

The Daily Nebraskan

Published daily, except Sunday and Monday, by the Hesperian Publishing Co., at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.

A consolidation of The Hesperian, Vol. 31, The Nebraskan, Vol. 10 Scarlet and Cream, Vol. 4.

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Subscription Price, \$2 per year, in advance

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., as second-class mail matter under the act of congress of March 3, 1879.

Individual notices will be charged for at the rate of 10 cents for each insertion. Faculty, departmental and university bulletins will gladly be published free, as heretofore.

Editorial Remarks

FRATERNITY IN COLLEGE LIFE.

The following extract from the opening address of President Schureman of Cornell University so fully meets the approbation of The Nebraskan, and so well fits conditions here, that we are glad to give it space in our editorial columns:

"There is a classification of our men that occurs to me; some of them are fraternity men, and others are independents. I think the fraternity life at Cornell is in many respects the most ideal arrangement for the lodging, feeding and social intercourse of students that has ever been devised in the history of the university. I think the small groups who live in these fraternities and meet as brothers give one another a social, and perhaps moral, help which can be gotten in no other way. I know they form life-long friendships, which are the source of much happiness and often of help in the struggle for life in after years.

"But I want to warn the fraternity men; I want to bring their attention to a feeling of anxiety, which has disturbed me for a long time. I feel that our fraternities are laying stress too exclusively on prominence. I am not saying financial, although perhaps that is a point which the fraternities do not overlook. I think they are giving too much prominence to student distinction in athletics, and to the men who are exceedingly popular among their classmates.

"I am not saying that all these things should not be considered, and fraternities should not have in their organizations fellows distinguished as football, baseball players, and so forth; but I do say that the doom of the fraternities is sealed unless they do not put on an equal stand with these the men who distinguish themselves in scholarship and science, which is the primary object of this university. I have a suspicion that the average standing of the fraternity man is not as high as the average standing of the man outside. You are here for the purpose of education."

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Alumni Letter.

The following alumni letter has been handed us by a friend. It is from Mr. E. G. Woodruff, an old U. of N. man who assisted in the department of Geology last year and is now in the employ of the United States department of the Interior in Oklahoma:
 Norman, O. T., Sept. 25, '04.

Dear Sir—Since returning here I have had in mind sending you some notes regarding the Panhandle, knowing full well that you will be pressed for "soil culture" material. We were in the Panhandle during July, August, and the early part of September. The weather was pleasant, often the days were warm—very warm—but in that subhumid region the air is practically always in motion, so a person suffers but little. The nights are cool. I had three blankets in my bedding roll and needed them every night. So, while high temperatures are experienced, the summer is not so exhausting as it is in eastern Nebraska. Showers occur but they are always local. It may be sunny in one place and raining hard five miles away. Understand, I am writing only of the eastern half of the Panhandle—our work covered fifteen counties. The eastern part of this region is hilly, or rolling; the western portion is the level table of the High Plains—so level, in fact, that no drainage takes place and the water collects in small lakes where it evaporates or seeps away. In the eastern region erosion is progressing very rapidly. Everywhere the hills are being carved away and the valleys cut out. On the High Plains occasionally immense canyon gorges exist. One of the most marked is the Paladora, south of Claude; this is five miles broad and 900 feet deep. Note in approaching it the traveler feels that he is to travel on the level plains continuously, then he notes a gentle slope for half a mile and perhaps through the mosquito bushes he catches glimpses of the breaks on the opposite sides. It is one of those streams whose downward cut far exceeds its lateral. My last trip was toward Silverton and in passing from the valley of Red river to the High Plains, eight miles away, an elevation of 1,200 feet was attained. This is not remarkable in itself, but when the level of the plains is reached one can travel for miles without encountering a hill or elevation of any sort.

A government edition will be issued showing the water conditions there. In brief, however, there is plenty of water in the Panhandle. In the Red beds of the eastern part gypsum water is universal. These beds are occasionally crossed by sand ridges, which furnish fresh water. Here water ranges from springs to 250 feet. On the High Plains water is always good. Its depth ranges from 80 to 500 feet. Most wells range from 250 to 400 feet, which latter figure is not considered an excessive depth. No irrigation is now attempted.

The region is pre-eminently a stock country. Cattle are everywhere. All is fenced. No regular laid out roads exist, but trails lead through the pastures. A little farming is being tried in a half-hearted way. Land is so cheap that the few farmers feel that it is just as cheap to plant large fields and give them little attention as it is to plant little and tend it well. And this is certainly true in this region, where weeds do not thrive. One of the great needs is a good agricultural experiment station and some experienced farmers to test over a series of years just what can be done. I am convinced that skill and methods applicable to subhumid regions will avail much. In price land ranges from \$2.00 to \$10.00 per acre. Taxes are said to be very low.

The people are the most hospitable I have met anywhere. It is the custom never to turn a stranger away and never to charge them for staying over night. This is universal. I wish I could tell you fully of these people and add a few slides to your geography collection, but cannot now.


Yours truly,
 E. G. WOODRUFF.

The registration at the Iowa State University exceeds - at of last year by over 200. The attendance now nearly reaches the 3,000 mark.

Erle B. Woodward, M. D., diseases of eye, ear and throat. 207-8 Richards block. Phone 666.

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