

THE FRONTIER . . . O'Neill, Nebr.

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Nebraska An Outstanding State

Increasingly, it becomes evident to thoughtful people that Nebraska is an outstanding state.

That statement is not the expression of unthinking enthusiasm and pride, but is based upon facts.

The citizens of every state should feel proud of it and be loyal to it. If they do not have that feeling of loyalty and allegiance, they should move out and into some other state which suits them better. In our opinion, there is nothing more contemptible than the individual who lives in a certain state or community, enjoys all the opportunities and privileges it has to offer and, then, continually criticizes and belittles it.

And what is true of every state in this great democracy, the United States of America, is preeminently true of Nebraska. People who live in Nebraska have a right to be proud of the fact and we believe that, generally speaking, they are proud of it. You may hear a little good natured criticism once in a while about the blizzards in the Winter time and the hot winds in the Summer time; but that is of no consequence. It doesn't mean anything. Of course, Nebraska has its faults and its disagreeable features, the same as every other state. It doesn't claim to be an Utopia with an ideal climate, an ideal government or an ideal population, but it does claim to rank high as it actually does.

When the citizens of Nebraska claim that it holds high rank as a state, it is no idle boast, but it is a claim based upon well authenticated facts. As such, it is open to the scrutiny of the world and may be either affirmed or denied. The Frontier believes that it is a truthful claim and can be substantiated. The facts upon which it rests are open to inspection and examination.

The first fact upon which the good reputation of this state rests is its climate. As we have already stated, the Nebraska climate is not ideal and no such claim is made for it. We have long, cold Winters and sometimes long, hot, dry Summers; but, nevertheless, our climate is an asset and not a liability. In spite of occasional spells of inclement weather, it is healthful and, on the whole, enjoyable. Opportunities for both Winter and Summer sports and recreation are plentiful.

The second fact upon which the good reputation of the state rests is its resources. These are almost unlimited in scope. Anybody who has traveled around to any considerable extent knows that the agricultural products of Nebraska exceed in volume and variety those of almost any other state in the country. Livestock, hay, corn, small grain, fruit and vegetables are raised in superabundance and one marvels at times to observe the extensive range of its resources.

The third fact upon which the good reputation of the state rests is its industries. These are numerous, extensive and important. While Nebraska makes no effort to compete with some other states in this respect, it ranks high in the field of industry as well as in the field of production. It would be interesting to make a survey of the larger cities of the state and ascertain exactly how it does rank in respect to the number and magnitude of its leading industries. We would probably be surprised at the progress which has been made along this line.

The fourth fact upon which the good reputation of the state rests is its people. We really could wax eloquent along this line. The Nebraska type of citizen is honest, thrifty and industrious and, in our opinion, that is the principal reason for the high rank which the state holds in the country today. Nebraska was founded by men and women of Christian character and ideals and thrift and industry are outstanding characteristics of its people. For that reason, Nebraska is called the White Spot of America for economy is written into its constitution and, in that respect, it is unique among the states of the Union. We deplore the fact that certain states have been made the butt of ridicule and vilification in books and plays, but we thank God for the high esteem in which our beloved commonwealth is held. Even the tower on the state capitol reflects the spiritual aspirations of the early settlers.

Appropos to this thought regarding Nebraska's high standing in respect to thrift and economy, the recent statements of Gov. Val Peterson are extremely interesting and timely. We quote:

"In troublesome and expensive times, we have kept faith with those who bear the cost of government. Nebraska's financial position is outstanding among all the states. It has no bonded indebtedness and a frugality which is clearly established by this nation-wide study."

Nebraska state taxes in 1948, in relation to state income, were third lowest in the nation, the report said. State taxes for all 48 states in 1948 totaled 4.2 percent of the Nation's income, while Nebraska state taxes were 3.1 percent of Nebraska income—a 35 percent difference.

The average American paid 42 percent more than his Nebraska neighbor for costs of state government in 1948.

Governor Peterson quoted an official report from the U. S. department of commerce showing Nebraska's \$38.76 per capita share for 1948 state taxes among the five lowest of the Nation.

The 48-state per capita average was \$55.18 or \$16 (42 percent) above the Nebraska share.

The study revealed five states with per capita costs for state government twice as great as Nebraska's. The Nebraska share per person was lowest in the nation among farm states.

In comparison with the 1948 state government taxes of Nebraska's bordering states, the report showed that the average cost for South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming was \$18.55 per person or 48 percent greater than in Nebraska.

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The good, old pie-throwing stunts of vaudeville days have begun on the radio.

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O'Neill is growing and The Frontier is keeping pace.

Prairie Land Talk —

Ex-Gov. Griswold, Back from Greece, Looks 'Every Inch an American Diplomat'

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—The last colorful sunset of mild September spreads its mingled tints above the prairie rim. The day ends.

It has been a Nebraska Autumn day aglow with sunshine and the cool restfulness that comes after Summer's burning heat. There is no season anywhere that my restless feet have trod comparable with Nebraska Autumn days to make you glad you are alive. Frost has not yet turned the green foliage to gold, blotted away the color of floral bloom or spread a brown blanket across

the land. Insects crawl about, squirrels are laying in their store of nuts and high on a bough of a tree chatter defiance at a feline enemy approaching the tree on the hunt. Some bird species have gone on their long flight.

Election and rigors of Winter come next.

They sat in the lobby of a crowded hospital. Faces gave expression to inward burden. Sorrow wrote the story of tragedy. Anxious parents awaited the verdict of medical science on a child stricken

with polio. A young woman in the gloom of hope and fear for her husband hovering near the brink with a broken body brought in from the highway. The next scene for some of these burdened men and women will be at the funeral where we must meet with the final fact of life. But there is another picture. Here comes a smiling young gent from the maternity ward on the fourth floor. He is in the first thrill of having become a father. It is worth while to draw away from the pressure of life's giddy whirl and go to a hospital where the mites of humanity come into a troubled world and pain-racked bodies bid it farewell.

On October 1 former governor, Dwight Griswold, came to town to address a group at a banquet board at the Lincoln and greet his Nebraska friends. Mr. Griswold, just back from Greece, is looking every inch the part of an American diplomat flavored with the freshness of home contact on Nebraska prairie land.

Federal tax on local telephone service is 15 per cent. On long distance calls it is 25 per cent. These taxes are added to the monthly telephone bills of telephone users. Oddly enough, the long distance telephone service is taxed higher than the 20 per cent rate for such luxuries as furs, jewelry and the sweet odors bottled as perfumes. Something of the price we are paying for playing yankee doodle every where on the globe. If you have learned of anything that has escaped the tax rolls the tax gatherers would like to know about it before the next session of the law making bodies.

A year ago a Sioux Indian of northwest Nebraska was found guilty by the trial court of the murder of a ranch woman and sentenced to the electric chair. Such a sentence is

It Ads Up to Just Three Words



probably all too rare in Nebraska as the penalty for murder. When executed it is the final act in the record. Oddly enough, here is a convicted murderer who has survived two periods set for his execution and now by the findings of the supreme court faces the third date, October 29. In the locality where the crime was perpetrated feeling ran high, sentiment was aroused and life for life demanded. Why not? Months have passed into a year. The course of legal procedure that money can buy and the ever recurrence of

sympathetic appeal—and the Indian still lives. What will be the next move to circumvent the decree of the state supreme court?

At a radio quiz a young woman responded to the question as to what she wished for most by saying: "A tall, blond, handsome young millionaire." There isn't any such thing. But this young woman may dream her pleasant dream to the end to awake to the realities of life maybe hooked to a commonplace heel and a half dozen kids to look after.

Stroller Arrives in Phoenix

By A. STROLLER

PHOENIX, ARIZ., Sept. 27.—The writer arrived in this city at 8 o'clock this morning according to schedule. He traveled from Kansas City, Mo., on "The Chief," crack passenger train between Chicago, Ill., and Los Angeles, Calif., and it was the most pleasant and restful trip he has ever taken. It costs a few dollars more than some of the routes, but it is worth the difference if you can manage to scrape together the money.

A passenger who rides "The Chief" steps onto a Pullman car at Kansas City and doesn't step off until he reaches his destination. That means a great deal to anybody who has had to change cars and make long stops in the night as often as Stroller has.

On the whole, the journey from Nebraska to Arizona was a very enjoyable one. The first lap was made in the family car with the writer's son

and his wife and little son. The first night was spent in Emerson and, then, the second lap over the C St P M & O to the Nebraska metropolis. At that point, the writer boarded a Burlington train for Kansas City and, after a short wait, climbed aboard the Santa Fe train, as above stated.

This train carries "sleeping car passengers only" and it was absolutely the quietest place he has ever been in day or night. There were very few passengers and no children and the experience was restful in the extreme—a marked contrast to some of the crowded, noisy trains which used to run back and forth during the war.

It was raining in Nebraska the day the writer left home, but the weather cleared up before evening and our drive to Emerson amid fields of ripening corn and in view of the gorgeous coloring of the sky as the sun was setting was an incident long to be remembered. The whole trip afforded a lot of material worth writing about.

(Next week: The Fascination of the Desert.)

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