

The Voice

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.



by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Years ago an important feature of the Nebraska State Fair was an address by a man of considerable local or national reputation. In recent years, however, interest of the fair-going public in speech making has declined, and Secretary Edwin Schultz says there will be no public address in front of the grandstand during this year's exposition, to be held September 4-9.

One of the most significant of these pioneer State Fair addresses was delivered by Orange Judd, September 16, 1883. Mr. Judd was editor of the *Prairie Farmer*, published in Chicago, and was widely known throughout the country for his agricultural writing. He spoke in Lincoln from a platform of baled hay.

In the course of an address extolling the virtues of Nebraska as an agricultural state, Judd advanced the view that an important feature of the Nebraska climate was that its rainfall was increasing annually. He based his conclusion on the theory that plowed land absorbs and gives off moisture much more readily than unplowed prairie sod. Hence, as more acres of Nebraska land were put under the plow there would be a corresponding increase in the annual rainfall.

Judd was not the first to state the novel and attractive theory that "rainfall follows the plow," but because of his prestige and the eloquence with which he spoke he did a great deal to give the idea respectability.

Nebraska stood to benefit not only from

its own development but also from that of Kansas—as neighboring Kansas settles up and breaks its prairie sod away out to its western border those parching winds that formerly came up in Nebraska, and still come at some points, will be heard of no more."

The theory was plausible and popular. It was widely proclaimed, both officially and unofficially, in Nebraska and other prairie states. It was an important factor in breaking down prejudice against Nebraska as part of the "Great American Desert," and in part was responsible for the opening of many farms in the central and western part of the state.

Actually, the theory resulted in

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no end of mischief and must bear part of the responsibility for the failure of a large number of homesteading ventures. Lured by the hope that conditions were steadily improving, homesteaders attempted to farm by conventional eastern methods in areas where those methods would not work. The result was disaster for many farm families.

Notice to Contractors

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Department of Roads and Irrigation in the State Capitol at Lincoln, Nebraska, on September 8, 1949, until 10:00 o'clock A. M., and at the time publicly opened and read for SAND GRAVEL SURFACING and incidental work on the CERESCO-ASHLAND Patrol No. 21035 State Road.

The approximate quantity is: 1,963 Cu. Yds. Sand Gravel Surface Material.

Compliance by the contractor with the standards as to hours of labor prescribed by the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938," approved June 25, 1938 (Public No. 718, 75th Congress), will be required in the performance of the work under this contract.

The minimum wage paid to all skilled labor employed on this contract shall be one dollar and five cents (\$1.05) per hour, except that a minimum wage of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per hour shall be paid to:

- Crane Operators
- Dragline Operators
- Power Shovel Operators

The minimum wage paid to all intermediate labor employed on this contract shall be ninety-five (95) cents per hour.

Plans and specifications for the work may be seen and information secured at the office of the County Clerk at Wahoo, Nebraska, at the office of the County Clerk at Lincoln, Nebraska.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish bond in an amount equal to 100% of his contract.

As an evidence of good faith in submitting a proposal for this work, the bidder must file, with his proposal, a certified check made payable to the Department of Roads and Irrigation and in an amount not less than one hundred fifty (150) dollars.

The right is reserved to waive all technicalities and reject any or all bids.

- DEPARTMENT OF ROADS AND IRRIGATION
- F. H. Klietsch, State Engineer
- Earl A. Morin, County Clerk Saunders County
- J. B. Morgan, County Clerk Lancaster County.

Embezzlers have been found to have the highest intelligence of any class of criminals.

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