

Will Maupin's Weekly

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY HIMSELF

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AN OVERLOOKED ANNIVERSARY.

Three weeks ago today Will Maupin's Weekly had a birthday, but it was so busy it overlooked the fact. On March 31 this paper was eight years old. Eight years ago it was established under the name of "The Wageworker," and continued under that name until February 1, 1911, when it assumed the present name. It has had some varied experiences during those eight years, but it has steadily maintained its purpose. It has not succeeded in doing all that it hoped to do—and probably never will. But like the organist in the mining camp, it has been doing its best all the time. It has been the organ only of its editor all these years. It hasn't had a single string attached to it. It hasn't had a friend to reward at the expense of honest conviction, nor an enemy worthy of notice to subject to punishment. It has had quite a few yellow curs barking at its heels, but it hasn't paused a minute to look for a rock.

But what has passed is past. It is of the future that we would speak. Will Maupin's Weekly has several aims, but its chief one is to boost for Nebraska and for the men who are accomplishing real things. It believes Nebraska is the best state in the Union, and wants to help prove it by advertising Nebraska's resources and possibilities to all men everywhere. It wants to aid in the building up of Nebraska's manufacturing institutions by helping to cultivate a state pride and loyalty that will impel Nebraskans to stand by their home industries. It wants to give due meed of praise to the men whose energy and brains and initiative are developing this great state. It wants to scatter sunshine and good cheer. Its hot house of roses is intended for the living—it has only tears for the dead. If it doesn't know something good to say of men it will either think up something or keep quiet about them. Its office equipment does not include a hammer, but does include a lever and a jackscrew for lifting purposes. If you do not like its purpose and its performance, we don't care a rap. If you do like them, show it by sending in your dollar and receiving fifty-two consecutive weekly doses of its educational sunshine and good cheer.

Will Maupin's Weekly is well started on its ninth year, feeling real pert.

THE WATER POWER PROBLEM.

For twenty years H. E. Babcock of Omaha has been working and planning for the development of a magnificent water power in eastern Nebraska. In spite of repeated rebuffs and discouragements; in spite of ridicule and indifference, Mr. Babcock worked and sacrificed, confident that he was on the right track and that sooner or later success would come. And during all these years of discouragements and disappointments not a single suggestion, not a single offer of help came from the people who should have been most interested.

But suddenly it is made manifest that Mr. Babcock is about to realize his dream of almost two decades. Men known to have the financial ability to finance the great enterprise announce that they are ready to do it—and then a people long indifferent, many of them incredulous and most of them ignorant of what it means to Nebraska, suddenly wake up and become insistent that the state "be protected." Why did they not think of that long ago? Why didn't they "protect" the state before Mr. Babcock endured so many years of toil and bitter disappointments? Why did they wait until he was about to realize upon all his toil and then suddenly become so wonderfully concerned about "protecting" the state?

This development of water power in Nebraska has been a sort of fetish with the editor of Will Maupin's Weekly for years. He wrote editorials advocating its development twenty

years ago for the Omaha world-Herald. From 1896 to 1901 he wrote scores of editorials for that same paper advocating the development of Nebraska's water power. While deputy commissioner of labor he inserted mention of it in bulletin after bulletin. It is no new thing that Mr. Babcock offers. It strikes Will Maupin's Weekly that all this wrangle is merely for the purpose of depriving Mr. Babcock of what he has deservedly earned. Men who wouldn't listen to him, although he plead with them for years, suddenly awakened to the fact that it is a good thing, and immediately they begin an effort to jockey Babcock out of his rights. And it strikes us that a lot of well-intentioned gentlemen are playing into the hands of that same outfit.

We believe, and insist that it can be done, that the state should exercise control over the water powers of the state; that the state should be recompensed handsomely for the use of the water in its streams used for power purposes, and that the state should regulate the rate charged. But this talk about the state undertaking the development of the water power is all tommy-rot. Nor is it unwise for the state to grant the right sought after by Mr. Babcock now, for the state can at the proper time fix conditions. The railroads were built many years before we created a railway commission and gave it power to regulate rates within the state. It would be just as easy to fix the physical valuation of the water power plant and allow a reasonable dividend upon the money actually invested. And if the railway commission can fix the amount of stocks and bonds a street railway or a gas company may issue, certainly it can do the same

thing with respect to the water power project.

What we want is the speedy development of the water power possible under the Babcock project. It may not be exactly popular, but Will Maupin's Weekly holds that men who invest their money in an enterprise of that kind are entitled to a little more return than men who merely loan money upon real estate or chattel securities. They take an enormous risk to start with. They get no returns for a number of years. They must first invest huge sums of money, then develop a business that will return a profit. And surely they are entitled to something to reimburse them for that period wherein they get no returns.

Of course Will Maupin's Weekly wants the state's interests safeguarded in every possible way, but it insists that no injustice be done to a public-spirited, tireless and optimistic man who has sacrificed so much to make possible the development of the water power in question. We insist that Mr. Babcock be given just as square a deal as the people are now demanding, even if the demand is sadly belated.

Being very friendly to Governor Aldrich, personally, not politically, we suggest that he ponder over these two scriptural quotations: "He that ruleth his spirit is greater than he who taketh a city," and "the tongue is an unruly member."

"In this wheat by and by," sings the Nebraska farmer as he gazes delightedly over the greening fields.

The Salvation Army seems to have scored again.

If all the wheat Nebraska has pro-

duced in the last ten years were ground into flour, and the flour made into a doughnut of true proportions, that doughnut would be big enough to go around the whole of that part of the United States west of the Mississippi river without touching either Idaho or Texas.

Mr. Farmer, don't become discouraged over the looks of your wheat field. Give it a chance. A lot of mighty good wheat has been plowed up to make way for an indifferent corn crop.

Being very friendly to Mr. LaFollette we want to warn him that big crowds do not mean big votes. We refer, without permission, to Mr. Bryan, for confirmation of this statement.

This exchange of pulpits by Governor Harmon and Mr. Bryan may not tend to settle differences within the democratic fold, but it certainly adds to the gaiety and interest of politics.

We insist that the result of the republican presidential primary in Illinois is merely corroborative evidence that it is well named the "Sucker" state.

If Mr. Woodrough of Omaha will call at this office we will gladly tender the use of our copy of "Political Etiquette."

Of course no one filed against John A. Maguire for congress on the democratic primary ballot. What's the use?

Yes, Rinaldo, the saloons will be closed all day next Friday, because it is primary day.

YOU don't pick your friends merely by the way they look; you want something more than "front" in the fellow you "tie" to. Better pick your clothes the same way.

Men's Handsome New Suits at \$20 to \$25

Fabrics of exclusive weave and pattern in styles shown only by this store.

The really smart ideas of London's young set. The best thoughts of the clever dressers of New York's "400" are shown. Our aim is to give you clothes entirely different from what you see in other stores—yet attain graceful, stylish effects. As to the new style touches, such as cut of coat and trousers, shape of lapel, pockets, etc., we'd prefer to have you see the garments rather than attempt description. You'll be well pleased.

Superb Varieties of Men's Suits at \$12.50 and \$15.00

Our \$12.50 and \$15.00 suits are a strong feature and represent considerable more than suits at these prices anywhere else. Greys, Tans and Browns in light and dark colors. Also plain and fancy Blues in large varieties. Regulars, slims, stouts and shorts. For style and intrinsic worth these are by far the best suits obtainable.

World's Finest Hats Are Here

Pick of the best styles from old Europe as well as the nobbiest of American blocks.

Stetson's, Roelof's, Crofut & Knapp, Imperial's and Mallroy's America's Finest \$2.50 to \$8.00



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GOOD CLOTHES MERCHANTS

Woodrow Wilson had his grip stolen, together with a lot of private correspondence. Clearly Mr. Wilson is not a good politician. A good politician seldom writes letters, always adds the postscript "burn this," and follows his own advice as to letters received—unless they are worth preserving to use as a club.

If the democrats of Nebraska expect to defeat Governor Aldrich they would do well to think up something better than the recent unfortunate incidents at the state prison. Governor Aldrich is no more to blame for those things than the governors who preceded him.

EDWIN JEARY.

On several occasions Will Maupin's Weekly has recorded its estimate of Edwin Jeary, republican candidate for nomination for representative from Lancaster county. What Mr. Jeary stands for is set forth in his announcement, which appears elsewhere. And what Edwin Jeary says he is for he is for without mental reservation. He has had experience as a member of the legislature, and those who were his political opponents then to a man cheerfully testify to his ability and his rugged honesty. Mr. Jeary does not need the office, for the salary attached thereto is no inducement. He is willing to give the people the benefit of his services because he is desirous of helping them to secure needed legislation. His experience as a legislator and as a business man will make him a valuable representative. Four-square, upstanding and always dependable, Mr. Jeary is just the type of man every community needs as a representative in the lawmaking body.