

THE PLATTE CANAL.

A Great Scheme for Building a Canal Along the Platte River—A Company Organized.

THE STATE SHOULD BUILD IT.

The Feasibility and Great Advantages of Such a Canal Demonstrated—The Kearney Canal, an Object Lesson.

A Great Work Proposed.

Editorial.

The scheme to construct a great canal clear across Nebraska along the Platte river is not a new one. It has been discussed by many, and several efforts have been made to organize for the construction of such a canal. It has been one of the many favorite schemes of Col. W. W. Patterson of Kearney. Several years ago, we heard the Colonel, in his eloquent way, demonstrate the feasibility of constructing such a canal, and dilate upon the immense advantages which such a work would bring to the state.

A new impetus has lately been given to this agitation, and a company of Omaha capitalists has just been formed and incorporated for the purpose of building the canal. It is known as the Omaha Canal Company.

The articles of incorporation of the Omaha Canal and Power company have been filed with the secretary of state. The principal place of business is Omaha and the nature of the business to be transacted is to be the construction and maintenance of canals, water ways and dams and the development of power by water, and the transmission of such power by electricity or otherwise, and to furnish the same to private and municipal corporations and individuals; also to construct, build and maintain irrigating ditches and furnish water therefor, to transport freight by boats or other water craft. The capital stock is \$3,000,000 and the incorporators are H. Kountze, H. T. Clark, B. F. Smith, Frank Murphy, George L. Miller, S. L. Wiley and George E. Barker.

THE FEASIBILITY of constructing such a canal can hardly be questioned. It was demonstrated by the construction, several years ago, of a canal eighteen miles long in Buffalo county, known as the "Kearney canal." The canal begins at or below the level of the Platte, eighteen miles west of Kearney. The Kearney end of the canal is on the bluffs north of the city where several beautiful lakes have been constructed eighty feet above the level of the river. There is enough fall in the canal to give a good current and the water flows the year round. It is well known that, in that part of the state, the Platte becomes entirely dry almost every summer. This at first view would appear to stand in the way of success in constructing such a canal. But it does not. In fact it is a matter of no consequence whatever. Just beneath the surface of the sandy bed is a great sheet of water slowly flowing through the sand and reaching out for miles on each side of the river. This is known as the "underflow." The Kearney canal is so constructed as to utilize this underflow. The result is that the volume of water carried by the canal in the dry season is practically as great as that carried by it in the wet season. All that is necessary for the construction of such a canal is to arrange at its head for catching this underflow, and carrying it out onto the higher ground where the soil rests on a solid clay.

THE ADVANTAGES.

The uses to which such a canal can be put are many and its advantages correspondingly great. First—It could be used for the transportation of heavy freight in vast quantities, whether grain, etc., going out and coal coming in. Freight could be carried far more cheaply than by rail. The canal would furnish competition with the railroads, and force them to reduce rates or lose the carrying trade of the whole Platte Valley. Branches could be constructed along a number of the streams flowing into the Platte, and these advantages could thus be extended to a large part of the state.

Second—The canal would furnish almost unlimited power for the running of mills, factories, electric power and light plants, etc. The utilization of the current for water power purposes need not cause any diminution of the volume of water, for the great fall would make it easy to use the water for power and then turn it back into the canal at a lower level.

Third—All the water that could be spared could be used for irrigation purposes. If the canal were properly constructed with feeders from the Platte at convenient points to replenish its volume, a vast amount of water could be used for irrigation. While the rain fall of the Platte Valley is most years sufficient for the raising of good crops, it requires no argument to prove that crops many fold greater can be produced by irrigation, and that farmers

along the line of the canal would be independent of the seasons.

These advantages would accrue not only to the country and other cities lying along the canal, but to the whole state. The wealth of the state would be vastly increased. Freight rates would be forced down on all lines which would have to compete with canal transportation, and that would have the effect of reducing rates all over the state.

This canal would in fact be the greatest work of internal improvement that could possibly be made.

In view of all these facts the question naturally arises. Why should not the state construct own and operate this canal? Is there a single valid reason why it can not, and should not.

While many advantages might come from the construction of such a great work by a private corporation, many others would not.

Let us see what are some of the disadvantages of having such a canal built by a corporation:

First—The capital for constructing it would doubtless be furnished to a considerable extent by the people living along the line. Counties, precincts and cities would vote bonds to secure it. These bonds would constitute a donation pure and simple. The rest of the capital would be secured by selling the bonds of the company most likely to foreign capitalists. The stock held by the members of the corporation would consist mostly if not wholly of water. If the canal paid large dividends the stock would in time be further watered. Not only the bonds of the company, but the various county and municipal bonds would be held either in the east or in foreign countries, and the interest on them would be a perpetual drain of money from the state.

Second—It would soon centralize a large amount of wealth in the hands of a few men. The state would of course have the right to regulate and control charges for transportation on the canal the same as on railroads. This would bring the canal into politics. And such a powerful corporation would control, rather than be controlled by the state, unless there shall be a great change in Nebraska politics. As a corrupting factor in our politics, as a source of endless contention and struggle, such a corporation is, to say the least, exceedingly undesirable.

Third—The charges for transportation, power, and irrigation privileges, instead of being reduced to cost of service, would be raised just as high as circumstances would permit. The same body would control the railroads, and probably would, gain a controlling interest in the canal. Then instead of its competition reducing freight rates, the rates of canal transportation would be kept up to a level with those charged on the railroads. If this should not happen, a pool or combination would doubtless be formed between the railway and canal corporations to keep up rates and bleed the people. The capital invested in mills, factories, etc., would be at the mercy of a grasping corporation, and the farmers depending on irrigation would be no better off.

The disadvantages of having the canal built by a private corporation would in fact outweigh all its advantages. It is time the people of this country should stop delegating to private corporations rights and powers properly belonging to the public. It is time the people began looking after their own interests.

An agitation should begin at once for the building of this canal by the state of Nebraska. The canal is bound to be built sometime, and the sooner the agitation is begun the sooner will the people see that it is to their interest to build, own and control it.

Interest of the People.

Will the old parties never learn anything? Will they never learn that there is a justifiable unrest among the masses? Will they never learn that the agricultural classes have suffered so much injustice that they mean to hew their way through all opposition to an equitable adjustment of affairs as they exist between them and the monopolies and trusts. The readers of The Farmers Voice know that it has no objection to any party that does its duty to the people. But we insist that there should be a recognition of the unrest of the people, an unrest that has a mountain of injustice to stand upon. That unrest will swell and become more volcanic as the injustice continues. Who four years ago would have supposed that an independent or third party political movement could have carried seven states in 1892, especially when a considerable portion of its last convention was so demagogic that it urged the nomination of J. Q. Gresham, then supposed to be a dyed in the wool Republican, and since has become a Democrat. But this independent movement the People's Party has carried Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming. This makes thirty-five electoral votes. It does not make any difference what our politics are, it is our solemn duty to recognize this solemn remonstrance to the infliction upon the masses of what they regard as, and which are in a large measure, outrageous injustices, which must be reformed either in the old parties or in new ones.

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A MAN'S VIEW.

How He Believes in Bringing up His Children.

A man whose son and daughter are models of behavior as regards their perfect manners, confided to the writer that he had an unfailing system in the bringing up of children that had worked so well with his own that he was trying the same thing with his little granddaughter, and so far with the success that attended his former efforts.

Said he: "Many children are deprived of everything when they are small and surfeited when they grow older. The first glimpses of so much that they have heretofore never seen or tasted bewilders them and they act most awkwardly and are self-conscious and embarrassed. With my children I gave them everything in great quantities at the start. If they liked candy they were given more of it than they could eat, and soon the little piece sufficed.

"With toys it was the same way. Other children would go in a store and want everything. Mine having had so much either asked for nothing or discriminated in their choice.

"Jewelry was never withheld and to-day my daughter is not seen with overloaded hands and gems worn at inappropriate times. On my table was always used the best and it was set in the most formal and elegant manner, therefore, when my children were old enough to go out in society no form could disturb their usual calm or no display appear overwhelming, as it often does to unaccustomed eyes. It is the only way to do. Surfeit them when little and they will not make shows of themselves when older."

"The scheme is all very well if money is no object, but many a parent has methods equally successful that are not quite so expensive, but, 'Chacun a son goule.'

A CENTURY IN ONE HOME.

"Uncle Josey" Field, Who Cast His First Vote in 1817.

"Uncle Josey" Field of Middletown, N. J., has reached the age of 100 years. Joseph Field was born near where he now lives, and has never lived elsewhere. He has always been a farmer, and still spends much of his time looking after farm work. His parents came from Long Island in 1760, and in 1763 bought a large tract of land, part of which is the farm now worked by Mr. Field. He was a bachelor until he was 72 years old, when he married Eretta Headden, a neighbor's daughter. Mrs. Field bore three children within a few years. When the last one was a baby the mother died. Two of the children were girls and one a boy. The youngest girl was married to William J. Whiting, and she has a child. On his birthday Mr. Field and his grandchildren were photographed together—one 100 years old, the other 1 year. Mr. Field's other two children live with him and the boy, Joseph Field, jr., has charge of the farm. Mr. Field cast his first vote in 1817 for the whig candidate. He has been a Republican for years, but has never taken any active part in politics. He looks to be 75 or 80 years of age. He has always worked hard and has been regular in his habits. He has accumulated a fortune and owns a large farm of the best sort.

Writing With the Left Hand.

The number of men who can write legibly with the left hand is very small in this country, where the fact of being ambidextrous is not appreciated at its full worth. Sir Edwin Arnold remarked while in St. Louis that in Japan every child is taught to write with either and both hands, and he hinted that this was not the only evidence of sound common sense met with while in the kingdom of the Mikado. I learned to write with my left hand some years ago, in consequence of the impression created in my mind by reading the arguments of Charles Reade on the subject, and now I change my pen from hand to hand on the first impression of weariness."

Fancy Names of the Pansy.

Though there are lovelier and more magnificent flowers than it, yet the pansy may be regarded as the general favorite. It is for this reason, perhaps, that it has so many popular names. By some it has been called "heart's-ease," but this title rightly belongs to the wallflower, because of its supposed virtue as a cordial. There is no doubt, however, that in various times and places the pansy has been styled by the following curious budget of epithets: "Herb Trinity" (from its three colors), "Love-and-Idle," "Kiss-me-ere-I-rise," "Jump-up-and-kiss-me," "Three-faces-under-a-hood."

When the Lawyer Got Through. Bilkins—Don't you get Dr. Bigfee. I wouldn't have him to doctor a dog. Wilkins—Dr. Bigfee? Why, he's famous.

"He doesn't know anything. He's a perfect ignoramus. He doesn't know a stomach from a brain. He doesn't know a sick baby from a kicking-mule."

"Why, he's a great medical expert. He is called in all the famous cases in court."

"Yes, and I heard him cross-examined and puzzled by a criminal lawyer."

What He Thought.

Mrs. Williamson—Don't let me hear of your walking on the railroad track again. Suppose a train should come along and cut your legs off; then what do you think you'd do?
Maurice—I think I'd have a pretty hard time getting home.

WANTED.

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THE PENITENT SOUL.

In the darkness and silence of night. 'Midst the mingled starlight and gloom, I saw the pure flame of a light Clear and strong, as sunshine at noon.

And across the dark azure vault, Written in letters of pure silver and gold, 'Purge thy soul of thy own cherished faults Repent ye, be manly, be bold."

And the light burned bright thro' the night, And a soul touched with pathos and pain Passed from shadow out into light, And will ne'er dwell in darkness again.

For a love that is stronger than earth friend's And a friendship far stronger than man's, Swept away the thin veil of illusion Helped a mortal his own soul to scan.

And there in the presence of the Highest, 'Neath the rays of an infinite love, A soul mounted up to the heights With a flight strong and free as a dove.

The shadows fall over the landscape, But the sunlight shall chase them away, And a soul that has turned from its error, May walk in a white light every day.

—M. W. Wilkins.

Hold Your Ground.

There is a uniform sentiment pervading the whole army of industrial reformers that this fight for industrial rearrangement must go on after election as well as before it and must continue until the cause is won. This is well. "In time of peace prepare for war" is as applicable to peaceful politics as it is to bloody strife. A convention should be called in every state when the turmoil of the present is past, and a plan of campaign marked out, and then rigidly followed. And whatever it is must be a campaign of education of real, thorough education, in which the reform newspapers and the reform pamphlet and novel should be made to play a leading part. And it can all be so without special sacrifice to the engaged, if they will it so. The people can be induced to pay for their own education by going about the matter of making them do so in an intelligent way. Many do that now directly, but those that cannot be induced to do it in this way can be induced to do it indirectly—the same as they carry burdens for the oppressor now without knowing it. They must be led to unload those burdens after the same manner.

There is a plan in contemplation to propose towards this end. We hope to see it formulated immediately. It will give us at least a powerful press to invade the homes of those now oblivious to reform principles. The people must first know before they can be made to feel, and they must feel before they can be expected to act. The reform press must be the pioneer in the work. It must be as it has been in the past, only much more so, the eyes ears and tongue of the crusade. And the reform papers must be multiplied many fold. It can be done. The plutocratic press is now the bane of reform. It must be made to give way to a press of principles and truth.—*Examiner, Hartford, Conn.*

Will There Be a Panic?

Let us see what the pointers are:

1. It is a fact that every great bank panic has occurred the year following a presidential election.
2. It is a fact that once in about seven years we have a small panic; and once in about twenty years a big one.
3. It is a fact that there is a scarcity of money and that private debts and bank credits are piling up mountain high.
4. It is a fact that the gold-bugs are triumphantly giving the thumb-screws of contraction another turn.
5. It is a fact that Grover Cleveland is going to represent Wall street in its opposition to any relief to the people—even to the extent of opposing free silver.
6. It is a fact that all business is practically being done on credit instead of for cash.
7. It is a fact that things are decidedly "shaky" in all lines and sections of the commercial world.
8. It is a fact that the grab-balls are about ready for another move on the financial chess board in the great game of confiscating the accumulations of the little fish through sheriff and mortgage sales.

Everything points in the direction of a "panic" within the next ten months.—*Sentinel.*

A Real Man This Time.

Daughter (delightedly)—And did you really consent?
Father—Consent? My stars! I had to. The man demanded your hand like a highwayman holding up a train. Consent! My goodness gracious! I believe, from the way he looked and acted, he would have knocked me flat if I hadn't.

Daughter—Oh, it can't be. You must have been dreaming. Why, when he proposed to me he trembled so he could hardly speak, and he looked so haggard and weak I had to hurry up and say 'yes' to keep him from fainting.

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