

SCHOOL LAND BILL FOR SUBMISSION

AGREEMENT WAS MADE AND BILL DRAWN FOR THE VOTERS' CONSIDERATION.

MEASURE MADE READY INITIATIVE REFERENDUM

Lessees Jubilant Over Features of the Bill and Coworkers Feel All Interests Will Be Properly Subservient By Proposed Measure.

It was promptly at six o'clock Friday evening that the committee finished drafting the first bill that will be submitted to the voters of the state under the initiative petition. It is the bill for the sale of the school lands, and providing terms and details of the proposed sale.

For two days and nearly all of one night the committee had been busy at work. Six members of the committee were school land lessees from all parts of "Old" Oklahoma. While it so happened that a majority of the committee were democrats, it still remains a stubborn fact that they were chosen absolutely without regard to their political affiliations. The committee consisted of Governor Haskell, W. H. Murray, Senator J. Elmer Thomas, of Lawton, Secretary L. D. Marr of the school land department, editor Frank H. Cress, of the State Capital, and the following school land lessees: J. C. Mohart, M. H. Williams, John Golobis, J. B. Tesh, R. Mitchell and J. H. Johnston.

This history making bill provides for the sale of 3,150,000 acres of school land, all situated in the twenty six counties of the western part of the state. Much of the bill is taken from the provisions offered by Speaker Murray in his web known substitute for the Fisher bill, offered during the legislature, and there are also a number of provisions from the Fisher bill itself and John Golobis, for many years an ardent advocate of the cause of the lessees, was also an important factor in the council's work on the committee while framing the bill.

The full text of the bill is as follows: A BILL To provide by initiative petition, a law providing for the sale of school and other public lands of Oklahoma, subject to certain exceptions and conditions, and providing rules therefor, and penalties for violations thereof.

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oklahoma: Section 1. The commissioners of the land office shall dispose of, sell, and convey (subject to such exceptions, conditions, rules and restrictions as provided in this act or any act amendatory hereof), all public lands owned by this state including the lands embraced in sections sixteen and thirty-six in each township and range in the state of Oklahoma, where the same is reserved to the state for school purposes, and shall also dispose of, sell, and convey all sections of "indemnity land" heretofore selected by the United States department of Oklahoma, or any officer or agent of the territory or state of Oklahoma, department of interior or of the United States in lieu of sections sixteen and thirty-six, except where the same is embraced in any reservation specifically reserved from sale in this act, or in any act of congress or of the state specifically reserving any part thereof for any special purpose, also all of the public lands embraced in sections numbered thirteen and thirty-three in each township and range in the state of Oklahoma, where the same is reserved to the state for public buildings, public institutions of education, or other state property; also all sections of "indemnity land" heretofore selected by the United States territory or state of Oklahoma, or by the department of the interior, or of any officer or agent of the territory or state of Oklahoma, the department of the interior, or of the United States in lieu of said sections thirteen and thirty-three, except where the same is reserved from sale in this act, or in any act of congress of the United States specifically reserving the same for any special purpose; also all of the lands withdrawn from the public domain and reserved under section twelve of the act of congress approved June 16, 1906, known as the "Enabling Act" of the state of Oklahoma, the same being for the university of the state, 250,000 acres; for the university preparatory school, 150,000 acres; for the agricultural and mechanical college, 250,000 acres; for the colored agricultural and normal university, 100,000 acres; and for the normal schools now established, or hereafter to be established, 300,000 acres; provided, where any part of the lands granted to the state of Oklahoma are known to be valuable for minerals, including gas and oil, such lands shall not be sold prior to January 1, 1915.

Section 2. All proceeds of the sale of such land described in section 1 of this act shall be sacredly preserved for the use and benefit of the several hospitals, institutions, and purposes for which such land was granted by the United States to the state of Oklahoma under the provisions of the enabling act, and of any and all other acts of congress, and by the constitution, for the uses and purposes and upon the conditions and under the limitations for the money resulting from such sale shall be handled, disposed of, and used by the state in like manner as the other moneys belonging to said several funds under the laws of this state.

Section 3. No person other than a bona fide resident of this state, shall be qualified or permitted to acquire title to any part or parcel of any of the lands described in section one of this act so long as said lands are owned or held in whole or in part by the

BOARD AGRICULTURE REPORT

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. Press Bulletin No. 3, June 5, 1908. The month of May just past, has, perhaps, presented more different kinds of weather, more varied climatic conditions, that affect the growing condition of crops in a greater variety of ways than may affect the same crops in like manner for several years to come. The month opened with unseasonable, cloudy, cold weather with scattered rains. The rainfall for that portion of the month, however, was below normal. The second week opened with cold, cloudy and stormy weather, with excessive precipitation in the southeastern section of the state, causing flood waters in the streams. Considerable damage resulted from the overflow and washing of bottom lands. The third week brought excessive precipitation for the entire state. Up to this time the extreme northwestern portion of the state was suffering from drought, but on Friday afternoon, the 23d, heavy general rains set in and continued for twenty-four to thirty-six hours. On May 3 inquiries were mailed to some 800 crop correspondents who had supplied with the call issued during

the month of April by this department, asking for information as to the growing condition of winter wheat, the acreage and condition of oats, the acreage planted to corn as compared with last year, the acreage and condition of cotton, alfalfa, Irish potatoes and relevant matter pertaining to the fruit of the state. These inquiries were returnable May 23, and 283 replies were received.

Beyond question, the overflowing of streams and flooding of bottom lands caused by the excessive rains on the 23d and 24th have, no doubt, materially lowered the growing condition of the principal crops of the state; particularly so with corn and cotton, a considerable per cent of which will have to be replanted. It was impossible for this department to revise the figures subsequent to the great damage by the recent excessive rainfall.

The reports received indicate that 32,276 acres have been sown to alfalfa this spring, and the average growing condition of all alfalfa now growing is 92.3 per cent.

The following table shows in detail the summary of the reports for each County as compiled from reports returnable May 23d, 1908:

(Continued on page eight.)

KNOCKED OUT

(By Associated Press.) Chicago, Ill., June 6.—Geo. Miller, a well-known sporting man and famed prize fight referee, is said to be near death.

state, until he has moved to and made a bona fide residence for two years upon the land purchased by him.

(a) No person shall be permitted to purchase more than one quarter section, or sub-division aggregating one-quarter section, of land under the provisions of this act.

(b) No person except a lessee, owning land in excess of one quarter, according to the United States survey, whether said land be situated in the state of Oklahoma or elsewhere, shall be permitted to become the purchaser of any of the lands sold under the provisions of this act.

(c) No person holding any lands mentioned in section one, by lease from the territory or the state of Oklahoma, or from any officer of said state or territory, or of the federal government, shall be permitted to buy more than one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter section according to the United States survey; nor shall he be permitted to transfer, directly or indirectly, any of said lands in excess of one quarter section, and all such attempted transfers after the passage of this act shall be null and void and said holders shall yield up and deliver possession to the state immediately upon the termination of such lease contract upon such land. Provided, however, if such lessee holding land in excess of one hundred and sixty acres shall have existing fencing and tillage, (and including fencing or tillage) such person may have the preference, right to buy one quarter section, and before said lessee shall acquire title to said land, purchased under the provisions of this act, he shall waive all rights of purchase on all other lands under his lease contract, or contracts, in excess of one quarter section, and shall accept said land with condition of such waiver, but any member of his family of lawful age, (including married sons and daughters, with lessee's consent), may have preference right to purchase one quarter section each, having had such improvements placed thereon in good faith, the remaining portions of such lands so held by such lessee contract shall be yielded up to the state for such disposition as in this act provided, any contract to transfer or sub-lease made and executed by such lessee

(Continued on Page Four)

TORNADO KILLED NEBRASKANS

(By Associated Press.) Geneva, Neb., June 6.—At least six dead, four fatally hurt and several others more or less seriously injured is the result of Friday's tornado which swept across Fillmore county and destroyed everything in its path. List of casualties follows: Dead—Lula Smith, domestic in home of John Shively; Irene Shively, four-year-old daughter of John Shively; Elijah Argenbriest, two miles east; two children by name of Small near North Branch, Kansas. Fatally injured: John Morrison, near Schickley; Mrs. Elijah Argenbriest, Ross Shively. Seriously hurt: El Russell farm hand on Shively's farm; John Shively and wife. Number of other persons have been injured but their names are not known. Tornadoes were two in number. All Nebraska roads still suffer from washouts, and many trains were annihilated.

Governor Haskell today honored a resolution from the governor of Texas for the return to Grayson county of R. M. Moore, who is wanted there on a burglary charge.

ENID UNDER WATER

Enid, Okla., June 6.—Enid today faces the most disastrous flood in its history. Following six hours of terrific rainfall, Boggy creek, running through the city, this morning widened from twenty feet to two thousand feet and has flooded practically the whole of Enid, carrying away many houses, flooding stores and endangering lives. Today water stood twelve feet deep in Main street, covering two of the finest blocks in the business center. Fifty houses were swept away and carried down the stream with occupants, who had been driven to roofs, shouting for help. Several families were floated about at the mercy of the flood and were in darkness all night. All were finally rescued when daylight came and the fatalities resulted so far as able to ascertain.

Lighting struck hotel.

Special to Daily Leader.

Enid, Okla., June 6.—Lightning struck the Lee hotel during the rain last night. Damage was light.

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS.

The delivery of the Leader to city subscribers has been somewhat late this week, owing to the press room repairs. The trouble will be rectified within a few days, when the usual prompt service will obtain.

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COUNCIL HEARS REPORT

CONVENTION HALL AGAIN UNDER CONSIDERATION

CITIZENS ARE WILLING FINISH FINE STRUCTURE

Architect Related Plan and How to Have Ready January 1, 1909

The joint meeting of the city council and the committee appointed by Chairman Cunningham, of the mass meeting to devise ways and means for the immediate erection of a convention hall on the capital square at the council chamber last night was harmonious. The sentiment was for the immediate erection of a convention hall on the capital square, occupying the east side of a ten acre tract at the terminal of Oklahoma avenue. The city expects to derive no benefit from the convention hall, and the citizens present at the meeting stated they knew what they were doing and quite willing to vote the bonds under such conditions. The committee to act with the council requesting submission of the proposition to vote bonds for the immediate erection of this magnificent convention hall, also recommend that the council also submit to the voters at the same time the question of voting \$25,000 for paving the square and otherwise improving the grounds. This met with unanimous approval of both council and citizens who were present. The sub-committee appointed on taxation and legality of the proposition reported that after a careful consideration they felt justified in recommending that the council take action at once.

Architect P. H. Weathers declared faith in the proposition and would prepare plans and specifications for a convention hall; to get everything in shape for letting a contract when the bonds were voted. The council and committee favored his proposition, and Mr. Weathers will be permitted to begin work Monday, under agreement that failure to vote bonds forfeits his claim for compensation. Will Be Completed January 1. Architect Weathers stated he would have bidders here to bid on the work as soon as the bonds were voted and that work could commence within

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FUNERAL OF SAILORS.

(By Associated Press.) San Pedro, Calif., June 6.—Fog this morning delayed the removal of the sailors who suffered in yesterday's explosion of boiler tube on the armored cruiser Tennessee. One of the injured died during the night. Funeral of dead sailors was held this afternoon.

Street Car Company to Loop Square.

The Guthrie Street Railway company by their representative last night at the joint meeting of the council and convention hall committee promised to loop the capital square and have cars operating around the same as soon as the convention hall could be completed.

Former Delegate J. P. King is here from Newkirk.

SPEECHES BY BORAH AND BURTON

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Other speeches will probably be governed by same limitations, although the convention allows each speaker to be his own judge as to the length of time he may consume in making nominations.

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PIONEER GONE.

(By Associated Press.) Detroit, Mich., June 6.—Peter White, of Marquette, one of the most prominent men of the Upper peninsula and a pioneer in copper and iron development, died here today.

Material can be secured on short notice; the labor conditions being better than usual and he believes the building can be completed by January first.

To Be 4-2 Per Cent Bonds.

Banker U. C. Goss stated there is a market for good municipal bonds, and that he believed bonds at 4-2 per cent would sell readily and that he knew 5 per cent bonds would sell at a premium.

To Meet Tonight.

Owing to the public duty, Mayor Barnes explained that the committee's recommendations and findings would be that of the council, and he appointed a committee consisting of Councilmen Sparlock, Fisking and Orton to meet with him today to investigate all the conditions and to report to the council at a special meeting tonight for the purpose of receiving the report and to decide upon the date of the submission of the question and other matters of municipal improvement to be submitted at the same election.

Council Transacts Business.

Preparatory to taking up the convention hall proposition the council approved the contract executed by Mayor Barnes for the erection of a filtration plant and approved his bond in the sum of \$23,431. The contract calls for the same to be in operation by September 1, and to begin work at once.

The public improvement committee approved the proposition submitted by City Engineer Miller for the relief of the west side residents in the flooded districts by erection of a large storm sewer from Seventh street to the Cottonwood river on Logan avenue, and to drain the surface water of the entire west side bottom into this storm sewer, which will settle the draining and unsanitary condition of the west side by reason of hard rains. The report was adopted and the city engineer instructed to draw plans for the work and make an estimate as to cost of construction.

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