

MORE THAN MATERIAL ADVANCEMENT.

During many months now numbered with the past Will Maupin's Weekly has been telling in detail the story of Nebraska's wonderful material advancement and prosperity. But it must not be understood that Nebraska is progressing alone on material lines. In all that goes to make for better citizenship, for better social conditions; in all that goes to contribute to the mental and moral uplift of the generation, Nebraska is taking a foremost part. It is of other than advancement along material lines that we would speak in this last issue of a newspaper so long devoted to telling the story of Nebraska's business prosperity and development.

Her cities are more and more attending to the betterment of social conditions. We challenge any city of equal size in the United States to excel Omaha's record during the last decade in the matter of developing a park and boulevard system. Lincoln is awakening to the great benefits of such a system, and with this growing knowledge she is laying the foundations for what will be a park system of more than national fame. Without flourish of trumpets Hastings has established a system of parks and boulevards that is an example for cities of even larger size to pattern after.

Nor has Nebraska lagged behind in the matter of contributing to the literary glories of the present generation. She has given the world of letters men and women whose names are familiar in every educated family. Willa Sibert Cather, whose first journalistic work was on Nebraska newspapers, is now numbered among the successful literary men and women of the country. William R. Lighton, a Nebraskan, is known wherever quaint stories of the frontier are read—not the impossible cowboy and Indian stories of the Beadle's Dime Novel class, but the real cowboy, the real plainsmen. Oliver P. Newman has made his mark as a journalist and as a writer of stories that grip the attention. He served time on Nebraska newspapers before his name was listed among the successful story writers of the decade. George Shedd, Nebraska born and Nebraska educated, has made his name known wherever people love to read stories of brain and brawn, of love and intrigue. Walter Wellman, the famous journalist, got his first lessons in journalism in a Nebraska country print shop. Elia W. Peattie, whose fame as a writer is secure, is known and loved by hoards of Nebraskans who remember her first as a splendid woman and second as a literary artist. For years she was connected with an Omaha daily newspaper. Roger C. Craven, another Omaha newspaper writer, always too modest and unassuming for his own good, wrote "In the Twilight Zone," which sooner or later will take its place among the really great novels of today. The list could be extended almost infinitely. We mention a few of those whose names come first to mind, but names that at once attest the fact that Nebraska is doing her full share in making this the literary age of the world's history.

In art she is not taking a back seat. The whole art world knows of Borglum, the sculptor, Nebraska born and fired with the real Nebraska spirit to excel in his chosen art. Music? We can not begin to make a list of the wonderful musicians Nebraska has given to the world. Mrs. Will Owen Jones among the pianists, the Stecklebergs among the violinists, Frankel and Hagenow among the orchestra leaders, Butler among the organists. If it was left to Nebraska to furnish a Newell Dwight Hillis to fill most acceptably the pupit once filled by a Beecher. It was a Nebraskan, Magoon, who showed himself as the best fitted man to map out the nation's new policy when, after the war with Spain the United States became a real world power.

Nebraska has sent her native born and home educated sons into every quarter of the earth. They have builded and are building railroads and irrigation ditches and power plants in South America, in Canada, in Africa and in the Philippines. She has given to sociologists the keen and humanity loving Ross, to the world of finance a Dawes, to the legal world an Estabrook, to the world of comedy a Montgomery and Stone, to the operatic world a Grace Cameron and the Dovey sisters, to the base ball world a Stone and a Crawford.

Nebraska doing her full share in all the activities of modern life! Indeed she is—and more than her share. Less than half a century old she has given to every activity of life men and women whose names will live in history. Piling up wealth as no other state has or can. Nebraska is building on a better foundation than mere dollars and cents. Measured by any standard, or every standard, Grand Young Nebraska more than meets every test.

MR. MOREHEADS FRANK STATEMENT.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a letter written by John H. Morehead to T. W. Parker of Lincoln, president of the Nebraska Federation of Labor. In this letter the democratic candidate for governor frankly states his position upon questions of vital interest to the organized workers of Nebraska. The letter was prompted by the efforts of Mr. Morehead's opponents to make it appear that he is not in sympathy with the wage earners and at heart opposed to organization on their part. There is every reason why Mr. Morehead should be in full sympathy with the toilers. He has faced the same problems they are facing, worked as they work and endured what they have endured. As a member of the state senate he showed his sympathetic understanding of their claims by working for and voting for the enactment of the laws asked for by the organized workers, namely, the factory inspection law, the building law, the safety appliance law, and others. He states without equivocation that he favors an equitable compensation law, and that he will do all in his power if elected governor to secure recognition of the needs of the wage earners by adequate appropriations for the Bureau of Labor. Men who know John H. Morehead will guarantee what he says. In his letter to Mr. Parker there is nothing of "bushwa;" only the matter-of-fact statement of a level-headed business man.

"JUST TWENTY YEARS AGO."

John M. Tanner's South Omaha Democrat of October 21 comes to hand looking like a blushing bride. It marks the twentieth anniversary of the Democrat and of "Doe" Tanner's career as the editor of a daily newspaper in South Omaha. If "Doe" is not rolling in riches as a result of his insistent and persistent boosting for South Omaha and Nebraska it is because he has been so busy boosting that he didn't take time to make money. There is only one "Doe" Tanner and the South Omaha Daily Democrat is his profit—and the profit is little enough compared with his efforts. He saw South Omaha founded; saw it change from a cornfield to the third largest cattle market and packing market of the world; saw other men get rich on a "shoestring" as a result of the labors of him-

self and men like him, and the most he has got out of it is the knowledge that he has done a man's part in building a city and the happiness that comes from such knowledge. May "Doe" be on hand to write the "dope" for the Democrat's fortieth anniversary number, and may we be right here in Nebraska to read it and profit thereby.

THE BEST MAN FOR THE PLACE.

The office of commissioner of public lands and buildings is one of the most important within the gift of the people of this state. The man who holds it has charge of more than \$35,000,000 worth of property belonging to the taxpayers. He looks after the immensely valuable school lands; he has charge of all the public buildings, and it is up to him to see to it that the money invested by the state in buildings and grounds is well spent. The school children of Nebraska depend more upon the land commissioner than upon any other state official, not even excepting the state superintendent. William B. Eastham, the democratic candidate for commissioner of public lands and buildings is the best equipped man by experience and natural ability ever mentioned for the position. He is thoroughly familiar with land conditions in those sections of the state



where the commonwealth owns millions of acres of school lands. He knows the conditions surrounding those lands, and he knows what they are worth to the users. He will see to it that the school lands are leased under terms that will favor the actual farmer and cattle raiser, not the speculator, and to the ultimate profit of the state. He has lived in central Nebraska for many years, is familiar with the needs of the people, and is absolutely free from any influence inimical to the people at large. He is a man of executive ability, of undoubted integrity, and always working for the best interests of Nebraska as a whole. He is broad-minded in his views and wouldn't waste a dollar's worth of the state's time in dubbing away on fool questions of absolutely no moment to the taxpayers. He will give the affairs of the office his entire time and the benefit of his ripe experience. Good men have held that office, and good men have aspired to hold it. Not one of them was ever better fitted for the rightful discharge of its duties than "Billy" Eastham. He is a man who may be depended upon to do the right thing all the time.

SIMPLY WILL NOT INVEST.

Time and again we have called attention to the fact that Nebraska needs interurban railroads. But Nebraska will not get them until she is willing to give a fair show to the men who will have to furnish the money. Men are not going to invest millions in a hazardous enterprise knowing that the best they can get out of it is no more than what they might get out of a sure investment in farm mortgages. A few months ago a big syndicate with headquarters in an Illinois city investigated the matter of an interurban road between Lincoln and Auburn. The managers went to the expense of making a survey, of getting figures showing the population within a certain distance on each side of the proposed route, of ascertaining the production of commodities within a given territory—in short getting all the necessary facts. The syndicate has the money to build the road—but it will not. Why? Because it figures out that it would be a better investment to put that money into farm mortgages, or into interurban roads in other states where the development of resources is encouraged rather than discouraged. Even if they built the road and after six or seven years of loss in developing the traffic, the best they could get under Nebraska laws is about one per cent more than they can get without risk and without loss by investing in farm mortgages. If anybody thinks that capital is going to invest in public utility enterprises under those conditions they've got another think coming. And while they are thinking other states are interesting capital and developing their resources.

It is about time Nebraska awoke to the fact that she hasn't got capital of her own to develop these great resources and that she must get it elsewhere or remain undeveloped. And if she gets it she must give the investors something for their risk and their work.

ANOTHER WONDERFUL RECORD.

There are 700 banks in Nebraska. During the last eight years there has been but one bank failure in the state—a small concern wrecked by an absconding cashier, which caused a loss of less than \$2,500 to depositors. During these eight years these 700 banks have had on hand an average of \$150,000,000 of deposits at all times.

This, we claim, is a mighty good record. It speaks volumes for the prosperity of Nebraska. It is an evidence not only of careful and conservative business management on the part of the bankers, but it is an evidence of strict supervision and regulation. It might be used as an argument against a bank guarantee law, but it would require a devious kind of logic. Without having any statistics at hand we venture to claim that no other state in the Union can show a better banking record than the above.

SOMETHING OF A PUZZLE.

We admit our inability to follow the legal logic of the grave and reverend members of the supreme court of Nebraska. It decides that the primary law is constitutional, then follows later with the

decision that a violation of the express provisions of the primary law is quite the proper thing. At any rate the primary law states explicitly how a political party may be organized and its candidates given a place on the ticket as the candidates of a regularly organized party. But this does not prevent the learned court from deciding that a party organized in express violation of that law has a right to have its candidates on the ballot as the candidates of a legally organized party. At least that is the way it all appears to us, but not being skilled in legal technicalities, nor seeking to curry political favor in the future, we may be mistaken. Anyhow, we opine that Addison Waite is just now earning that little old \$166.60 a month this commonwealth pays the secretary of state.

CAN ANY STATE BEAT THIS?

We would call attention to the bonded indebtedness in Nebraska. If there is a state in the Union that can show a record as good, all things considered—age, population, etc.—we'd like to know it.

The state of Nebraska has not a dollar of bonded indebtedness, and never has had. Nebraska never issued a state bond. But at odd times she has held as an investment for her permanent school fund as high as \$6,500,000 of the bonds of other states. The record of bonded indebtedness to October 1, 1912, is as follows:

County bonds	\$ 3,601,500.00
Precinct bonds	257,500.00
City and village bonds, exclusive of Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln	6,002,212.62
School district bonds	6,010,653.80
Drainage district bonds	382,964.33
Total	\$16,234,830.75

THE BETTING QUOTATIONS.

It is morally and legally wrong to bet. To bet on an election is to disfranchise the bettors if anyone cares to lodge complaint. But it may be interesting to know the betting odds on the coming election. Wilson is a 3 to 1 shot in the pool rooms of New York and Chicago, with Taft a 5 to 3 bet for second place in the voting. In the same quarters 5 to 1 is offered that the lower house of congress will have an increased democratic majority. A few bets of 7 to 1 are recorded that the election will be thrown into the house, but the amounts wagered are small. One bet \$30 to \$50 has been recorded in Lincoln that the democrats will elect every candidate on the state ticket, and one \$10 to \$15 that Morehead will defeat Aldrich by 15,000. But betting doesn't prove anything, unless it is that the parties to the wager have more money than sense. But we'll wager a \$4 dog against a couple of \$2 cats that the democrats will elect more state officers on November 5 than the republicans.

SOME STRAW VOTES.

We've been doing a little straw voting on our own account during the last few days. In one business block we found 4 Wilson votes, 1 Taft vote, no Roosevelt votes, 1 Debs vote, two dogs with fleas and one young lady with a rat in her hair. In another business block we found two men who couldn't vote because they were not residents, one man who wouldn't vote for Wilson because he is a Presbyterian, two men who wouldn't vote for Taft because he isn't a Presbyterian, one boy who was eating peppermint drops and one man who asked us to go out with him and take something. This last man said he wouldn't vote for Chafin under any circumstances. We stood at the corner of Fourteenth and N and accosted the first fourteen men that passed, asking them how they stood on president. Seven didn't know how they would vote, one said he was for Wilson and six said it was none of our blankety blank business. If any of these straws show which way the political wind is blowing you are welcome to the information.

IT IS VERY AMUSING.

It is amusing to read some of the arguments against the single tax system that are advanced by opposition newspapers in Missouri. To date we have not seen one that evidences even the least conception of the single tax. All seem to think that it is a proposition to raise all revenue by taxing the land. They appear to believe that the farmer who owns 160 acres of land will be taxed about 320 times more than the man who owns a city lot. They fail to grasp the fact that the land itself is not taxed; that the tax is levied on the land's value for use and occupancy. Missouri farmers own less than 25 per cent of the total land values of the state. They are paying more than 60 per cent of the real estate taxes of the state. "Big Business" in Missouri is using the Missouri farmer to pull its chestnuts from the fire.

ANOTHER REASON EVERY WEEK.

Every time the Lincoln city council meets the municipality is given another argument in favor of the commission form of government. Every council meeting sees a wrangle and a jangle; sees flights of alleged oratory; sees insinuation and recrimination; sees horseplay and child's play; sees about everything but real business transactions performed in a businesslike way. It would be highly entertaining were it not so infernally expensive. It is not long until Lincoln enters upon the new era of municipal government, but few and short as the intervening months are, there will be all too many opportunities for a display of the same kind of activities that have marked the council meetings for many weary months of the past.

 * 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. *

The decision of the Lincoln Commercial club to resume the holding of "Made In Lincoln" expositions, first inaugurated by the Ad club some four years ago, is to be commended. These expositions are valuable in an educational way. The first of these expositions was an eye-opener to Lincoln people. Few of them realized what remarkable development the city has made as a manufacturing center. Future expositions will prove just as surprising, for Lincoln is growing as an industrial center at a most gratifying rate. The Commercial club is planning to hold the next exposition the latter part of the present month or the first of next month, winding up with a banquet at which only Nebraska-grown products find a place upon the bill of fare.