



WOMAN WINS FIRST PLACE IN LIVE STOCK JUDGING CONTEST

YOUNG LADY STUDENT AT NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE SETS SPLENDID EXAMPLE BY HER EARNEST, INTELLIGENT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE



On the farms and the big ranches of Nebraska are many women who know much more about live stock than many men, and more than they are ordinarily given credit for knowing. At the National Western Live Stock Show, held in Denver in January, a woman for the first time won first place as an individual stock judge. The reason this was the first time was, no doubt, because the men have heretofore had practically a monopoly in competing in such contests.

Miss Eva Ashton, a student of the Nebraska University College of Agriculture, was a member of the Nebraska judging team that went to Denver to attend the above mentioned show. She competed with a score of more than 90 from the agricultural colleges of several states. The Nebraska judging team, of which Miss Ashton was a member, secured first place among the teams, she receiving highest individual honors.

From a teacher of shorthand to high honors as live stock judge in two years is the accomplishment of Miss Ashton. She is devoting the major part of her college course to animal husbandry. She has natural talent with stock, is fond of all farm animals, and has "an eye" for their good qualities. It was her ability to detect the vital and important points in judging horses, cattle, hogs and sheep that won her high honors at Denver. The judges were impressed with her tact and explanation in scoring stock. She did not tarry with unnecessary details but was quick to seize on the desirable or undesirable qualities.

Miss Ashton has worked her way through the university. She will graduate next summer. In the middle of her college course it became necessary for her to drop out a year. She was familiar with shorthand and obtained a position as a teacher in a Lincoln business college. She taught a year and then became secretary to the animal husbandry department of the university college of agriculture.

Working with pure-bred animal records and pedigrees was more to Miss Ashton's liking than teaching shorthand. She resolved to renew her college course and specialize in animal husbandry. She soon revealed a decided talent for judging stock and won a place on the university judging team.

"No, I was not born or reared on

a farm," said Miss Ashton. "I have spent considerable time there, however. Am I going to farm? Well, not for some time, at least. I probably will teach for a year or two."

Miss Ashton has received several flattering offers from live stock interests.

The picture shows Miss Ashton standing beside Refner, champion junior yearling Hereford steer. Refner, the property of the University of Nebraska, won first prize at the International show at Chicago and again at the National Western Live Stock show at Denver. This steer was bred at the Nebraska experiment station, as were his mother and grandmother. He weighed 1280 pounds and sold at the Denver show for 29 cents a pound, thus netting \$371.20.

INDEPENDENT AND NONPARTISAN

The "Know Nebraska" department of The Alliance Herald, which will appear in the Special Semi-Monthly editions and which is edited by John W. Thomas of Lincoln, will be absolutely independent and nonpartisan in matters which relate directly or indirectly to politics.

Except possibly under the stress of a heated political campaign, there are comparatively few voters who do not pride themselves in possessing at least a degree of political independence. Very few, if any, are there who will admit that they are willing to turn their thinking over to a few men who make a business of politics.

Time was when quite a good many voters boasted that they "always voted 'er straight'", even though there might be a yellow dog on their party ticket. Those were the days when, in Nebraska, the state might have been saved expense by dispensing with the formality of holding elections and putting it up to the paid politicians of railroads and breweries to select public officials, which they practically did to a great extent by controlling nominating conventions and then calling on the voters to vote "straight, yellow dogs and all."

Many voters now would like to have a fair statement of public issues and the official work of their public servants. Party organs cannot be depended upon to give editorial comment, or even news, that will always be fair to all persons concerned. A newspaper cannot be subservient to party bosses and at the same time be always fair.

THREE WAYS OF TELLING IT

As a concrete illustration of the difference between relating a political matter from an unbiased viewpoint and also from the standpoint of a political friend and a political enemy, the following three brief accounts are given of an incident that occurred in the legislature last month:

A Fair Statement

The legislature of 1917 appropriated \$50,000 for the enforcement of prohibition, the same to be expended under direction of the governor or persons appointed by him to enforce the prohibition law which became effective May 1st of that year. In the twenty months of Governor Neville's term of office following May 1, 1917, about \$34,000 of the above appropriation was expended, leaving \$16,000 to be expended by his successor in the first three months of his administration. In addition to this, Governor McKelvie asks the legislature for a special appropriation of \$25,000 to be expended, or as much thereof as may be deemed necessary, making a total of approximately \$41,000 available for the enforcement of prohibition during the months of January, February and March, 1919.

Under Governor Neville's administration many fines were collected from violators of the prohibition law, aggregating considerably more than double the amount expended in enforcing the same. He was criticized generally by temperance workers for a few of his appointments for the enforcement of prohibition, one in particular, and for his failure to submit the proposed prohibition amendment to the federal constitution to the special session of the legislature in the spring of 1918 for ratification; but he was warmly commended by a number of temperance leaders for the effectiveness with which prohibition had been enforced under his administration.

However, Governor McKelvie claimed that when he came into office illegal traffic in intoxicating liquors had become firmly established in Nebraska, that there was then approximately as much booze in the state as there was under the open saloons. His criticism of his predecessor was more a matter of method than of laxity of effort at enforcement. He explained that the system of enforcement was wrong, that it permitted the bringing into the state of large quantities of liquor and then arresting and fining bootleggers for selling it.

Governor McKelvie's plan was to prevent the liquor from coming into the state. For this purpose he asked for an appropriation sufficient to put an adequate force in the border counties to detect and arrest booze runners as soon as they crossed the state line.

The vote on the special appropriation did not divide on party lines in the legislature. Although a larger percentage of the democratic members voted against it than of republicans, some of the strongest opposition was from republicans who wished to reduce the amount of the appropriation.

Another Way of Telling It

That the democrats in the legislature are determined to cripple Governor McKelvie's administration in every way possible was shown by their opposition to his request for a special appropriation of \$25,000 for the enforcement of prohibition. It must be admitted that a few republicans opposed it, too, but they were merely cat's-paws for their democratic fellow members.

The enforcement of prohibition under Governor Neville was a flat failure. During the twenty months, from May 1, 1917, to January 1, 1919, the amount of intoxicating liquor in Nebraska increased fifteenfold. Bootleggers were making more money after paying their fines than saloon keepers ever did under license. Some communities that were free from booze before prohibition went into effect, afterwards became demoralized with liquor under the administration of the democratic governor.

Fortunately a majority of the members of the legislature are republicans so that the appropriation asked for by Governor McKelvie was made. It is expected that by the first of next July there will be practically no booze remaining in the state.

Opposite Way of Telling It

In making a request of the legislature for an emergency appropriation of \$25,000, to add to something like \$16,000 left over from his predecessor's administration, making a total of \$41,000 to be used in enforcing prohibition till April 1, Governor McKelvie charges that there was almost as much booze in Nebraska when he took office as there was under open saloons.

Just why the present governor must have nearly \$14,000 per month to enforce a law that was effectively enforced by his predecessor at an expense of \$1,700 is a question that has not been given a satisfactory answer yet; but the knowing ones wink the other eye and say that the political workers have been "taken care

of" and the governor's political machine greatly strengthened.

What Do You Prefer?

The first of the above three ways of telling the same story is the one that will be used invariably in this department in relating anything bearing on politics. Unbiased by partisan prejudice, it is in striking contrast to the other two. It is not difficult to guess which of the three methods the fair-minded reader prefers when he wants information on public matters in which he is interested.

RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION

We all believe in the right of self-determination, in principle; but in the application of the principle we are prone to be biased by our own wishes or personal interests. House Bill 398 which is now before the Nebraska legislature for consideration is putting the question of self-determination up to the members of our law-making body in a way that is causing some squirming. This bill, if passed and signed by the governor, will permit Lincoln to annex five suburbs, University Place, Havlock, Bethany, College View and Normal.

At least four of the above mentioned suburbs, University Place, Havlock, Bethany and College View, seem to be opposed to the annexation, altho that cannot be positively determined without an election on the question. Many of the leading citizens of these cities and villages are earnestly demanding that the bill be amended so as to permit the annexation of only those suburbs in which the majority of the voters shall so elect, at an election to be called for that purpose.

In its present form the bill provides for an election, but as it now stands that is a mere sham. It calls for an election to be held in Lincoln and the suburbs, both to be counted as one election unit and a majority of the combined vote to determine whether the suburbs shall be annexed. In case such an election shall be held, the majority for annexation which Lincoln will give will, of course, be so large that it could not possibly be overcome by the vote of the suburbs, even if they voted to a man (and woman) against annexation.

I would have more respect for a member of the legislature who would vote straight out for annexation, without an election, than for the one who, to screen himself, votes to "pass the buck" to the voters under so thin a guise as an election such as the one above described.

Before closing this little story, I want to say that I am heartily in favor of a bigger Lincoln. I am a Lincoln booster and shall be glad to see her corporate limits extended to take in the suburbs as rapidly as a majority of the voters in each are willing for such extension. But I do not believe that, in the long run, it will be for the benefit of the capital city to increase her population at the expense of creating a feeling in the hearts of a large number of her best friends and patrons that they have been dealt with unfairly.

The right of self-determination is gaining world-wide recognition and popularity. It ought not to be abridged except to people who are unquestionably incompetent to decide on whose decision would work injustice to others. It will not be claimed that the citizens of Lincoln's suburbs are incompetent to decide questions of public moment or that there is danger of their decision being unjust.

WHY NOT TRY THE STAR?

The picture of Miss Eva Ashton, winner of first honors in the live stock judging contest at the Denver show, and the champion steer, printed in this issue of The Herald, is given to our readers thru the courtesy of that splendidly enterprising and dependable daily newspaper, The Lincoln Star.

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WESTERN NEBRASKA LEADS EASTERN END OF THE STATE

SURPRISES AWAITING EASTERN PEOPLE WHO LEARN OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST—SOME OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF COUNTIES

The time was, and to some extent is yet, when people living in the east end of the state spoke of places in Nebraska a few counties back from the Missouri river as being "out in the state" or "back in Nebraska." The development of the west has made it necessary to revise this sort of expressions.

Another thing that one hears often in the southeastern corner of the state, and which sounds funny to a person who is well acquainted with Nebraska, is reference to places a short distance west as being in "western Nebraska." Such places are often in the eastern third of the state and sometimes in the eastern fourth.

In going west, one does not leave the eastern half of the state until he has passed Red Cloud, Hastings, Grand Island, Broken Bow or Long Pine. Broken Bow is near the geographical center of the state.

The Nebraska Conservation and Soil Survey, under direction of Dr. Geo. E. Condra, has done a splendid work in securing and disseminating valuable information relative to the western half of the state, but there is much that should be done yet in the matter of giving publicity.

This department of The Alliance Herald, which will appear semi-monthly, will be devoted largely to giving information about western Nebraska and should be of interest to every person living within the bounds of the state.

As a starter for this department, I want to give in this story a few

Eye-Opening Statistics

The Nebraska State Board of Agriculture issues annually a valuable bulletin devoted to Nebraska crop and live stock statistics. I have examined two of these bulletins, 1915 and 1918, and compared the yield per acre of farm crops in western Nebraska with the eastern part of the state. For the purpose of comparison, we will take what is sometimes called the "panhandle of Nebraska", the eleven counties lying north of Colorado—Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux.

By taking 1915 and 1918, we have a wet and a dry year. In the former year, the average yield per acre of all grains, except corn, (spring wheat, winter wheat, rye, oats and barley) was larger than for the balance of the state, and the yield of corn was only a little under the average for the state.

It may be thought by some that the high average yield is due to including the irrigated district which requires extra work and expense to farm. This is the case to only a small extent, if any at all. The irrigated country is devoted principally to sugar beets and alfalfa, crops that are not included in this comparison. Scotts Bluff county, which has by far the largest amount of irrigated land of any county in the state, took first place on yield per acre of only one grain, oats, while three other northwestern counties took first place on three other cereals. Box Butte, with practically no irrigated land, was in first place on wheat.

But let us get down closer to the present time. The Nebraska State Board of Agriculture crop bulletin

which was issued December 14, 1918, for last year, shows that the average yield per acre of all kinds of grain (including corn) was larger in the panhandle counties than it was for the state, as will be seen by the following:

Corn—Average for the state, 17.7 bushels; panhandle counties, 19 to 23, averaging about 21.
Winter wheat—Average for state, 11.1 bushels; panhandle, 13 to 22.
Spring wheat—Average for state, 11.9; panhandle, 7 to 19, average about 13. The average for the panhandle was reduced by the low yield in a few of the counties: Deuel, 7; Cheyenne, 8; Garden, 10; Kimball, 12; but even at that, the average for the eleven counties was above the average for the state.

Oats—State, 22.2; panhandle, average about 27. The same counties above mentioned reduced the average on oats, also. Deuel, 15; Garden, 20; Kimball, 21; Cheyenne, 22. Morrill had 25, which was above the average for the state; Banner, Box Butte, Dawes and Sioux, each 30; Sheridan, 31; and Scotts Bluff, 38, which includes the irrigated crop, about three-fourths of the cultivated land in that county being irrigated.

Rye—State, 12.9; panhandle, about 15. Deuel, Garden and Kimball, 13 each; Cheyenne and Morrill, 14; Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux, 15; Banner and Dawes, 16; Box Butte, 17.

Barley—State, 16.5; panhandle, about 24.5, running from 13 bushels in Deuel to 35 in Morrill.

Alfalfa and Potatoes

The above are two of the principal crops of northwestern Nebraska. The average yield of alfalfa per acre in 1918 was practically the same as that of the state as a whole, 2.1 tons per acre. This includes the upland alfalfa, which is a fine quality but does not usually yield as heavy as the valley. The average yield per acre by counties was: Cheyenne, 1.5; Kimball, 1.7; Box Butte, Dawes, Deuel and Morrill, 2.0; Sheridan, 2.1; Banner, 2.2; Garden and Scotts Bluff, 2.5; Sioux, 2.6.

But it is in growing spuds that northwest Nebraska runs clean away from the balance of the state. Last year 10,497,998 bushels were grown in the state, of which more than one-half (5,489,344 bushels) were produced by the eleven panhandle counties. Three counties raised more than one-third of the entire state's crop, as follows: Sheridan, 1,388,760 bushels; Box Butte, 1,225,107; Scotts Bluff, 1,029,936; total for three counties, 3,643,803.

The fact that the growing of potatoes is profitable is indicated by the constantly increasing acreage. Some of the counties have doubled the amount of land planted to potatoes, within the last few years, and yet the possibilities of increasing this industry are immense. Only a little more than one per cent. of the land in the three leading potato-growing counties were planted to that crop last year—less than two acres to each quarter section on an average.

Great Live Stock Country

While northwestern Nebraska is not confined to live stock raising, it is one of the best countries on earth for that purpose; but this will be told in another story in a later issue.

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