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### SPEAKING OF NEBRASKA APPLES.

Lincoln, Nebraska, August 12.—To the Editor of the World-Herald: The controversy between Professor Howard of the University of Nebraska and Frank Odell of the Rural Life Commission, relative to Nebraska's status as an apple producer, is mighty interesting. I trust no one will accuse me of egotism when I claim to have some little knowledge of Nebraska's productivity, and so claiming I beg leave to intervene in the Howard-Odell discussion with some views of my own.

There are those who look upon the statistics of the Nebraska Bureau of Labor as mere "guess work," but I am here to claim—and can prove—that the statistics gathered by the Nebraska bureau are more reliable than those gathered by the national government. In the first place, the Nebraska bureau's statistics are the averages of the crop estimates made up from ten to twenty conservative men in each county; the government's statistics are merely the estimates of one or two men in a county. Usually these government estimators are bankers, or the postmaster, or some elevator man. The state's estimators are all farmers, and because the average farmer is a crop pessimist the Nebraska bureau's statistics always err on the side of conservatism.

I insist that Nebraska is the equal of any other state as an apple-growing country, and far superior to most of them. Already she is raising more apples than Washington, Oregon and Idaho combined, but she is raising better apples. And it costs 50 per cent less to put an orchard into bearing in Nebraska than in either of the states named. Now for some apple figures:

In 1909 there was shipped from railroad stations in Nebraska 606,000 bushels of apples. That was not a good apple year, either. And 606,000 bushels shipped by rail was really only about one-third of the actual crop. It does not include the local sales, the apples fed to the hogs nor the apples manufactured into cider or vinegar, or the apples canned locally. In 1910 these surplus shipments increased to 1,616,000 bushels. This is not guess work; they are the figures submitted by the railroad agents and taken from freight records. In short, Nebraska shipped 30 per cent more apples by rail than the government statisticians credit to Nebraska as her total apple crop. What might have been shipped had Nebraska been given a square deal in freight rates on apples is problematical. But we don't get that square deal. For instance, I can ship a carload of apples from a western New York point to Chadron, Nebr., as cheaply as I can ship a carload of apples from Falls City, Richardson county, Nebr., to Chadron, Dawes county, Nebr. Personally I saw thousands and thousands of bushels of apples rotting on the ground in southeastern Nebraska during each of the last four or five years. Why? Thousands of people wanted apples they could not get. Surely there was not a surplus of apples. The reason was that these people could not pay the price that had to be demanded in order to pay for the picking and handling and freight—and the freight and express rates were prohibitive. Given a fair and equitable apple rate and I venture to say that inside of five years Nebraska will be shipping millions of bushels to all parts of the United States.

It is only within the last six or seven years that intelligent orcharding has been the rule. Prior to that time it was deemed only necessary to dig the hole, plant the tree and wait for the fruit. And because these neglected trees resented the neglect; because the scale and the bug and the blight got in their work, people said: "O, Nebraska ain't in it with the northwest as an apple country." And of course the gentlemen with orchard schemes in the northwest country took advantage of the situation. But along come a lot of keen young fellows who had learned a lot about pomology in the University School of Agriculture, and they took hold of these orchards. They knew that an apple tree would respond to intelligent and kindly treatment as readily as a horse or cow. They cultivated and pruned and sprayed—and then Nebraska began demanding recognition as an apple producing state. Then years from now to think of apples will be to think of Nebraska, for inside of that time Nebraska apples will be the world's standard and her total production a marvel in size. The result of this intelligent effort is visible on every hand. Old orchards, practically abandoned, are now yielding splendid results. The Smith orchard in Richardson county, and the Hartley orchard near Lincoln, for example.

A few years ago the Northwestern Apple Growers' Association held an exposition at Detroit, the idea being to advertise the northwest as an apple country, and to enlarge the market for the northwestern-grown apples. As a matter of courtesy Michigan was asked to occupy space and make a showing of Michigan-grown apples. A few Michigan apple raisers got an exhibit together and entered it. The result was that Michigan walked off with the first prize for a collective exhibit, and in every class that Michigan entered the northwestern exhibitors were forced to be content with second and third prizes. You'll not catch these northwestern boomers making another such an offer. If the Apple Growers' Association of the Northwest, or any orchard-booming concern in the same territory, will make an exhibit of apples from Oregon, Washington and Idaho anywhere in Nebraska—preferably Omaha or Lincoln—and consent to having a Nebraska exhibit alongside, agreeing to pay half the expense of publishing the final results, I'll undertake to raise enough money to defray the rent of the building and the local advertising. Nebraska would "skin 'em to death" in such a competition. Yet I know Nebraskans who have sold their Nebraska farms for \$125 an acre and gone to Idaho and Oregon and paid from \$250 to \$400 an acre for apple lands that are not fit to be mentioned in the same day as apple lands by the side of the Nebraska farms that were sold for less than half the money. All along the Missouri river there is ideal orchard land that may be had for from \$50 to \$100 an acre, and every acre of it will raise more and better apples than Idaho or Oregon can raise on their \$250 and \$400 land. The trouble is that Oregon and Idaho are advertising their fruit lands and attracting people thereto, while Nebraska is doing absolutely nothing in this direction. As a result the northwest is not only building up wonderfully, but that section is depriving Nebraska of some of her very best men and women.

With all due respect to Prof. Howard, who certainly knows a lot about how to transplant and graft and spray, I don't think he knows a blooming thing about real results in the apple industry in Nebraska. It is one thing to know how to teach and quite another to go out and learn by actual observation. You cannot get an idea of what Nebraska is doing in the apple growing line by correcting students' papers in a university office. Mr. Odell is getting at the facts by traveling around, interviewing apple raisers

and studying the statistics. He may not have secured either a doctor's or a master's degree at any university, and he may not be able to give us the Latin names of trees and bugs and pests; but I venture to say that Odell knows more about what Nebraska is doing in apple raising and other products than 90 per cent of the university professors. And if Odell does not, I'll lay claim to knowing it.

The thing for Nebraska to do is to call attention to her availability as an apple producing section, to attract people here who will develop the orchard industry, to educate her own people concerning her resources and productivity, and encourage her young men and women to stay right here instead of gallivanting off to some far-away section, following the lure of some exploiter. And, too, she ought to insist that her university professors stick to their lasts.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

### AND SPEAKING OF NEBRASKA BUTTER.

You are familiar with the pound carton of butter—the kind you buy at the grocery store. Well, before finishing this paragraph just guess how high the column would be if all the butter manufactured in Nebraska in one year were packed in pound cartons and those cartons stacked up end on end. You wouldn't guess within hundreds of miles of the real answer. In 1911 Nebraska manufactured approximately 35,000,000 pounds of butter. A pound carton of butter is approximately 8 inches long. That column of butter would be more than 4,500 miles high. With them it would be possible to build a sidewalk of butter 18 inches wide more than 500 miles long.

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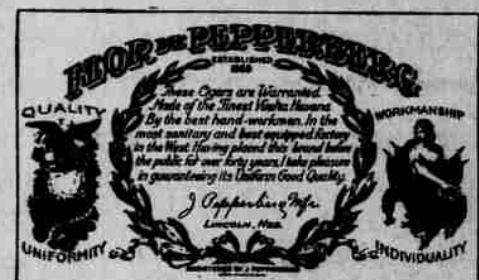
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