

# WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

State Historical Society

VOLUME 9

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, AUGUST 16, 1912

NUMBER 22

## MEN AND MATTERS

We can not help but wondering where Michael F. Harrington is going to get off at in this coming election. Michael was red-hot for Wilson before the primaries. After the primaries he flopped to the Bull Moochers, evidently believing that it was going to be a really new political party. Now that it has developed that the Bull Moochers is really nothing but a Roosevelt boost, and Roosevelt stands for about everything that Michael has opposed for the past thirty years—high protection, federal incorporation, etc., etc. Instead of a full state ticket of Bull Moochers, Michael is offered the old ticket that he has fought for years. It is our calm and unbiased opinion that Michael would like mighty well to jump back before he lights.

Out of all this mess of people who are insisting that they are the only ones entitled to power rights on the Loup river, we wish the state board would make a selection and let the proper parties go to work. We want to see that power developed, and we are not caring nearly so much about the who as we are the how. This thing has been fooled with long enough. Surely somebody is empowered under the law to begin the work of development. It is the business of the state board to decide. The law says the board shall accept the recommendation of the state engineer, and the state engineer submitted his report months ago. Still the decision is delayed, doubtless because there is a chance to "play some politics." It may be a good thing for the cheap politician, but it is a mighty expensive game for Nebraska.

There are some people who continue to act on the theory that a lie well stuck to is as good as the truth. This seems to be the only explanation of the oft-repeated assertion that John H. Morehead was opposed to the initiative and referendum. Some of the gentlemen of the direct legislation league hold that all who did not agree absolutely with them on the matter of percentages were at heart opposed to the bill. Such an assumption is an exhibition of gall, and is also without foundation in fact. Senator Morehead was not pledged to the bill for the simple reason it was not an issue in the district he represented. He was, however, in favor of the initiative and referendum. He voted for the bill. He supported every amendment that was supported by Senator Skiles, who fathered the bill in the senate. If Morehead was opposed to the initiative and referendum, then Skiles, head and front of the direct legislation movement, was opposed to it. But the republican organs hope, by constant reiteration of the falsehood, to deceive a few voters.

"Know Nebraska Better" should be the slogan of every school district in the state. Every school teacher should study Nebraska, and should fit herself—or himself—to teach the facts about Nebraska. We opine that the average Nebraska schoolboy knows more about England than he does about his own state. It is not enough that the pupil should be able to "bound Nebraska" and name her principal cities and rivers. They ought to know something about her soil and her climate; about her products, her manufactures, her past and her future. By cutting out a lot of fool fads and adding on a few things worth while, our public schools may be made of more service to the people.

Do not overlook nor forget the fact that in less than five years Nebraska will celebrate her semi-centennial. It was Will Maupin's Weekly that first suggested the holding of an exposition to celebrate the anniversary, and it purposes keeping the suggestion before the people. The state could well afford to appropriate a half-million for such an exposition, the various counties could well afford to appropriate from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each, and a score of cities could profitably invest from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Let Nebraska hold a big semi-centennial exposition without asking Uncle Sam for a cent. That fact alone would be a big advertisement for this commonwealth. And Nebraska has the men who know how to conduct big expositions. It was Nebraskans who managed one of the biggest expositions ever held in the country, and did it with such success that they repaid the investors. It was a record unique in the history of big expositions.

Just about the time everything in Nebraska has gone to the demnition bow-wows for want of rain, along comes a gully-washing, root-snatching deluge that puts everything to the good again. Nebraska has but recently harvested the biggest small grain crop in her history. She is going to have a corn crop bigger than the ten-year average. She is going to have an apple crop that will make the boasted apple crops of the northwest look like a basketful of culls. When the last cutting of alfalfa has been stored away she will have cut and cured \$40,000,000 worth of that succulent clover, to say nothing of \$25,000,000 or \$35,000,000 worth of other kinds of hay. By the time the bells announce the birth of 1913 her hens will have made a twelve-months' record of about 250,000,000 dozen eggs, her dairy cows will have made a record of about 50,000,000 pounds of butter, and her manufacturing plants will have turned out about \$250,000,000 worth of finished products. Isn't she the grand old state?

The organization of the so-called "liberal church" in Denver

does not make much of a hit with us. As a general proposition these "liberal" churches are organized by men and women who do not want to be genuine Christians, yet want something to salve their consciences. They first deceive themselves, then get the idea into their heads that they are deceiving the Almighty. We never did believe it necessary to join a church in order to be a good Christian, but we always did believe it easier to be a good Christian by being banded together with good Christians, hence our belief in the wisdom of church organizations. But we can not see the use of getting together with a lot of people who want to define their own plan of salvation, live like they want to instead of like they ought to, and then victimize themselves by a sort of religious self-hypnosis. That Denver organization will go the way of all similar organizations.

Judge Daniel Thaw Wright, the judge who sentenced Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison to jail for exercising their right to free speech, seems destined to get his. If his decision in that famous contempt case is good law, there is no guarantee of free speech under the constitution. We've made some progress in this judge-made law business during the last two or three years, and it is going to be a lot easier to get the scalps of these omnipotent federal judges since Judge Hanford's health so suddenly failed him. We would advise Judge Wright to hastily consult a physician. His health seems to be failing rapidly.

## AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

Owing to the immense amount of labor required in the preparations for the Annual Edition due on August 30, the issue of Will Maupin's Weekly for August 23 will be combined with that of August 30. Our regular advertisers will be more than compensated by the extra number of copies issued on August 30, which will be the date of the Annual Harvest Home and Labor Day number.

This special edition will consist of 10,000 copies, not less than sixteen pages and cover in colors, and be filled with interesting facts and figures about Nebraska. In short, it will be the handsomest and best number of Will Maupin's Weekly ever issued—a text book on Nebraska.

Our advertising solicitors, Mr. Smith and Mr. Winterhalter, are now soliciting business for this splendid edition, and we commend them to the advertising public.

Quite naturally the railroads are worried about the inroads of the automobile. And the worry is going to grow instead of diminish. Some of these days a wise passenger traffic man is going to realize the wisdom of making railroad travel easy instead of difficult, and then we'll see a change. Nowadays you can get a 2,000-mile book good on any road west of the Missouri river for \$40. That's straight 2 cents a mile. Will some wise passenger agent explain why that book is not good in the hands of the bearer instead of being only good in the hands of the original purchaser? And why isn't a local ticket good until used despite the date of purchase. And if you buy a local ticket and are unable to use it, why do you have to go through a lot of red tape and suffer long delay in order to get your money back, instead of having it immediately redeemed by the agent from whom you purchased it? If the railroads will take off a lot of their fool restrictions and quit trying to punish the traveling public for wanting to ride on their trains, maybe the automobile will not continue to menace their prosperity to such a great extent.

When Charles B. Gregory of Lincoln bought his present residence property on South Thirty-third street the orchard was not accounted of much value. In fact, the presence of the orchard did not add anything to the value of the property when the sale was consummated. The trees were in bad shape, infested with disease, and the fruit always gnarled and wormy. "It's a played-out orchard," said everybody who knew it. Mr. Gregory is not a pomologist nor a horticulturist, but he has got a fund of common sense, and used the sprayer. It's a different orchard now. The trees today are hanging full of apples, and there are few "windfalls." The apples are free from worms. The plum trees are bending to the ground with their loads of luscious fruit. A little intelligent effort and application has resulted in making the orchard about the most valuable feature of that particular real estate. The moral of this incident lies in the application of it.

The rumor that Governor Aldrich is to be rewarded with a federal judgeship in case of Roosevelt's election is a joke. Not that Governor Aldrich would be out of place upon the federal bench, for he would shine thereon by the side of some who now occupy it—which is not a great compliment for the governor, either. The joke lies in the remoteness of the possibility of Roosevelt's election.

However, we believe that Chairman Thompson of the democratic state central committee would do well to consult the convenience of the rank and file rather than his own convenience, in the matter of locating headquarters for the committee.

## CURRENT COMMENT

That trouble down in Mexico ought to be stopped. Of course we don't want Uncle Sam officially mixed up in it, but doubtless he would wink at some methods of settlement that might be employed. We suggest that a bunch of Texas cowboys ride over into Mexico, whip the stuffin' out of the rebels, slap the cheeks of the federal troops, and then serve notice that at the first signs of revolution in the future they would ride over and assume control of the country. A dozen cowboys could turn the trick.

It is not likely that Roosevelt will receive much support from the men engaged in the postal service. It will be remembered that it was Roosevelt who issued the famous "gag order" that forbade postal employes from carrying their grievances to congress, or even petitioning congress for better pay and working conditions. The fact that the constitution guaranteed the right to petition for redress of grievances did not cut any figure with Roosevelt, who is far superior to courts and constitutions when he gets to going.

We regret to say it, but the average police chief is a mutton-head. Now comes Chief Neil of Denver and asks for an order prohibiting members of the Industrial Workers of the World from speaking on the streets of Denver. That's just what the I. W. W. talkers want—prosecution and persecution. If the police authorities will pay no attention to them and just let them talk their fool heads off, the I. W. W. crusade will mighty soon wink out. Make martyrs of them, however, and they will prosper. Our British friends are wiser than we. They permit any old kind of speaking short of absolute treason—and are not so awfully strict about that. As a result every Sunday morning sees a hundred thousand people around Nelson monument, with a hundred or more orators going full swing. The police laugh, keep the sidewalks clear and let the orators orate. And after the steam has blown off everybody is happy.

Over here our dumbheaded police authorities club and arrest and persecute, with the result that the persecuted people pose as martyrs and profit thereby. If we were running the police department of a big city we'd let these orators orate their fool heads off for a few weeks, and then the trouble would be over for a year or two.

The covert criticisms of Coroner Matthews because of inquests and autopsies is not well founded. As a matter of fact Coroner Matthews has held fewer inquests since he began coroner than ever before in the history of the county, despite the rapid growth of city and county and the consequent increase in violent or mysterious deaths. Nor has he used the office to further any particular undertaking establishment. It is a common practice for coroners to seize every pretext for grabbing of fees, but Coroner Matthews is an exception to the rule. The published criticism of Coroner Matthews will not go very far with men who know a bit about how such offices are usually conducted.

We are growing weary of chronicling new record prices for beef cattle. The latest one is \$10 a hundred at South Omaha. If there were plenty of cattle in the country and this price was being paid we wouldn't care so much, for that would mean prosperity for all of us. But the high price is due to a scarcity of cattle, consequently only a few profit, while the many are deprived of meat.

The Buffalo News is quite correct in its assertion that Jane Addams was the "best man at the Chicago convention last week," meaning the convention of Bull Moochers. Miss Addams was really sincere, therefore not posted as to the kind of a scheme put over when that shrewd "nigger plank" was adopted. The plank was framed to catch the colored vote up north and split the white vote down south—just as all the other planks were framed to catch the unwary, the sentimental, the unthinking and the easily influenced. Miss Addams either could not understand that sort of trickery, or else she was too honest and too humane to condone it.

There are some ugly rumors afloat concerning the management of the Industrial School for Boys at Kearney. These rumors are so persistent that it is high time an investigation be made and the facts made known. It is charged that there is a "shortage" or "deficit" of \$25,000 in the funds of the institution, a sum of such size as to be of considerable moment to the taxpayers of the state. The Kearney school is under the management of C. B. Manuel, a populist reappointed by Governor Aldrich as a reward for bolting Dahlman and supporting the Aldrich candidacy. Mr. Manuel is also editor of the St. Paul Phonograph, ostensibly a populist newspaper, which said paper has been favored by being designated among those to publish the constitutional amendments. Taken altogether the corroborative circumstances emphasize the need of a thorough investigation of the rumors.

It only took 7,000,000 pounds of twine to bind the small grain crop of Nebraska this year. This is enough twine to wrap nearly five times around the world at the equator. Figures like these emphasize the immensity of Nebraska's agricultural production.