

## CONCERNING KANSAS.

### NOTES.

Frank R. Forrest is holding meetings in Mitchell and Cloud counties this week.

Mrs. W. A. Harris, the most estimable wife of Congressman Harris, died at her home in Leavenworth county last week.

A Washington dispatch says the indications are that the Second district contest between Moore and Funston will be decided on the 21st in favor of Moore.

The present state board of public works, appointed by Governor Lewelling, is a good one, and is making a record by its economic management of public buildings that will be a credit to the state.

Since being left out of the secretaryship of the state board of agriculture, Martin Mohler can devote more time to the study of political questions, of which he was wont to talk so much while knowing so little.

Whoever wants to become familiar with "Fungicides upon the germination of corn," should send for the circular recently issued from the state agricultural college. Fungicides and mugwumps are two kinds of animals.

A charter for the proposed "Gulf and Interstate railroad" was filed with the secretary of state on Friday. This is the road which it is proposed shall be built on the co-operation plan from some point in the Dakotas to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Santa Fe and Burlington tax commissioners are still "compromising" with some of the county commissioners on the payment of taxes, in spite of the opinion of the attorney general that county commissioners have no right to accept less than the amount fixed by the assessors.

A little jag of western justice was meted out to three murderers in Russell county Saturday night. J. G. Burton, Wm. Gay, and his son, John Gay, who had confessed to having murdered Fred Dinning, were taken from the jail by a mob of 130 citizens and hanged to a bridge.

One J. K. Noland, a county commissioner of Reno county, is trying to gain fame by announcing that he has recently quit the People's party for good. It looks as if the amount paid by the republican paper for a contract to do the county printing had a great deal to do with his sudden conversion.

The Populist state central committee held a meeting in Topeka on the 10th, 11th and 12th and compared notes. It was a very earnest session and the unanimous sentiment was that the campaign of education must be carried on without cessation. They outlined an address which will soon be published.

The ADVOCATE has secured the services of O. W. Hendee to travel in the interest of this paper. While he makes no pretensions as a public speaker, he is one of the best workers in the state. He will be in Reno county next week, when he will do some soliciting for the Gazette also, and he should have the co-operation of the best men in the county.

Mrs. Lease has more trouble on her hands. On returning from St. Louis the other day, she was asked by the reporters as to the report that she had held a secret consultation while there with George R. Peck and W. H. Rossington the railroad attorneys and politicians. The reporters say that when they first

made inquiry, Mrs. Lease replied that she did not know Mr. Peck and had not seen him in St. Louis. She afterward admitted that she had casually met and talked with him while there.

The injunction restraining J. G. Freeborn from acting as a member of the board of charities was dissolved last Saturday on motion of the governor's attorneys, in the supreme court. A suit brought by Mrs. Lease to oust Freeborn is now pending and will be heard within a month. In the meantime he will act as a member, and probably continue to do so.

### State Charitable Institutions.

Although the state board of charities has been "going lame" for a while, the working part of it has been "sawing wood" at a rate that will be very gratifying to most people of the state, and especially to the taxpayers. At the last semi-annual letting of contracts for supplies a saving of about \$10,000 was made, which means a reduction in the tax levy of \$20,000 a year. And at the same time the inmates of the different institutions are being fed better than ever before, but the tea, coffee, etc., bought for the officers is of the same quality as that served to the inmates. In former years the institutions used from 75,000 to 80,000 pounds of flour, or at least there was that much paid for, while the present officers can use only about 45,000 pounds.

But most of the reforms made will be felt later on. For instance, cows have been purchased for different institutions where milk has formerly been bought and the saving, besides furnishing about twice the amount of pure milk, will pay for the cows in about six months. And where pigs have heretofore been fattened and sold to butchers, and pork and lard bought at high prices, now the pigs are killed at the institutions. At the institution for imbecile youth, at Winfield, high priced teachers have been employed to teach the inmates the common English branches. After six or seven years of school work some of the idiots can now distinguish the first three or four letters of the alphabet, but can make no further progress. The present board, recognizing the folly of attempting to educate beings absolutely destitute of mind, have discharged the professors and now employ attendants at lower wages, who take the inmates out and bring them in contact with fresh air and sunshine and natural objects and phenomena which they have so long been denied. At the Topeka reform school for boys it has been the custom to buy a suit of clothes costing about \$8 for each boy when discharged. Now the boys are taught to make the clothes themselves, and the cost has been reduced to below \$3. This has already effected a saving of over \$200, and the boys are learning a useful trade.

So one might go on through all the different institutions, but the report of the board will give the exact figures and thus be much more satisfactory. Suffice it to say that when the summing up is made the people will see that they are getting just what they voted for—a change for the better all along the line. And the change cannot in all cases be expressed in figures, nor the improvement estimated in dollars and cents. The most gratifying reforms have been made in the methods, as, for example, at the institution for the blind with the introduction of the Delsarte system of physical culture under a thoroughly competent instructor, or instructress,

for it happens to be Mrs. Melan, the children are becoming graceful and thus feeling less and less the difficulties of their misfortune.

### State Board of Agriculture.

The annual session of the Kansas state board of agriculture was held in representative hall Thursday and Friday of last week, following the meetings of the improved stock breeders' association, which were held during the two previous days. This was one of the most interesting meetings the association has ever held.

Among the excellent papers read were: "Lessons from the Danish Dairies," by Prof. Georgeson; "Results of Chintz Bug Experiments," by Chancellor Snow; "Alfalfa," by John H. Churchill; "Farmers' Institutes," by W. B. Sutton; papers on irrigation by J. S. Emery, E. R. Moses and B. F. Campbell, and one on railroad transportation, by Senator Forney.

Daniel Needham, of Massachusetts, president of the New England agriculture society, who read an able paper on "The Relations of Western Agriculture to the East," seems to have been put on the program by mistake. He dipped into political questions and severely criticized the policy of recent national administrations with regard to financial and railroad legislation, and the policy of the present pension department officials. Unlike ordinary eastern "agriculturalists" he had no word of defense for any of the great monopolies, and he expressed grave doubts as to the result of the demonetization of silver. When he had finished the faces of several members who have recently been active in politics were as long as a fiddle, while others betrayed a look of extreme satisfaction. A motion was passed thanking Col. Needham for the paper and ordering it printed in the proceedings of the meeting. Pending the vote on the motion, Judge Sutton got in a sly dig at Secretary Morton, while A. C. Shinn took occasion to express his opinion on silver coinage.

Prof. Whitney, of Johns Hopkins university, read a paper on "Water Circulation in Soils" which was very instructive.

The new officers elected were: President, T. M. Potter, of Marion county, to succeed A. W. Smith; secretary, F. D. Coburn, of Wyandotte, to succeed Martin Mohler; vice president, John E. Hogan, of Jackson; treasurer, Sam T. Howe, of Topeka.

Of the stock breeders' association the newly elected officers are: President, W. B. Sutton; vice president, M. S. Babcock; secretary and treasurer, W. P. Popenoe.

### Johnson County Populists Endorse.

On January 6, the People's party committee of Johnson county, adopted the following:

WHEREAS, The board of charities of the state of Kansas have seen proper to remove J. D. Carter from the superintendency of the deaf and dumb institution located in this county, and have appointed A. A. Stewart, of Manhattan, to said office; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the central committee of the Populist party of Johnson county do heartily commend the action of said board; and be it further

Resolved, That we heartily commend Governor Lewelling for his efforts in bringing about said change, which we deem was greatly needed.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that Populists who were unjustly removed by said Carter should be reinstated by Superintendent Stewart.

J. H. HIBBS, Chairman.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Secretary.

### Questions and Answers.

The ADVOCATE has been requested to answer the following questions asked by different persons:

Was it a republican or Populist introduced the bill creating the present mortgage stay law?

Did Mr. Stubbs take any part in the organization of the Douglass house?

Is it true that more Populists than republicans voted for the Greenlee railroad bill?

Senate bill No. 285, an act to provide for the redemption of real estate, etc., was introduced by Senator Dennison, Populist, of Butler county. It passed the senate, but in the house the terms of another bill were substituted. This amendment was rejected by the senate and it was then referred to a conference committee composed of two Populists and one republican from the senate, and three republicans and two Populists from the house. This committee revised the bill and with their amendments it became a law.

The Douglass house journal does not show that A. W. Stubbs took part in the organizing of that house, but as he was present, and as Mr. Rosenthal was not recognized by them until after the house was organized, it is supposed that Stubbs participated.

"Yes," is the plain answer to the last question. In the house forty-six Populists and forty-three republicans voted to pass the Greenlee bill. Twelve republicans and one Populist voted against it. The senate substituted the maximum freight bill, and the two houses failed to agree on a compromise.

### To Township and County Committeemen.

Now is the time to do work that will show good results at the next election. You all realize that. If you want to keep Kansas to the front do not neglect the opportunity.

You will receive communications from the chairman of the state central committee requesting information which only you can give. ANSWER PROMPTLY. It will be for the good of your own county, as well as others, to do so. Unless you do this his efforts to promote political education will not be successful.

The ADVOCATE has gone to the expense to put out a good speaker to hold public meetings, and will soon have one or two more in the field. Some of these meetings have not been well attended, owing to the fact that the committeemen, after asking for the speaker, failed to advertise the meetings. This is very ungrateful. It is wrong and a disgrace to the county in which it occurs. If you do not intend to get up meetings, when the speaker costs you nothing, don't ask him to come.

After reading this copy of the ADVOCATE, if you do not wish to keep it on file, give it to the most intelligent neighbor who does not take the paper. The price is \$1 a year, 25 cents for three months. If you want to get up a club send for special rates.

### A Woman's Day.

Arrangements are being made by Kansas Alliance women to have a "woman's day" during the session of national F. A. and I. U. meeting which opens at Topeka February 6. The program will be published in next week's ADVOCATE.

Alliance women throughout the state will please note and make arrangements to attend, for you will hear some of the best speakers in the country.

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