Sept. 29.—(Special.)—Governor S. R. McKelvie's campaign tour will take him into seven different Nebraska towns this week. His speaking engagements are as follows: September 28, Fillmore county rally; September 29, Gage county fair, Beatrice; September 30, Clay county fair, Clay Center; Nelson county fair, Clay Center; October 1, Jefferson county fair and shop meeting; October 2, Thayer county rally, afternoon; Utica, night.

Burlington Engineer Is Awarded \$22,000 Damages

Lincoln, Sept. 29.—(Special.)—A personal damage verdict in favor of Daniel Fitzpatrick, 49, Burlington engineer, is reduced from \$28,000 to \$22,000 by the state supreme court, leaving it one of the biggest railroad damage verdicts in the history of Nebraska courts. Fitzpatrick was injured September 10, 1918, when he jumped from Burlington passenger train No. 43, westbound, just before it crashed into a work train six miles east of Alliance.

Supreme Court Upholds 10-Year Murder Sentence

Lincoln, Sept. 29.—(Special.)—The 10-year sentence of Alvin D. Sutter, convicted of the murder of his wife, Nellie, in Lincoln two years ago, is upheld by the state supreme court in an opinion by Judge George A. Day. The high court refuses to interfere with the verdict, although after Sutter's first trial the supreme bench reversed the judgment and remanded the case.

Supreme Court Unmoved by Omahan's Plea of Insanity

Lincoln, Sept. 29.—(Special.)—William Philbrick's sentence of two to 15 years in the state penitentiary for assaulting his wife with an ice pick in an elevator of the First National bank building in Omaha, where she was "conductress," is upheld in an opinion by the supreme court. The defense was insanity.

Postmasters Appointed

Washington, D. C., Sept. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Postmasters appointed: Iowa—Vera N. Patterson, Colliard; Palo Alto, Ebel Davidson, vice Carrie H. Empey, resigned; Mount Zion, Vanburen, Clay H. Bell, vice Joseph H. Wiley, resigned; Red Field, M. G. Brown, vice Charles Sims, new office; Sully, J. J. Fisher, vice H. Swisher, vice Jacob C. Coleman, resigned; Nebraska—Lushton, York, William P. Coakley, vice Howard P. Dearing, resigned; Pauline, Adams, Elijah H. Allen, vice Carl K. McClary, resigned.

Purported Will of Rich Hastings Man Held to Be Forgery

Lincoln, Sept. 29.—(Special.)—The Nebraska supreme court, in an opinion by Judge Rose, holds that the purported will of John O'Connor, Hastings reclusive, whose estate is worth over \$100,000, is a forgery and that "the judgment of the district court sustaining the will is clearly wrong." The will left the property to a brother Charles, "to be living—otherwise to an orphanage in Nebraska outside of Lincoln or Omaha." Chief Justice Morrissey dissents from the majority finding of the high bench. The O'Connor estate case has been in the courts of Nebraska for seven years. O'Connor's body was found in Hastings for two years for purposes of identification. Between 50 and 60 alleged heirs appeared and many of them identified the body as that of their father, uncle or brother. Several purported wills figure in the case.

Three Mexicans Held At Oxford on Charge Of Killing Comrade

Beaver City, Neb., Sept. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Three Mexican section hands were arrested at Oxford by Sheriff Collins and held for investigation. A fourth Mexican has been missing for several days and it is charged he was murdered and his body secreted along the Republican river. One of the arrested men admits the shooting, but claims that it was done in defense of his sister from an assault. The girl says that her brother shot the Mexican and carried the body on his back to the river east of Oxford. A posse searched the region carefully, but did not locate the body. The Mexicans refuse to disclose further information as to the whereabouts of the missing man or the disposition of the body. The man had over \$60 due him from the Burlington railroad.

State Socialists to Have Place on Ballot

Lincoln, Sept. 29.—(Special.)—On the strength of an affidavit by two Omahan men that a mass meeting was held August 25, in that city, attended by 1,000 persons, and the socialist party organized in the manner required by Nebraska law. Secretary of State Amberry will give that party a place on the official ballot at the fall election. The certificate received by Mr. Amberry is signed by George T. Bastedo, chairman, and William Mehrens, secretary of the mass meeting. It states that Debs and Stedman were endorsed for president and vice president.

Hebron Women Get 500 Members in Harding Club

Hebron, Neb., Sept. 29.—(Special.)—An enthusiastic meeting of republican voters was held in the court house here. J. T. McCastion delivered an address on the issues of the campaign, after which a Harding and Coolidge club was organized. The following officers were elected: C. Collins, president; Mrs. R. A. Hensell, first vice president; C. Biesner, second vice president; H. P. Harding, secretary; W. W. Wright, treasurer. Executive committee: Mrs. H. P. Harding, W. R. Hall, Mrs. F. W. Hohense, George Clark, Mrs. L. C. Gray, W. B. Shirley, Mrs. Frank Lawless and W. E. Boyes. The women workers obtained a list of nearly 500 members in two days.

Hold Military Funeral For Overseas Soldier

Stanton, Neb., Sept. 29.—(Special.)—Draped with the colors of the country for which he died, the body of Lieut. Waldo Schillington, who was killed at St. Jean DeMunth in France, December 6, 1918, while in the aviation service with the American expeditionary forces, was laid to rest with all military honors in charge of the American Legion post, Monday afternoon at Stanton. The funeral service was held at the Methodist church, the Rev. W. Saunders officiating.

Porter Charged With Theft Sentenced to State Prison

Sidney, Neb., Sept. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Bert Davis, negro porter charged with stealing \$117 from a passenger on a Union Pacific train on the night of September 17, pleaded guilty today in district court to grand larceny. He was sentenced by Judge H. M. Grimes to the penitentiary to serve from one to seven years. Detective Plymell states that Davis confessed to several other thefts and that goods were found in his home at Omaha.

Adams Store Robbed

Beatrice, Neb., Sept. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Thieves entered the general merchandise store of the Toulout Barker company at Adams and carried off merchandise valued at \$1,200. They also rifled the cash register of \$22.50.

Omahan Named New President of Unitarians

Next Conference for Iowa and Nebraska to Be Held in Des Moines; Sessions Close Here.

William F. Baxter of Omaha was elected president of the Nebraska-Iowa Unitarian association at its closing session of the 43d annual conference here yesterday. Mrs. Sadie H. Passig of Humboldt, Ia., was elected vice president and Mrs. G. W. Heller and Rev. F. C. Doan of Iowa City were chosen trustees. Officers are elected for a two-year term. Those in office whose terms have not yet expired include Rev. Charles E. Snyder of Sioux City, secretary; Henry H. Griffiths of Des Moines, treasurer; Dr. S. B. Hoskins, Sioux City; Rev. R. E. Leavens, Omaha; Mrs. Mary Emsey Adams, Mason City, directors.

State Demurrage Law Is Held Unconstitutional

Lincoln, Sept. 29.—(Special.)—The Nebraska supreme court for the second time has declared the reciprocal demurrage law of the 1913 legislature unconstitutional. The law allows shippers to recover a penalty of \$1 a day on cars unnecessarily delayed in transit. The second decision of the high court on this law is in the case of Sutherland Brothers of Omaha against the Burlington road. One of the reasons given for holding the law invalid was that it provided for both actual damages and a fixed penalty. Judge C. B. Letton, in dissenting, says "no statute should be declared void if a reasonable construction will make it valid."

Large Crowd Attends Gage County Fair at Beatrice

Beatrice, Neb., Sept. 29.—A crowd estimated at 7,000 attended the opening day of the county fair here. The exhibit of purebred live stock, poultry, farm implements, etc., is the best in the history of the fair association, which is under the management of the Gage County Fair bureau this year.

Octogenarian Dies

Hans Botel, 83, inmate of the Douglas county hospital, died yesterday. Death was due to the infirmities of old age, hospital authorities say. A brother, John Botel, 5629 South Eighteenth street, claimed the body. Funeral services will be held at 2 tomorrow afternoon. Burial will be in West Lawn cemetery.

Montana Wool Grower Urges Enactment of Truth-in-Fabric Bill

J. B. Harcourt, Montana wool grower, visited the stock yards to further a campaign being launched in the middle western and Rocky mountain states in favor of the French-Capper truth-in-fabrics bill, pending in both houses of congress. If enacted the law will compel manufacturers to brand all fabrics and thus prevent the use of "shoddy" in garments which are sold as real wool.

"It is vitally important to the wool industry of western states that the French-Capper bill be passed," Mr. Harcourt said. "Omaha is one of the principal cities which should benefit greatly by the wool industry and now is the time for Omahans to actively support the fight for protection." "I have made a tour of western states as far as the Pacific coast and have found a most unanimous sentiment in favor of Senator Harding for president. I have talked with scores of old-time democrats in Montana, Colorado, Utah and other states and they are all boosting for Harding and the election of a republican congress."

Mystic Workers Re-Elect Smith Supreme Master

Result of Ballot for Supreme Conductor to Be Announced Today—Peoria Gets Next Convention.

D. E. Smith was re-elected supreme master of the Mystic Workers of the World yesterday afternoon at Masonic temple, where the order is holding its biennial convention. Other officers chosen were supreme secretary, Leo C. Carroll, Illinois; supreme banker, Al F. Schoch, Illinois; general attorney, Chas. E. Sturtz, Illinois; supreme editor, Robert Toole, Illinois.

Supreme Sentinel, Mary Loigren, Iowa; Supreme Picket, Frances B. Clendenen, Illinois.

The results of the balloting on supreme conductor and two supreme directors will be announced today. An extra ballot was necessary on these offices, majorities being required to determine the winner. Peoria won the privilege of entertaining the next convention by the narrow margin of one vote, defeating its nearest rival, Minneapolis. The announcement of the winner caused a prolonged demonstration by the Peoria boosters. The delegates frolicked at a ball given for them at the Masonic auditorium last night. The convention will adjourn this afternoon.

Sentenced for Forgery

Beatrice, Neb., Sept. 29.—(Special.)—Henry Foster, 17, was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail on a charge of forgery by Judge McCandless at Wymore.

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