

STATE'S RECORDS STOLEN?

PAPERS TRIBUNE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED IT IS SAID.

LIST FROM "AUCTION SALE"

Rumors of Division of Spoils Will Be Probed and Given Publicity.

Ugly rumors of a division of state property among certain state officials and employes at the capitol building have been going the rounds for some time.

The Tribune has taken upon itself the investigation of these rumors and a full expose of the entire transaction will appear in an early issue of the paper.

Records Stolen.

But the Tribune is handicapped at the start because the records in this transaction have entirely disappeared. Those whom one would naturally go to in order to obtain the records say that the only itemized statement, the one containing a list of all property sold at the now famous "auction sale" of state property, was stolen from the desk of Taylor O. Thompson, state printer and document clerk, or else was taken from that desk or in some other manner disappeared or was destroyed.

This list would either prove or disprove any and all of the charges which have been made in connection with this deal.

The Auction Sale.

All that the biennial report of the custodian has to say regarding this auction or "rummage sale" is printed here.

"In 1915, you authorized me to hold a 'Rummage Sale' and dispose of, at auction, a lot of discarded pieces of office furniture, couches, lounges, old rugs, lighting fixtures, and other furniture. From such sales I have received and turned over to the state treasurer \$608.66."

Thompson Was Clerk.

Taylor O. Thompson was clerk of this sale and Jacob Rieder custodian of state property, conducted the same. Mr. Thompson yesterday stated, in effect, as follows:

"I was clerk of the rummage sale and made a list of all items sold, the amount for which they sold and the purchaser. I left this list in a wire basket on my desk, intending some time to make a typed copy for my minutes. The list was in the basket for some time and then all at once it disappeared. I don't know what became of it, whether I threw it away unintentionally, or whether it disappeared in some other manner."

COAL RATE CONFERENCE

Probably Be Held in St. Paul on April 23; Hearing Here Later On.

The lignite coal rate conference will be held in St. Paul about April 23, in all probability, according to an announcement made by Secretary Cushing of the railroad commission yesterday. The conference will be held at St. Paul because of the fact that it is the most convenient place for the railroad company officials to meet.

This conference will be merely a preliminary step in the adjustment of the coal rate matter in this state and is called for the purpose of finding out, if possible, whether or not the railroads are willing to fix upon a rate satisfactory to all concerned in the matter.

Hearing in Bismarck.

Later on a hearing will probably be held in Bismarck to which the miners, shippers and others interested in the coal rates will be invited.

The federal supreme court has knocked out the maximum coal rate as unreasonable but that rate still obtains until a new one is fixed upon.

Talking Old Rate.

Some of the roads are said to be in favor of rehabilitating the old rate, effective before the one which is now in force. This rate is considerably higher and is objected to on that ground.

PAIR ARRESTED NEAR NAPOLEON

Napoleon, N. D., April 10.—Louis Rubel, who worked during last summer on Henry Davies' line, arrived here in company with another young fellow by the name of J. Johnson, and on the following day Deputy Sheriff Kelfert arrived from Hardin, Big Horn county, Mont., with warrants for the arrest of the pair. Marshal Schuchard located them and made the arrest and the deputy sheriff immediately departed with his prisoners for Montana via Dawson. The charge against Rubel and his companion is burglary.

Wind Felled Iron Girder; One Is Killed

Toledo, O., April 10.—One man was killed and two probably fatally injured, and ten others were hurt when an iron girder for a loaded automobile plane was dislodged by a forty-two mile wind. The laborer was killed.

AMERICANS ASK FOR PROTECTION

Three Hundred Unemployed at Tampico Want Transportation to United States.

Washington, D. C., April 10.—Three hundred unemployed Americans appealed to the state department for transportation from Tampico to the United States. The situation reported officially will be serious. Food is scarce and fighting at Ebanu and vicinity indicates an early attack on the city. Rear Admiral Caperton, with the cruiser Washington went to Tampico today from Vera Cruz to join the gunboats Petrol and Sacramento.

Officials here discussed the arrangements for use of the army transport which will be sent for Tampico refugees, if the state department formally requests them. The state department has no news from the Celajia district, where forces of Obregon and Villa have been engaged in skirmishing preliminary to what is expected to be an important battle. The Villa agency protested to the state department against the expected presence of General Huerta on American territory, alleging he intended to violate neutrality by starting a movement against Mexico. Huerta will arrive in New York tonight.

HARWOOD MAN HIT BY AN N. P. TRAIN; IS BADLY INJURED

Fargo, N. D., April 10.—Dennis Sherlock of Harwood, N. D., was struck by a west bound Northern Pacific train between Glyndon and Stockwood at 6 o'clock Friday evening and suffers injuries to his back to such an extent that he is semi-conscious and late last night failed to recognize his wife, who was notified shortly after the accident.

Was Seeking Work.

According to the story told by Mrs. Sherlock at the hospital last night, her husband left Harwood Thursday morning and said he was going to search for work. It is presumed that he was walking the track at the time and was struck by either train No. 1 or No. 9. Whether he was intoxicated or not could not be learned.

Injuries Might Be Internal. Because of his long state of semi-consciousness, it is believed that his injuries are internal and may prove fatal. Mrs. Sherlock, who arrived in Moorhead on the Great Northern at 10:10 last night stated that he was about 47 years of age and is father of eight children.

R. R. COMMISSION BACK FROM MINOT

The state railroad commissioners have returned from a trip to Minot at other points in the state where hearings were held and complaints were investigated. A meeting will be held here this week, probably on Tuesday, to decide some of the matters on which hearings were held last week. The commissioners will then go up the Stanton branch of the N. P. to investigate a number of complaints which have been made. Commissioner Sutsman will go to Chicago sometime during the week to attend the grain rate hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission. The hearing will close on May 7.

CUMMINS REFORM BILL CONTAINED A JOKER

Washington, April 10.—An increase in certain freight rates and modification of the present form of bills of lading are proposed by railroad representatives, while a six months' test under present conditions is a counter proposal of the traffic associations at a conference today, called by the interstate commerce commission to discover how carriers and shippers view the changed obligations arising from the Cummins amendment to the railroad rate act. The amendment is effective June 3. After a day's discussion, the conference adjourned and all parties were given permission to file briefs before April 20.

EXAGGERATED REPORTS IN THE PAPERS

STEELE PRAIRIE FIRE NOT HALF AS BAD AS SOME OF THE NEWSPAPERS PAINTED IT.

ANOTHER FIRE AT HAZEN

Both Men Brought Here From Steele Are Reported as Doing Nicely.

REPORTS OF PRAIRIE FIRES EXAGGERATED

Dr. A. McG. Beede, the Episcopal missionary to the Indians in this state, came in yesterday from the Standing Rock reservation. He states that the reports of the prairie fires in that part of the country were greatly exaggerated. The first reports of these fires are usually obtained from someone who was in the path of the flames and helped battle them. Such a person generally overstates the extent of the fire and the damage done because the fire looked like the biggest ever to him.

Exaggerated reports of the Steele fire have appeared in various papers of the state. The prairie fire which swept over the country in the vicinity of Steele on Friday afternoon was bad enough but it did not leave many families homeless, as reported in some papers, nor did it do as much property damage as was reported.

The same is true of fires reported in Morton county.

Three Barns and House. So far as could be learned last night the total number of buildings destroyed in the Steele fire was three barns and a house. The losses reported are as follows:

Foy Harris, 12 miles northeast of Steele, barn.

John Erickson, same vicinity, house and barn.

Husky of Dorsan, a barn.

The fire took an easterly direction from the Norwegian settlement, Chestina, where it started and burned across a stretch of many miles. A good deal of hay was burned up.

Another Man Burned.

Besides the three men reported as being burned in this prairie fire in yesterday's Tribune, Lon Harris is the only other who is reported as burned. He resides in the same vicinity as the other three men. He was burned about the face and hands but his burns are said not to be serious.

Hogan Family Notified.

The family of Robert Hogan is now in the east. The relatives have been notified of his death and the body is being held at Steele until instructions are received as to its disposal.

Thompson Doing Nicely.

Allen Thompson and Hugh Armstrong, the two men who were severely burned while attempting to save the life of their companion, Hogan, are reported as resting nicely at the St. Alexis hospital in this city. Armstrong was not burned so severely as Thompson but both have had burns. They are suffering greatly but are doing as well as could be expected. Thompson has a chance for recovery it is said, although yesterday it was thought that he would not survive.

Hazen Fire.

A prairie fire was reported northwest of Hazen yesterday by passengers coming in on trains from that direction. The fire is said to have burned over an area of twenty miles in length, burning in the direction of Hazen from the northwest. Townspeople are said to have gotten out in order to ward off the flames from Hazen.

Jack McLaughlin lost a barn and several fine head of horses in the blaze. Sol Plichter lost a house and barn and James Larquist was badly burned about the face, according to reports received here.

JAMESTOWN MAKES A SPLENDID SHOWING

Jamestown and Fargo college debating teams held their fifth annual intercity debate on Friday, the question being: "Resolved, That the Federal Government Should Own and Operate the Railroads of the United States." Each home team took the affirmative side of the question. Jamestown won at home and Fargo won at Fargo. The Jamestown debaters are all freshmen. Last week they met the Macalester college team of Minneapolis and defeated them by 2-1 points. The Jamestown team was composed of the following: William Mandus, Lewis Orlandy, Roy Kale, the team that went on the trip, and Carl Erickson, Roy Kale and Alex Graham represented the school at home. Good close work was apparent in all three debates.

Relief Steamer Strikes a Mine in North Sea

Rotterdam, April 10.—The British steamer Harpalycce, the first relief boat of New York state, under charter of commission for relief in Belgium, has been torpedoed or sunk by a mine in the North sea. The Dutch steamer Elizabeth, on a voyage from Rotterdam for New York, picked up twenty-two of the crew of the Harpalycce, seven miles northeast of Noorder lightship, and brought them back to Rotterdam. The Dutch steamer Constante Catherine picked up five men and took them to Nieuwe Waterweg. The steamer carried fifty-three men. The other twenty-six are unaccounted for, although they may be in small boats on the sea.

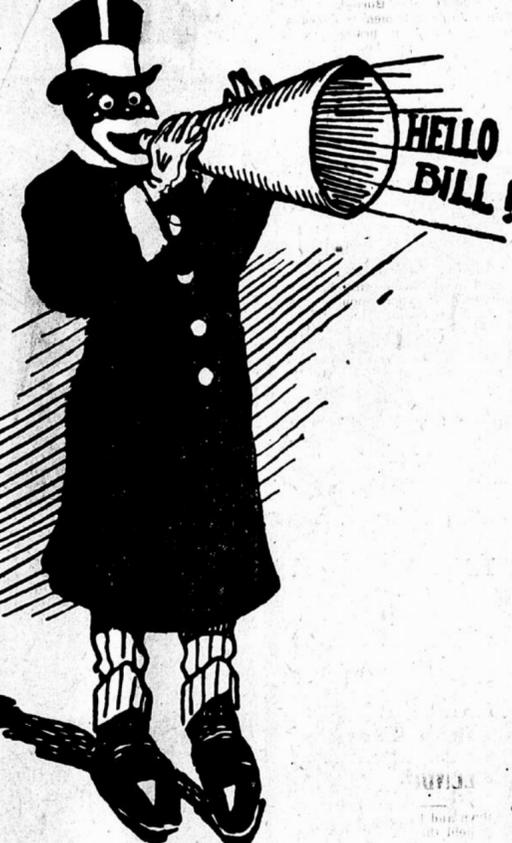
It is feared these 26 are drowned. Those rescued by the Elizabeth included the second mate, second engineer, the latter in a wounded condition.

The Harpalycce under its charter to the Belgium relief commission had a permit securing immunity from attack. The Harpalycce, which is 5,600 tons, was a comparatively new steamer, owned by J. and C. Harrison, London. She sailed from New York, March 17, with over 11,000 individual gifts for the relief of the Belgians. She arrived at Rotterdam March 20. She was commanded by Captain Frank Wann.

WOMAN'S BODY IS FOUND UNDER PILE OF STONES

New York, April 10.—In finding a body of a woman apparently twenty-two, under a small pile of stones in a vacant lot in Rosendale avenue, Bronx, late today, the local police are confronted with one of the most mysterious murder cases in recent years. The autopsy tonight revealed that the woman who was about to become a mother, had been killed by blows on the skull from an axe. She is foreign born and wore a wedding ring and was cheaply clad.

THEY'RE OFF! BISMARCK ELKS START REHEARSALS FOR GREATEST MINSTRELS IN HISTORY, AT AUDITORIUM APRIL 23



Director Byfield of the Elks Minstrels fired the first shot with the call for rehearsals and sure enough in true Bismarck style the Elks were there in a bunch, seething with enthusiasm—everyone a winner and promising that their show at the Auditorium on April 23 will be the best ever given in North Dakota. A fast snappy show, brim full of the very newest in entertainment, that's in sight for the big show, besides some very special features so good that a prize is offered for any one found sleeping in his seat.

Go the Limit. Bismarck Elks have gone the limit in providing something novel, some-

FIGHTING ACTIVE ON ALL FRONTS

CONSIDERABLE EXTENSION OF BATTLEFIELDS BOTH IN CARPATHIANS AND WOEVRE DISTRICT EVIDENT.

DUTCH ARE QUIETING DOWN

Carpathians Now Scene of Fiercest Engagements Since Conflict Began.

ASK CANADA FOR TROOPS.

Ottawa, April 10.—Lord Kitchener has called on Canada for a second expeditionary force. News was given parliament tonight by Premier Sir Robert Borden, who said the call had been expected for some time.

London, April 10.—There has been considerable extension of battlefields both in the Carpathians and in the Woivre district in France, where fighting of extreme violence continues day and night without, however, any definite decision being reached in either region.

Russians Masters.

The Russians made themselves masters of the principal chain of mountains from Dukla Pass to Uzesk Pass and have begun an attack on the German forces which hold the hills from the latter pass eastward to Beskid Pass. This section of the Carpathians has been the scene, since early in February, of many fierce encounters between the Germans and Russians. Now the German ask of trying to prevent the Russians from straightening out their line, which is necessary before an invasion of Hungary is undertaken. It is apparent from this that the army succeeded in

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Seward-Fairbanks Route Selected by President; Buy Alaska Northern

GOVERNMENT GIVES \$1,150,000 FOR THIS PROPERTY; MORE THAN \$28,000,000 TO BE EXPENDED ON ALASKAN RAILWAY SYSTEM; BUILT UNDER PRIVATE CONTRACT.

WILL BUILD AT LEAST FORTY MILES THIS YEAR

Most Extensive Governmental Project Since Linking of the East and Pacific Coast by Transcontinental Lines.

Washington, April 10.—The Seward-Fairbanks route was selected for the government railway in Alaska, Secretary Lane announced today. The property of the Alaska Northern Railway company from Seward over the first stage of the journey has been purchased for \$1,150,000.

The government system, the statement adds, will include a 38-mile branch to tap the Manataska coal fields.

BUILT UNDER CONTRACT.

W. C. Edes was designated chairman of the Alaskan engineering commission, which will build the road by the president's order. The estimated cost of the entire system is given at \$28,800,000. Congress has provided not to exceed \$35,000,000. Secretary Lane said the construction work will begin immediately and probably 40 miles of the extension of the Alaska Northern from Ship creek will be completed this year. Construction will be carried on under contract.

TO GUARD HEALTH OF MEN.

Individual contractors building separate units of the roadway in one order signed by the president and the Alaskan commission, are instructed to guard particularly the health of the men at work and adopt a system of compensation for accidents similar to that in force on the Panama canal.

RICH IN COAL DEPOSITS.

"The route adopted by the president will open up a territory not now served by any railroad, and two great coal fields in Alaska," Secretary Lane stated, "one in the Matanuska field, which contains a high grade of bituminous coal, near the Tanana river, of which a great body is high grade lignite that will serve the interior of Alaska."

DEATH REWARD OF HER LOVE

Wife Follows French Captain Against Military Orders; Husband Kills Her.

Paris, April 10.—Captain Jean Herail, officer of the French cavalry, was tried by court-martial today for killing his wife at Compiègne, last November, because she persisted in following the army to be near him, in direct violation of orders of the military authorities.

Herail was acquitted. When Herail was sent to the front his wife ascertained that he was stationed at Compiègne and went there to visit him. The French commander-in-chief had just issued a circular prohibiting all officers and soldiers receiving their wives during the campaign. His superior officer remonstrated with Herail, though later he endeavored to persuade his wife to return home, but she continued to stay. The captain warned him thrice and the third time told him he would be cashiered unless Madame Herail immediately left. This she refused to do, and Herail, fearing dishonor and degradation, shot and killed his wife.

Mentally Unbalanced.

It was brought out today that Herail had become mentally unbalanced through worry over possible results of his wife's refusal to obey military order to leave him. There has seldom been a more pathetic scene in a Paris court than when Herail took the stand in his own defence. He wept as he told of the great love he bore for his wife and how when she steadfastly refused to return home, he believed he would be cashiered. He has become absolutely mad, and was driven to the last extremity in killing his loved one. Many in court sobbed in sympathy. The vote for Herail's acquittal was five to two.

SEEDING OPERATIONS UNDER FULL SWING

Jamestown, N. D., April 10.—Seeding operations are under full swing and the work is being pushed rapidly. In the southern part of the county the work is being rushed. At Adrian it is reported that one farmer put in 350 acres complete early in the week. Some seeding was done last week. Farmers report the soil in excellent condition but state a warm rain would be welcome to take the frost out of the ground.

THE WEATHER

Tri-state: Generally fair Sunday and Monday.

President Wilson's decision on the route of the proposed government railway through Alaska puts in motion the most extensive governmental railway project since the linking of the east and the Pacific coast by the transcontinental railway system. Like the latter, the new project has the twofold aim of opening the way for pioneers and settlers in this new and almost unknown region of vast virgin resources and at the same time providing an outlet for these resources to reach the seaboard and the trade routes to the Pacific states and the Orient.

Climatic Conditions.

The new project has added the problem of climatic conditions in this far northern region, its short seasons, and a country of mountains and glaciers quite different from the plains across which most of the transcontinental route stretched. Already, however, the development of Alaska has dispelled much of the popular idea of a region of snow and ice, and has disclosed rich and fertile agricultural sections in addition to the boundless resources of coal, copper and other minerals, and fur-bearing animals. Thus far, private enterprise has devised the only means for penetrating this little known region, but now for the first time the government takes in hand the building and operation of a railway 1,000 miles long, running through the heart of the country.

A Mass of Data.

President Wilson had before him an enormous amount of data on Alaska to aid in his decision as to which of the two proposed routes from Prince William sound to Fairbanks should be followed. He had no recommendation from the Alaska Engineering Commission, which made the investigation, however, the commissioners confining their report to a full statement of the facts regarding each route. Since the bill appropriating \$30,000,000 for the construction of the line was enacted last year, the commission has had hundreds of men at work locating and surveying along both routes. Additional information has been placed before the president as it became available and in anticipation of the beginning of work early in spring the commission has been making inquiries as to equipment available on the Panama canal and on other government tasks and otherwise making ready to fling a well equipped construction army into the northern territory as soon as the president's decision was made known.

Two Routes Considered.

Each of the proposed routes—one known as the Cordova-Fairbanks route, the other the Seward-Fairbanks route—contemplated the purchase of an existing railway line. The question lay in selecting either Seward or Cordova, on the east shore, as the tide-water terminal of the government system.

The two routes were of approximately the same length and estimates of construction cost did not vary widely. (Continued on Page Seven.)

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