

# The Clayton News

Official Paper of U. S. Land Office.

Entered in the Post-Office at Clayton, New Mexico, as Second-Class mail matter, October 28, 1909, under the act of March 3, 1879.

G. C. SMITH, Publisher

\$2.00 per Year

Advertising Rates on Request.

## BOARD OF CONTROL FOR STATE LANDS IS RECOMMENDED

### Investigators Say State is Losing Money; Land Office Over-Manned and Too Many Chances for Graft.

Placing the management of the state's lands in the hands of a board of control made up of the governor, auditor, superintendent of public instruction, president of the university and possibly others, is the chief recommendation of the Bureau of Commercial Economics in the report of its investigation of the state land office for the Special Revenue Commission.

The report, made public Saturday by former Governor H. J. Hagerman, head of the special revenue commission, says the board's primary functions should be determining the office's policy, approving applications for purchase and leases and finally approving sales. The commissioner should be retained, but his responsibility curtailed.

### Nine Western States Have Commission Plan.

Wyoming, Idaho, Oklahoma, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, Montana, Utah and Washington have boards. New Mexico is the only one of ten states that has "entrusted the administration of its public lands to one official."

The office's greatest fault is declared to be the delegation of too much responsibility to subordinates. "The various functions of handling leases and sales are distributed among the more important employees of the office."

### State Loses Money.

Five states—Colorado, Montana, Utah, Oklahoma and Oregon—have higher minimum charges for their leases than New Mexico, the report says, and sell their leases at public auction to the highest bidder. By following their example the income from New Mexico's lands could be increased. The state now loses big money.

To report comments that New Mexico has more tax laws than any other of the states administering lands.

As to the office's policy, the report says sales now are confined practically to those areas for which applications were filed before they became state lands. As these lands are clear listed the office sells them. Officials in the office stated, according to the report, that the only applications now accepted were those for agricultural lands and lands which the applicants wanted for "rounding out" their holdings.

### Classification Urged.

Early classification of the lands is advised. It is felt, the report says, that the classification would show that the minimum prices—\$1 for part of the state and \$5 for the rest—could be equal, for tracts scattered throughout the state.

### Limit Acreage, Says.

Another recommendation is that the acreage covered by one application be limited. No suggestion is made as to the acreage, but attention is called to the recommendation

of the taxpayers' association for restricting it to 2,500 acres for one application.

The report doesn't make any charge of grafting, but points out that under the lax statutes for the government of the offices, opportunities are constantly knocking. Employees could show favoritism and could profit personally from their official knowledge, the report asserts, if they desired. The report, however, recommends passage of an act making it a misdemeanor for any employee to use knowledge gained in official capacity for private gain. The assistant commissioner expressed himself as favoring the act.

The report says officials stated that they had found evidence of attempts on the part of bidders to suppress bidding and recommend passage of another act for the punishment of further attempts along that line.

### Early Oil Leases Liberal.

Attacking the early oil leases issued by the office the report says it could hardly be asserted that the state gained much financially. Officials said the policy pursued in issuing these was the development of the state. The report concedes agreement as to intent—if not actual accomplishment. These leases were sold at low rates. As the result lessees were enabled to assign their holdings at greatly increased rentals and this brought down severe criticism on the office.

The report further questions the advisability of withholding from distribution rentals from leases attacked in the courts—some on the ground that they were sold at private sale and others on the ground that the commissioner could not reserve mineral rights in lands under contract for sale. Up to October 21, the amount withheld totaled \$271,310.

The report admits that in withholding the rentals the office had the verbal approval of the attorney general, but adds it seems in want of a "more conclusive" opinion, the office could well have assumed that the rentals belonged to the state and turned over receipts to the beneficiaries.

At least the report continues, steps could be taken forcing the office to demand interest from the banks for the state on the rentals withheld from distribution. The taxpayers' association, it says, should interest itself and see that prompt action is taken.

### Didn't Retain Offsets.

Until recently, the report says, oil leases for thousands of acres were issued without retaining offsets in them. "Continued publicity has brought this fact forcibly to the attention of the land office, and it now argues that it has retained offsets, unwittingly perhaps, through its retention of non-clear listed lands. It is a weak argument. It is interesting to note that in its more recent leases the state has taken very drastic steps to retain desirable offsets."

The report recommends limiting the acreage under one lease to 5,120 acres. This would curb the securing of large acreages for speculation.

### Overstaffed.

It is evident that the office is overstaffed, the report says. The assistant commissioner said, according to the report, the office not only had more employees than it really needed, but some of them were not competent. He said, the report adds, if he had a free hand he would dispose of four clerks at once and hire two new ones.

Patronage is rampant, the report comments, and the land office isn't any exception to the rule.

### Office Has Chauffeur.

The office carries on the payroll one employe styled as "chauffeur," but the office has so little use for an automobile maintained for the use of the commissioner, the report says, that the "chauffeur" performs clerical work in the office. This official, the report remarks, could easily be abolished.

### Auto Not Needed.

The advisability of maintaining the automobile for the commissioner is questioned. It appears that it cannot be justified on the amount of official use it could be put to, the report says.

The report made public by Mr. Hagerman yesterday completes the findings of the Bureau of Commercial Economics. The bureau some time ago submitted one section of the report in advance. The first, however, was fragmentary and dealt only with the accounting system followed in the office. The remainder, made public today, deals chiefly with the administration and organization.—Santa Fe New Mexican, January 16.

### Will They Keep The Faith?

Governor Mechem in his recommendations to the legislature urges that all of the g. o. p. platform pledges be enacted into law. He goes further, and urges that the strictest economy be practiced in the expenditure of state funds. He would change our election laws, and would abolish that pestilent organization known as the mounted police. Furthermore, the governor would go beyond the recommendations of his party and invade the archives of the sacred land office by creating a special commission to guard the future destinies of that institution. The message is short, but is full of good suggestions for the lawmakers now in session at Santa Fe. If they will only heed the advice given by the chief executive, and dare to offend the members of the third house by expelling the Honorable Burns with a swift kick, and ignore the counsel of Clavin and others, the dear people of the state may hope to get some relief from the present burden of heavy taxes.

In wondering whether the lunch will permit the program outlined by Governor Mechem, we cannot help but remember what happened ex-Governors Lindsey and Laramie when they defied the bosses. We will wait and see.

WANTED—A competent girl for general housework. Mrs. N. E. Charlton, Clayton, N. M. 4-U.

### An Appreciative Letter.

Albuquerque, N. M., Jan. 13, 1921.  
Mr. G. C. Smith, Editor,  
Clayton News,  
Clayton, N. M.

Dear Mr. Smith:  
I find in the Clayton News the article which I requested you to publish for the Children's Home and Hospital, and I hope that you very promptly and kindly responded to the children's plea.

It is a very encouraging and helpful thing to me in this work for the children, to have your friendship, and to know that I can always get the children's story, when rightfully told, before the people, so far as you are concerned.

I consider the publication of these good stories, from time to time, one of the largest gifts to the Children's Home and Hospital.

With kind regards, I remain,  
Cordially,  
Dr. C. E. LUKENS.

It's all right to clean up the state land office, but let's not make another machine of the corporation commission.

### VETERAN OF PARADES



This is Capt. D. M. Goodacre, the seventy-eight-year-old court crier of Washington. He has taken part in every inaugural procession since that of President Fillmore, except the second parade of President Lincoln, at which time he was in the navy, and he intends to be in the Harding parade.

### Genesis.

Bishop Leonard of Cleveland said at a dinner the other evening:

"I am so sorry to see that Canon Barnes, the English divine, has recently declared in a sermon that the biblical account of the creation and fall is to be credited no longer."

Bishop Leonard paused, his lips thoughtfully.

"Canon Barnes," he ended, "is taking a good deal on himself when he announces so confidently that Genesis isn't."

Lady or Gentleman Agent wanted in the city of Clayton to sell the genuine J. B. Watkins Medicines, spices, Extracts, Toilet Preparations, etc. All or spare time. A wonderful opportunity to get into business for yourself. Write today for free particulars and sample J. B. Watkins Co., 60 Winona Minn. 2-57

### POISON NOTICE.

Clayton, N. M., December 29, 1920.  
We, the undersigned, in order to protect our fields against field mice, rabbits, and ground-squirrels, or other rodents, hereby give notice to whomsoever it may concern, that we are putting out poison on our respective premises for the purpose given above.

Fred Halton, Wm. L. Ramsel,  
W. R. Clark, R. A. Clark,  
A. C. Lehr, D. J. Shehan,  
Carl Clark, Mrs. J. R. Nunn,  
N. B. Capen, 1-11.

### NATIVE TREES

"Grown at Plainview, on the Plains," established 1907.

Propagators of the famous "Compass Cherry" which will bear second year from planting; a cross between plum and cherry never fails in the coldest season. We know the varieties of fruit, shade and ornamental trees best suited to the rugged climate of West Texas and New Mexico and we grow them by the thousands. Send for catalogue or send us your order. Plainview Nursery, Plainview, Texas. 4-121

### NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers and Stockmen Bank of Clayton, New Mexico, for the election of a board of directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may legally come before it, will be held in this bank building, Monday, January 23, 1921. All stockholders are urged to be present.

(Signed)  
D. W. PRIESTLY, Cashier.

### "Found Seven Rats Dead in Bin Next Morning."

Robert Wodruiff says: "My premises were infested with rats. I tried RAT-SNAP on friend's recommendation. Next morning found seven dead rats in bin, two near feed box, three in stall. Found large number since. No small farm dead rats—RAT-SNAP does them up. Best thing I have ever used." Three sizes, 5c, 15c, 25c. Sold and guaranteed by R. W. Isaacs and City Drug Store.

### TREES

Now is the time to place your order for spring trees. Make your selection early before the stock is all picked over. By placing your order now, we can supply your wants with large shade trees, ever blooming rose, fruit trees and berries of all kinds.

CLAYTON NURSERY,  
G. A. Rodell, 105 E. Magnolia St.,  
Phone 219, Clayton, N.M. 49-11.

Subscribe for The News, cheap at \$2.00 per year.

# Candy for the Connoisseur

For many years the scarcity of sugar and its incident high price, caused some candies to become a sort of uncertain commodity, especially in regard to quality. But the standard of

### WHITMAN & LIGGETT'S CANDIES

was never lowered. Prices were advanced as made necessary by manufacturing costs and other conditions. And now comes a welcome price reduction—one which will delight all true candy lovers.

## Saturday Specials

Take advantage of our special prices on Candy, Stationery and Toilet Articles, Saturday.

# CITY DRUG STORE

The *Recall* Store

WANSER & RECK, Proprietors.



## The Selection of Furniture

THAT YOU MAKE NOW ARE APT TO BE WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME.

You can scarcely afford to buy your pieces in a "hit or miss" style, here and there, without your own careful inspection and approval.

We offer you as pleasing and delightful a selection of furniture effects as you can find anywhere, and we are here to back each purchase to the last word in your satisfaction.



## The Store that will Please you

If you are a customer we know that you are a satisfied one, and we express our appreciation of your business. If you are not a regular customer at our store, then we urge you to give us a trial, and be satisfied with every purchase.

### AT OUR STORE

you will find what you want in the grocery line. Fresh vegetables and fruits received daily. We guarantee the quality of our goods.

## Gentry & Selvy Cash Grocery

PHONE 57 CLAYTON, NEW MEXICO