

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

# WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

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

## TALKING OF MEN AND MATTERS

Jules Lombard died in Chicago last week, and on Sunday was buried by the side of his wife in Omaha. And thus passed away one of the most lovable of men. Jules Lombard died in poverty, although he might have died rich had he been cast in a different mold. He possessed a voice that was a veritable mint, but he gave it freely and without price that the world might enjoy it. It was Jules Lombard who first sang Root's "Rally 'Round the Flag, Boys," seizing the manuscript before the ink was dry and singing it at a recruiting meeting in Chicago the day that President Lincoln called for volunteers. Lincoln said of Lombard that "his voice in camp is worth more to the republic than a battalion of men." Who that has heard him sing "Maggie In the Low-back Car," or "Are Ye Sleepin', Maggie?" or "A Thousand Years, My Own Columbia," can never forget that lion basso that was as soft as the peal of an organ, that massive head with its wealth of iron-grey hair, or the eyes that shone with love for all mankind? Jules Lombard sang his way into the hearts of men and women and made light many a weary load of tired sojourners. He left no fortune of gold or precious gems, but he left something far better—a memory that men and women will revere.

On the day that Jules Lombard was laid to rest another Nebraskan passed to his reward, leaving nothing behind of value to be measured in money, but leaving that which gold cannot buy, the love and confidence of his fellows with whom he had mingled for more than three score years and ten. George W. Armstead was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, eighty years ago. He came to Nebraska nearly thirty years ago, locating in North Bend, where he died on October 14. A photographer by profession he accompanied the Union armies through the Civil war, and his immense collection of photographs of camp and battle scenes was largely taken over by the government. His eyesight failed shortly after coming to Nebraska, and for nearly a quarter of a century he was practically blind. But his affliction did not abate his good nature nor lessen his optimism. Always ready with a cheery word, his wealth of snow-white hair and his ringing laugh were as familiar to the people of his home town as the very trees and birds. A splendid violinist and the owner of an almost priceless Amati, he furnished the music to which two generations of young people have tripped the fleeting hours. The writer has seen men and women sitting with moistened eyes as they listened to Mr. Armstead playing "Departed Days" or "Sounds from Home," bringing from his matchless instrument all the pathos and sentiment that encompasses the human heart. He loved nothing so well as to close his almost sightless eyes, cuddle his beloved violin against his cheek as a mother cuddles her babe, and bring from it the music that only a master hand can bring. It was the music of "Ol' Man Armstead's Violin" that first attracted the writer to the home where he soon after won a wife. Perhaps, some day, another hand even more skilled may release the music locked within that Amati, but however skilled that hand may be, it cannot wring from it the heart throbs, nor make its tones appeal to the memories of other days, as did the hand now cold in death. Mr. Armstead is survived by his wife and seven of the twelve children born to them, together with twenty-three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His oldest daughter is the wife of Rod C. Smith of Lexington, Nebr., and the next oldest daughter is the wife of Will M. Maupin of Lincoln.

Jane Addams of Hull House fame will be in Lincoln on October 23, and will deliver an address at the auditorium in support of the Bull Moose national ticket. We can easily understand why Miss Addams gives allegiance to the progressive party's platform, for that instrument makes a strong appeal to sociologists. In fact, it is a regular Adullamite proclamation, appealing to all those who are discontented, or have a grievance or are in debt. What we cannot understand is how a woman of Miss Addams' splendid mentality and remarkable record of service in behalf of the "submerged tenth" can give support to a candidate who never sacrificed anything for others who has no record of social service, whose creed is that of the strong, whose vocabulary is that of the prize ring, and whose conversion to progressive ideas has been very sudden and immediately following his barbaric doctrine of practically relegating womankind to the mere task of childbearing. Miss Addams should be greeted by an audience taxing the auditorium to the limit. She may be able to explain some things to the people's satisfaction as she surely has explained them to her own satisfaction. A woman like Jane Addams is worth listening to, no matter what her subject, nor how devious her argument.

Mayor Armstrong has on divers and sundry occasions vindicated the judgment of the friends who thrust the office upon him, and at the same time happily disappointed those who were fearful that his election would prove to be a blunder. When he took the water situation in hand a year ago and handled it under ordinary business rules, he performed a distinct public service. But among the long list of wise public actions with which his administrative

record is replete, none will prove more popular than his advocacy of the "city beautiful" idea and his recommendation that the city council make a liberal appropriation for the use of the city plans commission. Mayor Armstrong's recommendation to the council reveals a new and rather unexpected, though none the less appreciated, angle to his mental make-up.

A lot of republican organs present the appearance of not being properly grateful for their respective slices of constitutional amendment printing pie.

It appears that Mr. Barton is running for congress in the Fifth district on a record of having "ripped hell out of the insurance companies" regardless of the injury he may have done to legitimate business enterprises.

## AN ANNOUNCEMENT

I desire to announce that with the issue of October 25 "Will Maupin's Weekly" will be suspended, and that it will be succeeded by "Midwest," a magazine of Nebraska. "Midwest" will be a monthly magazine of standard size, with a policy similar to that of the newspaper it will succeed, namely the advertising of Nebraska resources and possibilities, and the furthering of the interests of the men and women who are striving to accomplish things really worth while.

I am impelled to make this change by reasons that appear to me to be well founded, and which have the endorsement of men in whose judgment I have great confidence. The magazine field, especially the field that it is my ambition to occupy with "Midwest," offers better opportunities in a business as well as a literary way, than the weekly field. It will permit of better work on my part and also enable me to enlist the aid of men and women far better fitted than I to write of Nebraska and her wonderful resources and possibilities. It will, too, permit of greater care in the preparation of contents and widen the field in which to solicit the business vitally necessary to the maintenance of such an institution. A weekly publication, unless a class paper, is of necessity limited in its advertising field. It requires no explanation of this assertion to satisfy the mind of the experienced general advertiser.

Frankly, I had this magazine idea in mind when I started "Will Maupin's Weekly," and I started the weekly merely as a forerunner, and because I figured that it would be less expensive to prepare the way in this manner. I may have been mistaken as to that, but in no wise have I changed my mind about the magazine proposition. I believe the time is ripe to launch such a magazine as I have outlined, and while it may appear presumptuous for me to say it, I believe that I have the right idea and the ability to make it of genuine interest and of real service to Nebraska and her enterprising citizens. During the next two weeks I will enter into greater details as to what I expect to do in the magazine field.

The ready response to my recent "heart to heart" appeal gives me great encouragement to go ahead with this project. Of course all those enterprising men and women who have paid ahead for "Will Maupin's Weekly" will receive "Midwest" to the full limit of their subscription, although the subscription price to the magazine will be \$1.50 a year instead of \$1. Merely to give all an equal show I'll accept yearly subscriptions to the magazine at the rate of \$1 up to the date of its first issue. I expect to issue the first number of "Midwest" on November 25 but under date of December 1.

I have already in hand a splendid Nebraska story which will appear serially, and a number of short stories in prospect. The literary features of "Midwest" will be emphasized, but, of course, the chief idea behind the venture is to acquaint the world with the real Nebraska.

If hard work and devotion to the best interests of the state will win success for "Midwest," then success is already assured. I solicit the support and co-operation of all loyal Nebraskans who, like myself, are desirous of promoting the welfare of the commonwealth.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

## NEBRASKA DISCOURAGES CAPITAL

The newly elected directors of the Lincoln Commercial Club have mapped out an ambitious program for the coming year, and they are the kind of men who habitually make good. But in one respect these directors are going to waste a lot of time if they are not careful. We refer to the matter of urging the construction of interurban electric lines centering in Lincoln. They might as well realize now as later that under existing laws they are merely chasing a phantom. There will be no construction of interurban electric lines in Nebraska until the laws are so amended as to encourage the investment of money in these enterprises instead of, as now, discouraging it. Capital is not going to seek investment in hazardous enterprises when the possible returns—if there ever should be any returns at all—will be no greater than a safe and secure investment in real estate mortgages that yields immediate returns. That is a fact beyond dispute, and the Lincoln Commercial Club might just as well stare it in the face now. Better now, in fact, than later, after having wasted a lot of valuable time in proving the truth of what is here said.

Men of money would be little short of foolish to invest millions in interurban construction, waiting years before any profits could be made by developing territory and traffic, and then only be allowed to earn dividends no larger than might be earned from the very start by investing the same amount of money in farm mortgages. Not only would they have to wait for several years for any returns at all upon an interurban road, but they would always work under the knowledge that theirs was a hazardous investment, subject to many risks that are never considered in other lines of investment. Under the physical valuation law and the rulings of the state railway commission, an interurban project would be limited to 7 per cent on its actual physical valuation. Think that over for a while and you will begin to understand why Nebraska has not a single mile of interurban electric railway, and no prospects of ever getting any as conditions now exist.

A public service corporation that is of real service to the public, that will develop new territory, permit of a greater volume of business at a less expense, and add to the sum total of human happiness, is entitled to more consideration than the individual who lends money upon a farm mortgage and does nothing more than collect his semi-annual interest. The corporation is entitled to a better return for the added reason that its investment is always more or less of a risk as compared with mere farm loans.

The plain truth of the matter is that we of Nebraska, having long suffered under corporation rule, jumped to the other extreme, and in our anxiety to "regulate and control" have amputated our noses to spite our faces. Instead of encouraging investments that will be of mutual benefit and advantage, Nebraskans are discouraging investments to their own great loss. If the Lincoln Commercial Club, and similar organizations in Nebraska, want to perform a distinct service to the commonwealth, they will not waste time chasing the interurban road phantom at this time, but will devote their marriages to so amending the laws as to encourage investments that will help develop the state and her manifold resources.

### A BIG DEAL

One of the largest business transactions in recent months has just been completed whereby the Tri-State irrigation canal becomes the property of the landholders under it. The Tri-State canal involves water rights on about 70,000 acres in the extreme western part of Nebraska, most of it in Scottsbluff, Deuel and Morrill counties. The Tri-State canal has been privately owned, but recently the voters of the irrigation district by a vote of 183 to 31 voted to issue \$2,550,000 of irrigation bonds and take over the property. By this action the canal, with all of its rights, properties, etc., passes into the hands of the real farmers.

The Tri-State canal is one of the largest irrigation properties in the west. It has cost to date almost three millions of dollars, and it furnishes water to a section of the country that can not be excelled for fertility of soil. The main canal is sixty feet wide and nearly a hundred miles long, being a veritable river. Engineers assert that from the standpoint of construction there is no finer piece of irrigation property in this country. While a bond issue of \$2,500,000 seems large for such a district, it must be borne in mind that the interest on the bonds, together with a sinking fund, will amount to considerably less than the amount paid under former circumstances for water. Now that the landowners own their irrigation plant, we may expect to see that section of fertile Nebraska making even greater strides than heretofore in development.

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 \* 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.  
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