

Nebraska's wheat and corn crop this year will be worth more than \$125,000,000.

State Historical Board

Nebraska's hay crop this year will be worth more than \$75,000,000.

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WHY THIS INTERMINABLE DELAY?

Two weeks ago the state board of irrigation and drainage stipulated that on September 28 the final arguments should be made and briefs filed in the now more or less celebrated contest over prior rights on the Loup river for power purposes. But instead of listening to the arguments and receiving the briefs and proceeding to render a decision upon the facts and the law as presented, the board, presided over by Governor Aldrich, announced through the chairman that it would ask Robert Howell of Omaha to prepare a brief touching upon the question of public policy. We take it that Mr. Howell is to argue from the side of the general public.

Personally we have the greatest respect for Mr. Howell's ability as an engineer, and esteem it a privilege to be accounted one of his friends. But Mr. Howell is not better fitted to discuss that phase of the question than ten thousand other men are, and the proposition to postpone action until he can discuss the "public policy" phase of the question appears to us to be simply another move on the part of dominant members of the board to shirk responsibility until after election. This newspaper has no choice between the parties contending for prior rights on the Loup river; it is advocating only that the board of irrigation and drainage quit quibbling and evading and paltering; quit playing politics, and make a fair and honest decision. It doesn't make a bit of difference how the board decides, for the matter will be carried to the highest courts, but it does make a great deal of difference to Nebraska whether this development of natural power is speeded or retarded. The delay of the board is deceiving no one who knows the real situation. All this pretense of heartfelt desire to "protect the dear people" is a waste of time as well as a mighty thin cloak behind which to hide a palpable evasion of the law. The law upon the establishment of prior rights is clear and explicit. It requires that the board shall within a specified time announce a decision based upon the report of the state engineer. That report has been in the hands of the board many months—and now comes a paltry excuse for a further delay of perhaps three or four months—or until after election, at least.

Men with millions of money at their command are anxious to begin the great work of developing a magnificent water power in Nebraska—a water power that will make a great industrial commonwealth of Nebraska; that will hasten the building of much-needed interurban roads; that will furnish employment to thousands of men, and give an impetus to business such as Nebraska has not yet seen. What men build it or whose money builds it is of small consequence; the great thing is to have the power developed. The state has power to regulate and control. There is no danger of exploitation if the voters of Nebraska will exercise care in the selection of public officials—and if they do not exercise due care they deserve to be jobbed and robbed and exploited.

Millions have been spent in Keokuk, Ia., in developing a water power that it not to be compared with the power that can be developed on the Loup river, and the men who invested their millions there were welcomed with open arms, not harassed by interminable delay at the hands of politicians. The White river project of the northwest is not to be compared with the Loup river project, yet when capitalists offered to invest their millions in that project the people gave them a welcome and lent every possible assistance. The same is true of the great project at Atlanta, Ga. Yet here in Nebraska, where we have no natural fuel, and where we raise a wealth of raw material that must be shipped far east to be worked up into the finished product, we have a natural water power that will make us independent of steam, but instead of encouraging men of means to develop that power to our mutual advantage we harass them, delay them and discourage them.

Great water powers are being developed all around us. Other states are taking advantage of their opportunities while Nebraska is frittering her opportunities away. It is time for thoughtful citizens to arise in protest and insist that the men who want to invest their millions in Nebraska be encouraged to do so instead of being driven away by constant nagging and the imposition of impossible conditions.

The editor of this paper has given considerable study to water power possibilities in Nebraska. He has written about them, interviewed engineers, walked over the ground and investigated the possibilities such development offers along industrial lines. He realizes to some small extent what it would mean to Nebraska to have at her command cheap power in practically unlimited quantity. And knowing the situation as he does, he is insistent in his demands that those in authority quit "playing horse" and make it possible for the work of development to begin.

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS.

Too much credit can not be given to the enterprising German-American citizens of this community for their efforts to furnish a fall festival in Lincoln—with educational parades that will arouse patriotism and civic pride and prove of financial benefit to the city. Every possible assistance should be given the committee by the people of the city. The German-American citizens showed their

enterprise by starting the movement, but it is too much to ask of them that they carry the entire burden when all classes alike benefit. The idea can be carried to a much greater length than originally designed, a length that will permit of all elements of our varied citizenship taking part, with the result that the affair will become of state wide interest and importance. The state fair is a state institution; German-American day as now established can be made larger and become a great Lincoln event. The men who have so willingly given of their time and means in the past to make these occasions a magnificent success are deserving of the hearty thanks of our entire citizenship.

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

YOU SIMPLY CAN'T BEAT NEBRASKA.

The man who attempts to tell the truth about wonderful Nebraska merely puts himself in a position to be pointed to as yearning for the laurels of Ananias, or of Baron Munchausen, or Tom Mulhall. No need to draw on the imagination—the real facts are too big to be grasped. Maybe you have read about big yields of oats in some section of the country. Well, we'll back Nebraska against the world when it comes to raising that grain—or any other. Here is a yield of oats we would like to see beaten: T. N. Fults of Furnas county had a small field of oats this summer. It was 420 feet wide by 698 feet long—6.7 acres. From this field he threshed 637 bushels, an average of 95 5-6 bushels per acre. But that isn't all. With the oats he sowed alfalfa seed, and now, after having harvested and threshed the oats, he has a magnificent stand of alfalfa.

IN WONDERFUL YOUNG NEBRASKA

It is possible now to make some definite assertions as to what Nebraska has produced during this good year 1912. In tons and bushels it may be that other years have exceeded this one; in dollars and cents we maintain that this is Nebraska's best year. We further assert that when comparisons are made it will be found that Nebraska stands at the head in many things, among them:

She will produce more agricultural wealth per cultivated acre than any other state.

She will produce more live stock wealth per thousand of inhabitants than any other state.

She will produce more wheat per acre than any other state, and her average yield per acre will beat the average yield of the country at large by more than nine bushels.

She will produce more oats per acre than any other state.

She will produce more butter per capita than any other state; more eggs per capita than any other state; more pounds of live and dressed poultry per capita than any other state.

When the final accounting is made it will be disclosed that as an apple producing state Nebraska has got Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Colorado backed off the map. Nebraska's apple crop this year will be worth more per capita than that of any other state.

The total output of manufactured products of a dozen states will exceed that of Nebraska. But we venture to assert that not a state less than fifty years old will produce as much manufactured wealth per capita as Nebraska, and that no state will excel Nebraska in the showing of increase in the manufacturing industry.

The records of 1912 will show that Nebraska is the fourth largest wheat producing state—if not the largest—and that she is the largest producer of winter wheat. These same records will show that Nebraska is the fourth largest corn producing state—if not the third largest, and that she is excelled in the production of sugar beets by only two states—perhaps only one.

The trouble with Nebraska people is that they do not fully realize what a wonderful state Nebraska is. It is time they studied up on the subject and set about making the most of the opportunities afforded them.

A HANDSOME EDITION.

The "booster edition" of the Norfolk Press for September 26 was not only a credit to its editor, Marie O'Donnell Weekes, but was a credit to the busy little city of Norfolk. A newspaper like the Press is a credit to any city, and the contents of this special edition go a long way towards proving that Norfolk is worthy of such a newspaper. Filled with splendid illustrations, the advertisements of enterprising firms and entertaining facts and figures about Norfolk and Madison county, this edition of the Press ought to have a wide circulation. The wider the circulation the better it will be for Norfolk.

THINGS THAT MAKE US VERY WEARY

Rev. "Kid" Wedge, late of Genoa, erstwhile prize-fighter and later a minister of the gospel, has been reinstated by the Kearney Presbytery. Rev. Mr. Wedge was accused, among other things, of having knocked the block off of a Genoa lawyer who had grossly insulted him and also said cruel and unjust things about the minister's family. Rev. Mr. Wedge denied all the charges save the one of insubordination and the one wherein he was accused of having whipped the lawyer. The Kearney Presbytery issues a statement exonerating Rev. Mr. Wedge and re-instating him, wherein it says, apropos of the Genoa incident: "Last January he gave a Genoa lawyer a thrashing, under great provocation, though, as he himself admits, it was not becoming in a minister of the gospel."

If Rev. Mr. Wedge made any such admission we have lost a bit of our great respect for him. When he knocked the block off of the Genoa lawyer who sought to take advantage of the fact that his opponent wore the cloth, we patted the reverend gentleman on the back and applauded him for his manhood. We like that minister who acts on the assumption that the fact that he is a minister of the gospel makes him no less a man. And the man who will not defend himself or his loved ones, even to the extent of donning up his fists and sailing into it, isn't worthy the name of man, be he minister or layman. This editor happens to be the son of a minister who never forgot that he was a man, and who allowed no man to abuse him or his family. More than one man made the mistake of assuming that because the preacher-father was a preacher he would stand for any old kind of abuse. Of course the Nazarene advised that if a man smite thee on one cheek, turn the other; but He didn't advise us not to push in the other fellow's cheek if he smote the other cheek. And while He advised us to go two miles with the man who compelled us to go one, He didn't tell us not to smash the slats of that other fellow at the end of the second mile. And if we remember rightly even the Master wasn't always meek and forbearing. We have a distinct recollection that He once knotted a whip of cords and went after the money changers much like Rev. Mr. Wedge went after that cowardly Genoa lawyer.

We have a huge admiration for the big, two-fisted, red-blooded minister of the gospel who never forgets that he is a man as well as a priest, and who is as quick to resent imputations upon his manhood as he is to oppose sin in high place or low place. Meekness does not necessarily mean that one must crawl in the dirt and submit to all kinds of insults. We'll think all the more of Rev. Mr. Wedge if he will treat other dirty enemies like he treated that Genoa lawyer. There will be more respect for the ministry when ministers earn it by proving that they are men as well as ministers.

MOTION OUT OF ORDER.

We are heartily in favor of and would advocate a measure in the next legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to enable the establishment of a Nebraska official paper, the object of which would be to tell the world at large of the vast resources and advantages of this great state. We further designate Will Maupin as its editor and his Weekly as THE paper. Do I hear a second? —Naponee Herald.

A thousand thanks for the compliment, but the motion is out of order. But we will heartily second a motion that Nebraska establish and provide for a Bureau of Publicity and Immigration whose purpose it shall be to advertise the resources of Nebraska to all the world and assist in bringing to the state industrious and thrifty men and women to till the idle lands, and men of capital and enterprise to establish factories and mills to work up into the finished product the vast amount of raw material raised in Nebraska. If the Naponee Herald wants to help boost for Nebraska—and we know it does—let it lend its influence to the establishment of such a bureau as above outlined. Do we hear its assent?

A MIGHTY FINE "EATS."

Hog killing time will soon be here. Of course butchering at home isn't what it used to be, but a lot of people still kill a hog for family use. And a lot of them fail to make the most of it. Those who butcher their own hogs render out the lard, of course. They know what "cracklings" are. Now save your "cracklings" and mix them up with corn meal and make what we Missouri-born folks used to call "cracklin' bread." Don't put too many "cracklings" in, for they make the old-fashioned corn loaf mighty rich. Try it, then thank us for putting you next.

THE EASIEST THING TO DO.

During his Nebraska tour Theodore Roosevelt devoted most of his time to abusing Dr. Victor Rosewater. That was much easier, you know, than defending his own record or explaining his failure to do in seven years what he promises to do in four years more if given a chance. If Roosevelt ever did anything for Nebraska the fact has been hidden from mortal ken. The history of Nebraska is full of good service rendered to the state by the Rosewaters and the Omaha Bee.