

TOPICS FOR CHILD LABOR DAY

State Superintendent Gives a Few Subjects Suitable for Occasion.— Date January 24.

"January 24 will be observed throughout the country as child labor day, as has been the custom for the past eleven years," says State Superintendent A. O. Thomas in a letter to superintendents of public schools. While this is not so vital a question in Nebraska as in the east and south, our interest should be none the less active because we are remote from the scenes of greatest need.

"With the number of special days already on the list taking time from the regular program, it does not seem advisable to devote much time to this subject, but we are suggesting that the matter be presented during the opening exercises of the schools of the state on January 24. Your own judgment will determine what particular expedient will best suit your school. The following topics are offered by the state superintendent:

Patriotic songs, composition — ("Children at Labor"; debate — ("Should congress enact a law forbidding the interstate shipment of child-made goods?"); a talk on what child labor means to our country. The day suggests to us the following in addition: The value of an education, and the increased earning power education brings. The story of sweat shops in cities."

The supreme court of Nebraska has sustained the refusal of the state banking board to grant a charter to a savings bank when it appears that the proposed bank is to be conducted in the same room, or in a room immediately adjacent to a room occupied by a national bank, and the officers and directors of the two banks will be substantially the same persons. The court says the state banking law vests the banking board with discretionary powers to refuse a charter in such cases. The board had declined to permit the First National of Clark to start a savings bank in its rooms. The bank obtained a writ of mandamus on the Lancaster county district court against the board. The board appealed to the supreme court and the judgment is reversed. While the appeal was still pending the national bank was converted into a state bank. The decision of the court is silent on what is to be done with five national banks which are now operating state savings banks. The rule of the banking board applies only to bank charters issued in the future. The court says the rule is a reasonable and salutary one and its action will not be disturbed. The state board said the rule was necessary to prevent transfer of funds from one bank to another and to protect the depositors' granty fund, \$54,000 of which was lost by the failure of a national bank at Superior that in turn caused the failure of a state bank.

State Food Commissioner Harman has lodged an informal complaint with the state railway commission alleging that the Missouri Pacific railroad company is tearing mileage out of interchangeable mileage books at the rate of 2 1/2 cents a mile. He says he has been notified by railroad companies that the price of interchangeable mileage books, good within Nebraska and also good for interstate passenger fare, has been raised from \$40 to \$50. It is alleged this is \$2 higher than the rate fixed by the interstate commerce commission.

By selling \$347,000 of Mississippi 4 per cent state bonds, and reinvesting in 5 per cent municipal and school district securities of Nebraska, the state will profit to the extent of about \$2,000. This represents the difference in interest rates were the Mississippi bonds allowed to mature. State Treasurer Hall has made a deal with the Harris Trust and Savings bank of Chicago. Beginning with the first of 1916 the state of Nebraska will own but \$1,487,000 of bonds of other commonwealths.

Boys and girls wishing to enter the egg laying contest to be conducted by the Extension Service of the College of Agriculture have but until January 15 in which to make application. Any Nebraska boy or girl under 18 years of age and over 10 may join and receive the monthly instruction sheets without cost. The object of the egg-laying contest will be to get the most eggs from each hen of a flock. Egg records begin February 1 and end June 1.

Two more firms have refused to pay inspection fees to the state oil inspector, the Marshall Oil company of Lincoln and the E. & L. company of Fairbury. As a result the department will be badly crippled if other firms follow the lead of those already taking action.

The federal census of 1910 lists Nebraska as the twenty-ninth state in the union as to population, with an estimated population for 1914 of 1,245,873, yet one hat factory makes all the "Nebraska-made" hats worn by Nebraskans. The total capital invested in this Nebraska hat factory is \$20,000. Sixteen people are employed, five of whom are females. Total value of stock used \$30,000. Value of production, \$55,000. Total paid in wages to employees for the year, \$11,400. Ninety per cent of the production of this factory was sold in Nebraska.

And now the trusty barnyard fowl has been struck by the ravages of tuberculosis, it having developed that the chickens which have been herded with the cattle and hogs of Joe G. Roth, near Millford, which lately showed decided symptoms of that disease and were sent to the slaughter, are also affected with the disease. According to State Veterinarian Alderson, eggs produced by these fowls will not be dangerous to eat but the flesh of chickens will be affected the same as any other animal struck with the disease.

GREAT RECLAMATION PROJECT

IN the valley of the Rio Grande river, on the border between the United States and Mexico, engineers of the United States have almost finished the greatest reclamation project ever attempted. At a cost of \$10,000,000 the Elephant Butte dam in New Mexico, which will turn 180 square miles of almost worthless desert into fertile farms, has been constructed. For three years from the time the water was turned into the gigantic reservoir, the entire flow of the Rio Grande will be required to fill it. This artificial lake is forty miles long and from three to six miles wide. It will hold 650,000,000 gallons, or enough to cover 2,000,000 acres of land with water to a depth of one foot.

The work on the dam was started in the spring of 1911, and more than one thousand workmen have been employed on the construction ever since that time. When the project is finally completed 110,000 acres of land in New Mexico, 45,000 acres in Texas and 25,000 acres in old Mexico will be irrigated. Five hundred and fifty thousand cubic yards of solid masonry will have been put in place. This masonry forms a mass, which, if placed on a tract of land of the dimensions of an ordinary city block, would cover the tract to a height equal to that of a 13 story building. This masonry has been placed at the rate of 1,225 cubic yards daily.

All the gates of the dam have been put in place and the water in the reservoir stands at 37 feet above the old river bed. When it is filled it will have an average depth of approximately 66 feet.

The Elephant Butte dam project far surpasses in magnitude the Assuan dam on the Nile in Egypt, which has in the past been regarded as the climax of possibilities in irrigation. As a matter of actual figures, the Nile dam holds only half as much water as will be contained back of Elephant Butte dam.

The dam itself is 1,200 feet long and will be 304 feet high at the highest point. A permanent roadway 16 feet high is being constructed on top. The dam gradually widens to the base, forming a concrete foundation, against which the raging torrents from the streams of the Rocky mountains will beat for centuries without effect.

In the construction of the reservoir it was necessary to wipe out three small towns; and although the population was not large, the property values, which were made good by the government, represented in the aggregate a considerable sum. Another town sprang up for the army of workmen. A railroad 16 miles long was built to haul material to the place where the dam was erected. In fact, the preliminary work was not a small part of the undertaking. Plans for the manufacture of cement, buildings for the housing of the workmen, a store, power station, transmission lines and a great embankment at a gap in the hills northwest of the dam proper had to be provided.

Construction of main flumes, culverts, excavation in the river bed and the building of roads were among the preliminary tasks presented to the engineers. The cost, with the exception of \$1,000,000, will eventually be paid back into the government reclamation fund by land owners who will benefit by the dam, and will again be used by the government for reclamation work in some other section of the country.

The \$1,000,000 was appropriated outright and is being used for that portion of the work which will benefit farmers in old Mexico. The appropriation was made to furnish this water in settlement of several million dollars in claims which the Mexican government had presented to the United States for damages to land on the Mexican side, as a result of the water from the river being used in small irrigation projects on the American side, thus robbing Mexican farmers of water which naturally would have gone to them.

Something of what is to be expected as a result of the work is demonstrated by the small tracts that have been irrigated by private irrigation systems. The great dam will connect two division dams already completed. One of these, at Leaning, waters 25,000 acres in what is known as the rich Mesilla valley. It has been wonderfully productive. Farmers in this section have received a profit of \$600 an acre from truck in a single year. At other points along the Rio Grande, in both Texas and New Mexico, small dams have brought tracts of land under irrigation and made it possible to raise bounteous crops.

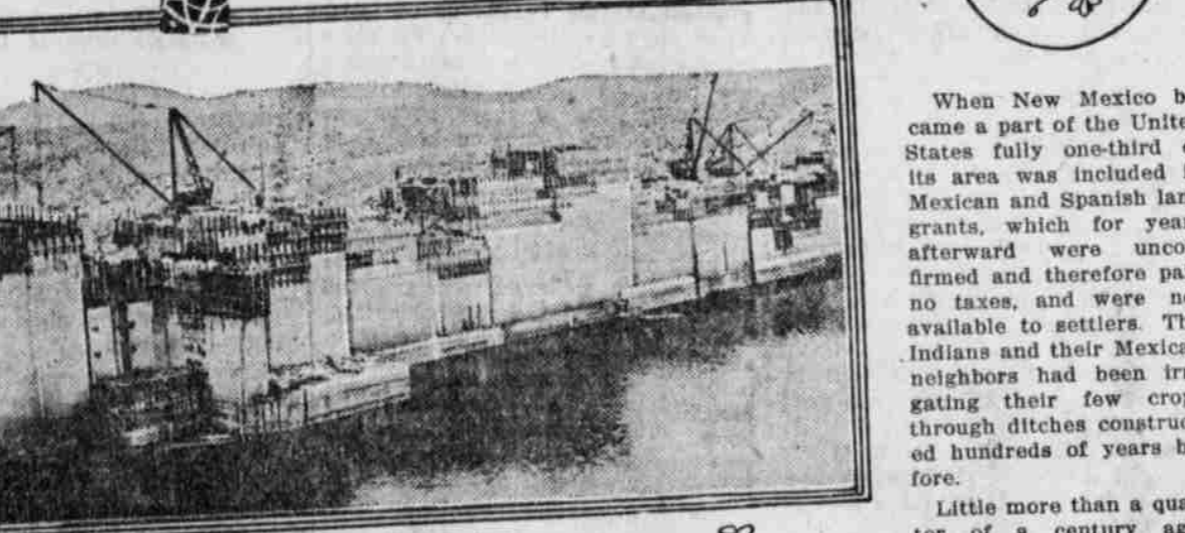
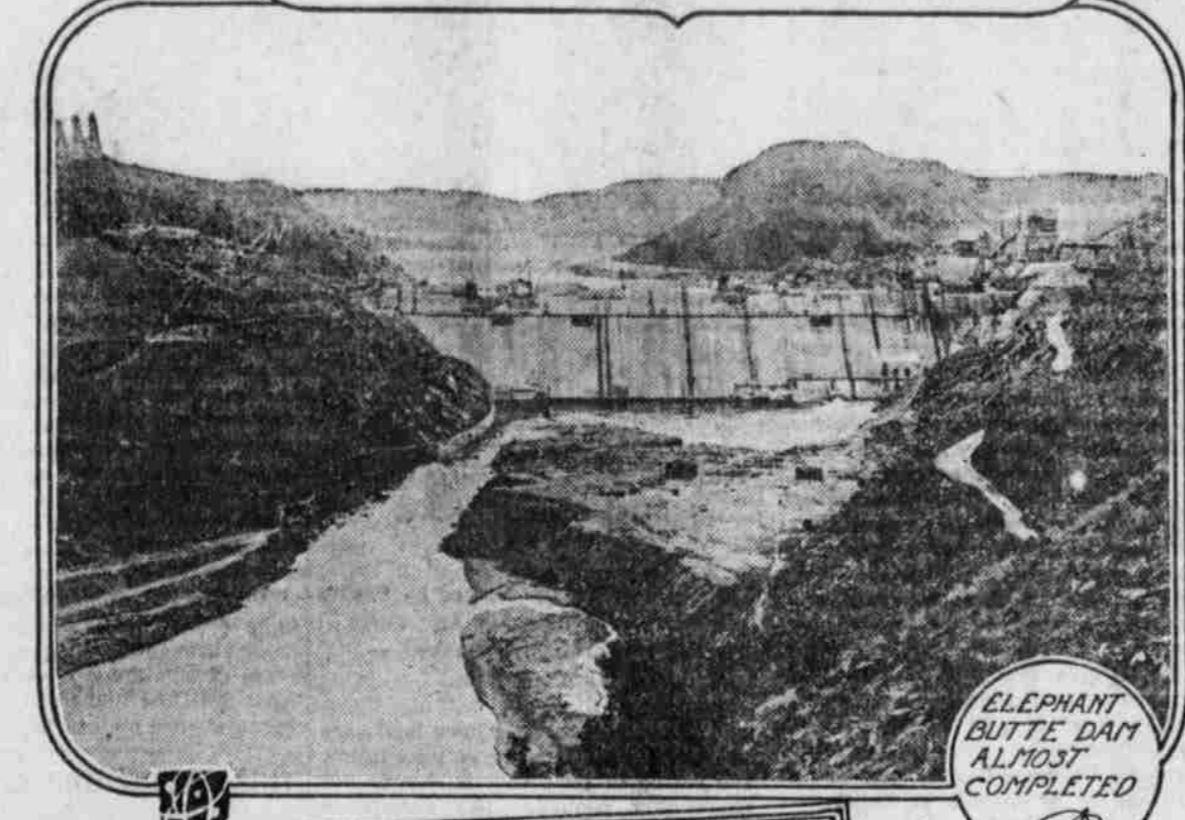
The same fertility will be found on the 155,000 acres around the new dam in New Mexico and Texas. Great valleys which have hitherto produced only during the infrequent years that nature was kind enough to send more than the average rainfall, will be reached by the water from the irrigation canals and large yields will be assured.

The statement that the reservoir will hold three years' flow of the Rio Grande river shows the greatness of the project. The Rio Grande is one of the longest rivers in the United States. It forms far up in Colorado and is fed by rivers and streams extending much farther to the north. It flows through a portion of Colorado, across New Mexico and forms the border between Texas and Mexico, finally reaching the Gulf.

Extensive irrigation from the river without the aid of a great dam and reservoir is impossible, because of the rapidity with which the stream changes from a raging torrent to a bed of dry sand.

With the completion of the dam and other irrigation projects which will follow a great future for New Mexico is assured. New Mexico lies in the heart of the arid section of America. She has 122,460 square miles of broad plains, rugged mountains, sage brush deserts; greater in extent than all New England. With New York and New

U.S. GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS HAVE JUST FINISHED DAM THAT WILL TURN 180 SQUARE MILES OF DESERT INTO FERTILE FARMS IN SOUTHWEST.



SHOWING THE IMMENSITY OF THE WORK

Jersey thrown in, but with a population of only about 500,000. So many generations ago that no records are left, a mighty civilization is said to have flourished in this territory. When Coronado sailed up the Rio Grande, Indians were leading the waters of the river over their fields and blossoming gardens. But with the coming of civilization, led by the Spaniards, who sought only gold, the ancient irrigation system was abandoned, and for many generations this land which will now be made fertile was left idle.

A Military Surgeon's Experience in Berlin

By PROF. CARL LUDWIG SCHLEICH.

They who return from the field of battle are changed men, with a peculiar expression of the face which has become characteristic of those who are fighting for their country. Though there is a uniformity of desire to serve the fatherland further after a speedy recovery as may be possible, on the features of all these members of the giant organism lies the stamp of the horrors of war which they have witnessed, and this expression is in direct relation to the culture of the individual.

Notwithstanding their iron purpose to return when their injuries shall have healed, these fighters are all, psychologically speaking, not quite intact. A tragic look in the deep-set eyes, an almost stony rigidity of face are characteristic, especially of the officers who come under observation. It seems as if all the horrors of conflict had impressed themselves upon the vision and had given an expression first of astonishment at the enormities of destruction witnessed. Then gradually as the eyes became weary and accustomed to the sights of slaughter they mirrored the full picture of the horrible.

This condition is followed by one of uncanny calm and fixity of expression, which, viselike, retains its demonic hold upon the face, causing the eyes to sink deeper into the head, to become dimmed and the lower lid marked with the shadow and weariness within. The eyes lie deep in their bony sockets as in those suffering from insomnia or those who have been deeply touched by life's miseries. This expression of the face we find even where the individual returns to his home uninjured.

Under solicitous care the rigidity and look of distress disappear in the course of a few weeks, but on their arrival from the field these men are all slightly changed—as though they had learned to shudder and no longer knew the unrestrained joyous laughter. They have seen the Gorgon's head. This changed expression of the face, this deadly serious look, this aging of the features in a short period of time is well known to relatives and friends. It is the expression of a condition which the technical physician characterizes as chronic shock of the sympathetic system, expressed particularly in the arteries.

The effect of this is marked not alone on the pulse, but also on the heart itself. Under the constant impulse of its contracting muscle the heart becomes dilated and hypertrophied. This physical condition results in that psychic unrest

FRANCE AT WAR IN TUNIS.

A small war which France is carrying on, but of which little is heard, is being waged in Tunis. The conflict consists chiefly of engagements with vast robber bands crossing the frontier from Tripoli, which besides plundering the country, cut the telegraph wires and attack provision convoys to the French posts. Important fighting of this kind took place in the Dehabit region from September 25 to October 9, during which time the French garrison of 200 men kept a large number of robbers at bay until relief arrived.

Detachable cabins for aeroplanes, which can be put on machines to protect pilots and passengers when desired, have been invented in France.

Several advantages are claimed for a spring hat and coat hook that closes flush with the wall to which it is fastened when idle.

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