

Muskogee Cimeter.

W. H. TWINE, Editor.

MUSKOGEE,

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OKLAHOMA STATE NEWS

Patrons of the Shawnee-Tecumseh Interurban line have filed a complaint with the state corporation commission to compel the company to supply heat for their cars.

L. G. Disney, republican candidate for congress in the Fourth congressional district against Congressman Carter, has been appointed clerk of the circuit court of the Eastern district of Oklahoma with headquarters at Muskogee.

Nearly seven hundred teachers attended the meeting of the Oklahoma Teachers' association in Tulsa last week. A trip to the Glenn Pool oil fields was one of the amusements offered. Fully six hundred teachers visited this field.

Assistant Attorney General W. C. Reeves has rendered an opinion holding that sheriffs must not be allowed to collect fees unless they have actually performed the service for which fees are claimed.

A bill intended to defeat the book "trust" in Oklahoma is in course of preparation. It provides for the creation of a school book commission and the printing of all school books within the boundaries of the state. The bill will be introduced soon after the convening of the legislature.

Ralph Crowell of Woods county has been named by Congressman E. L. Fulton as a cadet to West Point. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Crowell of Alva, and is attending a military school at Roswell, N. M. This is the first cadet appointment to be made from the new state.

Judge John C. Pollock of the Kansas federal court has been assigned to sit in the circuit court in Oklahoma during 1908 at Muskogee and Guthrie. His assignment covers the entire year, but in calls upon him to leave his work in Kansas to take care of the Oklahoma courts are expected to be not very frequent.

Assistant United States Attorney Lee has been busy for the past few weeks visiting the various federal jails and classifying the prisoners. Those who are held on what is termed strictly federal cases are being recorded as such. This is done so that when the prisoners being held by the federal authorities are ordered turned over to the state authorities there will be no delay.

Indian Agent Thackery and the Shawnee people who were so bitterly assailed by the senatorial committee report on the Kickapoo land trouble are preparing to open the investigation again. Agent Thackery is writing a statement that may throw some light on the Curtis-Teller senate report and through Senator Owen will ask congress for an early consideration of his side of the matter.

J. H. Cotteral, judge of the Western federal district, has announced the following banks on the west side of the state depositories for the referees in bankruptcy appointed some time ago: Guthrie, Guthrie National bank and National Bank of Commerce; Shawnee, State National bank; Oklahoma City, Western National and Oklahoma City National; Kingfisher, People's National; Enid, Enid National; Lawton, City National and First National.

In a ruling at Shawnee last week Judge Carter held that Sunday theaters were not in violation of the Oklahoma laws. In a case wherein the managers of moving picture shows were arraigned for Sunday law violation, Judge Carter held that the Oklahoma statutes forbid only servile labor and public sports, and that amusements cannot be classed as either. The action was brought by the county authorities and is the first ruling of its kind ever made in Oklahoma.

STATE CAPITAL LETTER

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT'S
VIEW OF PEOPLE AND THINGS

THE MEAT TRUST TO RECEIVE ATTENTION

Governor Haskell May Make Official Inquiry Into Packing Industry—
Senatorial Aspirants are Plentiful—
Gossip of Other State Affairs

That Thomas Pryor Gore will not be re-elected to the United States senate without great opposition is a certainty. The field will be against him, and various combines for his defeat are now under way, though none of them points unmistakably to the election of any other particular candidate. Opponents of Gore urge that the state should be represented in the United States senate by a man without any kind of physical handicap. They go further by saying that Gore has received reasonable compensation in a two years' term for whatever service he may have rendered his party, and that with even this tenure he has been given personal distinction that should place him on "easy street" for the rest of his life. He is an eloquent platform orator, whose senatorial success should give him enough publicity to enable him to follow the lecture platform profitably all his life.

Governor C. N. Haskell, naturally, receives first consideration as a possible candidate. He has a large following in the state that believe he could be elected for the asking. Haskell's political prestige was never higher than now. There has been whispered into his ear many prophecies favorable to his being a candidate for the democratic presidential nomination in 1912, a prospect that might stir a man even less ambitious than C. N. Haskell. As the pioneer governor of a state pioneering in the enactment of laws intended to safeguard more closely the rights and property of the common people, he has opportunity for doing wonderful things in the four years of his administration, the importance of which might give him national reputation.

It is harder to read the remote future than it is to understand the immediate present, and this fact is said to have impressed Governor Haskell with the desirability of a seat in the senate if it could be obtained in the next two years. He is reluctant, however, to allow anything to interfere with what he has planned to be an ideal constructive administration of the state's affairs, and would like as a matter of pride to remain in office until the close of his term. An intimate friend of Governor Haskell said this week that in a short time Governor Haskell would make known to his intimates his decision as to whether or not he would stand for the United States senate.

With Haskell out of the race, there would be strife among the candidates to succeed Gore. M. L. Turner of Oklahoma City is regarded practically as a candidate. He was against Gore for the first nomination. Roy V. Hoffman of Chandler may decide to enter the race again. Interests that fear Gore are seeking to induce Henry Furman of Ada again to become a candidate that he may divide with Gore, and thereby weaken the latter, the vote of what Furman calls the "broom corn Willies"—the farmer democrats. Among these voters is Gore's greatest strength, and by splitting up this vote at statewide primaries Gore would be weakened.

The segregation and allotment of lands in the Osage Indian reservation, almost coincident with statehood, will be of immense advantage to the cattle industry in Oklahoma. For decades the Osage country with its miles of open pasture range has been filled with cattle shipped from the fever infected regions of the south. Being an Indian reservation, it was controlled by the department of the interior, whose secretary looked only to the financial welfare of his Indian wards and disregarded conditions established by white men in adjacent territory.

Governor Haskell has had called to his attention what he designated as the difference in price between "beef in the hide and beef in the skillet," that has been taken as tribute from consumers of meat—and that means everybody—in Oklahoma for the last five or six years. Governor Haskell may decide to make the matter a subject of official inquiry. It is asserted that a meat trust, controlled by the big packing houses in outside states, is no less a reality in Oklahoma than the coal trust, and the oil trust, etc., and that the retail price of meats is fixed arbitrarily, regardless of the price of beef on the hoof. The fluctuations of the live stock markets make little impression upon retail markets, the latter varying almost imperceptibly in the course of a year.

It has been claimed for a long time by Oklahoma butchers that they dare not cut the price of meat below what is charged by their competitors, as they would be driven out of business by a reduction forced by packers to less than the cost of meat on the hoof. Furthermore, butchers complain that the profits go to the packers, rather than to themselves. The producers of live stock do not participate in the earnings of the alleged trust.

The question is one that would attract a great deal of attention to an official inquiry by the state, as the monthly meat bill is one of the burdens of a family in these days of high prices. The Oklahoma constitution is unfriendly to trusts, and Governor Haskell is one of the foremost champions of the constitution. An inquiry might at least establish the cause of the high price of meats, a bit of information that every meat buyer would paste in his hat.

A man having practical experience daily in the coal mines of Indian Territory said that the cost per ton to mine operators to put coal on board cars was not more than \$1.10. When asked if mining in the older portions of the Indian Territory field was growing more difficult and thereby more expensive, he said that the increased cost was not sufficient actually to make any great difference in the price. In Oklahoma McAlester coal costs \$8 a ton at retail, or \$6.90 a ton more than the cost of producing the coal. When asked who enjoyed the enormous profits that were plainly visible this man smiled and said that the state corporation commission could crack the nut. Domestic consumers in the McAlester field pay \$5 a ton for this same quality of coal, notwithstanding the fact that the same coal is delivered in Kansas City wholesale at \$4.50 a ton. This same man said that despite contrary statements, he believed the coal resources of the state had been barely touched and that when the coal region was developed Oklahoma would be one of the top-notch coal producing states of the union.

Already the introduction of a bill in congress by United States Senator Thomas P. Gore, for two more congressmen in Oklahoma, is bringing out aspirants for the places. It is assumed that until a proper census is taken, the two congressmen would be elected at large, if the bill should become a law, making a total of seven members of congress for the state. Certain members of the state senate, knowing the support rendered Senator Gore by Representative R. A. Billups of Cordell, are booming Billups for one of the places, while for the same reason members of the house are boosting Representative A. S. Riddle of Chickasha. Friends of Billups who are planning for his political happiness gave him a systematic ovation at the Bryan banquet at Guthrie, and with such vigor that the youngest member of the democratic national committee blushed with pride.

Senator Henry S. Johnson, president pro tem of the state senate, proved the other had that he had been reared on a farm, and still had some of the muscle gained in mauling rails. The gavel-sounder in the senate was a piece of beautiful white marble until it came within reach of Senator Johnston on the day the senate adjourned for the holidays. In his excitement Senator Johnston struck the marble a terrific blow that shattered it into fragments. Pieces may be obtained as souvenirs by applying to the sergeant-at-arms of the senate.

MAD MAN'S AWFUL DEED

DRUNKEN MAN OPERATED ON BY
RAVING MANIAC

SCALP TORN FROM HEAD OF HIS VICTIM

Dr. Harry of Crusher, Insane Physician, Causes Death of Dan Dirgin—
Searches for an Imaginary Scalp
Wound and Removes Covering

SULPHUR: Charged with cutting and tearing the scalp of Dan Dirgin Indian fashion and then hammering the bleeding wound with a probe and using a rock as a hammer, while searching for an imaginary wound, Dr. Harry of Crusher has been brought here and placed under the care of guards and doctors following the charge of murder made after Dirgin died in the physician's office.

Dirgin staggered into Harry's office while the surgeon was performing a minor operation on another patient. Witnesses declared that Dirgin was drunk, but Harry declared that he had been wounded by a blow on the head and decided to operate immediately for the imaginary wound.

Calling to his assistance two men who happened to be passing the office Harry ordered Dirgin placed upon a bed, in the absence of an operating table.

Seizing a keen-bladed surgeon's knife, he slashed the scalp of the unconscious man from front and back, then grasping the ragged edges with his fingers, he pulled the scalp away from the skull while Dirgin groaned in unconscious pain.

Harry then took a probe and, hammering with a whet rock about over Dirgin's skull, tried to find the supposed fracture. Failing, he coolly sat on the bed beside his victim and smoked a cigarette.

The helper, suddenly suspecting the physician had gone mad, notified the officers of the bloody operation and called another physician in an effort to save Dirgin's life. He died shortly afterwards.

There is no question in the minds of the officers as to Harry's insanity. Since the bloody deed he has become almost unmanageable. It is the belief that he is addicted to drugs or liquor. Little is known of him, though unopened letters found in his pockets indicate that he has prominent relatives in Pennsylvania.

Dirgin, a one-armed man, was employed as a water carrier by the Crusher company. His associates buried him at Crusher after a coffin had been sent at the county's expense from Davis. He came here from Maryland.

WOULD BUILD SCHOOL HOUSES

Oklahoma's Superintendent Has Plan
for Expenditure of Funds

TULSA: State Superintendent Cameron, in an address to the Oklahoma State Teachers' association, which closed its first annual session here, said he favored, and will insist upon the Indian Territory school fund being invested in school houses in old Indian Territory. It is his plan to build school houses in 3,000 school districts the coming year. He is further in favor of three additional normal schools to be located in eastern Oklahoma. Tulsa is the strongest bidder for the Northeastern normal school.

The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year: President, Charles Evans, Ardmore; vice president, C. L. Kezer, Stillwater; secretary, Maude Widaman, Anadarko; treasurer, W. R. Robinson, Pawnee; chairman executive committee, Snowden Parlette, Guthrie; member executive committee, S. J. Payne, Wetumka.

Farmers to Travel by Special Train

SHAWNEE: Arrangements have been completed for a special train to leave Shawnee January 5 to carry all Oklahoma delegates to the National Farmers' union convention to be held at Memphis. Delegates from all sections of the state will meet the officials at Shawnee and go in a body to Memphis.