

THE WAGEWORKER.

VOLUME 7

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1910

NUMBER 27

CURRENT COMMENT

Before congratulating Messrs. Gooch and Tobin upon their acquisition of the Daily Star, I want to congratulate the community. The change in the ownership and the management of the Star will be a good thing for Lincoln. As long as Mr. Thompson was connected with the paper its usefulness was discounted. Not because Mr. Thompson exercised any particular control over its policies, but because it was well understood that Mr. Thompson founded the paper to "get even" with certain people. The time when such papers cut any figure has gone, and Mr. Thompson's connection with the Star was an incubus that it would not overcome. Mr. Gooch is a keen, shrewd levelheaded man of business who is wise enough to know that the Star must stand for something constructive if it would win. He knows that it must be a newspaper, and that it must stand for measures, not for persons.

No one rejoices more than I to see Col. Tobin "land." Mr. Tobin is a unionist of the right calibre. Many months ago he went out on strike against the Associated Press, and he stuck like glue. He could have gone back at a good salary after the strike was lost, but he wouldn't and didn't. He began practically at the foot of the telegraph ladder again, and he showed the stuff he's made of by working right back to the top. I not only congratulate Mr. Gooch on having such a man alongside him, but I congratulate Tobin on being fortunate enough to have allied himself with a man like Gooch.

The Star has a golden opportunity before it, and I expect to see it take advantage of it. The Star's editorial and reportorial staff has always been a crackerjack. The trouble with it was that it was handcuffed and leg-chained to a very great extent. That will no longer be true under the new management. In J. W. Cutright the Star has a man whose newspaper ability is 100 plus. As editorial writer and gatherer of news "Cutty" will measure up with the best of 'em everywhere. Cline, Mosshart—O, the whole blooming bunch! If the new management will just let that staff go its pace the Star will be a wonder. What Lincoln needs is a daily newspaper that will give the news without bias and will not undertake to regulate the sun, moon and stars in their courses, the personal habits of men and women, and the business activities of the city and its citizens. It needs a daily newspaper that will not blow hot in the morning and cold in the evening, but will stand hitched or go straight. Among the big improvements in Lincoln during the year 1910, I count the acquisition of the Daily Star by Messrs. Gooch and Tobin as the equal of any of them. The benefits of the change in the Star's management are already becoming apparent.

The management of the Lincoln Traction Co. shows a deficit of about \$20,000 for the last six months, and thereupon announces a decrease in the service. It excuses the decreased service on the ground that compared with other cities of similar size it gives Lincoln a greater service per car mile than any of them. This is doubtless true, but under the circumstances it is an unfair comparison. From Ninth street to Twenty-seventh street is eighteen blocks—a mile and a half, or three miles for the round trip. Over the tracks between those streets are operated the Cemetery cars, the East S street cars, the University Place cars, the Havelock cars, the Vine street cars, the State Farm cars and the Twenty-seventh and Y street cars—seven lines in all. Every time these seven cars make a round trip between Ninth and Twenty-seventh they make twenty-one miles. Yet of what particular service is all this to the points between those two streets? The trouble is, there is too much "trunk line"

service and not enough "branch line" or outside line service.

One may stand at Tenth and O streets and see seven or eight cars hiking eastward on O all in a bunch, but only one of the number will take one where one wants to go. Yet we are asked to consider that the mile and

a half made by those seven or eight cars is a part of a grand total—and two cars would take care of all the traffic originating between Twenty-seventh and Ninth street going westward. Lincoln could get along with a reduction of one-third in the miles of car service if it could have the service spread out instead of bunching three-fourths

of it on one street in the distance of a mile and a half.

We know of a Lincoln home owner who has absolutely refused to mortgage his place in order to purchase an automobile. We'll give his name to any reputable showman upon payment of a liberal reward.

ABOUT POLITICS

If fairness towards organized labor entitled a man to the votes of union men, then Gilbert M. Hitchcock is entitled to the vote of every union man in Nebraska. He has paid out millions to union men during the last two decades; he employs more union printers, pressmen and stereotypers than any other man between Chicago and Denver; he is always ready to sign an agreement, and always ready to receive a committee and do business with it on a business basis. And in congress his voice has time and again been raised in protest against wrongs inflicted upon organized labor, and in support of measures proposed by the leaders of the labor movement. And when Gilbert M. Hitchcock is elected to the United States senate, as we believe he will be, we may be sure that we have a senator who will not forever be "gumshoeing" or straddling in an effort to chase with the regular hounds or run with the progressive hares.

Here's hoping that Prof. Crabtree is elected superintendent of public instruction by better than 30,000 majority. Not because we think that Prof. Crabtree is any better fitted for the place than his democratic opponent, but because the bigger Crabtree's majority the more stinging the rebuke to a little coterie of low-browed partisans who sought to discipline him because he would not assist them in prostituting the public school system to partisan purposes. This coterie got a good blow between the eyes when Crabtree was nominated. Now let each member thereof have one on the political solar plexus next November.

One year ago the fair was a financial failure—or nearly so. It rained four days out of the five, but the fair's failure was attributed to the fact that Lincoln was a "dry" city. This year the weather was ideal and the fair broke all records for attendance—and Lincoln is as "dry" now as it was a year ago. We are patiently waiting for the detractors of Lincoln to explain.

Mr. Workingman, don't you let 'em fool you this year on the senatorial situation when you come to vote for members of the legislature. You vote for your choice for United States Senator, and then absolutely refuse to vote for any legislative candidate who has refused to subscribe to "Statement No. 1."

When you are told that "Lincoln is full of empty houses," you tell your informant that he is uttering an untruth. There is one good place to get a line on the empty house question, and that is at the office of the Lincoln Gas & Electric Light Co. Manager Adams will tell you that there are fewer empty houses now than there were a year ago, or two years ago. He will tell you that desirable residences, modern or even partly modern, are hard to locate. He will also tell you that there are more occupied houses in Lincoln today, by several hundred, than ever before in the city's history. Lincoln is growing, despite the "knocking" of the disgruntled on the one side and the fanatical performances of rattle-brained reformers on the other.

The idea of a city like Lincoln expecting to get a competent business man to discharge the onerous duties of mayor for the paltry salary of \$1,000 a year—it is to laugh. Now and then the city is fortunate in getting a man like Francis W. Brown, who is willing to sacrifice private business in order to advance the public welfare, but such men are rare. Lincoln is a business institution doing business amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. Men competent to handle that volume of business can command salaries in the five figures. Lincoln ought to pay its mayor \$2,500 a year, and then insist on having a \$2,500 man to fill the chair.

HOW NEBRASKA EXCELS

One of the "jokes" of each session of the Nebraska legislature is the appointment of a committee on "Mines and Minerals." The joke consists in the fact that there are no mines and therefore no mining industry in Nebraska. In the legislative session of 1907 Senator VanHousen of Colfax was made chairman of the senate committee on Mines and Minerals. On the last day of the session Senator VanHousen startled the senators by submitting a comparative report—the first ever made by the committee. That report astonished the people, showing as it did that Nebraska, without mines of gold or silver, coal or copper, iron or lead, was still producing more cereal crops—bringing gold from the "grass roots"—than her sister states produced in metals.

The report was commented upon from one end of the land to the other. It must have astonished the men who journeyed across the plains of Nebraska in the early days to test fickle luck in the gold and silver mines of the Pacific coast. They little dreamed that at the "grass roots" in Nebraska lay more gold and silver in the way of potential crops than has ever been, or ever will be, dug from the bowels of the earth in the shape of minerals.

Astonishing as was the report of Senator VanHousen's committee, it is not to be compared with the report that the same committee of the legislative session of 1909 could have made had it undertaken the same task. The Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics has endeavored to supply the omission of the committee on Mines and Minerals, and begs leave to report to the world the following comparison, the products of Nebraska being reckoned from the reports made to the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, and the figures of production of other states being taken from the World Almanac of 1910.

NEBRASKA'S MINING INDUSTRIES

As miners the people of Nebraska dug from the soil of their state during the year 1909 gold in the shape of the following crops and products:

From Nebraska corn mines.....	\$ 98,123,871	
Gold mines of United States and Alaska.....	94,560,000	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 3,563,871
From Nebraska wheat mines.....	\$ 45,287,483	
Total sugar production of the United States.....	39,000,500	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 5,787,483
From Nebraska oats mines.....	\$ 23,861,389	
Texas cotton.....	19,440,000	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 4,421,389
From Nebraska egg mines.....	18,390,000	
Kentucky tobacco.....	17,739,600	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 560,400
From Nebraska live stock mines.....	\$ 106,771,163	
Crude Petroleum of United States.....	97,651,326	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		9,119,837
From Nebraska wild and tame hay mines.....	\$ 68,600,652	
Illinois coal.....	54,396,000	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 14,204,652
From Nebraska live stock, grain, poultry, butter, eggs and fruit mines.....	\$409,413,434	
Coal of United States except Illinois.....	407,253,776	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 154,658
From Nebraska butter mines.....	\$ 31,500,000	
Colorado gold and silver mines.....	28,305,000	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 3,195,000
From Nebraska potato mines.....	\$ 5,909,202	
Arizona gold and silver mines.....	4,051,200	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 1,858,002
From Nebraska alfalfa mines.....	\$ 17,745,930	
Nevada gold and silver mines.....	16,775,500	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 970,430
From Nebraska wild hay mines.....	\$ 29,760,010	
Alaska gold and silver mines.....	19,968,200	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$ 9,791,810
Total agricultural, dairy, live stock and manufactured products of Nebraska.....	\$650,000,000	
Total cotton crop of United States.....	552,000,000	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$98,000,000
From Nebraska corn mines.....	\$ 98,123,871	
Total tobacco crop of United States.....	74,130,185	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$23,993,686
From Nebraska cereal mines.....	\$171,000,000	
Copper mines of United States.....	127,068,329	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$43,931,671
From grass and grain mines and refined into beef and pork.....	\$106,771,163	
Iron ore of United States.....	60,821,976	
Balance in favor of Nebraska.....		\$45,949,187

SOME ODD COMPARISONS

If the eggs laid by Nebraska hens in 1909 were laid in a double row, end to end, they would extend 19,818 miles, which is more than treble the railroad mileage built in the United States in 1908.

If the total agricultural, poultry, dairy and live stock product of Nebraska in 1909 were loaded into standard freight cars it would make a train 10,004 miles long. The railroad mileage built in the United States in 1909 would accommodate less than one-half this enormous train. The train itself would stretch three times across the United States at its widest part.

The permanent school fund of Nebraska holds \$950,000 of Massachusetts state bonds. Converted into dollar bills and laid end to end this amount would reach north and south across the state of Massachusetts.

If the permanent school fund of Nebraska were converted into dollar bills and the bills laid end to end the ribbon of money would reach from Omaha to Salt Lake City, with several miles of dollar bills left over.

It would take 110 modern freight locomotives to haul the butter to market that Nebraska manufactures in the course of single a year.

Cherry county is big enough to accommodate the inhabitants of the globe, and allow each one room to swing comfortably in a rocking chair.

One may breakfast at 8 a. m., eat lunch at 12 m., eat dinner at 6 p. m., all the while traveling at the rate of 35 miles an hour, starting westward from Omaha, and then have two hours of travel in Nebraska to enjoy the beautiful sunset.

A pound package of butter is six inches long. If all the butter made in Nebraska in 1909 were placed in pound cartons and the cartons stacked up end on end, it would make a column of butter—the best in the world—6,826 miles high. Laid end to end it would parallel every mile of railroad track in the state of Nebraska.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

The above figures are stupendous—but correct. As a state Nebraska is considerably less than fifty years old. Less than forty years ago what is now Nebraska was designated upon the maps of the school geographies as "The Great American Desert."

Nebraska produces the abundance above set forth with less than one-half of her tillable land under cultivation. Nebraska raises more of wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley per acre than any other state in the union.

In addition to having the smallest percentage of illiteracy of any state in the union, Nebraska has the largest permanent school fund of any state in the union.

On Jan. 1, 1910, the banks of the state contained deposits amounting to \$185,080,005.56, an average of \$142.00 per capita.