

NEBRASKA

LAST year in Lancaster county the pupils of the eighth grade in the public schools had to pass the following test in spelling in order to get their promotion cards:

1. Write and define words containing the following prefixes: pre, re, semi, anti, fore.
2. Indicate the pronunciation of the following by the use of diacritical marks: relief, oak, chestnut, cartoon, wagons.

3. Use the following words in sentences: Presence, presents, profits, prophets, scent, cent, pare, pear, gilt, gull.

4. When and for what purpose should the dictionary be used?

5-10. Examiner pronounce these words:

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| 1. Spelling | 16. Official |
| 2. Acreage | 17. Description |
| 3. Agriculture | 18. Elevator |
| 4. Anticipate | 19. Embarrass |
| 5. Bronchitis | 20. Incredible |
| 6. Injurious | 21. Jewelry |
| 7. Offense | 22. Lymph |
| 8. Campaign | 23. Obstacle |
| 9. Camera | 24. Facinate |
| 10. Cartridge | 25. Forfeiture |
| 11. Convenience | 26. Habitual |
| 12. Decorate | 27. Hypnotize |
| 13. Imperative | 28. Industrious |
| 14. Invincible | 29. Mercenary |
| 15. Lieutenant | 30. Occasional |

Is any beneficiary of "the good old times" when children were "really taught to spell" ready to take a try out with the youngsters who stand this test?

Miss Rosa Hudspeth, editor of the Stuart Ledger, has become one of the marked figures of Nebraska journalism. Her appearance at the meeting of the state press association suggested a sketch of her career to President Reed of the association, editor of the Shelton Clipper, which reads this way: "Miss Hudspeth bears the distinction of being the most noted lady editor in Nebraska and probably one of the most noted in the United States. Miss Hudspeth went to Stuart, a frontier town in Holt county, several years ago and established her paper. Like all other frontier towns there was a dearth of refinement and a surplus of rough element in its makeup. Miss Hudspeth set about in an endeavor to reform the town and thereby incurred the enmity of the rough element which was so much in the majority. She kept up her fight for the moral improvement of the town until she became the victim of all sorts of indignities at the hands of those whose enmity she had incurred in her endeavor to carry out the methods which she thought were right. The hatred of the girl editor finally became so great that one night an attack was made on her place for the purpose of wrecking her plant and driving her from the town. And it is probable that bodily injury might have been done her but for her great courage. When the mob made their attack on the place she stood them off with a gun, threatening to shoot the first man who trespassed on her property. The ruffians realized that they were up against a pretty serious proposition and they withdrew without doing her any serious damage. The fight eventually culminated in the establishment of an opposition paper, but Miss Hudspeth was not long in putting her contemporary to rout as she had the mob that stormed her castle, only by a somewhat different method. While it is not claimed that she has accomplished the reform she set out to accomplish Miss Hudspeth has shown the people of Stuart that a courageous young woman dependent upon her own resources is not to be outdone by a lot of hoodlums who have no regard for the law of either God or man."

A "hanted" tree at Norfolk gave the editor of the Press the occasion for this story: "A colored mammy approached us and asked us if we believed in spirits. We told her we set the W. C. T. U. column for the Press every week and therefore did not believe in them. She told us to quit fooling and said she would show us a sure enough demonstration of spookdom if we cared to see it. The night in question was a warm one, very dark, with enough rain falling to make the crossings and walks slippery, and we would have preferred to wend our way homeward, but curious to know what the old lady had to show us, we said we would go and see the sights, even though we had left our rabbit's foot on the exchange table. We took our way eastward until we came to the corner of First street and Madison avenue. From here we walked a half block north along the west side of First street until opposite the city waterworks. "Somefing powerful had am gwine fo' to happen to this hyar town befo' long; look hyar, you master editor, the spirits am sending a message from spieit land tellin' all about it. Look up in that hyar tree by the waterworks plant and see fo' yourself." She pointed a crooked finger to the top of a tree and as she spoke flashes of pale blue fire sputtered for

a few minutes and went out; again this was repeated, with a sharp clicking detonation, until it took no big stretch of imagination to believe that the trembling figure at our side was telling the truth. At times the flame would burst out into a beautiful green sheet, then it would become a small ball of deep violet and then again it would turn to a beautiful crimson, all the while accompanied by a staccato like tattoo, as if someone from another world were endeavoring to communicate with us. It made a beautiful sight. Mammy refused to go an inch closer to the mysterious lights so we went it alone. We stood directly beneath the tree, with sparks falling all around us. To make sure we were not asleep, a spark was allowed to drop into the palm of our hand, and as a reward we received a severe burn. The mystery was too deep for us, so we thanked the superstitious colored lady and went home, determined to discover the cause of the mysterious flames from the top of a growing tree. Calling up Engineer Graul of the pumping station the next day we asked him if he had noticed the strange phenomenon and he said: "I told the electric light people to take that — wire out of the tree long ago; the branches have worn off the insulation."

The warmest argumentative conflict that has convulsed any portion of the state in a long time is the debate over the question of county division in Custer county. The chief subject of discussion is the question of whether the small or the large county is the more economical unit of administration. It would seem for practical purposes at least as important to prove whether or not being a county seat does or does not add to the value of property in a village.

F. B. Tipton writes the Seward Independent that he finds June the best month to sow alfalfa. Says he: "I have tried both fall and early spring sowing, and later. All things considered, have had the best luck sowing between June 15 and 20. The early sown somehow gets much weedier than the late sown. Any farmer knows that about June 10 every weed known to agriculture gets an extra hump on it in the way of growing. By waiting until this 'spring rush' is over, you get rid of the bulk of the weeds. Then, anyone who ever attended a Fourth of July celebration knows that between June 20 and July 5 we are apt to have plenty of moisture. This assures the bringing up of the seed all together, thus getting a good stand, and all the plants of the uniform age and height. I find also that it is seldom necessary to clip alfalfa sown in June, as it usually holds its own with the weeds. This is not true of alfalfa sown in May, which must sometimes be clipped three or four times, and observation has shown me that clipping weakens the young plants, and destroys myriads of them. I should therefore strongly advise sowing between June 15 and 20. Of course one can imagine years in which this would fail, owing to a very dry July and August, but I will take chances with this over the earlier or later sowing."

In February, 1881, the Nebraska legislature adopted the following resolution:

"Be it resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the state of Nebraska:

"That the election of a United States senator by the people would tend to produce better legislation, avoid charges of corruption, be more in harmony with our state constitution, and less expensive to the people of the state.

"Therefore our senators and representatives in congress are hereby requested to use all honorable means to have an amendment to the constitution of the United States to that effect properly brought to the people and adopted.

"Resolved, That the secretary of state be and is hereby instructed to transfer a certified copy of this memorial and joint resolution to our senators and representatives in congress."

Nebraska is generally credited with being the pioneer in the direct election of senators movement. Mr. Gere, founder of The State Journal, was an advocate of the reform as a young man.

The railroads in a circular just issued declare it their intention to make the new two-cent fare the "only possible rate to apply on Nebraska passenger fares." All special permits, party rates and excursion offerings are therefore withdrawn. No complaint will be made over this announcement, even if it is plainly made in a spirit of resentment and reprisal. In the inducements to travel, sometimes put-

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ting the rates down as low as one cent a mile. It was done as a matter of business. No doubt the system of presenting attractive bargains will be resumed as soon as the managers recover from their irritation and allow business considerations alone to rule their actions.

A gentleman who is visiting relatives in Lincoln at the present time and who has spent two years in Louisiana raising cotton with negro help, says that the crying need of the cotton raising sections is Italian labor. Where the Italians have been introduced on the plantations they have made a remarkable showing. The race problem, he says is rapidly solving itself. On one plantation near where he was located, seventy negro families were employed. In the last year but one birth to the negro population of the plantation was recorded. The death rate, he says, is considerably higher than the birth rate in that part of the south. He says:

"A great many negroes in the south are now so white that you must know their pedigree to place them. The white blood in them is not the best, and the mixture of white and black has not improved the quality of labor."

When a railroad politician talks about the direct primary bill his voice is full of tears on behalf of the people. It will "cost so much," and may even result in the nomination of the wrong men for office!

Boston announces for May 30 its fifth annual work horse parade. The association having the parade in charge is a purely charitable one, its only object being to improve the condition and treatment of work horses. No entry fee is required and all kinds of work horses are admitted excepting hack and cab horses. A new class is added this year, to consist of letter carriers' horses, and it is hoped that this recognition of the usually unfortunate animal employed in that service will have a tendency to improve his condition. The parade is in no sense a rich man's show. New harness and new wagons count for nothing. In fact, exhibitors are requested not to use them. Another novel feature in the Boston parade is that age counts in favor of a horse. The older a horse is the better his chance of winning a prize, provided that he is in good condition and serviceably sound. There is a special class for "old horses"—that is to say, horses which have been employed continuously by the same person or firm (or its predecessor) for ten years or more. The prizes in this class are numerous and valuable, consisting of sums of money and of gold and silver medals contributed by the Massachusetts society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, by the animal rescue league, the home for dogs, the red acre farm, the home for horses and by various individuals.

CLOSING IN ON OPIUM.
Last December China put into effect a decree by which it is hoped to extinguish the use of opium in the empire by the end of ten years. The plan followed is similar in theory to that pro-

posed in advanced communities in this country for dealing with the liquor traffic. Four out of every ten Chinamen are supposed to be opium users. Immediate prohibition is out of the question, for smokers will risk their lives and sell their souls for opium. A gradual elimination is therefore to be put into effect. The number of opium shops will be decreased gradually, the production of the poppy will likewise be reduced. Opium smokers will be required to secure licenses and opium merchants will be allowed to sell only to those who show their license. At the end of ten years all officials who use opium will be removed from office, scholars who cling to it will be deprived of their degrees, and all who persist, in whatever station, will be denied the right to appear at public meetings or social gatherings, and their names will be publicly placarded.

Previous to the initiation of this policy the United States began questioning other powers with oriental possessions concerning a united policy for stamping out the opium trade and opium consumption in the east, and it is now announced that Great Britain, Japan and China have consented to a conference with the United States on the subject. Needless to say, everybody in the United States is heartily in favor of eradicating the opium evil from the Philippines, China, Japan, India and wherever it exists. When our efforts have been successful in extracting this mote from our oriental brother's eye there is a chance that he may gratefully respond by pulling out of our own a few beams that we have meanwhile overlooked.

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