

IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA.

It interests All Classes of Citizens in Every Section of the State.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE ARID REGION.

Western Nebraska Compared with Western Iowa—Settlement of Nebraska in the Last Ten Years and in the Next Ten.

ARTICLE VI.

Irrigation is the problem of Nebraska's development. It is not alone the problem of a few starving homesteaders on the frontier. It should have the attention and support of every man and interest having anything at stake in the future of this state.

In the last six months Nebraska has been the victim of a national advertisement of the wrong kind. It is now the interest of everybody having his home or capital here to wipe out the memory of last summer's catastrophe with some grand achievement. The eastern public draws no nice distinctions between this and that section of Nebraska. It knows that a committee has been sent to Washington to ask the national government for \$1,000,000 for destitute settlers in this state.

Table showing population figures for various counties in Nebraska, including Lincoln, Kearney, and others.

SEMI-ARID REGION OF NEBRASKA. The white portion of the above map shows the section of the state west of the 10th Meridian, which is the scene of the present organized movement for irrigation.

Eastward and irrigation the favorite method of cultivating the soil. For these and many other reasons the wholesale merchant of Omaha is really as directly interested in the man who runs a store out on the western plains and caters to a trade whose pockets are as arid as their lands.

The state of Nebraska scored a wonderful increase in population during the decade between 1880 and 1890. It grew from 423,462 to 1,056,739, or 253 per cent.

Table comparing population growth in Nebraska with other states like Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri.

Now let us consider what our arid region can become on the basis of these Iowa statistics. It is not pretended that every acre west of the 10th meridian is capable of irrigation. Much of it is sandy and fit only for grazing or the cultivation of light crops.

The governor of Iowa recently stated at a New York banquet that the farmers of his state had made no money in the last five years. When the governor of Colorado, of Utah or California makes a similar remark about the farmer in his state it will be time to doubt the feasibility of irrigation.

If, then, the energetic and enterprising men of Nebraska can make the desert a garden and put prosperity where distress now flourishes like a rank weed, are there not the possibilities of growth in the next ten years? Shall we not see the farmers multiplied, old towns swelled in population and new towns springing up like magic from the soil?

It is unquestionable that a splendid development can be built up in the arid country, and that it can be made the pride of the state in the next decade. But that is not the most urgent consideration. Irrigation is a great

and pressing necessity, not only because it will attract new capital and population, but because it will prevent, in a large degree, the loss of capital already invested and help to retain the people already there.

In the presence of widespread distress we come at last to the work of organizing a movement which was in the beginning the only means of making this region productive.

It certainly requires little hardihood to say that the twenty-five counties in western Nebraska, if they can be made productive by irrigation, will be in time as populous and rich as the fifty counties in western Iowa.

As has been said at the beginning of this article, irrigation is not a narrow sectional question, but the broadest and most pregnant factor in the problem of state development. The resources of Nebraska are purely agricultural. We have no mineral wealth to explore, no forests to hew down, nor navigable rivers to improve.

Look at it in another light. For the past ten years Nebraska has been competing with Kansas and Dakota for immigrants. Henceforward she must enter another class, for in the next ten years Kansas and Dakota, unless they join us in the present movement, cannot hope to compete with Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho in the matter of attracting new farmers.

It must be remembered that Kansas and Dakota have been put before the eastern public in an unfavorable light in the last few years, and that in the last few months Ne-

braska herself has shared the ill fortune of her neighbors to a certain extent. In the meantime the states to the west of us have been laying their foundations broad and deep. They have perfected their irrigation laws and demonstrated the success of this means of agriculture. They have educated the investing public to believe that an irrigation fund is a safe property. The man who has sold his farm in Michigan, for instance, for \$20 an acre and gone to Idaho to take up government land at \$1.25 an acre, has been able to get it and irrigate it for \$18 an acre, which includes the purchase price.

It is not plain that Nebraska should get out of the Kansas and Dakota class and get into the Colorado and Idaho class in order to shake the odor of the former from her garments and partake of the prestige of the latter?

The present agitation has resulted in a compact and aggressive organization of the friends of irrigation. It is a clean-cut and definite movement, aiming at the accomplishment of specific results.

Ten southwestern counties were organized at the convention at Cook. The remainder of the arid district spoke in the same language at the convention at Sidney yesterday. The agitation will culminate in a state convention at Lincoln next Wednesday.

The physicians and oculists of this city are greatly puzzled over the case of Jennie Sutro, says a Findlay, O., dispatch. From the right eye of the girl fifty-four pieces of broken glass were taken by Dr. T. C. Tritch. These pieces of glass have been coming from the eye of this girl for the last month, and only day before yesterday Dr. Tritch removed every particle of glass in the eye and announced that all were taken out.

She came back and had fifty-four more pieces of broken glass taken from her eye. She came into the city from a remote district, \$50 per acre within a fair distance of large cities and \$100 per acre in their immediate vicinity. She has a large farm of 85 acres and is irrigated with irrigation to \$25, is not a vast sum, thereby added to the wealth of the state, as well as to that of individuals.

ON A QUESTION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO ALL CITIZENS.

A FACTOR IN FINANCIAL DEPRESSIONS.

Old Line Life Insurance in all its Phases—Practs and Figures in Redundant Quantities.

EDITOR OMAHA DAILY BEE: As a subscriber of your valuable journal, and as a citizen of this Republic, permit me to thank you for the publication of your article on the subject of life insurance.

It is a substantial factor in the growing indebtedness of business men to note that at no time has there been a larger amount of credit taken than the insured interest in life insurance. This is a fact that is not generally known, but which should be known by every man who is engaged in business.

Here the reader will notice: 1. That both the level premium element and the natural premium element have declined since 1880. 2. That the level premium element has declined more rapidly than the natural premium element.

It is not pretended that every acre west of the 10th meridian is capable of irrigation. Much of it is sandy and fit only for grazing or the cultivation of light crops. Not all of the rich soil can be reached by water without unreasonably expensive.

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