

WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

State Historical Society

VOLUME 9

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, JULY 26, 1912

NUMBER 19

MEN AND MATTERS

It would seem that death has recently picked upon the Brandeis family of Omaha. First the father, founder of the huge mercantile and banking firm of Brandeis & Sons, was called home. Shortly after the older brother, Emil, was among those lost on the ill-fated steamer Titanic. And now H. Hugo, second of the three brothers, has been laid to rest. The Brandeis family, father and three sons, made their impress upon the west. With unbounded faith in the future of Omaha and Nebraska they not only invested their all in the metropolis, but they induced others to do the same thing. As a result they were among the foremost builders of the new Omaha. Markedly successful in business, they were just as prominent in all works calculated to advance the material interests of their city and state. Every move for civic betterment found them ready to take hold with time and money and energy. What their future plans were may be judged only by what they performed in the past, and upon that basis they must have planned magnificent things. The death of the father and two of the three sons has been a distinct loss to the state of Nebraska. There are thousands who will join in the hope that the last of the three brothers may long be spared to continue the great work so splendidly started.

He is so well qualified for the position, so enthusiastic in all that he undertakes and such a splendid compromise between the factions of the party, that the chances are Frank W. Brown, ex-mayor of Lincoln will not stand much show of being selected chairman of the democratic state committee. It would in all probability be expecting too much of the party to make such a wise selection at so opportune a time. Mr. Brown would take into the work of chairman a wide acquaintance, the implicit confidence of all men of all parties, a knowledge of Nebraska politics second to that of no other man, and an enthusiasm that would inspire others. There is every reason why the suggestion of Brown for the place should meet with instant favor in all quarters.

The World-Herald is quite correct in insisting that neither Mr. Bryan nor Speaker Clark are issues in this campaign. This newspaper is just as proud of Mr. Bryan's record at Baltimore as any other of his friends can be, but because Mr. Bryan stood up in the Baltimore convention and made a fight for progressive ideas is no reason why he should be particularly singled out for commendation. There were others who fought just as well according to their lights. Mr. Bryan is not in any immediate need of commendation from Nebraska democrats. He is too big to need that sort of thing any more. The men who are insisting that the Grand Island convention "commend Bryan" are not all of them Mr. Bryan's most sincere friends. And Mr. Bryan no longer needs to pause to throw rocks at those who snap and snarl at his heels. Let the democratic convention at Grand Island attend to its little job of knitting and pass up a lot of those foolish little things that can only create discord if given attention.

If Woodrow Wilson is elected president—and this newspaper opines that he will be—he will not have to depend upon Nebraska. This state's electoral vote will neither make or break him. It is of vastly more concern to the progressive voters of this state that the democratic state ticket be elected than that its electoral vote be given to Wilson. It is high time Nebraska had a governor who conducted the state's business upon a business basis; high time that broadminded business men be put in charge of the departments; high time the state have more and better service from its servants and less grandstanding and hotairing. This is the real issue in Nebraska—bull moosers and standpatters to the contrary notwithstanding.

We indignantly deny that a slice of constitutional amendment printing would influence a single solitary newspaper in Nebraska. But we notice that Governor Aldrich has thrown the aforesaid pie to the papers that have been boosting him the hardest, and that one little newspaper pretending to be democratic, and which has bolted Morehead, is among those designated. At the moment of this writing Governor Morehead has not designated the Lancaster county newspapers that are to be recipients of pastry. If Will Maupin's Weekly happens to be one of the designated ones it will be because the governor knows it is the most thoroughly read newspaper in the county, not because he expects any support therefrom. This newspaper is for John H. Morehead for governor because it is convinced that he is far and away the best equipped man for the position.

Rev. Mr. Brown of Chicago is pastor of a small church, receives no salary, and makes a living selling insurance. Recently he invested \$100 in advertising his religion and a result made two converts. Now he is a firm believer in newspaper advertising of church work. There ought to be thousands of such believers. Advertising is merely calling attention to a good thing. The Nazarene gave us the right advertising tip when He said: "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." A well written advertisement will reach thousands of people while a pastor is talking to a few hundreds.

A year or two ago we heard a great deal about "denatured

alcohol" and its availability as a cheap fuel. Congress fought over it for a long time, and the people had an awful job prying loose the clutches of the oil trust. At least the people thought so. Finally the people secured permission to make denatured alcohol and we expected to see an alcohol still on every farm, and coal and gasoline driven from the market as engine fuel. Nothing doing. Here we are, facing a gasoline famine, and no denatured alcohol plants going. With gasoline advancing in price with no indications of ever being cheaper, why don't some enterprising automobile man put up an alcohol still and prepare to supply the demand of the autoists?

You simply can't beat Nebraska! No matter what other states may do, Nebraska merely smiles, holds her skirts a bit tighter and sails in the lead. She has been accumulating wealth more rapidly than any of her sisters during the last ten years. She's got so much of it that she is actually embarrassed. Even the men arrested for vagrancy are "lousy with money." A man was arrested in Lincoln the other day on the charge of vagrancy. He was loafing around doing nothing, and his clothing was hardly fit for good society. But when searched at the police station \$1,200 in greenbacks and \$3,500 in certified checks were disclosed. In Omaha a man found sleeping on a Jefferson square bench was arrested. At the police station he was searched and found to be the possessor of a couple of one-thousand dollar bills and some small change amounting to about \$350. But these men were mere pikers compared with Mike Curtain of Aurora, who was arrested for vagrancy in Omaha last week. Mike was arrested while playing seven-up behind a bill board with some friends as tough looking as himself. But when Mike was searched at the police station he was found to have \$2,500 in currency, a certified check for \$7,500, and tangible evidences of wealth in the way of tax receipts and deeds to show that he is worth about \$250,000. If this sort of thing keeps up all of us Nebraskans will have to carry from \$2,500 to \$5,000 in our clothes, and even then we are liable to be sent up for having no visible means of support.

Of course, just as soon as there is a possibility of the gas situation being cleared up and the people given back their over-payments with cheaper gas, along comes somebody to interpose technicalities and objections. We frankly confess that we don't care a tinker's dam what becomes of the Gas Co. But to date it seems to have managed to get along fairly well. But the Gas Co. is financially better able to carry on this fight than we are to pay \$1.20 per thousand cubic feet for the gas it sells. Under existing conditions the Gas Co. is maintaining the old price and using the money of the consumers to pay the expense of the litigation. This talk of not allowing the Gas Co. to "have its own way" is all bosh. Of course it shouldn't be allowed to have its own way; it should be regulated, both in its service and in its charges. But where's the sense in compelling consumers to keep on putting up the money whereby the Gas Co. finances its fight against the city? Let's get the rebate and dollar gas now, with 95 cent gas in the near future.

NEBRASKA'S FRUIT CROP.

There is every indication that Nebraska's fruit crop this year will be enormous. The apple crop—barring accidents—will be better than the five year average, and as good or better than the 1911 crop. With better knowledge of how to select and pack and ship, more apples will be marketed this year than ever before, and to far better advantage.

Having broken away from the old idea that it was only necessary to set out an apple orchard and wait for it to come into bearing, Nebraska fruit growers are now coming into their own. As a result of scientific culture and modern methods of handling the crop, Nebraska's orchards are becoming wonderfully valuable, and they are demonstrating that Nebraska is capable of becoming the greatest apple producing state in the Union. While Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Colorado are boasting of their apple orchards, Nebraska is quietly raising more apples than any one of them. Three Nebraska counties produce more apples than the whole of Colorado—and better apples, at that. Nebraska apples are the best apples in the world. The only reason why the fact is not generally known is that Nebraska apple raisers have not been careful enough in selecting and packing. Some day, in the not distant future, the hills of eastern Nebraska will be one vast apple orchard, and Nebraska apples will be known the world over.

"MADE IN NEBRASKA" PAVILLION.

A couple of years ago we heard something about building a pavillion on the State Fair grounds for the exhibition of goods manufactured in Nebraska. It was an awfully good idea—what has become of it? We have separate departments for cattle raised in Nebraska, for hogs raised in Nebraska, for chickens raised in Nebraska. Why not a separate department for made in Nebraska goods? It would have to be a pretty big department too, for we are manufacturing \$300,000,000 worth of goods in Nebraska every year—from automobiles to baby carriages. Such a department could easily be made one of the greatest attractions of what is already the greatest state fair in America. It is to be hoped that the managers of the big Nebraska exposition will not let another year go by without having a "made in Nebraska" department.

CURRENT COMMENT

We opine that the democrats of Nebraska would get a lot more satisfaction out of the mix-up among republicans if their own condition was a little bit better settled.

Herman Ridder, treasurer of the democratic national committee in 1908, seems to be the right sort. Just now the senate is investigating campaign expenses and in response to a summons Ridder says: "I have all the books and papers, my health is good and my memory excellent. I will show every dollar received and from whom; every dollar paid out, and to whom." This is a refreshing contrast to the methods of the republican national committee, whose books are all destroyed, and whose treasurer seems to have suffered a lapse of memory.

The news dispatches inform us that an Indiana man was discovered to be insane just as he was about to take unto himself his tenth wife. My, but they must be a mighty slow lot back in Hoosierdom.

We have always taken off our hat when we met up with Rev. Charles W. Savidge of Omaha. It is a pleasure and a privilege to stand uncovered in the presence of such a whole-souled, God-fearing, big-hearted man as this Omaha preacher has proved himself to be. Rev. Mr. Savidge is always and forever planning good works for the benefit of his fellows, and what is more he invariably makes good with his plans. The fact that he hasn't got a dollar when he begins planning something calling for big expenditures does not worry him a bit. He knows his work is needed, and his faith tells him that when the times comes to pay the bills he'll have the money. And he always has it, too. His supreme faith has been vindicated time and again. Right now he is planning a \$40,000 "House of Hope" for the shelter and care of aged and infirm women. He hasn't got a dollar on hand for it, but he is getting ready to begin work on the building. He hasn't even got the land on which to build it. But he will have the land when the time comes. And he will have the money to pay for the material and for the workmen. We are pinning our faith to Rev. Charles W. Savidge. And how we do wish we had a lot more ministers like him.

Hereafter prize fight pictures will not be a part of the money making machinery of the prize ring. The transportation of prize fight picture films from one state into another will be under the ban, and the interstate commerce commission will enforce the law. This will not put an end to prize fighting, but it will make the ring less attractive because it will materially decrease the size of the purses offered, and will cause prize fight promoters to be a bit more economical.

Roosevelt has adopted "Thou shalt not steal" as the slogan of the bull moosers. "Thou shalt not steel" would have sounded better in 1907, about the time of that merger of the steel trust with Tennessee coal and iron.

In departing from Lincoln, where he has been superintendent of schools for many years, Prof. Stephens recommends a radical increase in the pay of teachers. Of course the teachers should be better paid. It is a disgrace to Nebraska, this wage scale of her teachers. The average teacher, to whom the early and most lasting training of the child is given, receives less wage per year than the average waitress in a good restaurant; less wage than the average common laborer. Our teachers should be the best paid professional workers of all, for their duties are the most important. We know a Nebraska county where a dozen farmers of a certain township got together and bought a stallion, paying \$1,200 for it. Then they paid a man \$75 a month to care for the animal. Two of the co-operative society were members of the school board. A few weeks after they agreed to pay a man \$75 a month to groom that stallion, these two men employed a young girl at \$30 a month to teach the district school. Seventy-five a month to improve horses, and \$30 a month to improve children! Think that over.

Nearly two months since the engineer of the state board of irrigation made his report on the Loup river situation—and the governor and his associates are still delaying a decision. Why? Men are waiting to invest millions in developing a huge power project. They are estopped by the failure of the state board to follow the plain mandates of the law. The specious plea of "protecting the dear people" is put up, but it will deceive only those who dearly love to be deceived. The development of Nebraska's water power is of vastly more moment to Nebraska than the election of any man to state office.

Judge Hanford of Seattle found his health demanded his resignation just at the moment when he became convinced that his crooked work was about to be exposed. The American people ought to get busy calling the attention of a lot of other federal judges to the condition of the judicial health.

If you know anything good to say about Nebraska, or any of her counties or cities, tell Will Maupin's Weekly and it will tell all the world. That's just what Will Maupin's Weekly is here for.