

THE AWAKENING OF NEBRASKA

Everywhere there are signs that Nebraska is awakening to a full sense of her duty to herself. For more than a quarter of a century one of the worst corporation-ridden states in the union, Nebraska is today practically free from corporate control, working in harmony with those great interests that represent the development of a territory, and ready for the great work of development already too long delayed.

There are sixteen millions fertile acres in Nebraska as yet untouched by the plow of the husbandman.

There are vast sections without railroad facilities.

There are wonderful opportunities for the development of industries that will work up the raw material produced on Nebraska farms into manufactured products of immense value.

There are opportunities for the development of vast water power that will turn the wheels of industry and put Nebraska in the forefront of the manufacturing states, just as she is already at the forefront of agricultural states.

What needs to be done now to bring about the full accomplishment of Nebraska's development is working together, earnestly, tirelessly, to that end.

Nebraska has, in times past, been throttled by railroad greed. That day is past. Today practically everybody is satisfied with the control we have of these great transportation companies, save those who would tear up the tracks and sow the right-of-way to weeds and thistles. It has been a hard fight to control these corporations, but the fight has been won in Nebraska. Now let us get together for the purpose, not of hampering the railroads but of getting more railroads, more branch lines reaching into new territory and opening up fertile lands to the settler seeking a home. There are several counties in Nebraska wholly without railroad facilities. It seems a bit queer, does it not, that the most violent denunciations of "railroad greed" come from those sections that are wholly without railroad facilities.

Nebraska wants more railroad mileage. It wants new lines into new territory. It wants the assistance of the big, brainy men of the railroad service in developing Nebraska and bringing to us the industrious men and women who shall make the present waste places bloom and blossom like a garden.

Will Maupin's Weekly is not of those who weep and refuse to be comforted be-

THE GOOD RECORD OF REPRESENTATIVE FRANK P. LAWRENCE

Frank P. Lawrence, representative from Dodge county, has been nominated by the democrats of Fremont for the office of mayor. This serves as an excuse for Will Maupin's Weekly to say a few words concerning an unjust charge brought against Mr. Lawrence, said charge being to the effect that he has given little thought or assistance to some of the bills sought by wage earners to be enacted into law. Perhaps the editor of this paper knows as much about what has been going on in the way of effort to secure labor legislation as any man in Nebraska. And the editor of this paper knows that any charge that Mr. Lawrence has been indifferent is false. So also is the charge that Senator Volpp of Dodge has not been friendly. The union label bill in the senate was defeated by a

cause the legislature has refused to enact a stock yards law. It holds that if the legislature can declare the stock yards a "common carrier" it may also declare a mill, or an elevator, or a wholesale feed concern a "common carrier." Nor does it believe that it is at all necessary at this time to "take a fall" out of the stock yard company at South Omaha. What are the facts?

A few years ago the farmer who had stock to sell had to ship it to Chicago, paying immense freight tariffs and losing heavily because of the long distance shipped. Or else, having only a few head to sell, he drove them to town and disposed of them to the local butchers, failing which he drove them back to the farm. Today Nebraska farmers have a magnificent market almost at their own doors. There has never been a time in the history of the South Omaha market when it could not and did not absorb all the live stock sent to it. It has been one of the biggest incentives to the Nebraska live stock industry, and since its beginning there has been a steady growth for the better in the cattle industry. What are the prices charged by the stock yard company? A charge of 25 cents a head for handling the cattle, and a feed charge that is the subject of complaint. But the fact still remains that despite all the charges of the company the cattle raisers of Nebraska are better off today than ever before, they have a better market, are subject to less loss in shipments and get quicker action than ever before.

Instead of desiring to see the Union Stock Yards company of South Omaha hampered by restrictive laws, Will Maupin's Weekly wants to see that company grow and expand and prosper in proportion as Nebraska grows and expands and prospers. So far as this little newspaper can see, the time has come to cultivate friendly relations with these great agencies that are helping to develop Nebraska, and have done with "corporation baiting" that too often has its inception in some personal trouble.

We have secured great and needed reforms in Nebraska during the last decade. We have been so busy securing them that we have not had time to devote to other matters that now assume the aspect of greatest importance. Nebraska has equitable freight rates and a railway commission that possesses greater powers than given to most bodies of a like nature. It has reached that point where it may now give its undivided attention to the work of development. What it needs now to do is to join with these great agencies of development,

vote of 18 to 12, Senator Volpp voting for the bill on roll call, then changing his vote before the result was announced so as to be in a position to move a reconsideration should opportunity afford. When the same bill, introduced in the house by Hospodsky, came before the house committee, it was recommended for indefinite postponement, having already been overwhelmingly defeated in the senate. Mr. Hospodsky did not make an effort to save the bill, and Mr. Lawrence was unavoidably absent, attending a meeting of the finance, ways and means committee.

Mr. Lawrence has been the consistent friend of all efforts made by the labor representatives to secure needed legislation. The representatives of the railroad brotherhoods have found him responsive to their every appeal, and he has been of great assistance

and instead of "tear-up-the tracks" and "down-with-the-stock-yards" line of dope, it wants to secure the co-operation of the men who have builded these great enterprises in building Nebraska.

We want the immense water powers of Nebraska developed and hitched to the wheels that are working Nebraska raw material into finished products.

We want to secure farmers for the sixteen million acres of fertile lands that are now lying idle.

We want to enlarge our cattle market instead of restricting it by ill-advised legislation.

We want to attract capital to Nebraska instead of repealing it by actions that belie the intelligence of an awakened people.

We want railroads built into new sections, thus throwing them open to settlement.

Step by step, through all the years gone by Nebraska has freed herself from corporation control. Let her not now make the mistake of being as unjust to the corporations as the corporations were unjust to her in the days of corporation power.

The 2-cent fare law, the state railway commission, physical valuation, and at last the initiative and referendum—this is a part of what Nebraska has secured. There remains but little to be done other than to safeguard what we already have, and meet contingencies as they arise.

And now let us turn our undivided attention to the great work of developing Nebraska.

Let us put producers upon the sixteen million acres of vacant lands. Let us build railroads into vast regions as yet deprived of market facilities. Let us make right here at home the things that Nebraskans consume. Let us be reasonable and fair and just, depriving no corporation of its just rights, and standing firmly for the rights of the public.

What wonderful progress Nebraska has made along safe and sane lines! What a glorious outlook! What glorious possibilities fronting a state whose people even can not realize as yet what has already been wrought!

What a privilege it is to be a Nebraskan! And what a glorious privilege we should deem it to be to have an opportunity to be a part and a parcel in the great work of development that is already beginning, and which live, earnest Nebraskans are going to push to success.

to them. Two years ago he stood squarely for the only labor bill introduced by labor representatives that succeeded in getting on the floor of the house. In short, Frank P. Lawrence's record as a friend of labor legislation is as clean as a hound's tooth. Those of us who have been on the ground since the legislature convened are, perhaps, in a better position to know what has been going on than those who must depend wholly upon hearsay. And Will Maupin's Weekly desires to remark right here that if wage earners had more friends like Frank P. Lawrence in the legislature, there would be more legislation in the interests of those who work for wages. The workingmen of Fremont should not be deceived by vague rumors; let them make inquiries of the men who know at first hand what has been going on at the state house.