

# HOT SPRINGS WEEKLY STAR.

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Black Hills.

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## IRRIGATION MEET SATURDAY

FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR HELD HERE LAST WEEK

## A GOOD REPRESENTATION

PLANS OUTLINED FOR THE PROMOTION OF ANGSTURA PROJECT DURING COMING YEAR

(By Charles A. Nystrom, Rapid City, Secretary Black Hills Angostura Irrigation Association)

The Black Hills Angostura Irrigation Association held its first meeting this year in Hot Springs January 29th. There were representatives present from Oral, Smithwick, Ardmore, Oelrichs, Ardmore, Buffalo Gap and Hot Springs.

After listening to reports, ways and means for carrying the proposed irrigation amendment at the next election were discussed. It was the consensus of opinion that this campaign should be carried on most vigorously east of the river, where the people know little or nothing about this amendment, and having no information to act upon, will naturally cast an adverse vote. It is proposed to show those voters that this amendment merely permits the legislature to provide for the organization of irrigation districts in townships, counties or otherwise, and to operate the same under proper safeguards, taxing the property directly benefited according to the benefits received. Those living outside the proposed projects will not have a dollar to pay. The cost of construction and operation is placed where it belongs and the general public will have no added burden to bear. In fact, the taxes of the general public will be less by reason of large areas of largely nonproductive land being brought under a high state of cultivation through irrigation. This has been the experience of every state where irrigation has been tried. When our friends east of the Missouri understand the provisions of this amendment it is believed there will be little if any opposition to its adoption. But it will take hard and strenuous work to make this matter clear.

It will be remembered that this same amendment was up for a vote at the last general election, and in common with a number of other measures went down in the "vote no" campaign then waged. At that time less than three thousand voters would have changed the result. Its defeat was not due to any organized opposition, but our eastern friends, and many west of the river knew nothing about this measure, and therefore voted "no." The South Dakota Irrigation Association then organized with the state historian, Doane Robison, as president, and a vice president in every western county did valiant service in carrying on a publicity campaign and had the election come a month later it is believed the amendment would have carried. This year it is proposed to start the publicity campaign early.

In line with the adoption of the irrigation amendment is the Jones bill now before congress. This bill provides for federal guaranty of irrigation district securities. Such districts organized under the laws of the several states may ask the government for co-operation in financing the project. The secretary of the interior shall cause the project to be examined, and if approved, may on behalf of the government guarantee the interest on such bonds to be issued by said district for the construction and operation of the project. Such bonds shall run not to exceed forty years and shall bear interest at not to exceed four per cent. In case any district shall default in its bond interest, such interest shall be paid by the United States under its guarantee and such interest and bonds shall be made a lien upon all the lands within the district.

With government guaranty of interest bonds there would be no lack of private capital to develop the hundreds of larger and smaller projects throughout the country, should the reclamation service be slow in taking hold. The one great drawback, as Secretary Lone says, has been the lack of funds. Should the Jones bill pass, it is anticipated there will be ample private funds available to take care of every feasible project in South Da-

kota. Irrigation bonds would no longer be held in bad repute in financial centers because of the operations of unscrupulous get-rich-quick promoters who in years past have attempted to sell "blue sky." With government backing, the bonds will find ready sale at lower rates of interest than could be secured independently by any private corporation.

The writer has written a number of irrigation promoters and landowners throughout the state, and particularly those in the western half, urging that a general meeting be called for the purpose of discussing ways and means for giving the irrigation amendment needed publicity. The many replies received have invariably been favorable. It is generally realized that the "sins of war" will have to come from the western half of the state and that it will take a vigorous, persistent publicity campaign to carry this amendment. To do this, a closer organization must be formed to direct and finance the work. It has been suggested that such a meeting to organize be called to meet at Pierre next week during the extra session of the legislature. This would get out a larger representation and would give opportunity to start the publicity campaign at an early date.

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Report of the First Meeting of the County Dads Held Recently Jan. 4th, 1916.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session, Present Commissioners J. A. Clark, Paul Cope and Jessie Rineer and Auditor, D. K. Batchelor.

Jan. A. Clark was elected Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for the ensuing year.

The Application of Andrew J. Wasserburger for permit to sell intoxicating liquors at retail at the Rear of Lots 10 & 11, second ward, town of Ardmore was on motion approved by the Board.

S. N. Cody was allowed abatement of Road Poll for the years 1912 & 1914 on account of overage.

Mrs. L. G. Strohecker was allowed abatement as recommended by Robins Twp. Board, to reduce the valuation on the W 1/2, Section 31, Twp. 9, R. 8, for 1914 Tax. \$370, on valuation.

C. L. Johnson was allowed \$600.00 Loan from the Permanent School Fund on the W 1/2 of the NE 1/4, of the SE 1/4, Section 9, Twp. 11, R. 3, E. BHM.

E. H. Mosher was allowed abatement for Road Poll for the year 1914 on account of overage.

Joe Fishman was allowed abatement for Road Poll for the years 1912 and 1913 on account of Volunteer Fireman.

P. N. McKenzie was allowed abatement for Road Poll for the year 1914 on account of overage.

The application of E. F. Standen for Rebate of taxes was rejected.

A. L. Shannon was allowed abatement for Road Poll for the year 1914 on account of overage.

John P. Hook was allowed abatement for \$3.78 for the year 1914 on account of erroneous assessment.

Application of C. G. Sweigard for correction of assessment was rejected.

Parley Robinson was allowed abatement for \$13.90 for the years 1913, 1914 on account of erroneous assessment.

The Bond of the Bank of Hot Springs in the sum of \$5,000.00 as County Depository with the National Surety as Sureties was approved by the Board.

It having been shown to the satisfaction of the Board that the following described piece of Land having been erroneously assessed for the years 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, the S 1/2 SW 1/4, SW 1/4 E 1/4, Section 20, NW 1-4NW1-4, Section 29, Twp. 7, R. 4, E. BHM, be stricken from the Tax List.

The recommendation of the City of Hot Springs that the assessment on the furniture of Josephine Anderson for the year 1914 be abated on account of being erroneous was approved.

The application of C. P. Branna, man for abatement of Road Poll for the year 1914 was allowed on account of overage.

A. B. Pecht was allowed abatement for Road Poll for the year 1914 on account of overage.

The following papers were designated as official Newspapers for the ensuing year, Hot Springs Times

(Continued on page two)

## EXTRA SESSION IS CALLED

GOVERNOR BYRNE SETS DATE FEBRUARY 8TH

## TO ADJUST PRIMARY LAW

STATE LEGISLATURE WILL MEET AT PIERRE TO ADJUST OLD LAW

Pierre, S. D., Feb. 4.—The South Dakota legislature will meet in special session to adjust the primary date, in order to avoid the necessity of holding two primaries. Governor Byrne's recent canvass showed such action to be the sentiment of the legislators and the call for the session has been issued to convene here on Tuesday, February 8th.

This is the first special session ever called in South Dakota, but general confidence is felt that the legislators will confine themselves to adjusting the primary law and that the session will not last more than three or four days.

From a legal standpoint, only two propositions were under consideration: Either to hold the special April primary, as provided under the law, or to call the legislature together and have an earlier date fixed for the regular primary. From the standpoint of expense, the extra session will cost about \$6,000, as against probable expense of \$30,000 for the special primary. In addition, there are some technical flaws that might be invoked against the April primary.

Fixing an earlier primary date, thus giving opportunity for legal canvass and certification of the vote on national convention delegates, does not bar efforts for a harmony delegation, but it will put a check on the system that will destroy the enthusiasm of some of the "harmony" advocates.

The basic idea in the Burke plan was to force a vote on delegates at the primary of June 6. This plan, very plainly, would not permit of any legal canvass and would give Burke and Lookhart an opportunity to designate the republican convention delegates, regardless of primary election results.

With an earlier primary date established, any so called harmony delegation can be put to the test before the voters of the state through the listing of an opposition ticket.

## DR. SPEIGELBERG PROSPERING

Former Hot Springs Surgeon Builds New Hospital at Boscobel, Wisconsin. In a letter to the Star recently Dr. E. H. Spiegelberg, former Hot Springs

surgeon, among other things has the following to say which we take the liberty of publishing: "We have erected a private hospital here of fifteen bed capacity and are crowded for room most of the time. It has only been in operation a short time and if business keeps up, will have to be enlarged very soon. We are equipped with an X-Ray apparatus, Nitrous Oxid & Oxygen machine, in fact the equipment is thorough and up to date in every way." The many friends of the doctor in this city will be pleased to learn of his continued prosperity.

## OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT

Feature Photoplays at Morris Grand Last Week Delight Crowds

Two feature photoplays at the Morris Grand since our last issue are deserving of special mention. "The Carpet From Bagdad" on last Saturday evening and "The White Sister" on Tuesday evening of this week.

The first named featured Kathryn Williams and the second Viola Allen, two of the most famous actresses now appearing upon the screen. It is seldom that a picture will thoroughly please each individual member of an audience but we believe from the expressions that these pictures did that very thing.

Both these pictures are released under the V. L. S. E. trade mark and Manager Parks informs us that each succeeding release will be fully as good as the ones already shown. It is hardly necessary to go into detail about each story but the acting, the settings and the photography seems as near perfect as can be possible. Despite some rough usage that they are bound to get, the physical condition of the films when they arrive here is very good.

The regular programs at the Morris Grand are way above the average and deserve a good patronage.

## FARM HELP

Belle Fourche, S. D., Feb. 4.—Are you going to need help this year Mr. Farmer? It may seem a little early to come to answer this question now, but it will pay you to do it. Seasons past the majority have waited until the last minute and then in many cases were unable to get sufficient help to take care of their crops. The Commercial Club of this city would be glad to help you in this matter and all they ask is that you let them know how many hands, what kind and at what time you want them, just as early as possible. If you use three men we could place your order for two now we could get these lined up for you while there is plenty of time and it would be much easier and surer to get the third one on a month's notice. Think this over and if the Commercial Club can do you any good, call or write.

Strayed: Bay colt two years old branded (M) on left hind leg. One white hind foot. Notify T. B. Quigley Hot Springs, South Dakota.

## THORNBY FOR R. R. COMMISSIONER

WELL KNOWN DEADWOOD MAN OUT FOR PROMINENT OFFICE

## IS WELL KNOWN HERE

WAS THE FOUNDER OF HOT SPRINGS AND ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF THE HILLS

The Deadwood Pioneer-Times of Wednesday has the following announcement of Col. W. J. Thornby, of that place, who is in the race for the office of state railway commissioner. Col. Thornby is one of the early pioneers of the Hills and is the founder of this city, where he spends his vacations with his host of friends.

Regarding his fitness for the office the Pioneer-Times says:

"Several of the Black Hills and state papers have recently mentioned the name of Colonel W. J. Thornby, of Deadwood, in connection with the republican nomination for the office of state railway commissioner, and this fact seems to have met with the approval of his many friends throughout the country west of the Missouri river and many of them have encouraged him to allow his name to go before the voters at the coming primaries. In the Black Hills especially, would Colonel Thornby be a strong candidate, for it is here that he is best known, and all that is known of him is good. He has lived in various parts and districts of the Black Hills, and during his residence in all of them he has ever been foremost in all work that would tend to bring the section or district in which he lived into greater prominence.

He has contributed his experience, his time and his money to works of beneficial nature, to enterprises which would tend to improve not one section of the Hills alone, but all parts of it, and his efforts have counted. When traveling, he has ever had South Dakota in mind and has been one of the state's best boosters, not forgetting this little kingdom west of the big river which has been his home for many years. He has been public-spirited and has kept in as close touch with the times as any man in the state, knows of its needs and is particularly well informed on its business and its business progress. He has followed closely the growth and settlement of the country west of the river, and has watched its change from a wilderness to a community teeming with people and enjoying prosperity. His selection to the office of railway commissioner would be one which would result in benefit to the people, and his high character for honesty, integrity of purpose and firmness, and the intelligent force which he would take to the position should recommend him to the voters of his party, for in him they would have a competent, fearless officer and the people's interest a positive champion. Colonel Thornby is one of the oldest residents of the Black Hills, and during the thirty-nine years that have passed since he first came to them he has held many important places of trust. While a resident of Custer county he filled the position of county assessor, and afterwards was elected county judge, filling both in a manner most acceptable to the people. He represented the forty-first senatorial district in the state senate during the meeting of the Third legislature, and his record as such was excellent. For the past eighteen years he has held the important and responsible position of melder in the United States assay office in Deadwood, and his work has been such as to receive the commendation of his superiors. Three years ago he was elected a member of the Deadwood school board, and the excellence of his work as such is attested by every resident of the district. Should Colonel Thornby come out for office—and he undoubtedly will—he will have the support of hundreds of enthusiastic workers, not only in the Black Hills, but east of the river.

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Vitagraph Blue Ribbon Features, with Anita Stewart and Earle Williams featuring an all star, Vitagraph cast.

The New York Evening Sun following the first production of this great photo drama, says:

"The Sins of the Mothers," the Evening Sun's \$1,000 Prize Photo Play, shown for the first time last night in the Vitagraph Theatre, is going to cause a whirlwind of talk. Who is there who plays bridge, which almost everyone does now and then, who will not question one of the two outstanding lessons of the play? The playwright, Elaine Sterne, has snatched a story out of the everyday lives of those who see her work and has built up a strong drama based on the steadily tightening grip that the gambling fever obtains on one to whom a little society card playing proves fascinating. Only when the lives of those the victim loves are wrecked and her own is sacrificed does the lust of the play lose its hold.

The drama was submitted last night for the first time to the public and to the writers of the 3,500 plays over which it was the victor, to justify itself and the judges who gave it the Blue Ribbon in the Evening Sun's recent big scenario contest. That it "made good" the slightest study of its construction and the observation of the first night throng of spectators proved amply. In the singlemindedness with which it hammers home its direct and convincing story it is a masterpiece. Its greatest merit from a technical point of view is its progressive strengthening of purpose and effect as each blow is delivered. The first telling stroke is followed by relaxation, a change then comes of still more vital power. So the situations follow, increasing each time in dramatic tenacity until the final climax outdoes all that has gone before. The simple beginning catches the interest of the spectators at once and with each succeeding scene the play gains a stronger and stronger grip until at the finish there is a thrill of expectancy. That is fulfilled with a denouement that is unconventional, fresh and startling. So the last blow is driven home hard.

The Vitagraph Company has made the screen in this case a very mirror held up to the lives in front of it. The drama is played in the most natural manner, and the characters are seemingly folk we all know. Director Ralph Ince, among the most artistic of the Vitagrapher's producers, has used his talents to the full in presenting a smooth running story that sweeps one on irresistibly with its current. Not a single diversion from the main theme occurs and once the preliminary showing of the business of the mother of the play is over the action runs swiftly, unerringly to the climax.

Anita Stewart plays the heroine, or perhaps she's the villain, and repeats the success she won with a difficult role in "A Million Miles." As she steps out of a convent, with many a look backward, she is the personification of girlish innocence. Her progress from then on through the successive steps of society bridge player, follower of the races and devotee of the roulette table is indicated with a sure and certain hand. Her scenes of remorse and anguish as she attempts to reclaim herself are strongly played and at all times she enlists the sympathy of the spectators. She dresses the part in the extreme of style and with corresponding effect.

The companion piece to her impersonation is that of Norris Graham, the husband of the fated girl, whose action as District Attorney brings the ruin of his own home and the destruction of his wife. Earle Williams, always a forceful actor, has touched no greater heights even in "The Christian." First as the sweetheart, then as the idolizing bridegroom, next as the guardian husband who seeks to save his wife from herself, finally as the determined District Attorney who carries out inflexibly the pledges of his campaign, he is precisely in character. His anger when he discovers that his wife has again succumbed to her mania is wholehearted and effective. His efforts to strengthen his wife's stamina are among the most sympathetic touches of the play. Julia Swayne Gordon as the gambler mother who watches with horror the development of the mania for play in her daughter is a fateful figure. The other roles, notably those of the daughter's old nurse, the satanic gambler De Voie, and the girl's woman friend who introduces her to bridge are in capable hands. The character of the old nurse particularly appeals, and Mary Maurice, one of the best of the Vitagraph Players, makes it touch a plaintive note. Lucille Lee is the handsome and flirty friend and Paul Beardon the gambler.

The scenes in the gambling house and in and about a race track called for fine skill in direction, and that they stand out as significant pictures among so many well done scenes justifies the care and expense employed in producing them. The entire production is up to the best standard.

Given under auspices of the Ladies of the Degree of Honor Lodge. Reserved seats at Higley's upper store. 15 and 25 cents.

## WHEN A FELLOW NEEDS A FRIEND.



—Briggs in New York Tribune.

## "THE SINS OF THE MOTHERS"

Big Feature Photoplay at the Morris Grand Tuesday Evening

On Tuesday evening, February 8th, will be presented the New York Sun's \$1,000 prize drama, "The Sins of the Mothers" another one of the famous