CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

The torrential rains and floods in northwestern Nebraska and southwestern South Dakota of the past week were the most severe in the history of that part of the country, and caused the death of at least ten persons, hundreds of cattle and horses and washed away scores of bridges and many miles of railroad track, resulting in complete paralysis of traffic on the Burlington and Northwestern line.

Farmers in Otoe and surrounding counties started to break ground for corn planting last week. The acreage is expected to be as large this year as before, as most of the farmers in southeastern Nebraska have a system of crop rotation that does not interfere with corn acreage.

The O. L. D. Highway Association has merged with the Detroit, Lincoln and Denver Highway Association and hereafter will go under the name of the latter. The new D. L. D. will be from Detroit through Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and over the O. L. D. in Nebraska and Colorado to Denver.

During an electrical storm at Norfolk, the infant son of Dick Walton was hurled from its crib to the bed occupied by its parents when lightning struck the house. The parents were thrown from the bed to the floor, but none of the family was injured.

From one to ten years in the state penitentiary was the sentence imposed upon Jesse Ingram, 28, at Mullen, for alleged cattle rustling. It is said that Ingram got into the trouble through a dare by other ranchmen to steal cattle to pay off his debts.

William J. McCandless of Washington, D. C., superintendent of the Omaha-Chicago mail service, was killed when the airplane in which he and H. W. Johnson of Fremont, were making an inspection, crashed into a tree near Oskaloosa, Ia.

Through the efforts of business men of Auburn, Sam Kroll, 73 years old, the oldest clothing salesman in Nebraska, and a man who never drew a salary, has been rescued from the Nemaha county poor farm.

Chas. H. Roper, president of the O. L. D. Highway Association (now the D. L. D.) asserted at the recent convention at Hastings that the O. L. D. will be the first highway paved across the state.

The First State bank and the American State bank at Hemingford have consolidated under the name of the First State bank. The institution will soon erect a new bank building.

Complete official returns of the primary election April 20, show that W. J. Bryan will have 11 of the 16 delegates to the democratic national convention instead of 10.

The government employment service at Washington estimates that it will require 6,000 harvest hands to care for Nebraska's 3,000,000 acre wheat crop this season.

Lew E. Webster, prominent Fairbury business man, died from injuries he received when he fell fifteen feet from an ice shoot at the Fairbury ice plant, which he owned.

It is reported that an airplane assembly plant for the conversion of aerial mail planes into war planes, in case of war on either coast, is planned for Omaha.

Lewis C. Holcomb of Mullen, who shot and killed P. N. Kirkpatrick last fall, was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Holcomb is the father of fourteen children.

Nebraska's winter wheat crop for this year is estimated at 47,585,000 bushels by the state department of agriculture, as compared with 54,997,000 last year.

Dean O. V. T. Stout of the University of Nebraska engineering college tendered his resignation to the regents, to take effect July 1.

A carnival held by the Holdrege post of the American Legion netted $2,400, which will be used to equip new clubrooms.

Seven boys were suspended from Lincoln High school following admission on their part of joining secret societies or fraternities.

The Hebron fire department, following the filing of a petition with the city council, has been instructed to purchase a chemical and hose truck.

The new ice and cold storage plant built at Sidney is being equipped with necessary machinery. The plant will be one of the largest in Nebraska.

A coroner's jury at Omaha ordered Policeman Geo. Swan held to the district court for manslaughter following his running down and killing Miss Anna Jensen, school teacher, while chasing an automobile speeder on a motorcycle.

A $50,000 aircraft corporation has been organized at North Platte, and a school of flying will be opened soon.

A. F. Ackerman, Lincoln, has been State bank at Aurora, which was closed March 15. The report of Bank Examiner Ross Brown shows apparent losses of $75,000. Efforts to put the bank in shape have been unavailing.

Statistics show that in 1880 Nebraska ranches possessed 570,000 head of cattle valued at $12,925,960. In 1919 Nebraska farms and ranches possessed 2,673,993 head of cattle valued at $124,806,234.

Returns of the recent primary show that there was a total vote cast on the office of governor of 154,810, of which the republicans polled 102,242 and the democrats 52,568. On preference for president, 192,329, of which 136,647 were republican and 56,682 democratic. A total of 37,519 women took advantage of the chance to vote.

Scott township, Holt county, is to have five miles of the most modern highway ever constructed by a single township in the state. The road will conform to federal specifications and will be 48 feet wide, with a 24-foot roadway. All bridges and culverts on the highway will be full width of the grade.

A cloudburst over the northwestern portion of Iowa and northeastern Nebraska drove many families from their homes at Homer, swelled all streams to the flood stage and wiped out railroad tracks in many places. Thousands of dollars damage was reported in the district.

A shake-up at the state university was indicated when the board of regents placed Dean W. G. Hastings of the college of law on the retired list, as dean emeritus. Hastings is one of the leading lawyers of the state, and has been dean for twelve years.

The first squad of prison laborers from the state penitentiary to be put on Nebraska road-building work has proven a success, according to W. L. Clements, general superintendent of construction, who has been watching the work of these men near Tecumseh.

Frank Martin, 13, Wood River lad, was killed and his sister, Mrs. George Kruger of Grand Island, was injured when an automobile in which they were riding overturned on a country road near the former city.

Agricultural Agent Houser of Dodge county announced a heavy demand from farmers for "ninety-day" corn for seed, the lateness of the planting making the yellow dent variety preferred over more slowly ripening types.

A new highway from Nebraska City through Ashland and Wahoo, connecting with the Lincoln Highway at Columbus or Schuyler, is being considered by the commercial clubs of the foregoing towns.

Prices of lumber on the Omaha market have declined from 8 to 10 per cent in the past few days. Contractors have taken a brace and are beginning to lay plans for greater activity during the summer.

Two Deshler men have purchased a tract of land east of town, and will put in an artificial lake of three acres and stock it with game fish. It will also be used for boating and bathing.

Nebraska is anxious for strict enforcement of prohibition laws, according to James H. Hanley, state prohibition enforcement agent, who returned to Omaha from a tour of 25 counties.

It is reported that the potato crop in Box Butte county will be short this season, the farmers having sold their seed too closely on account of the high prices.

The Auburn band, after an existence of forty years, has disbanded. It was the oldest musical organization in the state. Non-support was given as the cause.

Excavating for the new Platte county court house to be built at Columbus has commenced. It will perhaps take two years to complete the building.

Efforts are being made to bring the first annual show of the National Implement and Tractor association to Omaha during the coming winter.

Gasoline prices are skyrocketing. At Omaha and other cities in the state it has risen from 27 to 30 cents a gallon and another advance is forecasted.

At a conference at Hutchinson, Kan., a decision was reached to pay harvest hands in Kansas and Nebraska 70 cents an hour with board and room this season.

"Flag Day," June 14, will be observed by schools and patriotic societies in many towns and cities of Nebraska.

The Hastings post of the American Legion has engaged quarters and will soon have a modern club home.

Rev. Charles W. Savidge, Omaha's "Marrying Parson," recently performed his 4,600th wedding ceremony.

Heavy rains the past week washed out 7,000 feet of track between Walthill and Winnebago.

The "shimmie" is barred in dance halls of Nebraska City by order of Mayor Thomas.

Work on the State Aid road between Franklin and Orleans has been started.

Raymond J. Hill, who killed his father at the latter's home near Geneva in March has been committed to the insane asylum at Hastings.

Glenrock, a hamlet of about 20 population, near Auburn, is soon to have a bank, work having begun some time ago on a new brick structure to house the institution.

H. S. Harris, principal of the Harvard schools, who shot and seriously wounded Russell Aker, young farmer of the Harvard vicinity, near the home of his sweetheart, Edna Korgan, is believed to be mentally defective.

Petitions calling for a special election for the purpose of voting $70,000 bonds for the erection of a new high school building have been presented to the board of education at Venango.

The new cereal mill being built at Beatrice will have a capacity of 25,000 packages daily. The plant will cost about $30,000 and will be in operation this summer.

Farmers of Merrick county have organized for the purpose of fighting the Union Pacific in its attempt to occupy valuable farming land along its right-of-way.

FAMILY PERISHES IN FLOOD

High Water in Hat Creek Valley, So. Dak., Causes Several Deaths and Enormous Property Damage.

Alliance, Neb.—The entire family of B. F. Darby, a farmer, consisting of himself, his wife and three children, together with Harvey Bell, 15 years old, and a rancher, Charles Cortez, were drowned, and hundreds of cattle and horses perished in a flood that swept through Hat Creek valley, one mile west of Ardmore, S. D., on May 12.

The floods and washouts were the most disastrous ever known in the history of this part of the country and completely paralyzed train service on the Alliance division of the Burlington as far west as Edgemont and on to the Black Hills line of the Northwestern. The torrential rains extending as far west as Billings, Mont., and swept railroad bridges and trestles from their moorings, carried scores of culverts and literally miles of track away, leaving a mass of tangled wreckage in their wake.

In the Hat Creek valley more than two miles of track is washed out. The force of the flood at this point carried everything before it, the water reaching a depth of 15 to 18 feet. A 400-foot railroad bridge and a 500-foot fill near Hemingford were swept away. Railroad officials here say more than 2,000 feet of bridge will have to be built and a fill nearly two miles long constructed before train service can be resumed. The lines will not be in operation for several days it is reported. Every bridge on the Niobrara river for a distance of 50 miles was washed out.

HOOVER WOULD ALLOT SUGAR.

Tells House Committee Government Made Mistake in Not Buying Crops.

Washington, D. C.—Herbert Hoover, former food administrator, appearing before a house committee investigating the sugar situation, declared that the world shortage of the product was likely to continue two or three years. The pressing need was rationing, he said, with immediate government action to control the supply through commercial, not legalistic, methods.

Mr. Hoover said that if the government had bought the Louisiana and Cuban crops last year, it would have meant a lower tax on the family pocketbook. Even now, he said, there was a chance to help by limiting the supply to non-essential industries. He told the committee that prohibition had stimulated the use of sugar in manufacture of sweet drinks and thus had added to the drain on stocks needed for home consumption.

Carranzaists Defeat Rebels.

El Paso, Texas.—President Carranza has eluded his rebel pursuers and, with a small bodyguard, is again in hiding in the mountains near Oaxaca, revolutionist headquarters were advised.

Carranza forces held off a superior insurgent force for nearly a week. Without ammunition for a protracted siege, the Carranzistas drew out the attackers. A concealed nest of 100 machine guns mowed down the rebel forces, while Carranza and the main force withdrew.

The rebels admitted "tremendous losses." They claimed capture of 900 Carranza troops. Two rebel generals and several other officers were killed.

Name Debs Their Candidate.

New York.—The national convention of the socialist party acclaimed Eugene Victor Debs, federal convict No. 2253 in the Atlantic, Ga., penitentiary its candidate for the fifth time for president of the United States.

Seymore Stedman of Chicago, general counsel of the party, was nominated for vice president.

In nominating Debs, the socialist party of America signifies its determination "not to recede one inch from our revolutionary program," Morris Hillquit of New York, leader of the "conservative" forces, declared.

Nebraska in Thirtieth Place.

Chicago, Ill.—Nebraska delegates to the republican national convention in June will find themselves in thirtieth place from the front in the Coliseum, as the result of seating arrangements decided when each state's location came out of a brown derby on a printed slip. Delegates from North Dakota and Colorado will be in the front row; Kansas Seventh; Iowa, twenty-fifth North Carolina delegates, who drew last place, were advised to bring ear trumpets.

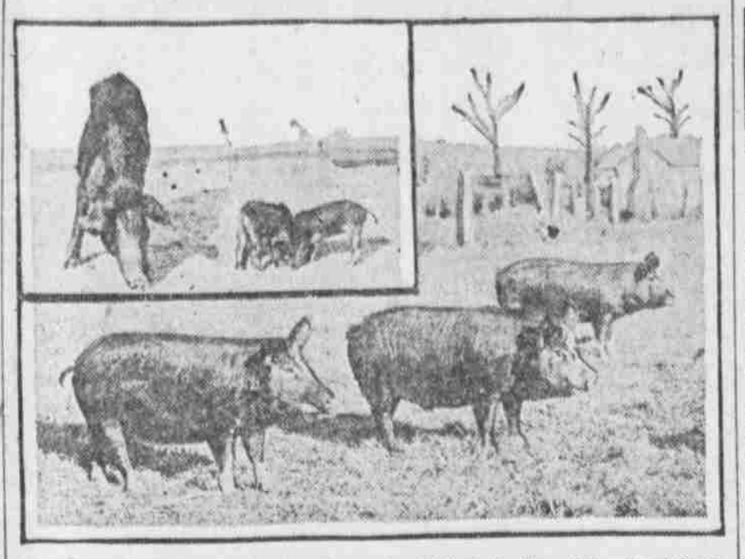
U. S. Warehouse Highjacked.

Chicago, Ill.—Thousands of gallons of liquor, valued at $600,000, and seized by the government as evidence in enforcing prohibition, have been stolen from the government warehouse here, Internal Revenue Collector H W. Mager announced.

Villa's Career Ends.

Juarez, Chihuahua, Mex.—Francisco Villa's days of banditry and constant menace to all attempts to establish stable government in Mexico and to the relations between this republic and the United States, are ended, according to reports reaching here. Leaders of the new revolution displayed visible relief at the announcement that Villa had laid down his arms and turned his men over to General Ignacio Enriquez, revolutionary commander of the Chihuahua district.

POOR POLICY TO KEEP STOCK "AS GOOD AS AVERAGE" WHEN AVERAGE IS LOW



A Piney Woods Rooter and an Example of What the Use of Purebred Sires Can Accomplish in Two Generations.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

"What is the use of all this noise about 'Better Sires and Better Stock?'" It was one of the well-to-do farmers of the county who was talking. "Look at those steers over yonder. No purebred sires among their ancestors so far as I know. But they are good enough for me. I tell you, Bascom," he said earnestly, coming over to the fence beyond which the county agent sat in his flivver, "I'll admit we've got a lot of help in a scientific way from the information you've brought us, but on this stock proposition it's different. I believe in good stock, of course, and take a reasonable pride in my animals, but what is the use of overdoing it? We better move along the way we have been for the past 20 years, I say. Sometimes we get some poor animals, of course, but the creatures on my place suit me pretty well. My father, on the old farm back East, never worried about purebred sires and he made a fair living. What was good enough for father is good enough for me."

"Hold on a minute," said the county agent, stopping his motor and coming over to the fence. "You've always listened to what I have had to say in the past and I want you to listen to me now, for the simple reason that it means dollars and cents to you. It's nothing in my pocket, but it will mean more profits for you when you sell your live-stock products.

"Now here is the dope, as the boys say: United States department of agriculture men, other animal husbandry specialists, poultry specialists, and all the rest have figured this thing out on a broad basis. There are no two ways about it. Better sires mean better stock; that means better marketable products, and that means better profits!"

Boy Converts His Father.

For an hour Bascom, the county agent, and Sam, the farmer, talked over the better-sires campaign, the county agent skillfully citing examples from his own personal knowledge and from reports he had read. He told, for instance, of a New Jersey boy who was influenced to buy a high-grade cow for $155, quite to the disgust of his "practical" father who owned five cows, which he claimed, and truthfully, were "as good as the average in the neighborhood." On freshening, the boy's cow gave 24 quarts of milk, and kept it up for a long period, while none of the father's cows was able to make any such record. Finally the father saw the point and confessed that it was a deal more profitable to expend his labor and feed on well-bred animals than on his so-called average cow.

The incident set the county agent's friend to thinking, and the former lost no opportunity to press his point home.

Breeding Counted.

"Sam," he went on, "you don't begin to realize what this thing will mean on your place. Right breeding counts every time. The United States department of agriculture tells of an Oklahoma farmer who owned two registered Shorthorn yearling bulls that he prized highly for breeding purposes. A butcher saw those bulls and on asking the price learned that they were registered and that it would take $200 to buy the two. What did he do but pay the $200, and when he killed them he said they were the cheapest cattle he had bought for a long time, because they cut the better kinds of beef, and more of it. My private opinion is it was too bad to deprive the community of the use of those purebreds, even though the butcher was willing to pay the price. But this is the big point: Breeding counted in dollars and cents in that case, and it does every time."

Hogs Pay Despite High Price.

Turning from the subject of cattle to hogs, the county agent told of what North Carolina boys had been doing. "Even though hogs had never been so high," he said, "hundreds of boys bought pure-bred pigs with the expectation of selling their offspring. Those lads were not disappointed. Through their county agents, the pigs were sold at splendid prices and more than one of their dads was converted by the experience to the use of purebred sires."

"See here," said the county agent, pulling two photographs from his pocket, "these were taken down in Mississippi. This one here"—indicating one of the photographs—"shows a typical Piney Woods rooter. You know this kind of razorback, Sam. Now look at this picture," handing over the second photograph. "Here is what two generations of breeding with purebred sires brought. There's some pretty good Berkshires. Believe me, when the owner, standing back there, takes those hogs to market, he'll appreciate the money value of the 'Better Sires—Better Stock' campaign."

The county agent paused a minute as if to let the thought sink in.

"Sam, you better sign up. This thing will mean a lot to you—even more next year than this—because you'll have more good animals on your place."

"You win again, Bascom. Times have changed. We have got to progress or we lose out. Count on me in the campaign."

TWO BIG FACTORS IN EDUCATION OF HORSE

Future Value and Usefulness Depend on Training.

Broken Colt Is One That Is Safe to Handle in Stable or on Road and Will Promptly Obey Orders of Driver or Rider.

The breaking and training of colts is of prime importance, says the United States department of agriculture, because their future value and usefulness depend to a great extent on whether or not they are well broken. By a broken colt is meant one that is safe to handle in the stable or on the road and that will promptly obey the orders of the driver or rider.

Memory and habit are the two main factors with which we have to deal in training horses. A horse acts through instinct and habit, and one of its greatest characteristics is uniformity of conduct. What a horse is once trained to do he will nearly always do under like conditions.

The first thing in training a horse is to get his attention. The second is to make him understand what is wanted. The education of the horse is based on reward and punishment. The reward, a pat on the neck, etc., should immediately follow the act of obedience. The punishment, to be effective, must immediately follow the act of disobedience.

Few horses are inherently vicious. Many horses are made vicious and unreliable by the carelessness or unnecessary brutality of their trainers. If a horse kicks because the harness hurts him, or shies at something of which he is afraid, punishment is not justifiable. If, however, after being stopped, a horse starts before receiving the command to do so, he should be punished. Horses are naturally obedient, and when thoroughly trained their conduct is uniformly good.

A horse should be trained so that he thinks there is no limit to his power to do the things required of him, and believes that he has no power to do that which is against the wishes of his driver. Above all, never ask of a horse something he is unable to perform and then punish him because it cannot be done. If during the first year of his work a colt is hitched only to loads he can pull, he will develop into a good work horse, while if he is overloaded a few times he may become balky and worthless.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Grass is the limiting factor in beef production.

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Breed sows to farrow about the same time.

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Liberal feeding is an insurance against disease.

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Castrate lambs when from eight to sixteen days old.

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Stockmen who have cattle to dehorn should be sure to complete this work before warm weather begins.

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Sheep can only become infested with scab through coming in contact with infested sheep or quarters.

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

by MARY GRAHAM BONNER

© by the Author.

THE KAGU BIRD.

"Glad to see you boys and girls," said the Kagu bird, to the children who were in the bird house of the zoo. Now the children couldn't understand Kagu talk but the keeper who understood the birds so well knew what they were saying and also enjoyed telling the children.

"Yes," said the Kagu bird, "I come from New Caledonia. I haven't the least objection if you look that up on your maps. I don't mind in the least. In fact I'd be quite flattered if I thought you did.

"I'm about the size of a toucan bird as you can see. I don't consider myself very enormous or very small. I am just a nice size, eh, boys and girls?"

And the Kagu bird put his head on one side as though to see if the boys and girls looked as though they agreed with him.

"Now I am a sub-order of the crane family, meaning I'm like them in a smaller sort of way.

"Of course I am nowhere near the size of a crane—gracious, mercy, no!

"I am a distant cousin of the trumpeter birds and the sun bitterns.

"I am very fond of showing off as you can see. I like to show off my plumage and my wings. I enjoy spreading them so you can see how fine they are. And my crest is beautiful too, eh?

"Of course, you see, another reason why I like to show myself and pose and strut about and let you see how lovely I am is because I am rare in the zoo.

"They don't have many Kagu birds. I'm the only one here at present, and we're always rare, and not often found in zoos.

"Don't you like my long blue-gray beak, and my gray-blue and white breast? I do hope you like my coloring.

"Do you admire my black head and back and the white under the end of the tail?

"To show you I'm not conceited I don't mind if you look at the Mexican crow next door, or next cage. He is small but he is brilliantly colored and not like the crows you have at all. He is more brilliantly colored than any of the North American species I believe.

"Then there is the white jackdaw from Europe. He's a handsome fellow, and there is the true white crow next to him. He's a nice fellow too.

"There is that adorable little bleeding heart pigeon over yonder. His heart isn't really bleeding—it just looks that way from his coloring. He comes from the Island of Luzon, and he is grayish tan, as you can see, with

"I Love Admiration."

red feathers lengthened and stiffened over his little breast. That is how he happened to get his name, you see."

"There is the Yucatan jay. When that fellow leaves his nest his head is white and his beak is yellow. At the time of his first molting his head becomes black but the beak does not become black until some time later. He is a nice gray color and his black head and breast and tail are nice touches. He is a neatly dressed fellow. I suppose you would call him the size of a crow.

"He is larger than the Mexican crow.

"There is the dear little Madagascar Weaver, a dear little creature with his reddish body and black spots.

"In the winter little Mr. Madagascar Weaver wears the same dull colors as Mrs. Madagascar Weaver but in the spring he is all decked forth as you now see him.

"There is the Brazilian Silver Beaked Tanager from Eastern Brazil. Doesn't he look like a scarlet tanager taking a bath?

"Ah now, boys and girls, you're looking at me again, so I won't have to talk to you about the other birds. Still I love to see you in the zoo and to have you make friends with us.

"I've been chatting and hope you've understood all I've told you for I know all about my neighbors, you see.

"But ah, that is right, come and talk to me! There, I will strut about for you and spread my wings so you can see just what they look like.

"You look as though you like me. Ah, that is very good, for I love admiration.

"Yes, the Kagu bird loves to be admired."

"He most certainly does," said the keeper.

"He most certainly does," the children said.