

Potash Notes

A dispatch from Washington on November 29th says that as a result of a conference with war board officials the department of the interior will hereafter superintend the production of potash and the agricultural department will co-operate. Agencies for the production of this necessary commodity which were established during the war, are to continue in operation for an indefinite period after peace has been established. This is understood to be the plan of president Wilson. This action is believed to be the outcome of the recent trip to Washington by a delegation of Nebraska men, including R. G. E. Condra, W. E. Sharp, T. E. Stevens, and others, who presented the facts in the present situation to the government. Senator Hitchcock aided them materially in getting action.

It is understood that the stockholders of one of the large Antioch potash plants, now operating, were recently offered a price for their stock which would have netted them on a basis of not less than two to one on their investment. However, it is reported that those holding the controlling interest declined to sell at this figure. The deal would have involved between \$700,000 and \$800,000.

A trip recently by The Herald representative to the Home Potash Plant, ten miles southeast of Alliance on the Phelan ranch, found them working at full capacity in their recently enlarged and improved plant. This plant operates on the "Stack" evaporation plan. Manager Fred Allen reports the plant making good. It has been watched with interest by those who contemplate erecting new plants on account of the novel idea utilized in evaporating the brine—that of dropping the brine through a brick stack, over baffle plates, the heat from a large furnace being given an outlet through the stack and drying the brine as it passed through the same.

The Commonwealth Potash Company, owners of the plant at Birdsall, seven miles east of Alliance, have filed a petition in voluntary bankruptcy, as will be noted by the legal notice published in The Herald. This company was incorporated for \$50,000 and the articles of incorporation were filed in Box Butte county. It was financed by Lincoln men and was practically a closed corporation. Members of the company state that the cash invested amounted to approximately \$40,000. The plant was never completed although it was finished far enough to operate.

The plant erected by the owners of the Commonwealth is the largest "small" plant in the potash district. It was built on the railroad and located two and one-half miles from Boness lake from which it took its brine. The equipment includes two large boilers, six large covered evaporating pans in which are steam coils, a steam engine, complete electric power plant with all buildings wired for electricity, a grinder, rotary dryer, pumps, large concrete storage tank, several well built bunk houses, cook house, and supplies. Several tons of potash were produced in the short time in which the plant was operated, just long enough to show the owners that they had failed to ascertain whether or not the supply of potash in the lake to which they piped was sufficient to care for the plant.

There are bound to be failures in the potash game, especially where the builders of the plants do not make sufficient investigation by testing their lakes to know that they have a supply of potash. Companies which fail to observe this most necessary requirement or who are poorly and insufficiently financed, will soon find themselves in difficulty. The small plants which are built on lakes with a good supply of potash in their beds are having no difficulty in making

good under the proper management. The first meeting of creditors of the Commonwealth company will be held in the district court room in Alliance on December 10th. It is understood that the liabilities are approximately \$8,000.

It is understood that two of the companies operating "small" potash plants on lake shores have solved the problem of evaporating their brine by running it through their boilers, a proposition which was for a long time thought to be too difficult to solve, on account of the fact that the alkali water foams very easily. The Wyoming, Nebraska and Great Northern companies, both of which operate small plants, are reported to have solved this difficulty and to be securing a much greater evaporation in proportion to the fuel used, than if free water was first made into steam and then this steam used to evaporate the brine in which the potash salts are held. One of the chief items of expense in the operating of potash plants is that of coal and oil. The plants which are trying out the new plan will be watched with interest.

The encouraging news from Washington that the government is taking a hand in the potash situation, is causing renewed activity in the potash district of western Nebraska. None of the plants has cut down production and the new ones are increasing their production towards the limit as fast as possible. Approximately \$10,000,000 has been invested in the potash business and millions have already been made by those interested in the industry. The industry is rapidly getting on a stable basis and should continue to pay hand, some returns on money invested for years to come.

Although the potash plants were hindered somewhat by the influenza epidemic, the prompt measures taken by them to stop the spread of the disease prevented a general epidemic and the resultant lowering in efficiency of the working forces. Plenty of doctors and nurses were secured both at Hoffland and Antioch; warm, modern buildings were set aside for the patients, and every care given them, with the result that the spread has been held down and the number of fatal cases small.

The Lincoln Potash Company, which erected a ten ton plant on the Stoughten lakes, fifteen miles north of Antioch, is operating at full capacity these days and producing a fine product. The lakes on which the modern complete plant was built are especially rich in potash. J. G. Aldrich, a Lincoln man, is manager of the plant and Mr. Miller, a Lincoln banker is president of the company. Although the plant has only been in operation a short time, its output under the direction of competent men has been so satisfactory that the owners are thinking of enlarging its capacity. The fuel and supplies are hauled from Antioch and the potash to their warehouse at that point.

The Ellsworth Potash Company, organized by Wyoming capitalists, which has options on about a thousand acres of water in the vicinity of Ellsworth, has spent several thousand dollars during the past few months in thoroughly testing out their lakes. Much of the testing has been done under the supervision of D. E. W. Jones, formerly of Alliance, who has been engaged in the potash industry for more than a year, having been in charge of the erection of the big Alliance plant at Antioch. The Ellsworth company plans on expending not less than \$300,000 in a plant at Ellsworth, piping to their lakes in that vicinity. Their plant will include the very latest plans for securing the maximum amount of evaporation for the fuel used.

It is reported that a contract has been made or is about to be made for the turning over of the leases held by the Peterson Potash company on the Peterson ranch lakes south of Antioch, to a new organization which will erect a large plant at Antioch. The Peterson company holds leases on more than a thousand acres of water, located from eight to twenty miles from Antioch. The lakes were thoroughly tested during the past summer and the men who are taking over the leases have been engaged in the potash industry for some time. The work done so far includes the securing of a site at Antioch, leasing of right-of-way for pipe line, and drawing up of plans for the plant. It is understood that the stockholders of the Peterson Potash Company are to receive a good block of stock in the new organization as well as a substantial cash bonus.

The Associated Potash Plants, organized by Alliance men, is rapidly completing its organization and proceeding with plans for the erection of small plants on lakes held by the company which have been thoroughly tested out and shown to be rich in potash. This company has holdings in different sections of the potash district, near Ellsworth, Lakeside and Antioch. Its complete holdings in approximately 5,000 acres of water and several times that amount of land. It is capitalized for \$500,000, with \$100,000 worth of its stock placed on the market.

War Savings Stamps cost in December \$4.25; worth \$5.00 January 1, 1923.

**365---DAY ROAD FACTS
WHAT KANSAS OUR NEIGHBOR
IS DOING**

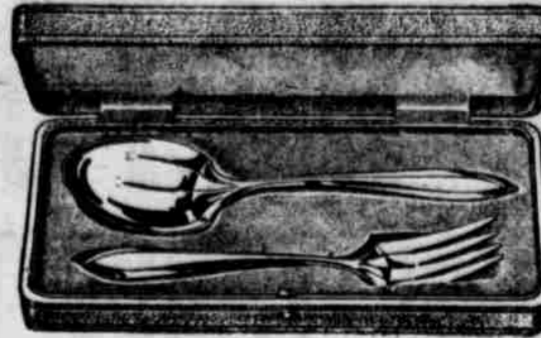
Kansas has now 175 miles of 365 day roads and you know what 365 day roads mean. By July 1st, 1919 she will have over 2000 miles of 365 days road and part of the roads are brick built twenty feet wide with a concrete base. Barton County located in the Western part of Kansas just recently voted One Million dollars for brick roads. Ford County not to be out done voted the same amount and Rice County voted Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand for brick and concrete roads. Kansas hasn't any more intelligent men than Nebraska Western Nebraska excels Western Kansas when it comes to raising crops. Western Nebraska has more money than Western Kansas therefore there must be something wrong with us, we lack organization, we are afraid of co-operation and that is why we are fourth from the bottom in the United States when it comes to permanent roads.

DO YOU KNOW

That a concrete road costing \$25,000.00 per mile will only cost the farmer 25 cents per acre per year for 10 years and only 12 1/2 cents per acre per year for 20 years. With paved roads any county will save from \$75,000 to \$100,000 per year with less breakage, less gas, oil, tire wear and haul far bigger loads. The Government statistics prove that over \$300,000,000 worth of farm produce is lost through inability to haul crops over mud roads.

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We can give you a wide choice of these sets in the beautiful Community designs-various combinations of pieces, at a range of prices to meet any desired expenditure. Each set cased complete in handsome deep blue imported seal-grain leatherette lined with velvet and satin.

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NEWBERN'S HARDWARE COMPANY

"CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR WILL BE UNUSUAL—IT WILL BE MARKED BECAUSE OF THE UNIVERSAL GIVING OF SENSIBLE THINGS AS PRESENTS. WHAT COULD BE MORE SO THAN A GOOD SUIT OR OVERCOAT?"

Clothing With Personality

Your Clothing should be more than simple garments to protect from the chill of winter months. It should express a personality. This expression comes through pleasing styles and tailoring that conform with your particular individuality.

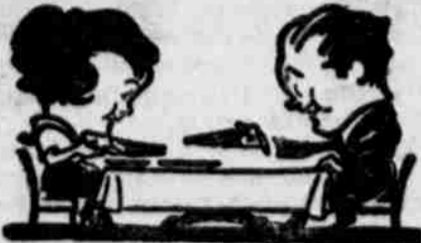
**HIRSCH-WICKWIRE CO.
Suits and Overcoats**

Provide that personality because they are made right, in the right styles and of the right fabrics. Years of leadership in the manufacture of clothing for men have enabled them to establish a prestige that is unequalled and at amazingly moderate prices.

- HAND BAGS
- SILK SHIRTS
- SILK HOSE
- NECKWEAR
- GLOVES
- SWEATERS
- SCARFS
- SILK HANDKERCHIEFS

Time is short; Christmas eve will soon be here, and no doubt many of the gifts for the men folks still remain unchosen. Don't go rushing around trying to find something that you think will please him. Select his gift at his regular shopping place—"The Right Store." Here you will find suggestions galore in men's wearing apparel and dress accessories—suitable and practical gifts—the kind a man wants and likes best.

ROY BECKWITH



Mince Pie

Like Mother Used to Make
is only one of the many good things that can be made with

NONE SUCH MINCE MEAT

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