

the whole central west. She has the material right there and in unlimited quantities. She has the water power to turn the wheels of that and other industries. And, what is as much as anything else, she has the wideawake, go-ahead men who will make things hum. "Superior the Cement City." That has a mighty pleasing sound.

The last legislature authorized the sale of \$4,000,000 of bonds of other states held by the permanent school fund of Nebraska. And twenty years ago this spring Nebraska farmers were planting corn and sowing wheat furnished by the state because they were too poor to buy it themselves. Twenty years ago last winter train loads of clothing and provisions were being shipped to starving and freezing homesteaders in central and western Nebraska. Now think that over. In less than twenty years from a hungry, half-naked state to a state that is able to hold \$4,000,000 of bonds of other states for the benefit of her school children. A state that can do that has unbounded resources of her command. Tell the world the facts about Nebraska.

After reading the reports from various sections of the state Will Maupin's Weekly makes the following crop predictions: The corn crop this year will exceed 185,000,000 bushels. The wheat crop will exceed 47,000,000 bushels, spring and winter. The oats crop will exceed 65,000,000 bushels. The potato crop will be the largest in the state's history, and alfalfa will exceed 2,200,000 tons. The apple crop will be less than that of last year, but small fruit will be a better crop. Paste this in your hat and wait for the official returns.

THE REMEDY AT HAND

The Omaha World-Herald is greatly exercised lest the time soon come when the greatly increased value of farm lands will make it impossible for a young man to acquire a farm, thus bringing about a system of landlord and tenant, resulting in a peasant class and landowning aristocracy. The World-Herald's fears are well founded if the present system of taxation is adhered to. But the remedy for the growing evil is ready to hand if the people will cultivate intelligence enough to use it.

There are 16,000,000 acres of tillable land in Nebraska that is untilled, most of which is held in large tracts by speculators. It is constantly increasing in value, through no effort of the owners and at the expense of the men who are developing the agricultural resources of the state. Nebraska has about 17,000,000 cultivated acres. Suppose 7,000,000 acres of this area were suddenly thrown back to wild land, what would be the result upon the remaining 10,000,000 acres still possible to cultivate? It would increase in value from 35 to 50 per cent. The owners would not be responsible for the increase. It would be a community

earned increase which the community would not profit by.

But, on the other hand, suppose the taxes were levied upon the land according to its value for use and occupancy, instead upon its value due to the thrift and enterprise of men, what would be the result? Those 16,000,000 idle acres would soon become productive, and the pressure upon the lands now tilled would be lessened. The result would be a readjustment of land values that would rid the esteemed World-Herald of its nightmare. There is not a scarcity of tillable land. There is, however a scarcity of opportunity to get upon the land. Of the 16,000,000 acres of vacant lands in Nebraska capable of cultivation, nearly every acre will produce bountifully of

TALKING OF MEN AND MATTERS

It is difficult indeed to pay a proper tribute to such men as Melville R. Hopewell. One wants to say so much, yet is afraid that if he writes what the heart feels he may be accused of maudlin sentiment. If he writes less than the heart feels he fears that he will have not dealt justly. As a soldier in the field, as a school teacher, as a lawyer, as a judge upon the bench, as an official of the state, and as a neighbor, citizen and friend, Melville R. Hopewell measured up to the full standard we so much love to see and meet. Big of brain, big of heart and big of soul, he took front rank among the men of his time. He never shirked a responsibility, nor failed to meet every requirement demanded of him by his community and his state. He was not the typical politician, yet men instinctively trusted him, placed political responsibility in his hands and rested well content that their trust would not be betrayed. His home life was beautiful. His daily walk and conversation was such as to exercise a powerful influence for good. All in all, Melville R. Hopewell was a man. It was the privilege of the writer to know him for nearly twenty years. While he was upon the district bench in the Omaha district the writer was a court reporter for an Omaha paper. He found Judge Hopewell always courteous, always ready to give the newspaper men whatever assistance possible, and always more than willing to temper justice with mercy. Young men found in him a safe advisor and a steadfast friend. Three times lieutenant governor of his state, he presided over the upper branch of the legislature with firmness, a fairness and dignity. Less than a month ago he was with us, seemingly in the prime of advanced manhood's strength and virility. Today the place he once filled is vacant, the home circle is broken. In the passing of Judge Hopewell Nebraska loses another pioneer who helped to make Nebraska. His life was a blessing to his community and his state, and he leaves a record of faithfully performed civic duty that will be a cher-

one or more of the grains adapted to this section, such as corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, or potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa and cane. Tax the men who are depriving others of an opportunity by withholding that land from the market until the men thus deprived get a fair share of the increase in the value of that untilled land. The community is adding to that land's value, and the community is entitled to its just share of the increase.

The danger of a system of peasantry and landed aristocracy is not due to lack of land, but to a system that puts a premium on selfishness and a fine on enterprise and thrift.

Tax the land's value for use and occupancy, not the thrift and enterprise of brave and industrious men.

ished memory with his children and his children's children.

Exit Governor Marshall of Indiana from the list of presidential possibilities. His extradition of McNamara in the face of the plain provisions of the Indiana law simply means that he is either a tool of class interests or too ignorant to be considered as a presidential possibility. The democratic party may not be able to elect a president with the aid of the trades unions, but certainly it can not hope to elect a president with the active opposition of the unions. The Marshall presidential boom, born with the ricketts, came to its death even before the expected time.

The Aurora Republican insists that the legislature of 1911 "was and still is a standing joke." The Aurora Republican merely advertises its blind partisanship and its ignorance of the legislature's work when it makes such an assertion. The legislature of 1907 was a splendid one, but its record for economy in expenditures was earned at the expense of the welfare of the state's institutions and wards. The so-called extravagance of the 1911 session was forced by conditions brought about by the failure of former sessions to make adequate provisions for keeping up with the increased demands of a rapidly growing and developing state. Will Maupin's Weekly, while admitting that the 1907 session was the best up to its time, and the real forerunner of reforms that has since come, will not admit that any legislature is "joke" that made it possible to secure the initiative and referendum, that increased the powers of the state railway commission, that put a fatal crip in the white slave traffic and kindred vices, that recognized the rights of wage earners to protection of life and limb, that conserved the waterways of the state, bettered our irrigation laws, gave splendid recognition of our educational institutions and made humane provisions for the unfortunate wards of the state. True it allowed some legisla-