

OMAHA'S STAKE IN IRRIGATION.

The future of Nebraska is wedded to irrigation. The outlook is brighter and surer for that fact. A more complete and exact control of agricultural production is possible by irrigation than by relying on the uncertainties of rainfall.

For a good many years the people of the state were hesitant to admit the existence of certain sections in the west where the precipitation was too scanty to insure a crop of anything more than grass for grazing stock. Then in the vicinity of North Platte, Gering and Mitchell ditches were dug which poured out the waters of the North Platte river and converted semi-arid lands into fertile fields. The success of this reclamation work is evidenced today in the harvest of small grain, alfalfa, sugar beets and potatoes of those regions. It is shown furthermore in the intention of other districts to resort to the same means.

There are times when even the humid regions suffer from lack of rain. Supplemental irrigation, supplying the subsoil with an inexhaustible reserve of moisture is coming into use. The adding of water at certain times of the year and the removing of superfluous water at others is not a contradictory policy, for irrigation and drainage are co-ordinate practices. Fields may be parched at one crucial season and too wet at another.

In Central Nebraska, from Hastings to Holdrege, there is a region whose rainfall may be abundant one year and insufficient the next. One fall there may be an abundant yield and the next a crop failure. Supplemental irrigation, which consists simply of turning the water on the fields at the flood stage of the Platte, is being advocated to remedy this uncertainty. A government survey indicates that there is sufficient water available to soak the subsoil and make every year a sure crop year. What this means to Nebraska, and to Omaha, which is the main market for Nebraska agriculture, it is easy to see.

A party of government officials from the Department of the Interior are now going over this project. They have also inspected irrigation proposals from Shelton to North Platte, and visited the existing districts around Scottsbluff. South of the Platte, opposite Lexington, they have looked into the new project that will water 540,000 acres.

Omaha is vitally interested in the progress of these various irrigation projects. John L. Kennedy, a member of the agricultural committee of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and Carl R. Gray, who in addition to being chairman of this committee, is president of the Union Pacific system, are making the tour of inspection with A. P. Davis, assistant secretary of the Department of the Interior, and his reclamation engineers. Thursday they will bring Mr. Davis to Omaha to speak at a public affairs luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce. It is big news that they bring and the business men of Omaha are vitally interested in hearing of development of this reclamation work.

A GENUINE REFORMER PASSES.

Twenty years ago a new name flashed across the national sky. It was that of a district attorney, who had set for himself a gigantic task, one of the biggest ever tackled by a single man. He pitted his strength and the majesty of the law against injustice, greed and corruption, and he won.

When Joseph W. Ingate Folk was elected district attorney for St. Louis it was in face of considerable organized opposition, for he had declared in advance his intention of cleaning house. His word was not taken by all the forces of evil, else he might not have been elected. At that time politics and the election machinery of St. Louis was in the hands of a most unscrupulous gang, whose operations included all things and whose apparent control reached from top to bottom. Judges on the bench, the city government, members of congress and of the state legislature, all were affected in some way by the combination. Prosecutor Folk set himself to overthrow. His methods were direct, his proceedings drastic. Grand jury investigation was followed by indictments, these by trial, and as a result of the trials some of the leaders were sent to prison and the hold of others broken. Race track gamblers were routed, election boards were purified, and the civic life of St. Louis was made cleaner and better by reason of the tornado of judicial wrath loosed upon it by Joe Folk.

The people of Missouri caught the infection of the St. Louis citizenry, and Folk was made governor of Missouri, an office he filled for two terms. While chief executive of the state, he concluded the work he had commenced. Laws were passed that cured many of the abuses, some, like the child labor law, that still bless the people of Missouri, while many other actions of the governor showed him to be a man of advanced and liberal ideas of government and its responsibility to the voters.

Folk's career in Missouri brought him national prominence, and he was talked of in 1908 as a candidate for president, but he deferred to William Jennings Bryan's claims, and missed his big chance. When Mr. Wilson came into office in 1912, he asked Mr. Folk to come to Washington as a solicitor for the Treasury department, and for several years the government had the benefit of his ability in this and other capacities.

Mr. Folk's career deserves consideration, because of the character and quality of its intrinsic worth. He was a citizen of the type that has made this republic great. A comparatively young man when he began his public service, he brought his high ideals and his youthful enthusiasm to the handling of a job that had discouraged older and more experienced fighters. His zeal and courage were such as inspired the citizens, and once they learned that they had a champion who would not flatter and was not dismayed by the evil influences and power arrayed against him, they rallied to his support, and a great triumph for civic righteousness followed. The political label affixed to such a man is not of much importance. He was an American, full of the holy light of liberty, personal and general, but strong for the right and brave enough to assail evil in its strongholds. His passing will be noted with regret, but his record will be remembered because it is one full of good for the people of a free country.

"THEY ALSO SERVE."

Memorial day this year will recall to Omahans that all the men who have died under the flag were not those who served in the great wars. No city in all the United States has more of reason to know this, and yet, curiously enough, our people have accepted the presence of the men of the regular army as so much of a commonplace as to not think of them as volunteer soldiers.

Almost throughout the entire history of the city soldiers have been stationed here, and for sixty years Omaha has been headquarters for an important department of army administration. In this time many soldiers have died at one or the other of the army posts and are buried in the local cemeteries. These graves have not been entirely neglected, yet it is true they are apt to be overlooked by the great multitude when the day comes around for bedecking the grassy tents with flowers in sign of memory of the men who did wear the uniform and serve under the flag.

No man more truly serves his country than he who volunteers to give some of the years of his young manhood as a soldier. Because the military is subordinate to the civil authority in time of peace, citizens forget now and then the necessity and importance of an army. The permanent force maintained under arms at the various military posts is not large, but it has a wonderful record of service. Omaha has much reason to acknowledge this fact.

It well befits a republic to do honor to its defenders, and none are more truly listed in this than the men who make up the standing army of the United States. "Neglected graves" has a harsh, discordant sound, and we hope it will never again be heard in Omaha.

"AND NOT A MAN SURVIVED."

All some people know about the Custer massacre is gained from the lithograph that used to ornament so many western bar rooms. The United States government did give Curly, the Crow Indian scout, a pension, but as to his being the last survivor of the Custer massacre, the original statement made in this paper and questioned by a contemporary, stands. As well call each of the officers and men of the surviving battalions of the Seventh cavalry, those who were under the command of Majors Reno and Benteen, survivors of the massacre, for they, too, rode on that reconnoitre with Custer, and came out alive, but none of the battalion which followed Custer that morning in June ever returned.

As to the government never doing anything wrong in connection with this affair, it may not be entirely amiss to refer to another episode of that famous outbreak of the Sioux. When General Crook was riding north to join with Terry, he encountered Red Cloud and a war party of bucks in the neighborhood of where Edgmont now stands. Red Cloud insisted he and his followers were merely on a hunting expedition. Crook knew they were heading for the general rendezvous, but he told them they could hunt as well on foot as on horseback, and so killed their mounts, 450 cayuses, and Red Cloud and his party returned to the agency near Camp Robinson. Some fifteen years later, the United States government paid Red Cloud \$45,000, or \$100 apiece, for these ponies.

Nobody familiar with the facts ever questioned General Crook's judgment, but the official act of congress will stand in history as rebuke for him and a justification of a wily old Sioux, who never was a friend of the white man. It is not pleasant to revise history, but it is very easy to distort the record.

CLARA PHILLIPS FINDS IT OUT.

A figure unique in criminal annals is Clara Phillips. But for all her cleverness, she is not to escape the penalty of her crime. Hidden away among the mountains of Central America, yet the law found her and brought her back for punishment.

In the moment of tempestuous anger in which she beat the rival for her husband's affection to death with a hammer she could not have been thinking of the consequences of her act. After her conviction in the California court for murder she may have realized for a time the meaning of the law. Later, when by bribery or stratagem she was enabled to flee from her cell, she may have felt with Dogberry that the law was an ass.

Supplied plentifully with funds, she made her escape out of the United States and no doubt was beginning to feel safe once more when she was detected in Honduras. There is among some criminals the dangerous belief that they are above or beyond the law. This mental attitude may be compared to the megalomania of monarchs in past ages, who considered that they could do no wrong. H. G. Wells places Napoleon in this category, and there have been countless little Napoleons since that day who have found that such course ends up in St. Helena.

Mrs. Phillips knows now that the law can not be outwitted. She matched her wits in vain against the force of justice and is now reduced to the extremity of claiming to have been convicted of a crime she did not commit. No one will waste tears on her, nor is she entitled to any sympathy. The whole case is filled with spectacular occurrences, but soon she will be back where she belongs—behind the bars.

Boy Scout camps at Omaha this year will cost 75 cents per day per scout, which is offering the biggest value for the least money the bargain counter has presented in a long time.

The offer of a billion dollars for the ships, etc., held by the United States government indicates that the stuff is worth something to somebody.

Abilene kicks in with a maximum of 100, showing that it is summertime somewhere.

"Joe" Folk's death will awaken many echoes in old Missouri.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davie

MEMORIAL DAY.

Where bear ones rest in death's repose
Beneath the Maytime sod,
We tread to place our love, a rose,
Between their graves and God.

A tribute to their memory
As life may best endow—
Loved ones who with us used to be,
But sleep in silence now.

Beside the hier, the sacred place,
Unspoken thoughts reveal
More than a kiss or an embrace
The love we living feel.

We grace the consecrated crest
In reverential way,
Thus the unspoken is expressed
Upon Memorial day.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from other newspapers.

Bovine T. B. Eradication.

From the Kearney Hub.

It is difficult to comprehend the continued hostility of Governor Bryan to the bovine tuberculosis eradication campaign, and his assumption that it is almost entirely in the interest of the packers and veterinarians. It will be remembered that the legislature proposed the bill in the last legislature for the continuance of the appropriation for eradication purposes on the grounds above stated, and that next to the administration of the law was the outstanding feature of the session.

However in the face of the governor's opposition the legislature passed a bill separate from the general appropriation bill, appropriating \$285,000 for the purpose of eradicating tuberculosis in Nebraska cattle. Sixty votes in the house were necessary for passage, but the majority for it exceeded that number and included a number of democrats who were otherwise supporting the governor's measures. A large proportion of the members, who, incidentally did not coincide with the governor's views, assisted in its passage.

Contrary to expectations the bill was not vetoed and became a law in due time. It was an "moral duty" to veto it, and more questionable than to do it. It was a duty to do it, and having failed to do it, he was deeply and conscientiously opposed to the measure for the reasons he had stated. It has, however, paid no infrequent visits to Nebraska. Mr. La Fleche is joint author with Miss Alice Fletcher, recently deceased, of the great monograph on the Omaha tribe published by the Bureau of American Ethnology. Mr. La Fleche is also the author of a book which no Nebraska should fail to read, for it is certain to become one of the classics of the literature of the middle-west. This is his "The Middle Five," which is the story of his education in the school for Indian boys at Belleville. Nebraska boys should find in this book a more interesting and useful "Tom Brown" than that which deals with the country they know, and with boys whom they will know when they follow the story to its end—as each who begins it must.

or association with the League of Nations? And why not? Returning less than a month ago from a conference in August with Mr. Harding, Dr. Butler pronounced the world court "sound in principle, but not in practice." He is the league—if Colonel Roosevelt, Mr. Taft, Mr. Root, Mr. Wickersham, even Senator Lodge himself, are competent party assayers of doctrinal purity. It was only when the league was furthered by President Wilson that it became, for campaign purposes, democratic and suspect. President Harding himself, who before election had done nothing to advance the league, and who after election was a very small group are in a strategic position to prevent action.

The party strategy of the moment may compel us to add that "those gentlemen who are so vigorously opposing our acceptance of the existing international court of justice on the ground that it is not a League of Nations are likely to be treated to a great surprise." The great and vital fact, not to be denied, is that the American people are so ignorant and so uneducated that they cannot ignore world questions and expect world problems to pass us by untouched.

Five Issues for 1924.

In his statement made to the World, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, names the five issues which he believes to be paramount before the American people at this time. These issues are: "our foreign policy, the prohibition of the railways, taxation, and the problems of agriculture and the agriculturist." It would be denying the obvious to question Dr. Butler's statement that "the prohibition question has been kept out of national party platforms for a generation through fear of political consequences, but it cannot be kept out of the minds of voters any longer. This in mind have the Volstead act, and state enactments of which the republican Mullan-Gage law is a sample, brought a public which in opposing the saloon or alcoholic excess never needed to be convinced.

The problems of the railroads are real. The farm problem, as Dr. Butler says, is the most important of foreign policy and the question of railways." That is a very real problem. Taxation burdens hosts of Americans who before the war felt it only indirectly. But Dr. Murray correctly estimates the comparative weight of his issues when he discusses first of all our relations with foreign lands. "Probably not fewer than 80 per cent of the people of this country are in favor of a constructive policy of international cooperation." That constructive policy is before the voters in the form, primarily, of President Harding's appeal to the country for participation in the permanent court of international justice. But behind that immediate issue appears the question of the league, and that the court might lead us some paces further toward participation in

From the Fremont Tribune.

Isn't it possible that Mr. Bryan is so energetically pushing his fight against the evolution, theory and his opponents in an energetically supporting the same principle are both wandering far afield from the teachings of Christianity?

After all, what does it matter by what manner man came to be upon this earth so long as we do not question the fact that it was through the act of God that the genesis came to pass?

A body of men, good men and great men, have been assembled at Indianapolis for the expressed purpose of advancing the cause of religion, and they have succeeded in little beyond the creation of bitterness and hostility in the minds of those who hold differing opinions on the question as to whether or not the human evolved to his present state from a life germ similar to the forms of protozoa known to biologists through the various forms of animal development.

The leaders of the Presbyterian church would look a lot better in the estimation of the general public if they had spent their time seeking for a solution of only moral problems, or in working out an antidote for the prevalent criminal tendencies.

Daily Prayer

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, nor yet for your body, what ye shall wear: for all these things shall be added unto you. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt. 6:25-34.

Almighty God, Thou Who art the Creator, the Preserver, and the Beneficent Ruler of the universe—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, we praise and magnify Thy Great Name, not only because of Thy Majesty and Glory, but also because of Thy Divine Love and Compassion. We thank Thee for Thy Goodness, and for the blessing of life, and we most humbly beseech Thee to forgive our sins, to increase our faith, and to make us love Thee more and serve Thee better. We pray for the peace of the world, and the salvation of mankind. Do Thou most graciously grant us in this life food, raiment, shelter, home, friends and happiness, and in the world to come, life everlasting.

We ask it all in the Name and for the sake of Thy Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

JUDGE HENRY W. HARTER, Canton, O.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for APRIL, 1923, OF THE OMAHA BEE Daily 75,320 Sunday 82,588

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales.

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr. V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24 day of May, 1923. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public.

We Nominate— For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



FRANCIS LA FLECHE is son of Chief Joseph La Flocot of the Omaha tribe. He has been for many years a member of the staff of the Bureau of American Ethnology, with headquarters in Nebraska. He has, however, paid no infrequent visits to Nebraska. Mr. La Fleche is joint author with Miss Alice Fletcher, recently deceased, of the great monograph on the Omaha tribe published by the Bureau of American Ethnology. Mr. La Fleche is also the author of a book which no Nebraska should fail to read, for it is certain to become one of the classics of the literature of the middle-west. This is his "The Middle Five," which is the story of his education in the school for Indian boys at Belleville. Nebraska boys should find in this book a more interesting and useful "Tom Brown" than that which deals with the country they know, and with boys whom they will know when they follow the story to its end—as each who begins it must.

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"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

The American Home. David City, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: According to God's laws and commandments, there must be homes and children, for without them one generation would see the end of mankind and all things material. Then, if there must be homes and children, why is it so extremely difficult to establish and maintain the home?

After careful study and thought, I am convinced that the highest ambition of at least a majority of young men is to establish and maintain a home, free and independent of any outside help or interference, and the same noble ambition prompts a majority of our young women to want to have her part in the establishment of the home, which should be the happiest spot on earth, in which we should find a happy married man and a woman; some healthy, happy bright children, growing up among pleasant surroundings, developing high ideals along the lines of our Christian civilization. Your man resides faith in our flag and reverence for the laws of our government and state. Where the father and mother have time to play with those children, to go on strolls, or go camping with their children in other ways to make the environment of those children such that they will develop clean, strong minds, be healthy and naturally happy and independent as they grow up.

But, alas, how many homes like that do we find? Just think it over a little and you will be able to call to mind many cases like this. A young man purchases a home and a young woman, the lady of his choice to share his lot, they establish a home, maybe go in debt for their furniture and other home equipment, they both have good health, they are working steady and are able to meet their payments as they come due. The future looks bright to them for possibly several years, then a lark comes into their home and they are extremely happy for a time, but soon find that with the added expense of the little one, and only the father working, he is soon unable to meet the bills for only the father's salary of life hang too heavy, and God only knows how many either suicide or go to the asylum. The same thing is true of people on the farm or in business.

When God touches the hearts and consciences of men of great influence and unlimited wealth, when they once get the vision of what might be in this working steady and are able to direct our national affairs, can comprehend and grasp the true meaning of golden rule, then will it be possible for any man who is honest and willing to work to establish and maintain a home which he and his family will be proud of. O. E. DAVIS.

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Damage of "Sloppy Thinking." Cambridge, Mass.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: While I hold no brief for or against Henry Ford, the straw vote in Collier's, saying that gentlemen in the lead for president of the United States in 1924, brings into relief two pertinent facts: First, that straw votes seldom come out like real ones; second, the slowness of thinking that the American people bestow on the most important things—their government. Simply because you know a man's name, a Ford car, know that he says go, when he does not necessarily mean that that man is fitted to run the United States government. Yet because they don't think much about their government, the American people do think a Ford car or its equivalent can be president of the United States.

It is all a part of what Governor Pinchot calls "sloppy thinking" and President Emeritus C. W. Eliot of Harvard university "the growing irrational excitement of the American people." And the danger comes not only from the sloppy thinking itself, but from the advantage taken of this poor thinking by men who have brains. For example, there are men today who want to attain certain ends—wealth, warlike or monetary ends—"To help on these ends they pervert the meaning of words and fasten their teeth into their amazed adversaries. Just now the word that is being used over time is "communist." For example, a national officer in a large women's organization was approached the other day by an editor of a reactionary sheet and told that she was a communist, because she believed in fed-

eral aid for education and in federal prohibition. In the same way legislators of this group talk about "socialists, communists, internationalists." Their aim would seem to be to incite people of pretty near zero mentality to dub civic-minded peeps and real, mentally dangerous radicals, thus causing a panic in the brain market of noble reform that might go far to overturn these reforms. The result is a deplorable mixture of poor morals and poor thinking. People who believe in federal aid, federal prohibition and a world court are not dangerous radicals seeking to overturn the United States government by violence. They are reformers of sound minds, and to throw the dust of false epithets around them, in the hope of discrediting their crusade, is dangerous generalship. It is slandering the innocent in order to bring about in the minds of the indifferent and the nebulous, a brain panic that shall call retreat on professional legislators and generalship. It is slandering the innocent in order to bring about in the minds of the indifferent and the nebulous, a brain panic that shall call retreat on professional legislators and generalship.

Democracy cannot be run unless it has behind it exceptional honesty and exceptional wisdom. The really dangerous thing today is the loose thinking of our people that allows itself to be played on by reactionary malefactors of great wealth interested primarily in their own pocketbooks. Watch your thinking—don't let the highest bidder own your political power. ELIZABETH TILTON.

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