

PROCLAMATION

The laying aside of the swaddling clothes of a territorial existence and assuming the habiliments of a state is a period worthy of definite registration in history. It is an event that should be remembered at all proper intervals ever after. Nebraska came to the inheritance of statehood and was the first to enter the Union soon after the close of the Civil War. She was fortunate in that tens of thousands of the young men who had rendered service to the government in the capacity of soldiers during the war and were inured to the fatigue on the field, came to this territory prepared to undergo the hardship incident to the life of a pioneer.

With them came thousands of others from the several states and from homes across the sea, all for the purpose of establishing and reclaiming the soil from a state of nature and making it respond to the demands of civilization.

These hardy sons of toil, unwilling to longer remain in the relation of dependents on the general government and preferring to take upon themselves the obligation of a free and independent state, asked for and received admission to the Union on the first day of March, 1867, adopting as a motto 'Equality before the law,' and engraving the same on the Great Seal of the state.

Two score and five years have passed, since by the will of the people and the authority of law, we became an independent factor in the galaxy of

states that constitute the strongest and the freest republic on earth. Such has been our progress that we stand second to none in point of general intelligence, and the peer of any in agricultural and other industrial achievements wherein the soil is the principal factor.

In view of these facts and in order that our people may be reminded of the near approach of our forty-fifth anniversary, I have thought it wise, as chief executive of the state, to suggest that as citizens of the commonwealth, we in some manner observe this occasion; for example, that the schools take up the subject and ask one or more of each school to prepare and read a paper involving the growth of the state in population, churches, schools, railroads, number of farms and amount produced, instituting comparisons between certain dates as to numbers and values. As instance the fact that up to the 10th day of July, 1865, there was not one rail of railroad iron laid in Nebraska. Now we have 6,135 miles of direct line in the state. In 1867 only 48,800 people, now 1,192,214.

On March 1st next, write a letter to some one or more of your friends in other states, telling them something of what you know of the state's development. Thus, in this modest way, we can observe the day and help spread important facts touching the resources and progress of our beloved state.

CHESTER H. ALDRICH,
Governor.

does. Her trouble is being too niggardly or too careless to make an appropriation sufficient to permit of making those statistics known to all the world.

Every two years for the past sixteen or eighteen, the voters of Nebraska have been called upon to vote upon from one to half a dozen constitutional amendments. The time is come when Nebraska should have a new and up-to-date constitution—one fitted for a state of a million and a quarter of people. Our present constitution was made by men who never dreamed that Nebraska would see the time when a half-million people would live within her borders. They made a constitution while laboring under a fit of blues brought about by grasshopper visitations, by drouths and by Indian scares. It was a good constitution in its day, but it fits Nebraska now about as well as a two-year-old boy's clothes will fit him after he has grown to be a man.

We may talk all we please about revering the constitution, but here in Nebraska we have played football with the constitution until it is battered out of all semblance of a "charter of our liberties." We have evaded it, ignored it and snubbed it until the poor thing is in no shape to appear in good society. But instead of sending it to the junk heap and getting a new one worth while, and in keeping with our progress, we continue to patch it when not ignoring it. We have got around the constitutional prohibition against increasing the number of state officers by creating a horde of deputies, making them responsible to the governor, already overloaded with responsibilities. Then we get around the pitiful salary limitation of the governorship by the subterfuge of an "executive mansion" and "maintenance" and "traveling expenses."

Of course it would cost money to hold a constitutional convention, but the drafting and adopting of a new constitution would enable us to save enough money in a decade to pay all the expenses, and then we would have an instrument that would permit us to grow and make provision for future contingencies. Instead of holding off against a constitutional convention on the ground of expense, the taxpayers of Nebraska ought to be demanding one on the ground of economy and good business sense.

A few years ago Governor Aldrich tried to buy 3,000 acres of land in what is now Scottsbluff county, but couldn't raise the money, although \$25,000 or \$30,000 would have been sufficient. Today the busy little city of Scottsbluff is on that same tract, and land in the immediate vicinity is worth from \$150 to \$300 an acre. But the experience of Governor Aldrich is the experience of thousands. Most of Nebraska's rich men of today are rich because they thought they were being forced into bankruptcy a few years ago when they had to foreclose farm mortgages and take the land. A few, however, had the foresight and the grit to buy the land when it was deemed practically worthless, and hold on to it.

More than a quarter of a century ago the Oberfelder boys located in Sidney. Every dollar they could scrape and save they invested in Union Pacific land at from \$3 to \$5 an acre. Friends laughed at them and said they were suckers of the first water. But the Oberfelder boys kept right on banking their money that way, a few dollars at a time, but often. Now the Oberfelder boys are doing the laughing. They can go to Europe any old time they want to, winter in Florida or on the Pacific coast and spend their summers in the mountains. They can maintain automobiles without mortgaging their homes for the upkeep—and they have a few thousand acres of land left which they can sell for from \$25 to \$50 an acre without a bit of trouble. They had faith in western Nebraska and backed that faith with their money.

Between 1887 and 1899 a Massachusetts woman loaned \$20,000 on western Nebraska farm mortgages until she had mortgages on 100 quarter sections in what is now Scottsbluff, Duel, Mor-

rill and Garden counties. Along came the drouth of 1890 and knocked every thing western into a cocked hat. The Massachusetts woman became almost crazy at the thought of losing her all. She had to foreclose on four-fifths of the land, and lost about half of it because she couldn't pay taxes. Between 1898 and 1908 she sold enough of the land to get back her \$20,000 and she still owns eight or ten quarter sections, and one of which is worth upwards of \$10,000.

We have a pretty thorough acquaintance with a Nebraska newspaper man who took a quarter section in Perkins county off the hands of his brother-in-law paying \$150 in cash and assuming a mortgage of \$150. The newspaper man lifted the mortgage, held the land for eight years and sold it for \$950. He thought he was making a splendid real estate bargain when he sold. Within six years after he sold the quarter section for \$950 it was resold for \$35 an acre, and today couldn't be bought for \$50 an acre.

There is farm land in Nebraska today that couldn't be bought for \$200 an acre that wouldn't have brought \$25 an acre twenty-five years ago. And there is vacant land in Nebraska today that can be bought for from \$25 to \$50 an acre that will be worth \$150 an acre twenty-five years from now.

A PRETTY PUZZLE.

Richardson county is a mighty good apple growing bit of territory. The finest apples in the world are raised down there and in counties round about. And it is not necessary to irrigate the orchards, either. We have seen apple displays in Oregon, Washington and New York, and fine ones, too. But they were not a bit better than the apple display we saw a few weeks ago at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Horticultural society. As a matter of fact, if we wanted to go into the apple growing business, and the growing of apples were the only thing to be considered, we wouldn't give a ten-acre orchard in southeastern Nebraska for any ten-acre orchard in Oregon or Washington or New York. But it happens that more than the mere growing of apples is to be considered.

After raising your apples you must find a market for them. And to secure a market you must have just freight rates—rates that will permit you to ship your apples at a fair profit and sell them at a price that the consumer can afford to pay. From Rochester, New York to North Platte, Nebr., is approximately 1,200 miles, and a car of New York apples shipped from Rochester to North Platte will have to be handled by at least three railroads. From Falls City to North Platte is approximately 350 miles, and apples may be shipped over but two roads.

The rate on apples from Rochester to North Platte, 1,200 miles, is 35 cents. From Falls City to North Platte, 350 miles, the rate is 38 cents.

That's what puzzles the Richardson county apple grower, and a lot of northwestern Nebraska people who really like apples but can not afford them, even though they be rotting on the ground at the place of production.

Maybe it costs 3 cents more to haul apples 350 miles than it does to haul apples 1,200 miles, but if it does we'd be almighty glad to have some one show us the whys and wherefores.

DAFFODILS.

If Adams and Humpe should get together and agree to kill competition, would the resultant agreement kilowat?

If P. L. Hall and E. H. Dunn made a pile of all their financial plans would Silas Burnham?

If Hans Boegh failed to keep 'em moving would Ernest Hunger?

If Metcalfe had Morehead would Barton be a Prince, or would Victor Rosewater Howell?

If the Roosevelt-Taft delegates can't readily agree upon a proper designation how long will Addison Waite?

If talk is cheap who will cough up when Charley Bills?

If John G. Maher continues to boost for Harmon will it make the Woodrough for Wilson?

If Colton of York can pull through, how much can Tom Hall?

CURRENT COMMENT

The Harmon conference at Fremont was merely a forerunner of what is destined to be an epoch in democratic history in Nebraska. It is the beginning of a fight to the finish to see whether Mr. Bryan shall continue to be the dominant figure in Nebraska democracy, or whether he shall be retired. Some Harmon supporters—a majority, perhaps—are supporting the Ohio executive because they really believe him to be the strongest candidate democracy could name. But there are those in the Harmon group who don't care a rap about Harmon, their chief interest being to throw Bryan over the transom, even though in the throwing they make it impossible for Nebraska democracy to win a victory in the next generation.

Those who keep in touch with state politics will readily admit that the Harmon boom is in charge of some

mighty expert political managers. They know how to organize, and they have the means at hand whereby to perfect an organization speedily and effectively. And they love to play the political game because it is their way of having fun.

The fight against Wilson in this state is going to be made on a number of grounds. First, he will be opposed in some quarters because he is presumed to be Bryan's first choice. Second, he will be charged with being a prohibitionist. Third, he will be charged with preferring Chinese emigration to the emigration of men from southern Europe, and Nebraska has several thousand voters who came from that section of the world. Fourth, he will be charged with too sudden conversion to democratic principles, being actuated by an ambition to get something for it. And the emblem of the Wil-

son opponents will be a "cocked hat," which will be flaunted in the faces of the Wilson supporters. While all this is going on the republicans will be solidifying their ranks. During the sixty days intervening before the primaries enough democratic animosities will probably be aroused to make it possible for the republicans to carry the state by a majority anywhere between 25,000 and 50,000.

When Judge Parker, during the campaign of 1904, charged that "big business" was putting up money for the republican campaign, Theodore Roosevelt shouted "you're a liar!" Within two years it was clearly shown that Judge Parker told the truth, and that Theodore Roosevelt knew that Judge Parker was telling the truth. The "My Dear Hariman" letter and the insurance investigations showed beyond a doubt that Judge Parker was right. If Theodore Roosevelt is such a great reformer, and so opposed to the interference of "big business" in our political affairs, why did he invite Harriman to call at the back door after night for a discussion of the situation?

It is very common for men who do not know the first thing about the collection of statistics, nor the methods of those whose duty it is to collect them, to criticize the Nebraska Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics. Frank Odell is the latest critic. Mr. Odell ought to investigate before he suggests how it should be done. Had he made a little investigation he would have discovered that the very method he suggests is the one pursued by the labor commissioner of Nebraska, and the one pursued by every collector of agricultural statistics in the United States, including those employed by the federal government. After several years experience in the work of collecting agricultural statistics in Nebraska we are prepared to assert that Nebraska's statistics, gathered by the labor bureau, are far more reliable than the average and more to be depended upon than those collected by the government for this state. Nebraska's trouble is not the ability to gather reliable statistics; that she

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