

# WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

A Weekly Journal of Cheerful Comment whose mission it is to reflect sunshine and pilot people around and behind the dark clouds. It believes in the Ultimate Good and strives for it. Until it runs out of Good Words to say about men and women it will say no Harsh Words—and there is so much of Good to be said that Will Maupin's Weekly expects to be Very Busy on the Good End of the job for many years to come. May we have your company along the way?

## BOOSTING NEBRASKA ALWAYS

That is one of the best things we do—and the pleasantest. Just say "Nebraska" to us and you've got us going. Nebraska is inspiration for song and symphony, for oratory and optimism. Will you join our Grand Chorus of Nebraska Boosters, instructed and conducted by Will Maupin's Weekly? Initiation fee and one year's dues, One Dollar—the more dollars we get the better we sing

## THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR SINGING LESSONS

the water plant to a private corporation, but to choke off the growing demand for the municipalization of other public service corporation. If there be those who imagine that it will ever be possible to give over the duty of supplying water to the city to a private corporation, or that it will be possible to check the demand for municipalization of other public service plants—if there be such who so imagine they should hasten to some reputable surgeon and have their heads bored from the simples.

The commission form of government has received a great impetus by reason of the situation in the water department. Will Maupin's Weekly is wholly in favor of the commission plan. Not some hare-brained plan designed by some idealist who wants to give to the world a "Lincoln plan," but a safe, conservative plan. It favors the election of five commissioners, each to be the head of a department of the municipality, with power to appoint all subordinates, and each absolutely responsible to the people for the conduct of his department and subject to the recall. It favors paying these commissioners good salaries. It favors the absolute elimination of politics by forbidding party designation on either the primary or election ballots. It favors the double primary, making it easy for any man to be a candidate in the first primary, but confining the second primary to the four high men in the first primary, and putting the two high men in the second primary on the regular election ballot.

Lincoln may now make her own charter without asking the legislature to sanction it. Let's have no more unwieldy "charter commissions," but let a half-dozen representative citizens get together and frame a common sense charter, one suitable to the needs of a growing city of 50,000 people.

### A PALPABLE ERROR.

Labor Commissioner Guye's estimate that only 13,000,000 acres out of Nebraska's 47,000,000 are under cultivation is, seemingly, an error. The error is due, however, to the habitual carelessness or incompetency of the assessors who are required by law to gather the acreage statistics. Mr.

Guye's own acreage figures, contained in his crop report, will show upwards of 15,000,000 acres under cultivation, not taking into account the fallow fields, the orchards, vineyards and gardens. Nor will his acreage figures, as shown in his annual crop report, show the acreage devoted to many miscellaneous crops, such as popcorn, hemp, sweet potatoes, onions, or the many acres cultivated by men who raise garden seeds. His recent acreage bulletin merely gives the acreage as reported by the assessors, and experience has taught us that the assessors are notoriously careless about that part of their work having to do with the Bureau of Statistics. Several of them had to be threatened with prosecution a couple of years ago before they would report to the bureau. They say they are not paid for that work, consequently will not do it. When compelled to make return they guess at it. Taking the returns made for crop estimate purposes, and then estimating according to rules followed in other states, and by the government, it is more than likely that Nebraska's total cultivated acreage is in excess of 17,000,000.

But even admitting that this estimate is not too high, the fact remains that far less than one-half of Nebraska's tillable area is cultivated. Millions of acres will never be worth cultivating; other millions will not be cultivated with profit until after years of experimentation to ascertain how to get results worth while. But it is safe to say that Nebraska has not less than 15,000,000 acres of fertile land awaiting the plow.

### THE LINCOLN POSTOFFICE.

It is fit and proper at this time that due recognition be given to the very efficient work of the Lincoln postoffice force during the unusually large holiday rush. Not only were all previous records for amount of mail matter handled broken, but so also were broken all previous records for speedy handling. It required almost superhuman effort to keep up with work, together with executive ability of a high order to see to it that the huge force—a goodly part of it new to the work—worked to the best advantage.

We are so accustomed to getting our mail on time that we are prone to take it as a matter of course, overlooking the fact that it requires organization of the most efficient kind to make the postoffice machinery work smoothly. Postmaster Sizer and his force gave us a holiday service that could not have been surpassed, and to him and his assistants is due the grateful acknowledgements of the public. Of course they were paid for doing the work. But, just the same, they are entitled to a word of appreciation. Will Maupin's Weekly was late during that terrific Christmas rush, but the Lincoln postoffice handled the big Christmas issue without losing a minute's time. The papers went into the office late at night, and Lincoln subscribers were served before noon the next day. That's going some, considering the fact that this was right in the middle of the Christmas rush. Just as soon as we add a few more paid-in-advance subscribers to the list we are going to send the postoffice bunch enough cigars to go 'round.

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\* **A GREAT BIG BOOST FOR** \*  
\* **GRAND YOUNG NEBRASKA.** \*  
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Will Maupin's Weekly, the best single-handed booster Nebraska has or ever had, came out in a blaze of glory last week with its "Nebraska Industries Number." Twenty-four pages carried an immense amount of highly interesting matter regarding the resources, attractions and opportunities of Nebraska, and also numerous advertisements of manufacturing concerns who make good goods in Nebraska and are not afraid to let people know it.—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

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### THINK IT OVER.

The 1911 production of cotton in the United States was, in round numbers, 12,000,000 bales, worth \$600,000,000. The United States produces

practically all of the cotton of the world.

But the cotton production of the whole United States in 1911 was worth but about \$50,000,000 more than Nebraska's production of agricultural and live stock wealth in the same year. Viewed in the light of that comparison you begin to get some idea of Nebraska's wealth producing power. Any year's production of agricultural and live stock wealth in Nebraska would practically pay for the same year's production of cotton in the entire United States—and cotton is the most valuable single crop, by long odds—raised in this country, outside of corn and wheat.

And adding our manufactured product to our agricultural live stock product, Nebraska could buy the world's cotton crop and have a few millions left for small change.

Great state, Nebraska. And you ought to be making the facts known to all the world.

### RUSSIA AND THE JEWS.

It is declared that Russia, in retaliation for the abrogation of the treaty between that country and the United States, will exclude all American Jews from the empire. That will be an awful blow to Uncle Sam—not. We can not imagine what any American Jew, or Russian Jew Americanized, would want to get into Russia for. Russia's treatment of the Jews, coupled with Russia's condition financially, morally and industrially reminds us of a story.

A Jew traveling man entered a smoking car and seated himself by the side of a big man. The Jew attempted to open a conversation but was snubbed by his seatmate. He kept it up until the grouch finally turned and with a scowl asked:

"Say, you're a Jew, are you not?"

The Jew admitted it.

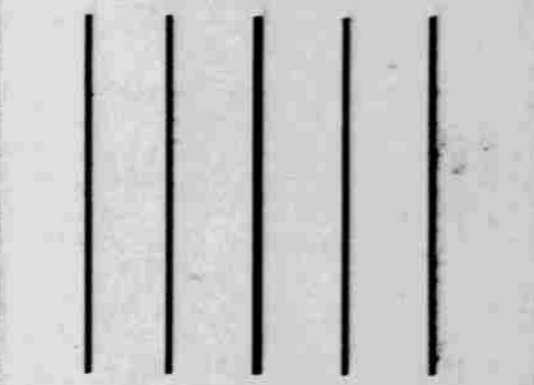
"Well," said the grouch, "I am proud to say that in the little Maine village where I live there is not a single Jew."

"Vell, dot's vy it vos a village," retorted the Jew.

Russia's treatment of the Jews may be taken as a pretty good reason why Russia is Russia.

### THE COST OF LIVING.

So many things contribute to the "increased cost of living" that it is difficult to enumerate them. One cause is that the number of producers is not keeping pace with the number of consumers. The drift towards the cities is increasing with marked rapidity. Another cause is that the average man's necessities now were luxuries a few years ago. The fact of the matter is, we could live as cheaply now as our fathers lived a quarter of a century or forty years ago if we were willing to live as they lived. And, after all, didn't they enjoy life about as well as we enjoy it now? James J. Hill has given utterance to many good things, but one of his best utterances was when he said that the cost of high living, not the high cost of living, is our greatest trouble right now.



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