

NEBRASKA AT FIFTY YEARS OF AGE

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a feast to celebrate the anniversary of a divorce.

"So we celebrate a success; we are not here to register a failure. Just as we celebrate the birth and observe the date of a death. Nebraska concealed its possibilities from the superficial and the indolent. It became the land of opportunities to the diligent investigator. Fifty years is the span of a human's productive activity. England's greatest laureate sang, 'Better 50 years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay.' In view of the barbarism into which Europe has relapsed, we might paraphrase it by saying, 'Better 50 years of Nebraska than a cycle of anywhere else on earth.'

Important Facts and Figures.

"To tell the story of Nebraska from its humble origin to its present achievement has taken the broad genius of Morton to plan and many others to gather and present in three great volumes the story of Nebraska's marvelous course and recount the leading facts of its men and women.

"Nebraska—a child of the War for the Union—did more than its full share. As a territory one out of every three citizens served in the Union army. In the Spanish-American war it contributed 50 per cent more than its quota. In the Mexican expedition Nebraska met in full the government's demands. And in the great world war in which we are now engaged every appeal of the nation is met with that promptness for which Nebraska has always been noted in meeting her obligations for money and men.

"Fifty years ago nine-tenths of Nebraska's people lived in the eastern one-fifth of the state. Today 1,271,000 souls fairly distributed from west to east in general comfort and happiness reside Fifty years ago Omaha, Nebraska's metropolis, then as now, had 16,083 people, while now that American gateway to the northwest numbers 200,000 souls.

"Fifty years ago there was no completed railway in Nebraska. Now five great continental systems traverse Nebraska, carrying in comfort and safety passengers through, in, and out of Nebraska. Then there were under cultivation in Nebraska not more than 850,000 acres, now there are in meadow and annually turned by the plow more than 24,382,000 acres.

"Fifty years ago the money in Nebraska banks was negligible, now \$342,592,529. It had more buffalo then than cattle. At that time there were few churches. Today, from humble chapels of the west to the great cathedrals of the metropolis and capital, every Sabbath 350,000 men and women of God lift their voices in prayer and song to the Great Father of us all. There were then no colleges and few schools. Today Nebraska has three great universities, wherein are taught the science of the ages, the culture of France and Italy, the law of Britain, and the language of the ancient Greek and Roman. Moreover, young men and women are prepared for the learned professions and practical vocations. There are numerous colleges where competent instructors train young men and women for learned professions, practical vocations, the art of war, and the making of homes. In every city and village are high schools advanced as far as the academy and colleges of 50 years ago. These render the youth liberal education. But more important still is the country school, where neighbors' children are being gathered under the care of some good young Nebraskan to conduct them through the basic elements of learning to either fit them to meet the ordinary problems of life or lay the foundation for broader learning, wider usefulness, and greater capacity for enjoyment of the mental substantial and luxuries the diligence and the genius of all the ages have created and gathered.

"The success of this system counts for our grade among the states in percentage of illiteracy. In 1870 it was 5.5 per cent, and in 1910, 3 per cent. From a very modest rank at admission we reached the rank of first at the end of the century. To sustain our educational system we have 1,886,363 acres of Nebraska land. Cash or gilt-edged bonds in our strong box \$9,060,580. A Massachusetts member of congress in a speech referred to the old commonwealth which looks back upon three centuries of history as a great educational center and a great creditor state. I was able to state in return, for his enlightenment, that for four decades Nebraska has had a lower percentage of illiteracy than Massachusetts. More than that, our literacy had been raised to some extent upon the interest paid by Massachusetts to our Nebraska school fund for the money she borrowed. At that time the Old Bay State owed Nebraska \$850,000, payment of which was secured by a lien upon all the old commonwealth, including the Berkshire Hills, Faneuil Hall, Bunker Hill Monument, and Plymouth Rock.

"Upon assuming our place among the states our per capita wealth was small indeed; now our wealth for every Nebraskan equals \$3,110.

Sources of Our Wealth.
"If by reason of our soil, climate, rainfall, together with our lack of minerals, power, and forest wealth, we are given the role of exclusive agriculture, our present station shows us living up to our high opportunity and calling. Corn is our cereal king. It is the one great cereal planted and grown upon the square. It is a sustaining food for man and beast. When wheat failed, barley was scarce, and rye did not crop, it furnished food for the nation and was the source of 'meal and meat.' It is the one important grain

grown by the original owners of America. Its silver plume waved here before the helmet of the Florentine glistened on the Western Continent. Its breastplate of gold preceded the discovery of California nuggets. It has contributed more to northwestern thrift and southern hospitality than any other product of American soil.

"Wheat, the most universal of all our cereals, time tried, century tested, it has followed and sustained the course of empire from the cradle of the race through peace and war, the rise and fall of dynasties, and the suppression of kingdoms by republics, until the globe has been girdled. But never has this source of life's staff reached that perfection of nourishment and that satisfaction of palate that is yearly attained under our June rains and early July sun in the fields of Nebraska.

"Then, too, is that miracle of the modern world—alfalfa—fair to the vision and susceptible to growth, so surcharged with nutriment for man and beast, so resistant to heat and cold, flood and drouth, such a marvelous complement for corn, that from them come the ruby ham, the marble beef, and rainbow bacon by which Nebraska, on the well-supplied farmer's board, in the metropolis cafes of the world's capitals, and even in the trenches of European warriors, has become truly famous. Moreover, out of it has come the butter and cream, rich, palatable, and wholesome. These come in ever-increasing and converging streams from every farm to the great manufacturing centers until they reach Omaha, our metropolis, the greatest butter producing market in the world.

"In Nebraska the cow and the hen produce much of our wealth, but their greatest value lies largely in the fact that they have reduced our farmers' dealings to a cash basis and effaced the credit system of the early days, which wrecked many a merchant and kept in poverty many a farmer.

"Nebraska upon admission had no great market except far-off Chicago. Today her metropolis is a market for live stock and grain rivaling all the markets of the country. It stands third among them all, and therefore third in the world. Not content with that, it is challenging its rival for second place.

"On admission our capital city had 2,441 inhabitants. Today there live within its bounds 55,000 Nebraskans. It has a busy commerce in the midst of many institutions of higher learning which furnish means of culture and refinement unsurpassed in any capital of this republic.

"Thriving, prosperous cities and beautiful villages intersected by railways or standing on our river banks dot Nebraska's plains. But the best of life, with all its changes and comforts, lies in the farm home. Here the young man strong and maiden fair have the best opportunity for attaining reasonable wealth, the best for living clean lives, and the best for doing for their neighbors and mankind the best service. They live in that part of the earth which God hath made, while their urban brethren reside in man-made city.

"More than perhaps any other state in the Union was Nebraska treeless. A few trees there were near

the rivers. Forest seeds, driven by the winds or conveyed by chance, fell on Nebraska soil, pressed for the light and reached for the sun. Most of these fell victims to the autumn fires of the plains. It was the spirit of the Nebraskans not to complain of conditions but to better them. There arose a man who saw Nebraska's need. With a vision looking beyond the immediate future, he appealed to the healthy sentiment of Nebraskans to plant trees. So he dedicated a day for that work. So his state dedicated a day for that great purpose. So later, nearly every state in the Union dedicated a day to the planting of trees. This dedication begun by a great man for a great purpose has had boundless beneficial results.

"One of Nebraska's legislative measures which finally became a law was naming it 'Tree Planting State.' In the authorship of this law I take a modest pride. It is as follows:

"Whereas, the State of Nebraska has heretofore, in a popular sense, been designated by names not in harmony with its history, industry, or ambition; and

"Whereas the state is pre-eminently a tree-planting state; and

"Whereas numerous and honorable state organizations have by resolution designated Nebraska as the Tree Planting State; Therefore be it

"Resolved by the legislature of the State of Nebraska, that Nebraska shall hereafter, in a popular sense, be known and referred to as the Tree Planters' State."

"The half has not been told. It was said that the first electric message transmitted over the wire was 'What hath God wrought.' Considering what Nebraska is, and contemplating what Nebraska is, let me suggest the sentiment, 'What man hath wrought through opportunity God hath made.'

"Were I to attempt to distribute credit for Nebraska's achievements I should call up the shades of early Nebraskans—preachers, teachers, lawyers, physicians, journalists, men of commerce, and men of the farm—and by telling their names at this time suggest to living Nebraskans their glorious deeds. But time would not permit me to name all, and were I to name some it would be an injustice to omit many others. So I may say as the ancient writers would, 'Behold, are not their names and deeds written in the books of Morton!'

"For those Nebraskans who live and toil and strive to gain much in wealth and fame for self or state I am constrained to say they are carrying forward the work as worthy successors to those who made Nebraska what it is. They will add to all that we have now, not alone in sordid gold or rich merchandise, but in their manhood and womanhood's creditable deeds and virtuous lives strengthen and exalt the state.

"After all, Nebraska's qualities, parts, and strength lie not in broad acres with abundant harvest, nor yet in flocks and herds, still less in sordid wealth, nor yet in monuments to the great who have passed beyond, not in the brave, generous deeds of the past, but in the men of courage and wisdom, women of grace, beauty, and intelligence who live today. Then, too, the children of clear, clean-lived men and women, richly endowed with ancestral Americanism, bright,

strong, and good, they in their time will do their part to keep Nebraska sound and great.

"With the new phases of the world's commerce, the multiplied inventions which must perfect our future with the progress now daily being wrought in the world, it is impossible to forecast character or extent of what our country's celebration may show. The prophecy of yesterday in the light of today's achievements often appears grotesque.

"I can wish my state no greater growth, no more relative advancement among the states of the Union than was wrought by Nebraskans under God's opportunity the first 50 years of our marvelous statehood.

"Friends, the Lord seems to have profited further by His experience. He long since learned that for the happiness of His people He could do too much. His enterprise at Eden was not a complete success. He had done too much for the early children of his creation. We all know that 'a smooth sea never makes a skillful sailor.' We know that success uninterupted, without serious obstacles to overcome, never qualify men for the highest happiness. And the Creative Genius, recognizing and following these principles, looked upon a desert waste unadorned, unproductive, and uninviting, and He said, 'Here in this part of My dominion, apparently marred by My manifest neglect, I place a few of the choice children of My creation. And if in the years to come they shall through diligence and enterprise make these apparently barren lands yield their abundance, cause beauty to stand where unsightliness stood, raise cities where solitude once sat, establish thousands of homes where children and happiness are; if the wheels of industry shall roll unceasing; if great colleges and universities shall be established; if happiness shall be in humble cot and marble mansion; if paeans of praise and voices of prayer shall rise to My name and glory from humble chapel and vast cathedral, then will I visit my children, look upon the works of their creation, call it 'good' and make My dwelling place with them forever.

It is finished. He has looked upon the work of the children of His creation in our fair State. He has blessed it. He has called it 'good'; and He is making His home with us forever. Men call this place Nebraska.

Exhibition and Exposition.
While the two words, exhibition and exposition, in modern usage when applied in the sense of a public show or display of natural or artificial productions, are used interchangeably, yet in some cases the words could not be used interchangeably without altering the meaning of both phrases, as an "exhibition game of ball" conveys an idea very different from that contained in the phrase "an exposition game of ball. As contrasted with exposition exhibition deals more often with visible things and exposition with things mental; as an exhibition of machinery: an exposition of a text or doctrine of philosophy. Hence in part, perhaps the disinclination of some to the word exposition for a show.

Rag Rugs

55c

The fifty-five cent Rag Rugs have arrived. The quantity is limited. Do not delay if you want one of these at this low price. No more to be had when these are gone, so come early.

Geo. D. Darling

Wild Animals and Law.

If a human being trespasses on your property, or carries away or destroys anything belonging to you, the law will protect you or you may proceed against him yourself even to the extent of using physical force. But if a wild bird or animal protected by the law injures your property, you must not destroy or injure it. If you do, the law will punish you. Deer or moose may browse on crops, mink or skunks kill chickens, robins eat cherries, and all must go free of harm by a decision of the New York Court of Appeals in the suit of several owners of land on Eagle creek, an inlet of the Fourth lake of the Fulton chain.

Save Your Fingers.

In putting a tack into place where it is difficult to hold it with the fingers, thrust it through a little strip of paper and thus keep your fingers from under the hammer.

Compensatory.

Life is compensatory to this extent: When a man reaches the point at which his wife is compelled to make the living for the family he has also reached the point at which the fact ceases to humiliate him.—Topeka Capital.

Origin of Health Drinking.

The custom of drinking the health of the most popular man at the table has its foundation in the ancient practice originated by the Greeks and adopted by the Romans of drinking to the gods and the dead, observes as exchange. The Greeks and Romans later began the practice of drinking to each other, and from this arose the custom of toasting living men. But health drinking in its modern form, originating in England in the roasting days of Charles II, begins with the custom of drinking to the ladies or to any woman who happened to be the reigning belle of the court. Many and various were the quaint customs associated with the toasts of those days. For example, in certain companies of military officers etiquette demanded that the cup should be passed from hand to hand. In many midnight gatherings of Alsatia, gallants stabbed themselves in the arms in order to drink with their blood the health of the woman on whom their hearts were set.

Irreverent Minx.

"In my time," declared grandm., "girls were more modest." "I know," said the flippant girl. "It was a fad once. We may get back to it."—Life.

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