

NEBRASKA

WHERE the money goes in a rich Nebraska county with no large cities is illustrated by this estimate of the commissioners of Washington for county expenses for the year 1907:

Elections	\$ 500.00
Jail	1,000.00
Poor and poor farm	5,500.00
Assessors	2,500.00
County superintendent	1,200.00
Roads	10,000.00
Bridges	16,000.00
Interest on railroad bonds	8,000.00
Attorney	800.00
County surveyor	300.00
Officers salaries	3,000.00
Incidentals	5,000.00
Soldiers relief	1,000.00
Int. on court house bonds	1,500.00
Coroner	200.00
Commissioners	1,500.00
Criminal cases	1,500.00
Int. on S. C. & P. R. R. bonds	6,500.00
Sinking fund O. & N. W. R. R. bonds	10,000.00
Sinking fund court house bonds	4,000.00
Sinking fund S. C. & P. R. R. bonds	8,500.00
County ditch	2,000.00

Total\$90,500.00
Of the total of \$90,500 the county pays \$14,500 interest on railroad bonds and \$18,500 on the principal of these bonds. That makes a total of \$33,000 to the railroads, or considerably over a third of the total county expense. We wonder whether Washington county is sure it is not paying dividends as well as interest on its bonds via freight and passenger rates.

As early as 1804 wild bees were found at the mouth of the Niobrara river, later in 1840 wild bees were found on the little Nemaha, and in 1870 a bee tree was discovered on the Loup river, not far from the present site of Loup City. The early settlers of this state brought bees with them from the countries farther east and which was then more favored, and for a time the industry was confined to the farmers and ranchmen who had settled along the streams of this state. But as the wild grasses were soon subdued, white clover and other nectar producing plants began to take its place in pastures and along the roadsides, and this industry began to grow, not only in amount of production but the quality began to improve above that heretofore produced. The scarcity of wild bees on the great prairies of the west together with the absence of all pollen-bearing insects has made it necessary to couple bee-keeping with other in-

dustries in order that the work of fertilizing might better and more surely be carried on. In establishing the great melon fields on the Arkansas river in Colorado it was at first unprofitable for the reason that the wild pollen-carrying insects made their appearance so late in the season that the first blooms were not fertilized and the crop produced was so late that the market at that season of the fall was unprofitable. The introduction of the honey-bee in these melon fields has not only remedied this want, but has produced one of the finest honeys ever tasted by man, i. e., a mixture of the nectar of alfalfa and the melon blossom, and today melon growers would as soon dispense with their plows and cultivators as with the honey bee in their melon fields.

Editor E. Whitcomb of the Friend Telegraph, whose pen is as pointed as the business end of one of the bees who compete with the tripod for his interest, prints the information given above in his paper of last week. In common with other bee keepers, he believes that the farmers would make money by keeping bees even if the bees themselves never made expenses. He adds this further advice to Nebraska bee keepers: "In all the country east of the sixth principal meridian the pastures are overrun with white clover and the dandelion is to be found along every roadside. As these tame flowers push westward the opportunities of bee keeping in Nebraska are pushing westward with it, and when Horace Greely invited the young man of the east to "go west," he should have added, "Take a colony of bees with you." In bee-keeping as well as with all other industries the greater amount of room is to be found at the top. There are three essential qualifications to a successful bee-keeper, promptness, carefulness and thoroughness. To neglect a colony of bees at the proper time during the spring or summer months means an entire failure of results. It is as important in successful bee-keeping in this state to follow a system of stimulative feeding about four weeks in advance of the different honey flows which come streaming along during the whole season as it is for the successful farmer to feed up his work horses for the spring and summer work, or to place his machinery and tools in order for the work. At the commencement of the honey flow the number of worker bees in the hive which are less than thirty days old are the working capital of the up-to-date and successful beehive, and no bee-keeper in the state has to my knowledge yet succeeded in securing a great amount of honey from a colony not well stocked with bees of the proper ages. Young bees are the wax-makers, and older ones the honey gatherers, and in fact they die while out in the field gathering nectar to be evaporated and stored in the hive either for the use of man or generations of their kind yet unhatched."

Perhaps few Nebraska boys, or men either, know how to construct a water telescope. Nebraska is too far from deep water for that, perhaps. The Syracuse Journal tells a story, however, of how a water telescope for use in the Nemaha saved a valuable piece of property:

"Friday last, while working on the dam just west of town, Jim Eaton lost his gold watch in the Nemaha. He got a garden rake and fished around in the stream, which is about four feet deep at this point, for some time, but failed to find the timepiece. Jim valued the watch very highly, not alone as a timepiece, but from the fact that it was a gift from his mother, and pasted on the inside of the case was the photograph of his deceased wife, and he offered a good price for the recovery of the watch.

"Jas. Harding heard of the loss, and with a piece of gaspise and a piece of glass attached over one end, viewed the bottom of the creek for a short time. He soon located the watch, which was brought to the surface by means of the rake.

"Mr. Eaton offered to pay Harding \$10 for his trouble but Jim said \$5 was enough and accepted that amount. Harding's knowledge of subterranean exploration served him well."

Who is the Nebraska editor of longest continuous experience on one paper? Until recently there was no one to dispute the honor with George Cross of Fairbury, who had engineered the Gazette for thirty-seven years. But he sold his paper a short time ago. Thereupon the editor of the Exeter Enterprise remarks: "Gee, but this tickles this editor. He has been waiting ten years to be the oldest editor in Nebraska and that man Cross has always stood in his way. Today, right now, the editor of the Exeter Enterprise enjoys the distinction of having served longest in continuous service of

any paper in the great state of Nebraska. He don't care to have the honor lost over six months, but to have finally bested Geo. Cross is a great blessing.

"This paper has been under continuous management of the present editor since January, 1878—twenty-seven years."

There is a discrepancy here. If Mr. Waite took up the management of the Enterprise in January, 1878, he has just about ended twenty-nine years' service, instead of 27 as he figures it. In that case the claim put forward by Mr. Ladd in the following item is not sufficient to establish his right to be an editor emeritus. He says:

"Since the retirement of Col. Cross from the newspaper business at Fairbury, Ross Hammond claims the toga of nestor of Nebraska journalists, having been editor of the same publication for twenty-seven years. He will have to revise his claim a little, because this writer finished twenty-seven years' continuous service on the same publication some months ago.

Former members of congress are granted by courtesy the rights of the floor in the chamber which they formerly occupied. This practice gives ex-senators and representatives well nigh a monopoly on jobs as lobbyists. The rule of the Nebraska senate admitting only ex-officials of certain sorts to the chamber by card of members might conceivably bring a similar result.

It behooves Nebraska followers of public affairs to understand who is meant by Senator Aldrich. When the rate bill was an issue last year in congress Senator Aldrich was its arch enemy. Senator Aldrich is customarily referred to as the representative of Standard Oil, the proprietor of Rhode Island, and the boss of the senate. This is United States Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island. Much is heard this winter in Nebraska of Senator Aldrich. Senator Aldrich is a prominent member of the committee having the rate question in charge, and he is known as a strong supporter of rate regulation. Nobody has called him a boss, or a representative of anybody in the senate but the people of his district. He is Senator Aldrich of Butler county, Nebraska. By observing the contrast all risk of confusing the two Senators Aldrich can be avoided.

Nobody need be surprised at the efforts the politicians of the past era are now making to defeat the direct primary bills before the legislature. Such an assault has been expected all along. The only curious thing about it is the fact that it has not been made in force sooner. The average member will listen to anything any objector to the primary has to say, and then he will come back and look the party platform in the face and know exactly what he is going to do.

Some persons may not have given enough attention to the details of direct primary legislation to understand the importance of the issue as between the state wide primary which the party platforms promise, and the county wide primary which some people propose now that the elections are over. A disinterested and authoritative view on this point is found in Mr. Meyer's book on the subject of nominating systems. He says: "In order that a (direct primary) law may be complete, and may receive a decisive and conclusive trial, it must embrace the entire state. This is necessary because our whole political organization centers about the central or state government. Political combinations reach out largely from a central stronghold, and spread their influence not only over one county or district, but over the entire state. Hence, to institute a direct primary system applying to none but county and city officers in all the counties of the state, is to apply but a partial remedy. The abuses in our state governments would remain a menace not only to the cause of good government, but also to the successful operation of the local systems that 'machine' politicians are willing partially to satisfy public clamor by allowing a compromise county or city scheme to be inaugurated."

The people of Nebraska will remember in this connection that it is state officers who assess the railroads, state officers who regulate railroad rates, state officers who enforce the anti-trust laws, and it is state officers that it is proposed not to allow the people of the state to choose in their direct primary.

The country at large is taking the increase in the pay of members of congress with entire composure. A great deal of fun is poked at the senate for pretending to be opposed to the increase, while all the time secretly egging on the house to vote the appropriation first. Criticism is also offered on the way the house dodged going on record individually, but on the merits of the proposition there is very

little dissent. But it is agreed all around that the members must eschew all special favors under the new dispensation, and give undivided loyalty and service to the public.

CONNELL ADJUDGED GUILTY

OMAHA ATTORNEY HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT.

THOUGHT JUDGE WAS BIASED

Trouble Arose in Trial of Coal Trust
President - Connell Will
Appeal to Supreme
Court.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 28.—W. J. Connell was today adjudged guilty of contempt of court by Judge Sutton for his attitude toward the court during the trial of S. E. Howell, president of the coal dealers' exchange, who was convicted of violation of the anti-trust laws.

Mr. Connell was attorney for Mr. Howell and on one occasion during the hearing Judge Sutton sent the jury from the room while he lectured Connell on his manner of conducting the case and made him apologize for his thrice repeated insinuations that the court was helping out the prosecution.

This afternoon Connell made a final plea in his own behalf before the court in course of which he declared he entered the contempt trial already convicted. "Which reminds me," he proceeded to say, "of a story," and he started to tell an amusing tale of a colored justice court in Arkansas. The spectators were greatly engrossed in the story when Judge Sutton broke in with a warning and told Mr. Connell that he would not be permitted to abuse the court.

In concluding his plea Connell said dramatically, "I would rather rot in the county jail than be unfaithful to the interests of a client." Judgment and sentence will be entered Tuesday afternoon. Connell will at once take steps to carry the matter to the supreme court.

County Attorney English made an argument on behalf of the state lasting only a few minutes. Then Attorney Stout spoke more than an hour on behalf of Mr. Connell, and then Mr. Connell began his argument. The lawyer who has been charged with contempt because of remarks made during the trial of the "coal trust" case was the personification of earnestness as he stood looking the court straight in the eyes and pleaded for the vindication of his professional reputation. Several times Judge Sutton had to interrupt and remind the attorney that the court was not on trial.

Comedy or Tragedy.

"The curtain is about to be rung down on this comedy or tragedy, whatever it may be," said Mr. Connell. "It may be either, or, as your honor has designated it, a vaudeville performance. For the first time in my life I am charged with a crime. For the first time by liberty is jeopardized by the threat of a fine or imprisonment. For the first time in my thirty years' career I am charged with conduct unbecoming an attorney.

"I will not go to the extreme of my counsel, Mr. Stout, and say that I have never overstepped the bounds of exactly exemplary action before the courts. I may have done so unintentionally at times in the earnestness of argument. But this is the first time a court has ever intimated that I was guilty of contempt."

Mr. Connell dwelt at considerable length upon the fact that he was already convicted before the trial began. He referred to the statements of Judge Sutton that the information was filed merely to give him a chance to go on record, and declared he was in the position of the horse which entered the race already beaten. Then he took up the several counts of information.

Comparison With Bible.

"You can prove by the Bible that there is no God, for the Bible expressly says so," said Mr. Connell. "But the statement must be taken with the context, and that is, 'The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.' So in the charges made against me."

He referred to one of the counts, where it is charged Connell stated that he did not believe any law he could present would have much effect on the court. He showed that the court, immediately preceding this statement had said he had lost faith in the kind of law Connell presented.

"I merely reiterated your honor's statement," said Connell. "Can the court be in contempt of itself?"

Regarding his remarks to the court when the witness, Griffith, was excluded during the coal case, Mr. Connell reiterated strongly his contention that he had made his objections to the exclusion of the witness before the court had positively ordered him from the witness stand.

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