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"MAUPIN ON NEBRASKA."

Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 20.—To the Editor of the World-Herald: Traveling extensively over Nebraska, I have been amazed and dumbfounded with the ignorance of Nebraskans themselves concerning its wonderful resources and unbounded possibilities, and its splendid history. I am not overstating matters, I believe, when I say that the average Nebraskan knows more about New York than he does about Nebraska, and that the average Nebraska school child knows more about Italy, Russia, China and Japan than about his or her own state. After having bounded Nebraska, named her capital, and mentioned the Platte river, and a few other things, the average pupil of the Nebraska public schools has given in detail nearly all the knowledge possessed by them relative to Nebraska.

A short time ago I had the pleasure of listening to Will Maupin as he delivered a most interesting illustrated lecture on Nebraska. It impressed me very much. While I had always flattered myself that I knew a great deal about Nebraska, this lecture told me and showed me more than I had ever dreamed of. His comparisons were clear and intensely interesting, and he talked in a way that would not only interest the average high school and grammar grade pupils, but would give them a wealth of information about their own state and encourage them to deeper study of other states and of problems social and industrial.

In my judgment, our public schools are not teaching enough about agriculture and horticulture. It is a subject entitled to a separate course of study. After hearing Maupin's lecture the idea suggested itself to me: Why not have Maupin address every graded public school in Nebraska during the coming winter. The matter of expense would be small; the benefits to the state at large would be enormous. He could render a great service by interesting the boys and girls in the wonderful resources of this state, doing it through the medium of the boards of education in the various cities, and in doing that he would get them more and more interested in agriculture and horticulture. I would suggest that the expense be borne by the district, the same as the expenses for any other teacher temporarily employed. The World-Herald, always enterprising and public-spirited, could render valuable services by agitating this proposition.

JOHN G. MAHER.

* We favor the creation of an immigration agent and public *
* bureau, to the end that our vast areas of tillable land *
* in the western part of the state may be brought to the atten- *
* tion of the landless people elsewhere.—From the platform of *
* the progressive Republicans of Nebraska. *

DEVELOPING WATER POWER IN NEBRASKA.

The state board of irrigation and drainage has granted a permit to the Fremont Power Co., to be financed by Kountze Bros., to divert the waters of the Platte river for power purposes. This seems to be an abandonment of the pretended position heretofore taken by Governor Aldrich and others, that ownership should rest with the state, or that the state should do power development work itself. If it is right and proper to grant this permit to the Fremont corporation—and we hold that it is—then why delay longer a decision as to the rights of the contending parties as to the Loup river project? That Loup river project is the original power project in Nebraska. It promises more power than almost any project in America, and men stand ready to develop it, investing millions therein, just as soon as the state board will definitely settle the question of prior rights.

The editor of Will Maupin's Weekly does not claim to be the pioneer in the campaign for the development of Nebraska's water power, but he does claim to have been among the first, and one of the most consistent and persistent advocates thereof. The real pioneer in this line was Uncle David Patterson of Kearney. Mr. Patterson conceived, and urged to completion the first—and for a long time, the only—water power project in Nebraska. That the Kearney power canal, the child of his brain and industry, failed of its originator's purpose was no fault of the canal itself. It provided ample power. But it was constructed a quarter of a century too soon. Nebraska has made marvelous progress since the Kearney canal was completed. It has grown from a population of less than 500,000 then to a state with a population of a million and a quarter; from a state with no manufacturing industries to a state whose manufactured output exceeds \$300,000,000 a year; from a state whose wage earners were railroad employes or farm hands to a state whose manufacturing industries have an annual wage roll exceeding \$25,000,000. And although the Kearney canal was not a huge success in developing industries, it affords unanswerable evidence that enough water power is going to waste in Nebraska streams today to turn ten times more factory wheels than are now turned in Nebraska by steam power.

The Fremont Power Company's project is a big one, but it is only a starter in what may yet be. Big as it is, however, it is not to be compared with the possibilities of the Loup river projects, of which this newspaper has had much to say during recent months. That the Fremont project promises to be profitable and of immense benefit to the section tributary thereto goes without saying. It is backed by men of unusual ability; men who always know what they are doing, and who have the financial ability to swing huge projects of this kind. Men like L. D. Richards, the Kountze brothers, and men of that calibre, do not lend themselves to "fly-by-night" schemes of exploitation.

But what we want especially to call attention to is the failure of the state board to obey the plain mandates of the law and decide between the claimants upon the Loup river. We are not so much interested as to who gets that right as we are in having some one get it who will proceed without delay to develop it, investing therein the millions necessary and hastening the day when Nebraska will occupy her rightful place among the industrial states of the Union.

* Our state is rich in natural resources not yet developed, *
* a condition due to the lack of public knowledge of such *
* wealth. We therefore, favor a liberal appropriation by the *
* legislature for the purpose of giving publicity to the state's *
* resources.—From the Nebraska Democratic Platform. *

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