

GAS USERS ANGRY

Topeka Citizens in Mass Meeting Condemn Receivership of Kansas Natural.

STATE OFFICIALS COMMENDED

Gov. Capper and Other Prominent Men Made Speeches Denouncing Recent Hike in Price.

"Resolved, by the citizens of Topeka, that it is the sense of this meeting that the governor should instruct the attorney general to dismiss the state case against the Kansas Natural Gas Company, thereby ending the expensive and extortionate receivership and putting an end to the outrageous and high-handed methods, exorbitant attorneys' fees and indifference to the rights of the public made possible by the protective arm of the Montgomery district court and that the property of the Kansas Natural Gas Company be put back into the hands of the stockholders and the company then be compelled to carry out its contracts.

"Resolved, that we highly commend Governor Capper and the state officials, who have taken a stand in the defense of the interests of the citizens and pledge them our support in their efforts to see that justice is done."

The above resolutions were adopted at a mass meeting of Topeka gas users held on the state house grounds. About 1,000 people participated.

Speeches were made by Governor Capper, George Hughes, Captain J. G. Waters, Major A. M. Harvey and Representative W. A. S. Bird. Captain Waters assailed the receivers, courts and attorneys identified with the gas case in bitter terms. He said they were worse than a highwayman, as the latter did take some chance when he held up a person.

Governor Capper also paid his respects to the whole "aggregation" connected with the gas receivership.

Murdock Leaves for China—Victor Murdock, former congressman from the Eighth Kansas District, will take no part in the coming presidential campaign. Mr. Murdock, with his wife and daughter, Katherine, sailed recently from San Francisco for Shanghai.

To Pilot Kansas Democrats—W. C. Lansdon, Democratic candidate for governor, announced today he had selected Dwight Hamilton of Norton, chairman of the Democratic committee, to manage the campaign this fall.

Dollar in a Fish's Gill—A silver dollar was "banked" in the gill of a 10-pound carp that Mrs. Joseph Arculeo of 540 North Exposition avenue, Wichita, hooked on a fishing trip. The coin is being kept as a souvenir.

Three Threshers Burn—Three threshing machines burned in the same field near Cullison within one week. Recently a machine entered the Dorney field and began to thresh. It burned a few hours later. The second machine caught fire in the same field and burned. Three days later, the third machine caught fire and burned near the same spot.

Investigation Ends—Members of the state board of control, who have been in Atchison investigating charges of cruelty at the Orphans' home, concluded their work and left Atchison. While they would not give out any information, it is understood most of the charges have fallen flat. The members of the board will report direct to Governor Capper.

Big Prairie Fire Near Gove—The first prairie fire of the season in western Kansas burned a strip ten miles long and five miles wide north of Gove. Several stacks of prairie hay was burned and hundreds of acres of pasture ruined. The fire was stopped by plowing the ground in front of the blaze. There were no houses in the path of the fire.

Anthrax in Kansas—Anthrax, a contagious disease, deadly to farm stock, has broken out on the farm of E. H. Miller, near Jarbalo, nine miles west of Leavenworth. Three cows died and one was killed by order of the officials of the Kansas live stock commissioner. The carcasses of the animals were burned and a quarantine established on the Miller farm and the neighborhood.

First White Child Dead—Mrs. Lavina Cook, 81 years old, the first white child born in Burlington, Ia., is dead in Atchison. Her father founded her native town. She married forty years ago to Noah R. Cook and moved to Rushville, Mo. Twelve years ago she came to Atchison.

Miner Shocked to Death—Antone Kotnik, an Austrian miner, was electrocuted in mine No. 13 of the Western Coal and Mining Company at Yale recently. He was employed as an underground motorman and when his car left the rails he touched the trolley wire in attempting to replace his car on the tracks.

A Big Fire at Irving—Fire of unknown origin which started shortly before midnight recently destroyed five business houses and a residence with loss of \$15,000 at Irving.

ASK GAS SITUATION SURVEY

Conference at Topeka Believes Receivership of Kansas Natural Should Be Ended Immediately.

Make a survey of the entire gas situation. Get the gas case out of the Montgomery county district court just as soon as possible.

These were the conclusions reached at a conference in the governor's office at Topeka, participated in by Judge A. F. Evans and J. A. Harzfeld, representing Kansas City, Mo.; Fred S. Jackson and H. O. Caster, attorneys for the Kansas utilities commission, and Governor Capper.

The governor said the Kansas utilities commission will co-operate heartily with the Missouri public service commission in making the survey according to the Kansas City plan. The commissions will likely begin next week.

The hearings will be held at Kansas City, Mo.

The attorney general is expected to file a motion soon to dismiss the receivership case in the Montgomery district court. If the motion is granted the litigation then all goes back to the federal court and the receivers of that court will be in charge. It is the opinion of the state officials that the federal court will then order the property sold and that the stockholders or the Dougherty interests will buy it in and rehabilitate it.

The application of Rosedale and Kansas City, Kan., to have a survey of the gas situation made has been filed with the utilities commission.

Announcement was made through the Topeka Industrial Council that a meeting will be held on the state capitol grounds to form a Citizen's Protective League for the purpose of opposing any raise in the gas rates. Persons joining the league, it is proposed, shall enter an agreement not to pay more than 28 cents per 1,000 feet for gas. This is the rate which the Kansas public utilities commission fixed.

AN ENOCH ARDEN IN KANSAS

Woman Claims to Be Daughter of Hutchinson Man Believed by Relatives to Be Single.

This is the story of a modern Enoch Arden, who happened to be a bachelor, at least everybody, including his own family, thought he was.

Two years ago when Josiah W. Wright, a Hutchinson business man, died, it was generally supposed he was an "old bachelor." Recently when his brothers were about to divide up his estate, a young woman, Mrs. Kate Probosco, of Arkansas City, showed up in probate court, claiming to be a daughter of the deceased.

The story she related is about as thrilling as the original Enoch Arden tale, with the additional merit that it is true, providing, of course, she substantiates the tale in probate court. Anyhow, here's her story:

Thirty-one years ago her mother, now Mrs. Oberman, of Arkansas City, and Josiah Wright, were married at Halstead, unknown to his folks. They lived together for several years, and Katie, now 25 years of age, was born. After a time there was domestic trouble, and they separated.

One day Mrs. Wright received a telegram, purporting to be from the mother of her husband, which announced that he was dead. In time she re-married. Then one day Josiah Wright dropped into Arkansas City to visit his wife and daughter. He found she was the wife of another.

It was a shock, for he had determined to turn over a new leaf, return to his wife and daughter, and re-unite his home. Now he found another in his place. To protect his wife and daughter from the shame there would be should they learn of his being alive he quietly left and until his death, two years ago did his wife learn the truth.

Tries to Save Girl, Drowns—Lester Pennick, 17 years old, was drowned in the Arkansas river, west of Mulvane, when he tried to rescue a girl swimmer who had stepped into a 25-foot sand hole. He was not a good swimmer and sank when others rescued the girl.

Ptomaine Poisoning Kills—Ptomaine poisoning, supposedly from eating tomatoes or ham, caused the death of Joseph Tull, 52 years old, at Atchison recently. Tull had resided in this vicinity all his life. He is survived by ten children.

Muscotah Grain Elevator Burns—The Calvert & Bevens grain elevator at Muscotah, was struck by lightning the other morning and burned. It contained six thousand bushels of wheat, three thousand bushels of oats and four hundred bushels of corn.

Lightning Kills Boy—An 8-year-old son of S. B. Adams, in the eastern part of Clay county, was killed by lightning the other night. The boy was in the barn when it was struck.

Paralysis Case at Maple City—The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Robinson of Maple City is afflicted with infantile paralysis, according to Doctor Williams, the attending physician. This is the first case reported in that section of the state.

Wichita Minister Dies—The Rev. W. A. Cain, aged 74, for fifty years a Baptist minister, is dead at Wichita. He served in the Civil War and was active in G. A. R. circles. He came to Wichita from Abilene eight years ago.

NATION'S NATURAL FERTILIZER WEALTH WASTED

by Robert H. Moulton

Fertilizers are going to be higher than they have ever been. A famine impends. Yet the American farmer wasted more than four hundred million dollars' worth of manure, the best fertilizer, last year.



ALL MANURE USED FOR FERTILIZER HERE



CORN GROWN WITH MANURE FERTILIZER

CORN GROWN WITHOUT MANURE FERTILIZER



THESE CATTLE WOULD FERTILIZE A HUNDRED-ACRE FARM

FERTILIZERS are going to be higher than they have ever been before, owing to the war. So acute has the potash situation become that Uncle Sam, among all his other diplomatic troubles, has been dicker with the allies and with Germany to let a little miserly shipment of 10 tons of potash fertilizer come through the blockade for the use of the department of agriculture's farm experiment work. Yet with such a fertilizer famine staring the American farmer in the face, he has deliberately wasted during the last year between four hundred million and four hundred and fifty million dollars' worth of manure, the best of all fertilizers. And this, according to authorities on agriculture and fertilizer, is a regular yearly occurrence. It is not theoretical; it is actual loss, and the strangest part of the story is that the great bulk, if not all, of this waste, could be saved just as easily as not. In fact, most of it would be saved if American farmers were, for instance, Dutch or German farmers. It would be saved by the farmers of any of the old countries, where every pound of soil fertility is conserved as automatically and as naturally as though it were minted money. In Germany the size of the manure pile has long been an index to the wealth of the farmer.

What the value would be of the increased crops that would result from this American plant food, now wasted, can hardly be estimated, but the increased yields of corn, wheat, potatoes, and all farm crops would amount to something enormous. On the basis of using this needlessly wasted strength in manure on the corn crop alone it is estimated that the yield would be increased at least a billion and a half bushels, besides permanently improving the condition of the soil to a tremendous degree. In fact, a good many cornfields of the present day would be so surprised at receiving their quota of this wasted soil fertility that they would not recognize themselves. And yet the Dutch or the German way of handling manure, efficient as it is, is not the best. Americans have discovered the way to prevent all waste in manure and it involves no more labor or expense on the part of the farmer than his present methods through which he loses annually nearly half a billion dollars.

The average successful farmer or gardener will say that this statement doesn't apply to him; that he knows the value of good manure and uses every bit of it that he can get. But is he certain that he makes the best use of all his manure? When he hauls a ton of manure on to the field, is he sure that from 10 to 50 per cent of its crop-producing strength has not been dissipated through leaching, fire-fanging, or lack of provision to absorb or conserve the animal urine?

Take as an instance the case of urine alone. A cow will produce 45 to 50 pounds of solid manure a day, but she will also make from 20 to 30 pounds of urine and fully one-half of the nitrogen in her

ration goes into that urine. So it is most important to conserve the urine, for nitrogen is the most expensive element of manure or fertilizer. The other two important plant foods are potash and phosphorus.

Even though manure is highly regarded by all good farmers, nevertheless there is probably no product of equal value which is so miserably neglected and regarding which such real ignorance prevails. The first great source of loss is through the incomplete absorption of the urine, and it is not infrequent to see no attempt being made to save this portion of the manure in spite of the fact that it is richer in both nitrogen and potash than is the dung, and in spite of the fact that these fertilizers are more available for the plant in the urine than in the dung.

The second greatest source of waste of manure is the loss incurred by leaching. If a good-sized manure pile is stacked up against the side of the stable where the water from the eaves can drip on it, or if it is piled on a slope or other exposed place, every heavy rain washes away crisp bank notes in the form of nitrogen and potash. These leached chemicals are the most valuable portions of the pile, the most available for plant forcing.

The third common source of loss is that incurred by heating and fermenting. When manure is put in piles it soon heats and throws off more or less gas and vapor. The fermentation which produces these gases is caused by the action of bacteria, or minute organisms. The bacteria which produce the most rapid fermentation in manure, in order to work their best, need plenty of air, or, more strictly, oxygen. Therefore, fermentation will be most rapid in loosely piled manure. Heat and some moisture are necessary for fermentation, but, if the manure is wet and heavy, fermentation is checked because the temperature is lowered and much of the oxygen excluded from the pile. The strong odor of ammonia, so common around a stable, is a simple evidence of the fermentation and the loss of nitrogen which is going on.

Fresh manure loses in the process of decay from 40 to 70 per cent of its original weight. An 80-ton heap of cow manure left exposed for one year lost 66 per cent of its dry substance. Some tests conducted by the United States department of agriculture showed that two tons of horse manure exposed in a pile for five months lost 57 per cent of its gross weight, 60 per cent of its nitrogen, 41 per cent of its phosphoric acid and 76 per cent of its potash, or an average loss of three-fifths.

Five tons of cow manure exposed for the same length of time in a compact pile lost, through leaching and dissipation of gases, 49 per cent in gross weight, 41 per cent of its nitrogen, 19 per cent of its phosphoric acid and 8 per cent of its potash. Here was a terrific waste, veritably, yet not greater than is to be found in most common farm practice. What would any business man or any farmer think of a city real estate investment or a land investment which he discovered that he could have prevented it at almost no cost or extra effort to himself?

The farm scientists and the theorists can preach all they want to about the economy of the farmer building fine, big sheds to keep the rain off the manure or other such plans, but it goes without saying that the average farmer isn't going to see it that way. But he doesn't have to! The remedy for such losses is simple in the extreme. In fact, exactly the right way of handling manure so as to save all this loss is about the cheapest, cleanest and altogether the easiest way to handle manure.

The first step to prevent the loss of the fertilizing elements in manure is to provide plenty of bedding or litter in the stable to absorb and save all the liquid. The losses due to fermentation can be greatly checked by mixing horse manure with cow manure and making the temporary piles compact so as to exclude the air, and by thoroughly wetting the manure, which will assist in excluding the air and also reduce the temperature.

The ideal way on the average farm is to follow the plan, all through the year, of hauling manure directly from the stable and spreading it at once. There is a generally prevailing notion among farmers that if manure is hauled and spread in mid-summer, the sun will scorch it to a cinder and burn all the good out of it. The government agricultural station in Maryland, just outside of Washington, decided to determine this matter accurately, and its analytical experiments have exploded two very common beliefs, the summer-burning theory being one of them. The other common belief which has been blown to atoms is that it is better to plow manure under in the fall than to leave it exposed on the land's surface during the winter and then plow it under in the spring.

In the first instance manure spread in "burning" July and allowed to stand until the following spring gave better results in carefully checked experiments than that spread in the following spring just before plowing. In the second series of experiments, better yields were secured after allowing the manure to lie on top of the land all winter and plowing it under in the spring than were obtained from plowing it under in the fall.

LANSING, PRESIDENT FOR JUST ONE DAY

The next president of the United States will be Robert Lansing of New York, the present secretary of state.

Mr. Lansing's term of office does not depend upon the action of any political convention; it is likewise irrespective of any primary or direct election. In point of fact, it dates back to January 10, 1886, when congress passed an act providing that, in the event of the death, removal, resignation or inability of both the president and the vice president of the United States, the secretary of state shall act as president.

March 4, 1917, will fall upon a Sunday, and it is contrary to all precedent—although not in opposition to any law—to hold an inauguration on Sunday. Therefore the incoming chief executive will take the oath of office and commence his term shortly after noon on March 5. President Wilson's term commenced at noon on March 4, 1913; therefore, according to the Constitution, which defines the term of a president as "four years," his tenure of office will be over at noon on March 4, and, even if he is elected to succeed himself, he cannot take the oath of office until noon on the following day. Vice President Marshall, of course, is under the same disability as the president. Therefore the secretary of state, Mr. Lansing, will be president of the United States for the 24 hours and some minutes elapsing between noon on Sunday, March 4, and the time that the new president takes the oath of office on the following day.

This brief term of office is not a mere formality. It is an actual occupation of the power of president, with all his authorities and prerogatives. Mr. Lansing—"President Lansing," for the day—will be empowered to occupy the White House, to issue pardons, to attend to all the other business of which the chief executive has control, and to ride to the capitol, should he desire, as the outgoing president on inauguration day.

Moreover, this is the first time in the history of the nation that a secretary of state has had this honor bestowed upon him and only the second time in the 140 years of the existence of the United States that the office has been held by anyone other than the president and vice president.

THE MARK OF THE DEATH'S HEAD.

From the day of the medieval archer, who notched his crossbow, to the day of the Western land man who notched his gun, men have always sought to preserve some mark of military prowess, some tally of their victims. This war has not changed human nature. The modern military aviator, the only soldier who still fights single-handed, does not notch his gun; but he paints a death's head on the wing of his plane to show that he has vanquished his foe in combat.