

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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"THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE"



George Jackson, Speaker of the Nebraska House of Representatives, 1915-1917

Above is shown the likeness of one of the most popular legisla-
tors in the state of Nebraska—George Jackson, speaker of the Nebrask-
a House of Representatives for the past two terms. Speaker Jack-
son's home is at Nelson in Nuckolls county. So satisfactorily did
he fill the difficult position of speaker in the 1915 session that he was
re-elected to the place again for the term just closed.

The speaker was given a great deal of the credits for the success-
ful termination of the fight in the legislature this year over the pro-
hibition bill. He steadfastly refused to fix a date for adjournment
until after this bill had been passed. Never once during his term of
office as speaker were his rulings appealed from and he has a record
that he can well be proud of. He is the logical man for the state
senate from his senatorial district for the 1919 session. We hope to
see him there.

The Herald has published during the past few months a number
of poems and songs written by speaker Jackson. He has a prolific
pen and the legislature quartet, which sang his novel songs, set to
old time tunes, was in constant demand during the past session. His
poems and songs were published recently in book form—the edition
being exhausted before the demand was filled for them.

CONSERVING THE FOOD SUPPLIES

Scarcely any other subject is receiving the amount of attention
from the various departments of government that is being given to
increasing food supplies, and preventing waste.

Some alarmists have raised the cry that we are to have a famine
in the United States within the next year. We think not, but with-
out doubt food prices will continue high. Every producer of food
supplies should make a strong effort to increase his production this
year, for two reasons: First, it will be profitable to him to do so; and,
in the second place, it is a patriotic duty.

A speedy ending of the war does not depend altogether upon the
number of men that can be secured, or the amount of ammunition and
war equipment that can be supplied, but very largely upon food sup-
plies. If America will feed the English and French armies well and
will do her best in supplying them with war material, those armies
will soon bring victory to the allies, even though no American boys
join their ranks on European soil.

Many suggestions and much good advice has been sent out from
the agricultural departments of the state and the nation. Bulletin
No. 226 sent out by the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture
may be secured free of charge. It contains much interesting and
valuable information.

The different departments of government at Washington are
sending to the press of the country much valuable information re-
garding the importance of increasing and conserving the food supply
of the country. This is especially true of the department of the in-
terior. It is not possible for the ordinary paper to publish all of this
valuable matter. Put into the most condensed form it amounts to
this: Produce all you possibly can this year; waste nothing.

PLEASURES OF NEWSPAPER WORK

"Once a newspaperman always a newspaperman" is an old say-
ing that is right nine times out of ten. There's something about the
newspaper game that fascinates and attracts those who have once
dwelt long enough within the smell of printer's ink or the sound of
the clank, clank, clank of the busy job press and the rumble of the
big newspaper press turning out the news of the day for the hun-
dreds of readers who look with eagerness for their paper week after
week, to fall under the spell.

After nearly four months spent at Lincoln as a member of the
state legislature it gladdens our heart to be back once more at our
desk in the busy Herald office, to see the faces of friends and greet
them as before, and to know that we are again in the harness.

During the coming months we will from time to time relate to
our readers some of the things which we learned while at Lincoln
and tell them of the things which concern them at our capitol. Were
we as brilliant as that sturdy statesman, Lieutenant Governor Edgar
Howard, editor of the Columbus Telegram, we might make our recit-
al of happenings more interesting. But we shall do our best and tell
readers of the Herald in our own way of what we saw and learned
during the busy session just closed.

But, speaking of the pleasures and griefs of newspaper work,
J. E. McNamara recently passed his fortieth year as publisher of the
Times at Castana, Iowa. In writing of this fact and of the experi-
ences of an editor, he said in a recent issue of his paper:

"It is forty years since the editor of the Times began his newspaper
experience. He has worked as devil—works a little in that capacity yet—
compositor, reporter, correspondent, editor, make-up man, pressman, paper
cutter—an old bone-handled knife and straight edge—folder, mailer and
job printer. Now he calls those forty years some experience. He was
never closed out by the sheriff and never had a controversy with his credi-
tors. He really ought to know something about the newspaper game."

"But every once in a while he gets a jolt from some one who knows
how a newspaper should be run and who has a heartfelt desire to set him
right. We fear it can't be accomplished. Those forty years have done
their work, and while it is never too late to mend, it is sometimes too late
to mend. He doesn't grow stubborn, but just 'kind o' damn the torpedoes'
and takes his chances."

"So he goes along marrying people, burying people, telling the story
of the days in the best manner his financial and mechanical equipment will
afford. Sometimes he is filled with joy over spoken appreciation of his
work, sometimes keenly hurt when his best lies buried in the files unnoticed
and unnoted."

"The comfort and grief in printing a country newspaper about balance;
financially the balance is at rare intervals. Theoretically the editor can say
what he pleases, go where he pleases and do what he pleases; but practi-
cally, he never does. Many people are surprised if he prospers, none are as-
tonished if he fails, and yet will wonder what became of the outrageous
profits he made on advertising and job work and the rake-off he got for
having personal political convictions."

"But it all goes with the game, and the game is worth it, win or lose.
So far the books have balanced. In another forty years our personal ac-
count will have been closed, and if the great Ledger in the unerring care of
God's accountant shows no greater results than a balance, we shall consider
it great reward for forty years of newspaper service."

ALL EYES TOWARDS WESTERN NEBRASKA

The eyes of the middle west are turning towards Western Nebr-
aska. While Kansas, Iowa and eastern Nebraska are wondering
what to plant in the elds that were planted to fall wheat, which prom-
ises to be almost a total failure in some places, and while they are
lacking in sufficient moisture for the growing and newly planted
crops, western Nebraska is facing the most prosperous season in its
history. The heavy rains and snowfall of recent weeks have filled
the ground with moisture enough to give the crops a vigorous start
and carry them all along towards maturity.

The offer of the Burlington railroad to allow free use of its right
of way for gardens has met with an instant response from many em-
ployes. Travelers along tis railroad's right of way during the com-
ing summer will have their appetites whetted by the sight of miles of
delicious looking beds of spinach, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, car-
rots, beets, onions, lettuce, turnips and peas.

In view of the present high price of vegetables and the fact that
Nebraska is now a dry state the following story regarding a happen-
ing in Omaha one day last week may be rather timely: A man
walked into Tom Dennison's headquarters, the Budweiser saloon on
Douglas street, and asked the bartender for a drink of whiskey. In
payment for the drink he laid on the bar a large Irish potato. The
bartender took the potato and gave him back sixty cents in change.
Shortly afterwards another man came in, asked for a drink of whis-
key and laid a large round onion on the bar. The bartender took
the onion, giving back the potato and eighty cents in change. A few
minutes later another thirsty one came in, took a drink and laid on the
bar in payment therefore a fine looking head of cabbage. The bar-
tender took the cabbage, giving back the onion and \$1.75 in change.

SUPPLY OF FOOD WILL WIN WAR

Gifford Pinchot, one of America's leading citizens, is taking an
active part in urging a sufficient production of food to enable the
allies to win the world war. The Herald has just received the fol-
lowing letter from Mr. Pinchot, written by him under date of April
26th:

Dear Mr. Thomas:

In this great time, when every citizen must do his part, the president
has made his chief appeal to the men who live on the land. He is right in
doing so, for the safety of our country just now is in the hands of our farm-
ers. What I mean is not merely our safety and the safety of our allies in
the matter of food. I mean that the safety of the United States against
foreign invasion hangs on the decision of the farmers of the forty-eight
states.

The two great weapons in this war are arms and starvation. The war
against German arms will be won or lost in France—the war against star-
vation will be won or lost in America. The Kaiser cannot whip the French
and English armies and the English navy while England has food. But it
is still possible that the German submarines may be able to keep food
enough from reaching England to starve her into submission.

If the submarines win, the first item in the Kaiser's terms of peace will
be the English fleet. With the English fleet in his possession, the Kaiser
will be master of the world.

What will happen to us then? Every man who stops to think knows
the answer. We shall have money, food, labor, land—everything that is
desirable in the world except the power to protect what we have. Experts
estimate that it will take us nine months to get ready to meet a German
army of even 150,000 men, with modern artillery. Under such circum-
stances, would the Germans treat us better than they have already treated
Belgium and France?

Even if the armies of our Allies should crush the German military
power this summer, before the shortage of food can reach the point of want,
the world would still need vast quantities of American food. But if they
do not, only one course can make us safe, and that is to grow food enough
on our farms for ourselves and our Allies, and to put ships enough on
the sea to carry the food, in spite of the submarines, to the men who are fight-
ing our fight.

If the war lasts beyond this summer, it will be the American farmer
who will win or lose the war, who will overcome militarism and autocracy,
or allow them to spread and control the world, ourselves included.

This is no fanciful picture, but sober fact. Many a man will make
light of it until he comes to think it over, but I venture to say that few will
treat it lightly after careful thought. It is no more impossible than the
great war itself appeared to be, only a few days before it began.

It is true that we can greatly increase the available food supply out
of grain now used in making liquors, and by reducing household waste. But
when these two things are done, and done thoroughly, they will not be
enough. The final decision will still rest in the hands of the men who
raise our food in the first place.

The clear duty of the nation is to guarantee the farmers a fair price
for their crops when grown, and a reasonable supply of labor at harvest.
The clear duty of the farmer is to raise food enough to win this war for
democracy against Kaiserism.

No such responsibility has ever rested on any class of men since the
world began as rests today on the farmers of America.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) GIFFORD PINCHOT.

The city government of Chicago is again Democratic. On April
3rd the city chose a Democratic treasurer and a Democratic clerk,
the only general officers over whose election there was a contest. The
Democrats also made a gain in the number of aldermen. The total
Democratic Majority was about 40,000.

The twelve federal land banks are in the hands of practical
farm loan men. The establishment of a flat rate for farm loans of
five per cent over the United States is an event which will be regard-
ed by all of the most importance.

The board is endeavoring to standardize these loans on the basis
of a 36-year term. With the interest rate at 5 per cent to be paid
annually as an amortization charge, the whole loan will be paid off
in 36 annual payments and any farmer who wishes to pay before the
maturity of the loan can do so in whole or in part at any interest
date after the loan has run five years. This amortization feature in
the law is very popular with the farmers who have studied it in all
parts of the country, and wherever the interest rate has been high
the activity among the farmers is intense. All of the banks are now
provided with a small force of appraisers and others are being added
to the force day by day. The appraisers re men appointed by the
Federal Farm Loan Board who will visit farms and make official
Government appraisal as to value. The board takes the appointment
of these men very seriously and believing as it does that the whole
system would break down in disaster if incompetent men were ap-
pointed, it is looking for, finding and appointing good hard-headed
practical safe men who will do justice by the farmers and will protect
investments at the same time. These men are being appointed solely
on their merits and no Democrat who believes in the welfare of
either his party or his country would think of the board pursuing
any other policy.

If there is any Democrat who questions the wisdom of the action
of President Wilson let him reflect upon the probability of what An-
drew Jackson would have done in similar circumstances.

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