Swanson Urges Nebraska Sell School Lands

Biennial Report of Land Commissioner Fixes Value of 1,700,000 Acres at $26,000,000.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 17.—Dan Swanson, commissioner of public lands and buildings, in his biennial report to Governor McKelvie recommends that the state sell all its school lands. His report shows that the state still owns approximately 1,700,000 acres of this land and that it has a value of $26,000,000.

"I would recommend that the state sell all school lands when school land lease contracts expire, or are cancelled and forfeited for nonpayment of rentals," Mr. Swanson says in his report. The land, he says, should be appraised by the chairman of the county board of commissioners or supervisors, together with the commissioner of public lands and buildings, and sold to the highest bidder at public auction for not less than 90 per cent of the appraised value. Mr. Swanson says the purchaser should be expected to pay 20 per cent in cash and the balance to run 20 years at 5 per cent interest.

Would Sell Lots.

"The land commissioner also recommends that the state sell all its city lots and small isolated tracts of land to the highest bidder. He says the state now owns a number of such lots in Lincoln and Kearney, two in Auburn, one in Phillips and a fractional lot in Sidney. "Scattered throughout the state," he says, "are a number of small tracts of land, some of which are known as timber lots and fractional tracts, which I would also recommend to be sold to the highest bidder," he says.

A recent amendment to the constitution provides that all school land be sold at public auction.

Saved State $52,100.

The school land referred to is that which remains of the 2,978,575 acres granted Nebraska by the government 50 years ago. The tracts were townships 16 and 36 in each section. Approximately 1,155,900 acres already have been sold. Much of the remaining land is under contract or lease and is under cultivation.

During the last two years, Mr. Swanson says, he saved the state $52,100 by reappraising land higher than valued by county boards of commissioners. The saving, the report shows, was made in the reappraisement of 19,069 acres located in 26 counties. Land to be sold is first appraised by county boards of commissioners, but the state law permits the state commissioner to increase the valuation.

Polk County Farm Bureau Elects Officers for Year

Osceola, Neb., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The Polk county farm bureau perfected its organization here by holding a county convention and electing the following officers: J. N. Norton, president, Polk; Mrs. W. P. Crozier, vice president, Osceola; F. A. Swanson, secretary, Stromsburg; H. A. Jones, treasuer, Osceola; members of the executive board: Mark Timm, Glenn Anderson, Mrs. Clyde Hennings, Mrs. J. E. Renner and Miss Ursula Wade. The Polk county farm bureau recently concluded a campaign for members in which about 750 names were enrolled.

Former Officer in British Army Charged With Larceny

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire.

New York, Dec. 17.—Glen Alwyn Stewart, a broker and a former colonel in the English army, was held in $10,000 bail for the grand jury on a charge of grand larceny today.

Mrs. Emilie H. Maynard said she gave Stewart $16,500 August 19, 1919 and $3,500 July 16, 1920. She also gave him power of attorney to invest the money. On October 16, 1920 she revoked the power of attorney and asked for her money and securities. She was given only $731, she said.