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THE NORTHWESTERN

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The republican party is in control of the political circus, but democracy is furnishing the menagerie.—Stromsburg News.

Kansas has had one term of populist misrule and it made her tired. She has ever since been rolling up her old time republican majorities. Nebraska has had the same sad experience. She will ditto Kansas and go her one better.

The Stromsburg News comes to our desk this week marked Ex., which of course means please exchange. The News is a bright newsy paper and we gladly enter its address on our exchange list and are pleased to have made the acquaintance of our new republican friend.

A thorough canvass of the votes up to date of the delegates to the St. Louis convention gives McKinley first choice 366 votes and 178 second choice. From these figures he will doubtless be nominated on second ballot, as it takes 534 votes to nominate and the total vote he will receive is 544 which will give him ten majority over all votes cast. Hurrah for McKinley.

The tramp nuisance has afflicted Oxford for the past few weeks to an extent not known perhaps since the panicky days of 1893 when Coxey's armies swept over the country. Now and then a bum expresses a willingness to work, but the great mass of them scorn manual labor. None of them, however, have any scruples in laying aside their dignity long enough to solicit a "hand out." Some political agitators do not hesitate to hold the government responsible for conditions that produce the great army of tramps, but we observe that good farm hands are in demand and obtain steady work at remunerative wages.—Oxford Standard.

The citizens of Loup City should see that the waste water from the irrigation ditch which otherwise would go down the Dead Horse creek and so back into the river, be turned through the streets of the city, and then if needed, used to irrigate some of the lands below town. This can be done with very little expense and would beautify the town to a very great extent and besides would do a great deal of good to vegetation and growing gardens and crops of all kinds. This is the time of year when our citizens are not very busy and could give some time and attention to the matter. How many of our citizens would be willing to lend a helping hand to accomplish this enterprise.

The editor of this great family comforter while at Minden last Tuesday noticed an incident which shows that some of the wives of Populist men are getting tired of the manner in which their lords have been ranting for the past four or five years. During the day all the Republicans in the city were wearing Andrews badges, and one of the good women from the country procured a bunch of badges and when we noticed her she was insisting on pinning one of the badges on her husband. We heard her inform him that it was time to cease this foolishness, and that in the future he should vote for the old party and thereby help restore confidence and the return of better times.—Bloomington Echo.

Facts Concerning the Use of Irrigation in the West

Irrigation is destined to become the universal method of supplying moisture to growing crops throughout the most productive agricultural sections of the world. It is the only means by which absolute security of crops and permanent fertility of lands can be maintained. The soil, under proper irrigation, yields its full value and imparts its entire strength to vegetation with astonishing regularity every year. Agriculture is no longer a doubtful business, subject to the extremes of dry and wet seasons. The amount of moisture required, and the frequency of its application, are under the direct control of man. An irrigation farmer is therefore complete master of the situation, of the soil, and its products, and is alone responsible for the failure or success of his farm.

Where irrigation is extensively practiced the union of colonists upon the co-operative plan insures success, when individual labors may prove unavailing. Reservoirs can be constructed, canals built and kept in repair, large streams tapped, and vast underflow supplies brought to the surface. The union of action, combination or recourses, and general desire for public improvements are incentive to colony plans for irrigation enterprises. What seems beyond a few scattered and poor farmers can easily be accomplished by the co-operation of many, and, while each individual reaps greater benefits than from independent efforts, the corporation becomes a recognized power in controlling and distributing water, securing proper market, and creating confidence in the future of irrigation farming.

Colony life assist in creating individual wealth and increase public prosperity. There is no waste of water from surplus ditches; many useless expenditures in fencing can be avoided; the value of land is enhanced; private and public improvements are encouraged and fostered, and the revenue derived from taxation returns more directly to the taxpayers. Co-operative methods of farming, grazing and herding stock can be adopted, and better grades of sheep, cattle and horses can be obtained. A better market for farm products can be secured and a large saving in purchasing farm machinery, seeds and other supplies can be made. Every effort made by one colonist for improving his land, machinery or methods of work benefits the entire community by others following the example and endeavoring to eclipse his neighbor.

In well organized colonies the facilities for transportation are better; schools are more modernized and better equipped; means of public entertainment are more conveniently arranged, and the methods of entertaining are more elevating, and the health, habits, and training in dress, economy, and language are more carefully guarded. Sanitary regulations are more scrupulously observed. The fountains of water supply are systematically protected from any unwholesome pollutions. Dwellings are erected on elaborate and convenient plans, and barns and other buildings are usually more suited to the purpose of preservation of farm products and the protection of animals. Merchandise and the fruits of the soil are handled in large quantities, thus insuring better qualities of the articles consumed, and better prices for commodities exported.

No rain-belt section can offer such great inducements to colonizes as are found in the fields of irrigation. The facilities for organization and development are not present. In the arid region the valleys are surrounded by mountain ranges, protecting the colonies from winds, cyclones and storms. Convenient locations are selected on pure mountain streams, for town sites. The ad-

vanced means of transportation are utilized with much less expenditure, and mails are handled with more "certainty, celerity and dispatch." The cultivated area is not divided by hills and ravines, as in the rain belt states. The soil is not constantly washing from the uplands and lowlands. Time is not wasted in going to market and disposing of the products of the farm. Better roads are built with less cost, and as a consequence teams are in better condition and the wagons in better repair.

Small farming is encouraged under the colony life of the irrigated empire, and one acre is made to produce as much as ten, or even more, in the rainy regions. Intensive agriculture is destined to become universal, and in no region can it be so successfully practiced as where the colonies are conducted on the co-operative plan, under perfect irrigation systems. A much larger variety of products can be cultivated in the irrigated districts, because of the market demands for larger quantities of first-class fruits cereals. From a financial, social, educational, or economical standpoint there is no inducement equal to colony life under a properly managed irrigation system.—Selected.

The New York papers are publishing statistics indicating that Chicago has lost her boom and is decreasing in population. The great falling off in the school census and the large increase of unoccupied buildings, together with a 20 to 50 per cent drop in the average of rentals, are cited as proofs of this indictment.

This is not entirely surprising. Chicago, after securing the golden harvest of the Columbian world's exposition, for which it was indebted to the republican administration, puffed with pride and fat, turned the tables on the country by giving an overwhelming majority to the democratic electoral ticket in '92 and followed it up with Hopkins for mayor and Altgeld for governor in '93, elected by the Chicago vote. Then came the deluge.—State Journal.

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