

# WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

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## HOW KANSAS SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE NEBRASKA WOULD DO WELL TO FOLLOW

In Munsey's Magazine for March the progressive and enterprising state of Kansas comes in for page after page of the best advertising imaginable—advertising that money could not buy for the simple reason that advertising space is not sold in the editorial departments of reputable magazines like Munsey's. For a decade past Kansas has been advertised as no other state has ever been advertised, with the result that Kansas, not so good an agricultural state as Nebraska, has a half-million more people, 35 per cent more cultivated acres and a reputation that has reached every nook and corner of the world.

And during all this time, while Kansas was being made known everywhere, Nebraska, with better soil, better climatic conditions and better business opportunities, has been standing still in population. Every effort to organize an advertising service such as had made Kansas famous and added millions to her wealth, has been met with opposition and indifference. So it is that every time you pick up a newspaper or a magazine you see Kansas exploited—Nebraska never. You hear every day of Kansas' trouble in getting harvesters during the wheat season—and Nebraska raises more wheat per acre than Kansas and harvests her crop without fuss or feathers.

If Nebraska were made as well known everywhere as Kansas, this great state of ours would be the wonder of the world. It is interesting to one who has made a careful study of comparative statistics to note what Kansas brags about, and then look to see how Nebraska stands on the same product. "Why Kansas Grows and

Prosper" is the title of an editorial in the March Munsey. It is an interesting article, and Kansas deserves every word therein contained—with one or two exceptions.

For instance—and we quote the words of Munsey's editor—"According to her own figures Kansas has the largest per capita wealth of any state in the Union. Her arithmeticians base their estimate on the assessed valuation of property, which shows an average amount of \$1,642.30 for each one of the state's seventeen hundred thousand inhabitants."

Splendid figures, and indeed a wonderful record for Kansas. But the claim of Kansas to the largest amount of property per capita is not well founded. The total assessed valuation of Nebraska is \$2,002,157.45. This is an average of \$1,668.46 per capita, or \$24.16 per capita more than Kansas—two-thirds of the per capita circulation of money in the United States.

And against this enormous value in Nebraska there is not chargeable a single dollar of state bonds, for Nebraska has no state bonds outstanding. There is not chargeable against this a dollar of state floating indebtedness, for Nebraska state warrants are paid in cash now, and with the exception of about ninety days have been paid in cash upon presentation for upwards of ten years.

But there is one assertion in the Munsey editorial to which we give hearty assent. Again we quote: "What lies behind this spectacle? Two simple things—the people of Kansas are mentally alert as well as industrious, and there is team-work among her public officials. Few of our American commonwealths present such a kindling example of unified public service. Usually a state is satisfied if it can, point to one conspicuous activity; in

Kansas almost every branch is a sort of star performance."

Note that one assertion—"THERE IS TEAM-WORK AMONG HER PUBLIC OFFICIALS." A few months ago Nebraska accepted from the contractors a new building—and for weeks there was bucking and bickering among members of the board of public works over the matter of an inscription on the cornerstone. A year or so Nebraska had a democratic governor, the rest of the state officials being republicans. And whatever a republican official could do to discredit the democratic governor was done, regardless of the effect upon the state. Later a democratic legislature and a republican governor locked horns over non-essentials, and again the state suffered. Kansas has a bank commissioner who believes that his first duty is to the people. Nebraska, under an archaic constitution has a "state banking board," with a secretary appointed largely for political reasons. And a year or so ago the whole commission was up in the air, one set of examiners claiming the right to examine and another set invoking the writ of injunction. While they were fighting over the spoils of office the bank commissioner of Kansas was giving the people real service. You bet they have team-work in Kansas! And that more than she needs the political mess she is constantly stirring up.

As we were writing this the mail carrier laid upon the editorial desk a Kansas postal card, issued by the Kansas publicity department. It shows a scene in a Kansas alfalfa field, and bears this wording: Three, four or five cuttings in a season, of hay like that (the most valuable in the world) look pretty good, don't they? 'Out there in Kansas' is where they do it, and it makes 'em rich."

The Kansas publicity bureau will flood the country with cards like that, and with other Kansas literature. Yet Nebraska is a better alfalfa state than Kansas, raises more, has more land capable of raising alfalfa and is increasing her alfalfa acreage more rapidly. But all the world knows about the Kansas alfalfa industry, while Nebraska seems content to let 15,000,000 acres of her land lie idle, see thousands cross her domain to find homes in the northwest, and even to see hundreds of her best producers packing up and leaving.

What Nebraska needs is more team-work among her public officials. She needs more unity of action on the part of her people. She needs to come out of this cotamose condition of smug self-complacency and get into the development game with vim and energy. She needs to set in motion some plan of action that will call the attention of homeseekers and investors to the wonderful opportunities awaiting them within the borders of this commonwealth. She needs to advertise her soil fertility and her climate until millions of her idle acres are brought under cultivation, and countless factories dot her landscape, working her raw material into the finished product.

It's an old story, but a good one, and applicable to Nebraska. A man put a couple of pigs in a sack and told his boy to take them to town and sell them. In the evening the boy returned home with the pigs in the sack. "Why didn't you sell 'em?" asked the father. "Nobody asked me what I had in the sack," replied the boy. It is high time that Nebraska began telling people what she has in the sack.

What has she in the sack? Fifteen million idle acres capable of producing record-breaking crops of corn,

wheat, oats, rye, alfalfa, sugar beets, kafir, millet, hungarian, hemp and flax. Unexcelled facilities for dairying. Undeveloped water power sufficient to turn the wheels of ten times more factories than she now possesses. Marvelous opportunities for profitable investment in manufacturing industries. Magnificent opportunities for the industrious homeseeker who wants to own a bit of land upon which he may live in comfort from the proceeds of his honest toil. A public school system that is the wonder of the world, and a system of higher education—universities, academies and colleges—that has won words of praise from the best educators of the time. She has more in the sack than any other state—and to date hasn't opened her mouth to let the world know what she has to offer.

Is not the time ripe for an educational campaign—a campaign that will teach the world that Nebraska is in truth the greatest producer of agricultural wealth in all the sisterhood of states, and that, too, with less than one-half her fertile acreage under cultivation? Is it not time to make known the fact that Nebraska offers the homeseeker and the investor better opportunities than any other state?

Let us banish the hammerman and the chronic grouch. Let us put the kibosh on the pessimist and the man who pulls back in the breeching every time he sees some other man leaning up against the collar. Let us have more team-work and less penny politics among our public officials and is what Nebraska needs a whole lot greater unity of action among our citizens. In short, let us set to work to let all the world know what we know—that of all good things Nebraska offers the most; that of things evil she has the least.

### MEN AND MATTERS

There is mighty little of encouragement for republicans—steam roller or bull moocher—in the returns from Vermont. The republican vote shows a decided falling off, while the democratic vote shows a big gain. Again, no candidate for governor has a majority and the election goes to the legislature. And again, the division in the g. o. p. ranks is so great that it seems hopeless to expect that it can be bridged over.

If Governor Aldrich still wants to debate, suppose he argue his pretensions against the fact that during the twenty months of his administration there has been more disorder, rioting, murder and trouble in the penitentiary than has happened during all the other years of Nebraska's history. Let him explain why it was that under his administration the state's finances were so badly managed that for the first time in fifteen years state warrants had to be registered for future payment. Let him offer some explanation of the brutal treatment of that feeble-minded white girl in the Beatrice institution. Let him explain the troubles at the soldiers' home at Milford. What about his extravagant demands for appropriations for the executive department. What about his failure to attend to the business the people gave into his hands?

There is no reason why Mr. Morehead should accept the challenge of Governor Aldrich, a challenge insolent in intent and insulting in language. Intelligent Nebraskans know where John Morehead stands on all state questions. His record is an open book—and this refers to his record as a private citizen as well as his record as a public official. He is a successful business man, has always been identified with the progressive element of his party, and has always stood for the things demanded by the people. If the state wants a man successful in his own business to attend to its immense business affairs, Morehead is the man. If it wants a platform orator, a Chautauqua performer or a specialist in super-

heated atmosphere, Morehead is not the man. We opine we know what kind of a man Nebraskans will select.

Of course there is no legal way in which the bull moochers of Nebraska can get their state candidates on the ticket. But no one will attempt to prevent it. Certainly democrats will not, for they will not put themselves in the attitude of interfering with a "family quarrel." We figure out that the endorsement of the republican ticket nominated in April will not be of material assistance to it. The scrap within the g. o. p. is too hot to even offer a suggestion of any getting together on candidates. The regulars will not vote for the other fellows, and the other fellows will not vote for the regulars. And there you are. If Governor Aldrich is so "sot" on having a debate, we suggest that he debate with the record of his administration. He is making a big spread of what the legislature performed while he was a member. But all that was accomplished by that body while Mr. Aldrich was a member was a result of long years of agitation, not by republicans, but by populists first, and secondly by democrats. Every reform we have secured in Nebraska during the last sixteen years is the direct result of the first real reform law adopted in Nebraska since the organization of the state—the Australian ballot, put upon the statute books by a populist legislature.

At the fair grounds were two tents labeled "republican headquarters." They were side by side, one occupied by the "bull moochers," the other by the "steam rollers." It was amusing to stand around and watch events. Even more amusing was it to listen to what each faction had to say about the other. We listened for a long time, but we were unable to decide between them, so we took the alternative and went away believing that what each said of the other was true.

Next came the W. C. T. U. tent, and next in line was democratic headquarters. And a busy place it was, too. It was crowded all the time, and if ever Nebraska democracy was in fighting trim, it is now, judging by indications presented at state fair headquarters.

### CURRENT COMMENT

After listening to Governor Aldrich's speech at the Ak-Sar-Ben "den" last Monday night, we confess our opinion that his "peroration" was in almighty bad taste.

The Lincoln monument is now a fact—and a source of pride to every Nebraskan. And right here we seize the occasion to remark that Addison Waite is the man who is entitled to the credit for its existence. He inaugurated the movement, slept with it, walked around with it, hung on to it, and made it a success. Every time we gaze upon that great work of art we'll recall the name of Addison Waite.

The Francitas Bee boasts that 556,201 hogs were slaughtered in Texas in 1911. That's a lot of hogs—almost one-third as many as were slaughtered in South Omaha alone during that same year.

For many moons we have been trying to secure the abolition of the habit, too long prevailing, of Lincoln making sneering remarks about the "wickedness of Omaha," and Omaha's sarcastic remarks about the "Holy City." We have long deprecated the fool habit some Omaha and Lincoln papers have had of seizing every opportunity for slurring. There never was any reason for this attitude of enmity, and there always has been a conclusive reason why the two cities should be working in harmony for the better upbuilding of the commonwealth.

It, therefore, tickled us immensely when Omaha came down to the Nebraska state fair in regiments, battalions and platoons. It rejoiced us when we saw a train load of Lincolnites herded in Ak-Sar-Ben's den, getting all that is coming to the initiate. It made us feel young again to see so many evidences that the old hostility and jealousy are all but dead and forgotten, and in their

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