North Nebraska's Soil Richest in the World

By Hon. George Coupland

Having known you for a long term of water and the plant can use it. years and your deep interest in things | The rock particles I have named, to planting certain crops? Thirty-two restorer of the nitrogen which has of the elements which are necessary to prepare for your readers a short oxide, of which a large percentage of field, would take 1,120 pounds of nitro-supplies which plants require. Can article giving the result of some of my the body of plants is constructed. gen, 1,120 pounds of potash and 640 we supply this indefinitely without fertility of this wonderful Loess soil plant from the air, and where the value of \$281. Thirty two crops of manufacturer?

purported to give a description of the plants. I may say here that all this pounds of potash and 896 pounds of else if they cannot be manufactured lands they owned in the county where fixation of nitrogen and its transfor-I now live and some of the adjacent mation into nitrates is done by minute Four tons of alfalfa hay would take counties. I well remember being at organisms which live in the soil, and 4,096 pounds of potash and 1.312 tracted by the report of Professor also that the release of the carbon pounds phosphoric acid, the value be-Aughey of the state university as to dioxide in the dead plant is through ing \$284. It is questionable whether the composition of the soil and its ev. the efforts of other busy little work- these two latter crops remove any ident usefulness for all round farming ers whose business it is to break down nitrogen from the soil, and this I will purposes, and it only seems like yes. plant tissue. In fact, these are what discuss a little later on. terday that I laid down the little book- we may well term the operators of | So far I have shown what this soil let which had reached my home across the fertility machine, and if these op- of ours contains, what proportion of is only half as good as he says, it is ly, conditions in the soil, both as to and perhaps here I ought to say that

A few months later I decided to place which had such promise for one who desired to settle in a goodly land. Well do I remember after my arrival on the place where I have lived since that time, taking up a handful of the kindly soil which it has been my pleasure to own and till during these years, and after examining it, saying "This is the best soil I ever saw or handled." And now, after thirty years of experimenting, cultivation and examination, you ask me the question, "What do are not prompted by a merely curious we find that it does contain the min- tions are favorable for the utilization inquiring spirit, but you want to know the facts for the benefit of your readers, and I shall endeavor to answer store up moisture and that it is a hap- farming country. your inquiry in as plain and practical py place for benignant bacterial life way as I possibly can, avoiding the technical and having in view that which you are anxious to know-what the soil in this portion of the state is cure. In arriving at an accurate con- which goes to the making of this food. worth for practical farming purposes, clusion, we must apply the scientific but if the soil in which it is contained and if it has the qualities which are test as to what these farms of ours lasting as to its future fertility. Yet actually consist of, and here I wish to the rains and snows which fall upon I must confess that in endeavoring to say that in applying this the severest it, the forces which transform and preanswer your questions I shall be largely governed by the thought of impress- deeply anxious that those who live plants require to nourish them cannot ing my fellow citizens with the idea upon and own our lands and those that the possession of such a heritage as we enjoy should arouse in us a haps have pecuniary interests in the spirit of pride and appreciation, that country that they shall be advised as will show the peculiar ability of our is, knowing the value of this soil. We to the actual value of what they posshould be proud and appreciative of it sess. So that a spirit of pride of pos-

so goodly a possession. which grow upon it, has always attracted the thoughtful and inquiring mind. Since the dawn of history we find that men were anxious to find out chemist, and Doctor Waite, soil bacthe operations of nature's laws and to teriologist of the state university, both co-operate with her, if perchance they could assist to a larger usefulness. The history of investigation along agricultural lines is a very interesting and fascinating one, and it seems as the years go by and we get in closer touch with the natural laws which govern the machinery at work in the co-operation with these laws and the in- record of the different croppings has courses.

which do this work do not perform pounds of potash, 1,500 pounds of phos- from it, in an adjacent corn field, care of so efficiently the moisture was a visitor in the city. their functions in a haphazard way. The machinery is wonderfully and in- high as eighty tons of lime. During guminous crop grown upon it. These ideal place for this wonderful combination with friends. geniously constructed, and the operators are expert and industrious, but it been cropped there has been no ap- things I had in mind, viz: the mois- on the perpetuation of our soil fer- was here calling on friends. is a very easy matter for man to in- preciable depletion of this mineral ture content of the two fields, what tility. terfere with the operation of the ma. content. In the second foot there is the alfalfa had added to or taken from chinery and impede the forces which 3.600 pounds of nitrogen, 21,000 pounds the soil, and whether nitrifying bac-

Every Essential Element Present.

into plant food.

Plants as well as animals, if they are to grow and produce generously, must be provided with a balanced ration, that is, food adapted for their requirements.

The four essential elements neceslime. If any one of these things is lacking in the soil, or perhaps of limited amount, it is impossible to suc- mates only cover the available fertiling its life there used up what had it has a long and great future before cessfully raise crops. Of the elements ity matter contained in the minerals fallen and drawn upon the available it agriculturally, I have just named, three of them are I have named. If we were to take the reserve which was bottled up in the rock particles, but the nitrogen has been gathered from the air and fixed ent it would be about two and oneas food by plants must be transformed one-third more phosphoric acid. Now our soil to store up the moisture respond with men who have made soil from South Dakota, where she secured estate and C. F. Shaw's property, who

which concern the people of north- become available for plant food, they crops of wheat averaging twenty bush- been used up by preceding cereal to support plants and also which make eastern Nebraska, I was not surprised too, must be made soluble, and this is els to the acre, assuming that grain, crops. And here follows the very im- it congenial to and an ideal place for when a few weeks ago you asked me partly accomplished by the carbon di- straw or stalks are removed from the portant question as to the nitrogen the bacterial life which operates the personal observations relative to the This, too, has been gathered by the pounds of phosphoric acid, of a total calling upon the commercial fertilizer which covers most of the counties of plant dies and decay commences, this corn at sixty-five bushels to the acre This is a serious question, for unless It is now over thirty years ago since attacks the minerals just spoken of 1,920 pounds of potash and 640 pounds to do this inevitably there is only one I took up a pamphlet issued by the and makes a portion of them avail- of phosphoric acid, totalling \$534. thing before us-these supplies will Burlington railroad company, which able to succeeding generations of Two tons of clover hay would take 2,112 have to be brought from somewhere the Atlantic, saying to myself, "If it erators are to do their work effective- it is removed by a series of croppings, must be so blended together as to ren- 1,000 pounds which enters into the der it a congenial place for them to composition of plants and cereals live, multiply and do their allotted comes out of the soil, the source of tasks. So, in arriving at an approx- the other 988 pounds being air and future ability of our Nebraska farms, being taken out of the air, and it is we must ask the questions: What is most interesting to know that that now present in the soil? What, if any, which is so important to and so largepeculiar ability does it have to store ly used by plants is held in the air up moisture for future use? What about and above us in such abundant other things which make it a happy are 30,000 tons of nitrogen hovering home for the industrious little work- over each acre of our lands waiting to ers I have spoken of?

to multiply and operate, then we can say with assurance, this is a goodly in the production of plant food. We land, whose agricultural future is se- may possess every element necessary of all tests, I do it because I am most pare these different things which who inhabit our towns and may per- now I will give the results of some and anxious to care for and conserve session may be theirs and an anxiety to use their possessions judiciously

I wish here to acknowledge my great indebtedness to and apprecation of the assistance of Doctor Alway, soil of whom are devoting their splendid abilities to the service of our state. the exact story of the soil as we have found it.

Contents of North Nebraska Soil.

During the past 100 years some of acid, and also a great increase in the alfalfa field than they did in the corn

have been busy trying to find out the rogen down to the seventh foot, when roots penetrated. best methods of co-operating with the it reaches 900 pounds, and from there has been that we are acquainted now the same. The total nitrogen conwith the fact that a certain combination tent of the first twelve feet per acre tigations speak with peculiar force. making of food for growing crops. If tent of the soil shows a large increase tained 141/2 percent of water, the secall these elements are present, con in the lower depths, there being in ditions are favorable for plants to the third foot 27,000 pounds of potash grow, providing sufficient moisture and 3,000 pounds of phosphoric acid, and warmth is supplied. If any one and from the fourth to the twelfth foot. In all, there was enough water of these essential elements is lacking, foot 28,500 pounds of potash and as to equal thirty-two inches of rainfall. trouble arises, and it is like a machine high as 33,000 pounds, the phosphoric The corn roots had penetrated down minus a cog wheel, the machine can acid averaging 3,900 for each foot total potash for the first twelve feet been provided in great abundance tent being especially rich. The marand these elements are not confined mercial fertilizer manufacturer, in merely to a surface foot or two of the the first four feet of each acre of our soil, but to a depth in most places of land would be for the nitrogen \$2,300. fifty feet, and many places much deep- potash \$4,725, phosphoric acid \$648.

> down in my fields this yast year. But the total value of the elements I area that the alfalfa roots penetrate, good. in fact they go much lower than this. the totals I have given. These esti- to the acre. The alfalfa having dur- till, crop and husband its resources, his hand slipping. entire amount of these elements pres- lower levels.

phosphoric acid, of a value of \$159, on the land.

mineral supply, moisture and heat, only about twelve pounds out of every imate estimate as to the present and water, the carbon and the nitrogen If from an examination of the soil food, and where it is that local condi-

As I have before intimated, heat and moisture are controlling factors does not have the ability to store up perform their functions properly. And very interesting investigations which soils to bottle up and take care of the moisture which falls.

Moisture Nearly All Retained

First let me say that the soil par-

phoric acid, and from twenty to as The cornfield has never had any le- which falls, that this is certainly an these years on the fields that have pits were dug to determine several tion of legumes and bacteria to carry of potash, 2,400 pounds of phosphoric teria operated at a lower level in the

There having been a very great part of August was replenished by the later rains which came.

Now, what had happened in the have just named in the first twelve feet the earth, that is, where conditions are than where alfalfa has not been of each acre is \$23,370, and all this fer- favorable for it to dig and the storage grown. tility matter is contained within the capacity for taking care of water is

in the soil, and before it can be used half times as much potash and over beyond doubt the wonderful ability of very great, and I never talk or coror changed into nitrates, and when it comes the other side: What have and which falls upon it and hold a reserve studies a specialty but they always a good homestead, near those taken have agreed to have the street paved attendance.

Elgin, Neb., Dec. 2.-Editor News: is thus changed it becomes soluble in do we take out of the soil by cropping, for a deep-rooting plant like alfalfa, refer to the remarkable wealth of our and what can we add to the soil by which has such remarkable value as a

element is released in the soil and it would take 2,400 pounds of nitrogen, natural conditions are favorable for us

On my own farm thirty-two crops of cereals have used up one-third of the nitrogen which was in the original prairie. Doubtless what is true on my land is true on other farms where there has been no other rotation except corn, oats and wheat,

The query now arises, is there a crop we can plant which will replenish or at least maintain without depletion our nitrogen supplies? And are our soil and moisture conditions favorable to grow that crop? I say without hesitation they are, and I can also say that unless we plant this crop there is trouble ahead for us.

Crop to Replenish Nitrogen.

this gas was transformed into a sub- congested centers of our country. be trapped and transformed into plant stance which plants could use to nourish and develop their bodies, puzzled erals necessary in abundant supply, of this great ocean of fertility matter England, Germany, France and in the men of mature years, those who that it does have unique ability to then we can say we live in a rich other European countries, as well as live upon the land and those who live hold of the nitrogen gas and fix it in I know of no more important or urthe soil; and then there are other gent matter, and one which is so far little fellows who live with them, who reaching in its influence for the good are other little chaps whose home is the root, begin to multiply rapidly and for personally I feel it is one of the when they called at the postoffice for ticles are neither too large or too in some mysterious way feed the plant best dividend-paying investments the the mail. "Some of us will get a holismall. If they were too small, there with the nitrogen it needs-in fact, people of our state can make, both day today," said one carrier. "I have would not be much room for water to seems to supply, at least for a while, accumulate between them and they all that it does need, so that the soil would pack close together and could upon which these different legumes not take up much water. If they were grow is not further depleted of its nittoo large, the water would rapidly rogen, but it is rather increased. Now drain away, but our soil is of such a to raise such crops as alfalfa and The laboratory determinations are texture and character, also depth, that clover successfully, these small organi practically our loss of water is very isms must be present, and so that they small. I think Professor Barbour, our can be present, conditions in the soil was in the city, state geologist, estimates the loss by must be congenial for them, if the run-off to the streams to be about ten | proper mineral elements are not in acting business. The land upon which I live-and it percent, whereas in some of our east- the soil, they cannot live there, and if soil, and the plants which we plant is typical of northeastern Nebraska ern states more than half of the mois- they do not have moisture and warmth, visitor in the city. and cultivate, we realize more and soil-the most of it has been under ture which falls is not retained by they cannot live and multiply and do more the necessity of an intelligent cultivation about thirty years, and a the soil, but passes off to the water their tasks. Now it is unquestionably a visitor in the city. a fact that we have all the necessary dividual operators which carry on the been kept. The surface foot of each About the beginning of last Sep-elements in this soil of ours to make a visitor in the city. business of providing and supplying acre of the original prairie contained tember I dug two pits on my land, it a very happy and congenial place Mrs. Otto Miller of Hoskins was about 122,500 pounds of organic mat. One in an eight-year-old alfalfa field, for these valuable little workers to herec alling on friends, This machinery and these operators | ter, 7,035 pounds of nitrogen, 18,000 and the other about thirty steps away | pursue their trade, and the earth takes | Miss Elia Neuman of Battle Creek | ested.

Value of Alfalfa. To illustrate: On the field I have ter, Mrs. John Schmidt, referred to which has been in alfalfa eight years—and this is the oldest one la Pilger of Plainview, were in the the keenest observers and scientists lime. There is a decrease in the nit- field, and how far the alfalfa and corn I have other fields having been plowed city visiting with relatives. up which show a very great ability to raise crops-the weight of the alfalfa in the city on business. forces at work in the soil. The result to the twelfth foot it remains about shortage of rainfall during the past roots to the acre contained in the first | C. E. Burnham returned from growing season, these moisture invest foot was 5,069 pounds, containing 105 business trip at Omaha. pounds of nitrogen, worth in the mar- R. G. Rohrke of Hoskins was in the tion of elements go largely toward the being 21,600 pounds, the mineral con- The first foot in the cornfield con- ket \$17.50, equivalent to ten and one- city transacting business. half tons of fresh barnyard manure. D. Baum returned from St. Paul. ond foot 17 percent, and the third in the first ten feet of the field there where he attended the funeral of his ing he argued in Judge Eiseley's court and, would almost cry and go into a about 19 percent, and averaging about were 9,459 pounds of roots, containing nephew. the same amount down to the twelfth 172 pounds of nitrogen, worth \$28.67. County Attorney James Nichols of Judge Eiseley, was sure Wakefield had main there for almost an entire day. equivalent to seventeen tons of fresh Madison was in the city transacting the required \$7.10, for which amount Surprise was given the Viele family barnyard manure. Now this is not county business. taking into account the amount of in this field about three and one-half leaves that had fallen from the alfalfa Saturday noon to remain until after coin. When it seemed evident that he giving concerts on the piano which its from the fourth to the twelfth, the feet and never once during the sum stalks, which adds very materially to Christmas at the home of her parents. mer was there any indication that the the store of fertility matter, and not Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Estabrook. Now here let me say that in this being 348,500 pounds, and phosphoric corn was suffering for lack of mois- alone does the alfalfa dig down deep, J. I. Custer was at Wayne working his sock. wonderful Loess soil of ours there has acid 42,000 pounds and the lime conture. Of course, the water that was but in filling up the tunnel which it up interest in the poultry show which in the surface soil had been conserved digs with organic matter, it adds every element and condition to make ket price of all this fertility matter, if by good tilling, and what had been largely to the soil's ability to store up here Tuesday. Wednesday and Thurs- of the first annual poultry show of ers' committee held the first of a a perfect and lasting fertility machine, we had to purchase it from the com- used up in June, July and the early moisture, and it doubtless obtains a day. considerable amount of its mineral supply in the lower depths, where it is injured eye as the result of a cinder. day's work will be taken up in ar- present and many things for the good so abundant, also the breaking up of alfalfa field? This crop is a great the subsoil by its great root system. er do we find an abundant supply of Totalling \$7,673. This is to a depth user of water and not only does it get which makes it easier for succeeding Woods. the elements which are convertible to about which the corn roots went its supply from the store near to the crops to root deep, and I hope to find surface, but it digs deep and draws up out next year how much deeper corn its water supplies rfom far down in will go down in an old alfalfa field street Monday afternoon at 2:30.

In summing up the question as to the potential and future ability of this ped on some ice. There was a difference in the eastern Nebraska soil (and the same The actual value of the lime is not amount of water in these two fields in thing is true of a large area of our nitrogen, potash, phosphoric acid and given in this calculation. Suffice it the first twelve feet equivalent to ten state) I say that there is no doubt that from a sprained wrist as the result of signing the first petition for the pay steps taken to perfect a plant which to say it would add very materially to inches of rain, or 1.130 tons of water if we are wise enough to judiciously shaking the grates on his engine and

> Tested by every known scientific test, it has unique lasting qualities. These moisture determinations show Its undeveloped potential richness is folk avenue paving.

soil and its deep-seated accumulation fertility machine.

Let me in conclusion make an appeal for a higher appreciation of these rich possessions of ours, so that we will seek to use judiciously and carefully the fertile lands given into our charge. That our efforts shall be to assist rather than impede nature's laws. That we shall not be robbers, who either selfishly or ignorantly exploit the soil. If the people who live upon these fertile valleys and uplands evidently intended them to be, one of lac. the most favored portions of this globe

There are quite a number of other things which are suggested by what I have written, but space forbids me referring to them. Perhaps at some future time I may have something Otto Bergfelder was also among the more to say. However, let me urge guests, the young people who live on these eastern Nebraska farms to seek a liberal education along agricultural lines. for there is no department in our national life demanding a better equipped mind or hand than that of the man As I have already stated, the nitro- who is to be the conservator of the gen that plants require and use has basic wealth of the nation, and who to be obtained from the air, and that doubtless will have to supply in the we have a limitless supply to draw future as in the past the virile blood are the conditions as to warmth and supply, for it is estimated that there upon. How this transference from air necessary to keep alive the activities to soil or plant took place, and how of letters and commerce in the more

Need of Better Educations.

I am sure you will permit me to investigators for many years. Men in most earnestly call the attention of our own, tried to find out just how the in our towns and cities, to the great thing was done, and through the years, importance and imperitive necessity especially during the last ten years, of providing the means to give a suitmany important discoveries along this able education to the young people line have been made, so that now we who are to live upon the lands which know that it is through the agency of I have described, so that they shall minute bacterial life which exists in be able to put this undeveloped potenthe soil, whose business it is to take tial wealth to its greatest test and use.

convert it into ammonia, then to nil of the state, than the preparation of rite, and finally into nitrate, in which our young men and women for an in-

form the plant can use it, but there telligent and useful life upon the land. Our state university, with its agriin the soil and who have a peculiar cultural school and college, has been zation has a membership of fourteen. liking for clovers, alfalfa, vetches and trying to do the best it could with the The meeting and organization was other legumes, and when these plants means at hand, and we are now asking send out their small rootlets, attach that this school of the people shall be themselves to them, make a nodule on generously supported by the people, hours left to work Saturday morning the rarest. It commemorates the sevmorally and economically.

George Coupland, Elm Grove Farm, Elgin, Neb.

SATURDAY SIFTINGS.

Mrs. Schriner of Pierce was here. Mrs. Herman Beckner of Hoskins

M. Nichols of Foster was here trans

George M. Fowler of Fremont was Mrs. John Huebner of Hoskins was

Mrs. Carl Albert of Hoskins was in

Mrs. D. C. Whitmore of Oakdale

Ida, of Tilden are visiting her daugh-Fred Pilger and daughter, Miss Luel-

Sheriff C. S. Smith of Madison was

will be held in the Taylor building

The Woman's club will meet at the

C. H. Park of 806 South Third street. a Northwestern fireman, is suffering

looking over the progress of the Nor-

Mrs. B. W. Barrett has returned

family, in Butte county. His right toe was badly bruised.

W. J. McNamee, a Northwestern enoack as the result of the shaker slipping when he was engaged in shaking he grates for his fireman at Atkin-

Dr. A. B. Tashjean went to Fort Smith, Ark., where he will give medwho is suffering from a slight attack of pneumonia. Mr. Koenigstein's condition is not serious.

iome three fine mallard ducks.

The clerks Friday night organized members of the clerks' team follows: do this they will be at the end of the Elmer Hight, James Delaney, L. E.

There was a birthday party at the afternoon. A number of the neighbors were invited to share in the joys of the day and help eat the good things that were served by Mrs. Braun. Rev.

Dr. C. F. W. Marquardt of Omaha, for many years a Norfolk business man, is in the city on business and Norfolk, with its paved street, looks good to him and this seems more like home than a big city. He sometimes thinks of coming back.

Archie T. Gow has just completed ainting a number of beautiful scenes for the A. L. Killian display windows. and some of them have already been put on display. Mr. Gow is a student of an art institute in Des Moines, Ia., and has received many compliments for his beautiful work.

City Engineer H. H. Tracy made wo tests of the newly arrived Puringon brick. The first test showed 18 20 percent weight. The test allows the brick a 22 percent weight. The property owners' committee were present at the second test and declared Purington brick.

Railroad mail clerks of Norfolk ave organized a local branch of the National Association of Railroad Mail Clerks and elected H. B. Saunders as pulled me off we shook hands, but it their president; Frank Nelson, vice president, and George Surber secretary and treasurer. The local organi-

held in the federal building. Norfolk mail carriers had but two but two hours left to make my fortyeight hours and I am not allowed to work overtime. Some of the other arriers have not more than three nours' work left them this week." Unusually heavy mail is said to be the cause of the carriers having worked extra long hours.

Considerable interest was manifested in Battle Creek Friday afternoon when a stranger paid in court to Charles Fenske the value of a dog he had killed and the costs of the suit. The stranger on December 1 shot Mr. Fenske's dog, an animal of much value. The stranger was arrested by the officers and a lively legal fight was looked for when a satisfactory adjustment was made by the parties inter

A Bohemian whose name was not known lost one of his legs and the The One Whose Place it Fills, Howother was badly injured when he fell under the Union Pacific passenger under the wheels of the cars.

would have to spend another night in predecessor so much disliked. the jail, he produced a \$10 bill from

There will be no judging of chickens on December 13, the opening day The News: The greater Dallas boostthe fancy poultry association in the series of luncheons at the Lakota ho-Ferdinand Kell is suffering from an Taylor building in this city. The first tel. There were about fifty citizens W. H. Blakeman has purchased the ranging all show coops and marking of Dallas were taken up and discussfine horse owned formerly by P. A. the various breeds of chickens. The ed. Among them was the need of an show rooms will be open every even- electric light and power plant. A ing until 9 o'clock. On the second committee was chosen to take steps home of Mrs. Viele on South Eighth day of the show Judge George A. Heyl to secure one. On the evening of the of Washington, Ill., will begin to pass following day \$5,300 had been sub-Constable A. W. Finkhouse is suf- judgment on the poultry. On the scribed by citizens of the city, and a fering from an injured back as the night of December 14 the members of purchasing committee has already result of falling Friday, when he slip- the association will hold an annual gone to purchase a suitable plant. meeting in the show rooms. Out-of- Since that time over \$2,000 additional town entries are now being received, has been subscribed, articles of in-

"I want to have the privilege of corporation drawn and all necessary ing of North Fifth street from Norfolk will be installed as rapidly as possiavenue to the Union Pacific depot," ble. William Howe of Galesburg. Ill., in says D. Rees, who has about 200 feet | The citizens and committee are charge of the sales force of the Pur- of property along that street. Not inington brick company, is in the city cluding the Union Pacific Railroad institute which will be held here Decompany there are but two other prop- cember 16 and 17. More than \$600 erty owners in the section mentioned has been subscribed in purses and by Mr. Rees. These are the Verges prizes for this event, and it is expect-

by three members of the Burnette as soon as possible. "We would like to have the privilege of paving the R. C. Demmon, a Northwestern street ourselves," said Mr. Rees. "If brakeman, is suffering from a bruised we should obtain this right, we would foot as the result of dropping a heavy hire our own contractor and have the roll of felt roofing on that member. Street paved with concrete of seven inches thickness. This would give the concrete paving a good try-out for sergineer, is suffering from a strained vice on a street on which heavy traffic is carried on."

He Could Box Some Himself.

Councilman E. B. Kauffmann, who known as one of the most interested men in Norfolk in any sport, from cal treatment to Arthur Koenigstein, baseball to boxing, declares he was at one time somewhat of an athlete himself and, in fact, could outbox any man in his town in Iowa where he Norton and Walter Howe were had charge of a bakery shop. He also ucky hunters Friday. Walter, in explains, however, how he was outcompany with Carl Korth, killed sev- boxed by a professor of a "manly art" en rabbits, while Norton, who was at school of Emmetsburg, Ia., who was Spring Branch for rabbits, brought brought to Kauffmann's town just for the purpose of giving him a surprise

"I was, I will admit, too confident." heir baskethall team and it now re- says the councilman. "I had outboxed mains to the militia to line up their all the boys in town and as I underplayers and complete the league. The stand it they were going to make me come down.' A new barber arrived in town one day and I was about the enturies what a gracious providence Seymore, Millard South, Charles Hu-first man he shaved. He lost no time in advising me that he had already heard I was a clever man with the nome of August Braun last Sunday gloves and asked that I be his in structor. I agreed. We had a gymna sium in the loft of a livery stable and my pupil and I were soon stripped to the waist with an unusually large crowd around. My pupil was clumsy. He would insist on leading with his right, but I was patient and so told him all I knew about the advisability of leading with the left. This accomvisiting old friends. He says that plished, I taught him the mysteries of dodging and hard hitting. Soon came to the point and told him, 'Now you try to hit me in the nose.' He tried and he hit. I went to the floor. but I was soon up again. He asked me, 'How was that?' It was a terrible jolt and it felt as if it came from a fighter, but I was not sure so I said. that was all right. Now you try again and try to hit me in the jaw.'

He missed the jaw and hit my sore nose. I went down again, but this time I was positive I was up against it. I got up all right and went after him. He knocked me down again and percent weight and the second test again, but I happened to get in a good one and the minute he struck the ground I got on top of him and commenced pounding. It seemed five minutes, but I afterwards heard it was a themselves well satisfied with the half minute in which my time was taken up pounding Mr. Professor. His fact was in bad shape and so was mine. During my pounding he told me who he was and after the crowd was a joke on both of us."

THE RADIUM WEDDING NOW.

Frenchman and His Wife Celebrate Their Seventieth Anniversary. Paris, Dec. 10 .- The "radium wed-

ding" is the newest thing and perhaps entieth anniversary of marriage. Such a wedding celebration was held recently in Paris by M. and Mme, Ferdinand Dugue. Dugue is the oldest dramatic author in the world. His age is 95 and his wife is 92.

The Dugues were married November 22, 1840. Dugue is in excellent health and has lived so long and written so much that he is not quite certain whether he has turned out fortytwo or forty-three plays. Mme. Dugue is in bed with a broken leg, but is cheerful and happy.

"My bones are too old to mend," she told her guests on the day of the radium wedding, "but that is all the matter with me. It was my own fault that I broke my leg. I fell on the stairs of a railroad station as I was running to catch a train."

CAT PLAYS THE PIANO.

ever, Hated Music. At the home of A. H. Viele there is train at Platte Center Friday night. much concern over the new cat which Mrs. L. W. Schlote and daughter, The man boarded the train at Colum- was taken in by the household. This bus and told a number of passengers cat insists on playing the piano at all in the smoker his home was at Platte hours of the night, and keeps the fam-Center. When that station was ily disturbed when during the wee reached he delayed getting off until hours of the morning it jumps on the the train was in motion. It is believed keyboard of the piano and makes the when getting off he fell backwards air hideous by running up and down the keys. The new cat is not only a H. H. Wakefield of Crookston, Neb. surprise to the family on account of who came to Norfolk Wednesday to its great liking for music, but only a celebrate, paced into the arms of in few months ago the old family cat. toxication and at the same time into which abhorred the tune of the piano. the arms of the police, Saturday morn-died. That cat, when hearing the pithat he had no money. His honor, fit, then run under the house and rehe was assessed, but a search of after the cat's death when the new Mrs. C. R. Reed went to Lincoln Wakefield's clothing did not reveal the one arrived and introduced itself by

Electricity for Dallas. Dallas, S. D., Dec. 10.—Special to

busy preparing for the big farmers' ed that a very large crowd will be in