

ODD BITS OF NEBRASKA LIFE

A cornhusking machine bids fair to figure in the future greatness of Plattsmouth. That is the prediction of some of its business men, of whom their exponent is J. A. Gutsche. He calls it the radiant method of making Plattsmouth the third largest city in the state and urges the money factors of the city to come forth and build a factory. The machine is the invention of Herman Streitwieser of that place. By automatically tearing off the husks as the wagon travels down the aisles of a cornfield it saves 75 per cent of the cost of the work as it has been heretofore done. Now is the chance of the business men to nail what may be one of the largest industries in the west, says the enthusiast. The machine is practical because it has been proven so by actual experience, with the benefit of a reduction of 500 pounds in its weight since last fall. In the form of a flea in the ear of the people of coin, Mr. Gutsche remarks that eastern concerns have focused their visual organs on the scheme and will buy it as soon as the inventor is ready to sell.

Piercing the sky, the steeple of the Presbyterian church at Hastings projected a gilded ball into the clouds of a rainstorm that recently passed over the city. The lightning in dudgeon at its audacity whaled it hard, splitting it downward in one fell stroke and away spun the glittering ball. Because it was made of flimsy material Miss Mabel Rhodes is alive today. She was passing the church at the time and the falling ball struck her on the head. It collapsed from the impact but did not crush her.

The town of Alma has made itself talked about for numerous things, among them ghosts and diamonds. Now it comes forward with a new rain-maker. This gentleman has not departed far from the Wright explosion

theory. In fact he has simply improved on it a bit; to judge from his talks regarding the idea. Dr. Gingrich is the name of the scientist. He has made himself known in the town for his extensive researches. The atmosphere, says he, is made up of currents flowing in opposite directions. At some point these contrary tides rub. His idea is to locate this exact spot and explode a bomb or two squarely between the currents. The concussion will so disturb and dislodge their equilibrium that they will run together. Their collision will produce rain. If the first shot fails to take effect the thing to do is to try again. The scientist claims he has discovered the secret of finding the borders of these breezes, even if nobody else has. As a result he will tell the legislature. He has interested a number of people in siding with him in that. Everybody knows what it means to tell such a thing to the legislature.

Buy no headache cures of the pedler, adjures the Beemer Times. Don't even accede to the invitation to sample them, it adds, warningly. On the strength of this advice it thinks its subscribers have had their money's worth now even were the paper to be discontinued. A pedler ambles to the door with a headache cure warranted to knock the most severe case. Confidingly the sufferer, if he be one, complies with the invitation to take a whiff in way of sample. A few inhalations leaves the party in a stupor that lapses quickly to sleep, says the Times, which surely knows. Then the business begins. The itinerant proceeds to ransack the house.

Is this man entitled to damages? The Sutton Advertiser-News stands up for the farmer whose corn crop was blown onto the farm of his next neighbor. He had just finished planting when a



AMOS GREENAMYRE.

Amos Greenamyre, treasurer of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance company, is a native of Ohio where he was born on March 17, 1840. Illinois was the scene of his youth, however, the family soon removing to Bureau county. Here Mr. Greenamyre received the advantages of a public school education and assisted in the duties of farm life.

He came to Lancaster county in 1880 and continued farming. For the past three years he has lived in the city. Mr. Greenamyre owns a farm of 400 acres, eleven miles southwest of Lincoln in the neighborhood of Cheney. On this he has lived most of the time since coming to the state.

When the Farmers' Mutual company was first organized in 1892, Mr. Greenamyre was made treasurer and this position he has held ever since. The organization has been exceedingly prosperous and was one of the first companies to start in the mutual field on a thoroughly business basis. Now the company is doing a mammoth amount of insuring and losses are promptly and equitably paid.

Mr. Greenamyre resides with his family at 1730 D street and divides his time between the management of his farm and the affairs of the Farmers' Mutual.



W. A. NORTHCOTT.

W. A. Northcott, six times honored by election to the office of head consul of the Modern Woodmen of America and now serving his second four-year term as lieutenant governor of Illinois, was born in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where he received his early education in the schools of that state. He was admitted to the bar in 1877 and two years later moved to Greenville, Illinois. In 1880 he was made census supervisor for the Seventeenth district of Illinois by President Hayes. In 1882 he was elected state's attorney for Bond county and was twice re-elected, serving until his election as head consul of the M. W. A., in 1890. In 1890 President Harrison appointed him a member of the board of visitors of the United States naval academy at Annapolis, where he was formerly a pupil, and that year he delivered the graduating address to the class of 1890. He was first nominated for lieutenant governor in 1895, elected by 135,000 majority, and in 1900 re-elected, running far ahead of his ticket. During Governor Tanner's term the latter was frequently forced to leave the state in search of health resorts and Mr. Northcott was acting governor so many weeks during that term he has since frequently been called "Governor" Northcott. Owing to his widespread popularity in Illinois, it is quite generally believed that still better things, politically, are in store for him.

Mr. Northcott was first elected head consul of the M. W. A. at Springfield, Illinois, in 1890. At that time the society had only 42,000 members, but under his excellent leadership it has grown to 700,000 members. He has shown marvelous ability as an organizer and fraternal general and is looked upon as the "dean" of fraternal society presidents.

heavy wind storm came up which tore off the real estate from one farm in a neat twist and landed it on the one adjoining. Not knowing the extent of the ruin until the stuff began to grow the sufferer observed that a big portion of his planting is flourishing on the other man's premises. The man enriched declares he will pay nothing but will feed the windfall to his cattle since it stands in disorder. The first farmer insists that if his neighbor fails to pay him a reasonable sum for his loss he will charge him in court with receiving stolen property on the ground that the wind did steal, take and carry away his corn.

Grievous circumstances surround the Benedict Herald. It has been threatened with boycott by some of the business men of the town and they have enforced their ominous declarations by withdrawing their advertisements. It is all over the liquor question. This town, of many in the state that have agitated the liquor question this spring, has shown itself capable of no little amount of venom. And this time it is on the side of the liquor men. The Herald protested against the issuance of saloon licenses. More than that the editor transcribed his name to the remonstrances. That started the wrath. Some of the more furious men tore their heels off in their haste to withdraw their advertisements. By degrees the editor himself has worked

up to a pitch of anger also. He defies and cajoles in the same paragraph: "We claim the same right to sign the remonstrance as the other fellow has to sign the petition. Our signature is there and we propose to keep it there. Some things are easier started than stopped. If this is a game of bluff it is not going to work... But if you wish to drop the matter, come in and see us; we have plenty of good advertising space to sell."

Spasms at sight of the corpse of a snake nearly killed a sick seven-year-old boy near Fremont recently. Several boys who had slaughtered it hung it to the door of a neighbors house. The lad who was sick caught a glimpse of it and the shock nearly caused his death. He did not improve for several days.

A natural born kicker butted up against a natural born superior at a hotel in Columbus the other day. He was the landlord of the Clothier house. The stranger ordered breakfast, got saucy because it did not appear at his beck to the waiter, slammed his knife and fork to the floor and started out in terrific anger. Hardly had he reached the door before his meal was ready; the landlord grabbed him by the collar, waltzed him back to his seat and made him pay for what he had ordered. And he didn't even murder after that.