

Convict Labor May Be Used On New Reformatory

Board of Control Considers Unofficially Following Course Purued at Federal Prison

Lincoln, May 5.—(Special)—Use of convict labor in erecting the new \$300,000 reformatory for young criminals is in the range of possibilities.

Officially before the board of control this plan to cut labor cost and put more money into materials and architectural beauty has not been discussed.

Unofficially, however, it is receiving consideration by state officials. Such a plan is expected to raise a howl of protest from labor and it may be possible labor's protest will nip the plan in the bud.

It is pointed out that taxpayers are hard pressed and want to see the state get as much for the money as possible. With this point in view the plan may receive impetus.

Another argument advanced for the convict labor plan is the fact that convicts working on a building in which to imprison themselves are competing no more with free labor than convicts working on contract turnouts.

This plan, it is understood, is being pushed as arguments in favor of locating the reformatory at Lincoln, or at Raymond, a little town only a few miles from Lincoln.

With the board of control locating the reformatory in either of those two places, the problem of housing the convicts until the reformatory would be erected would be simple. They would merely march to and from the state prison daily.

The United States government pursued the same plan when it started the erection of the big federal prison at Leavenworth. The prisoners, prior to the erection of the federal prison, were located in barracks at Fort Leavenworth, four miles from the present location of the federal prison.

Solves Housing Problem. Each morning guards marched the prisoners to their work and each night marched them back. In a short time temporary quarters were erected and the old barracks abandoned.

Since that time the prisoners have worked unceasingly in the building of what will be the largest government prison in the country when completed.

The government employs a superintendent who looks after the work and directs the prisoners. The same could be done by the state of Nebraska, it is argued, and this would solve the eternal question facing Warden W. T. Fenton in winter: "How can we keep our extra men employed?"

Even should another site be chosen by the board of control, Fremont, Ashland, Brownville, Grand Island or North Platte, it is believed temporary quarters could be erected to house the men while they are erecting the reformatory.

Accounts Vary As To Where Missing Girls Spent Tuesday Night

Stories told by the parents of the three girls who disappeared from school and their homes Tuesday afternoon vary as to where the trio spent Tuesday night. The girls returned to their homes Wednesday morning.

Dr. W. M. Murphy, 2504 Taylor street, father of Elizabeth Taylor, one of the trio, said yesterday: "Elizabeth and the girls took a hike north of Omaha Tuesday afternoon. Before they could find their way back, night overtook them. They built a fire in the woods and remained all night."

Mrs. C. W. Ellis, 1137 North Eighteenth street, mother of Katherine Ellis, declared her daughter and Hazel Ivey, 4324 North Twenty-sixth street, did not go on a hike, but that they spent the night down town watching return of the election.

The girls returned to school yesterday.

Railroads Ask Assessments Be Lower This Year

State Board of Equalization Hears Hard Luck Stories Of Deficits—New Company Appears.

Lincoln, May 5.—(Special)—The Missouri Pacific railroad asked the state board of equalization today to lower its assessment in Nebraska \$1,886,300 this year.

The railroad this year suggests an assessment of \$10,919,933.

High wages, high cost of materials and a financial crisis were pleaded by J. M. Seibert of St. Louis, tax commissioner for the Missouri Pacific, before the state board. He claimed the Missouri Pacific incurred a deficit of \$1,455,000 in its operations in Nebraska last year.

Omaha Road Objects. That was one hard luck story told to the board. Another came from the Omaha and Southern Interurban Railway company which owns six miles of track in Sarpy county, running to Fort Crook, and operates on one and one-half miles of track of the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway company.

This company claims that since it opened for business in 1906 it has incurred a deficit totalling \$45,486.42 and although this sum is starting it in the face, Fort Crook army officers and others have presented a petition to the state railway commission asking for a decrease in rates.

The company asks for the same valuation on its holdings this year as last year. The valuation last year was \$18,000.

New Company Appears. The North Platte Valley Railroad company, a subsidiary of the Great Western Beet Sugar company, appeared before the board of equalization for the first time in its history.

This road consists of three stretches of track connecting factories at Scottsbluff, Bayard and Mitchell with surrounding territory. E. R. Griffin of Denver, vice president, told the board that the company had issued \$1,185,000 in stock to date and had received \$70,000 in rental from the Burlington.

The Rock Island is scheduled to present its valuation report tomorrow.

Resembling an electric room heater of the copper reflector type is one in which the heating element is a gas mantle.

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STANDING OF THE CLUB MEMBERS. The standing of the club members, as they appear in this issue, only includes the votes received and counted at this office up to 3 p. m., last Wednesday.

DISTRICT NO. 1. Will include all territory inside the city limits of Omaha on and north of Pacific street, west of the river to Seventy-second street, including Florence and the Carter Lake district.

DISTRICT NO. 2. Will include all territory inside the city limits of Omaha, on and north of Pacific street, west of the river to Eighty-third street and as far north as Maple street.

DISTRICT NO. 3. Will include all territory inside the city limits of Omaha and north of Maple street, west of the river to Eighty-third street and north to Sarcelle street, including Florence and the Carter Lake district.

DISTRICT NO. 4. Will include all territory in the city of Council Bluffs, including the Manhattan district.

DISTRICT NO. 5. Will include all territory in the city of Iowa outside the city of Council Bluffs and the Manhattan district.



The First Capital Award. \$7,800.00. Minne Luce Modern Home. Will include all territory in the state of Nebraska, including in District Number 6 and 7, also territory in South Dakota, Kansas and Colorado.

DISTRICT NO. 6. Will include the following counties in the state of Nebraska: Cass, Sarpy, Douglas, Platte, DeWitt, Washington, Burt, Cassin, Stanton, Madison, Boone, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Thurston, Dakota, Dixon, Cedar and Knox.

DISTRICT NO. 7. Will include the following counties in the state of Nebraska: Otter, Nemaha, Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson, Gage, Lancaster, Deuel, Kearney, Franklin, Thayer, Fillmore, York, Hamilton, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster and Adams.

Campaign Closes June 25th, 1921. The Omaha Bee Help Yourself Club. 10 FREE VOTES FOR M.

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