

NEBRASKA NOTES

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

NEBRASKA'S SCHOOL RESOURCES

What is Shown By the Report of State Superintendent McBrien—Work Being Done in This State Along the Line of Irrigation.

LINCOLN—Advance sheets from the report of State Superintendent McBrien show the total resources of all the school districts in the state at the close of the school year July 9, 1906, amounted to \$6,485,464.70, while the expenditures for the school year amounted to \$5,452,289.06. The number of school children in the state between the ages of 5 and 21 years was 373,829. The report will show the following statistics for the school year:

RESOURCES.	
Amount on hand at the beginning of year	\$1,032,271.53
From county & township treasurers	\$4,219,768.48
From sale of district bonds	223,923.81
From tuition of non-resident pupils	68,727.70
From local taxes and licenses	801,044.75
From all other sources	149,328.42
Total	\$6,485,193.17
EXPENDITURES.	
Paid to male teachers	\$588,730.38
Paid to female teachers	2,815,924.02
For building & sites	391,722.82
For repairs	256,350.29
For fuel	247,993.79
For reference books, maps, charts and apparatus	74,691.36
For text books and pupils' supplies	215,446.99
For furniture	56,194.28
For all other purposes	865,325.11
Total	\$5,452,289.06
Amount on hand at close of year	1,033,175.64
Total	\$6,485,464.70

Irrigation Projects.

LINCOLN—A. R. Wilson, assistant secretary of the state board of irrigation, has just returned from a western trip, on which he inspected the work being done in the great interstate canal and the farmers' canal. The latter is being constructed by the Tr-State Land company and is planned to run about eighty miles and to irrigate 80,000 acres of land. It starts about one mile from the Wyoming line and will run several miles east of Bridgeport. About fifty miles of the ditch are already completed.

The interstate canal will have been pushed into Nebraska from Wyoming by spring. In the northern state thousands of acres of land are already under irrigation from it. All of the water of the North Platte river is to be stored in the reservoir by the great Pathfinder dam, on which work will begin in the early spring. The dam will be located about thirty miles southwest of Casper. The interstate canal across the state line is in charge of Bert Forbes, former assistant to Secretary Adna Dobson of the Nebraska board of irrigation.

Old Settler Dead.

TECUMSEH—After an illness of but a few days, Robert M. Frost one of the earliest settlers of Tecumseh, is dead. He was 72 years of age. Mr. Frost drove a coach between Nebraska City and Tecumseh fifty years ago, before this section had a railroad. He had been in business in this city off and on for forty years and had a life which was brimful of experience of a different sort. He was twice married, his first wife dying here twenty-five years ago and going to Omaha. Although he had made thousands of dollars he had been a good spender and died a very poor man.

Pardoned by the Governor.

LINCOLN—Governor Mickey pardoned William Campton of Seward, fined \$1,000 on a child desertion charge. The sheriff at Seward refused to honor the pardon. L. C. Burr secured a writ of habeas corpus of Judge Letton of the supreme court. Gov. Mickey pardoned Campton some time ago. Judge Good refused to recognize the pardon. Mickey granted a hearing to all parties and interfered a second time.

New Nebraska Oil Company.

Secretary of State Galusha received \$107.25 as a fee for the filing of articles of incorporation of the Nebraska Oil and Mining company of Omaha, which has a capital stock of one million dollars. The company has taken over some oil property in Big Horn county.

Seward Man for Speaker.

SEWARD—Dr. F. A. March has announced that he is a candidate for the speakership of the house in the coming session of the legislature. The announcement is made "at the solicitation of old friends."

Prison Association Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Prison association will be held at the First Christian church in Lincoln on Friday evening, January 4. Dr. G. W. Martin superintendent of the society, announced that the program would be an interesting one, with addresses on prison work by Judge M. B. Reese, Dr. M. A. Bullock and Dr. B. M. Long. Reports of the officers of the association will be read and the general work discussed. Prison worker from all over the state will be present and the session will be a noteworthy one.

OVER THE STATE.

Columbus is moving in the matter of securing wireless telegraphy for that city.

Catholics of St. Mary's church at Osmond held a fair that netted over \$750.

A wolf hunt, in which about 100 people participated, occurred in Dodge county.

The city council of Omaha proposes to make a fight for one dollar gas. The price is now \$1.35.

The Brett Mercantile company of Wood River has incorporated with a capital stock of \$25,000.

Articles of incorporation of the Co-operative Telephone company of Maywood have been filed with the secretary of state.

On the 1st of January, J. S. Saunders will retire from active connection with the Farmers' and Merchants' bank of Bloomfield.

Adjutant General Culver is now paying out funds that have been received from Washington for back pay to the Third Nebraska.

H. E. Sackett, senator-elect from Gage county, is a candidate for president of the senate, and is making strenuous efforts to land the place.

An epidemic of pneumonia is prevalent among children in Callaway, and the region round about. Thus far, however, no deaths have occurred.

Rev. J. R. Lewis, of Beatrice, received a telegram announcing the death of his brother, A. R. Lewis, which occurred at Chihuahua, Mexico, of typhoid fever.

James Craske of York, who attempted to end his life by cutting his wrist and throat with a knife, is getting along nicely. Craske is 69 years old and is a pioneer resident of York.

Mrs. W. H. Wisecarver, about 35 years of age, was found dead on a cot in her room at Red Cloud, she having shot herself. Ill health and domestic trouble are assigned as causes.

As a means of raising funds for the Christian church of Edison, sixteen young lady members of the congregation invaded the corn fields of farms near town and picked and husked 115 bushels of corn.

Henry Seymour of the auditor's office is sending out blanks to be used by the county treasurers to make their annual reports to the auditor. These reports will be sent back to Lincoln by February 1, the year closing January 1.

Ace Walls of Gordon, who in a fit of jealous rage shot Miss Maggie Blystra in the office of the Central hotel of that place last July, has been found guilty and was sentenced by Judge Westover to five years in the penitentiary.

Fremont Hill of New York, promoter of the Norfolk & Yankton railroad, at present in Norfolk, in the interest of his railroad, announced that surveys would commence work January 5 at Yankton and work south. Norfolk township will be asked to vote \$50,000 in bonds.

Rev. John F. Seibert of North Platte, announces that he has decided to withdraw his resignation, which he had previously submitted to the council. This announcement caused much joy among the congregation and it is equally pleasing to the citizens of North Platte.

A meeting was held at Grand Island to consider the matter of holding a semi-centennial celebration of the settlement of Hall county and vicinity. It is proposed to make the celebration one of importance, to have prominent speakers and to invite the governor, senators and congressmen.

no relatives in this country. He suffered a sunstroke some time ago, and later is alleged to have attempted suicide. Since then he has been cared for at the county farm. He came to town and attempted to hire a hall in which he proposed to hold a ball and grand Christmas celebration.

The members of the ministerial association at a meeting for the purpose of distributing the 600 cards which were signed by converts at the Lyon revival, discovered that a large number of persons who were already members of the churches had been among those who went to the altar to profess belief in the Christian doctrine.

Washington dispatch: Congressman Kinkaid was informed that the pension office had granted increased pensions to the following: William N. Van Horn of Page, Neb., \$24; from November 7; George Garrison, Sargent, Neb., \$17, from November 7; John S. Borden, national military home, Ohio, restoration, supplemental and increase to \$10 from November 2, 1892.

County Treasurer Barnard of Gage county, reports having received \$16,000.23, in partial payment of the personal taxes of the Burlington Railroad company, and \$6,089.44, in partial payment of the Union Pacific personal taxes for the year 1906. The various funds and school districts will receive their proportion of the amount paid in, which will in a great measure relieve them, while the tax suit is pending in the United States supreme court.

The Society of Equity No. 2064 is a society in York county among the farmers. It is purely a farmers' organization and its purposes are to promote the interests of the farmers and assist them in securing the highest prices for grain and stock.

The Beatrice Commercial club visited the postoffice to inspect the matter of additional room to relieve the present cramped quarters. An appeal will be made to Congressman Hinshaw at once for the purpose of securing an appropriation for the erection of an addition to the government building.

Magic Transformation of China's Army.



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF THE VICEROY YUAN SHAI KAI AND THE MINISTER OF WAR TSE LANG LOOKING THROUGH FIELD GLASSES



INFANTRY ON FIGHTING LINE

China's military forces to-day are vastly different from those which the combined armies of the allied powers met with during the march on Peking at the time of the Boxer uprising.

Then in the estimation of western military men, China had nothing worthy of the name of army. It was scarcely more than an undrilled rabble, badly disciplined, and without pride in its calling. But at the recent big military maneuvers, what was it that met the astonished eyes of military experts from other nations who were permitted to be present? Not the old army of China, nor a half-drilled and organized force, better than the old but far inferior to the military forces of other nations. No. It was a transformed army. Transformed, it seemed, as by magic during the past few years, and the foreign observers and experts who were present and saw the maneuvers admitted that it was a force to be reckoned with.

On Oct. 21 the Viceroy Yuan Shi Kai and Gen. Tse Lang, the minister of war, received the foreign guests and explained the plan of the operations and the theater of war to them. He pointed out to them that while until now each province had had its own army, quite independent of any other, this was the first time that any Chinese military maneuvers would be conducted by united armies.

Each foreign nation had received permission to send three military observers, and the American officers present were Capt. Henry Leonard, United States marine corps, military attaché at Peking; Capt. Reeves, United States cavalry, from the Philippines, and Capt. W. H. Clifford, United States military commander of the legation guard at Peking. Capt. Leonard is the officer who lost his right arm in the attack on Tientsin during the Boxer uprising.

The opposing forces were complete in infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineers, transports and medical service corps, and the appearance and discipline of the new army amazed rather than surprised the military critics, as the organization is only four years old. It is proposed within the next ten years to train 500,000 men for territorial defense purposes. There are a thousand cadets in the Chinese military academies, 100 are studying in Japan and there are several in almost every country in the world. It is to these students of the military science of other lands that China looks for her own future efficient staff of officers.

One of the military experts writes privately, for no official report is yet to hand: "Of all eastern institutions none, perhaps, is regarded by the west with such contempt as the Chinese army. . . . No great degree of military capacity is claimed for the Chinaman, but ample evidence might be adduced to prove that he is very far from being totally devoid of it. It is sufficient to say that there does exist an army, the organization, discipline and bearing of which excited the astonishment of the large number of foreign officers who witnessed the maneuvers and to whom what has been accomplished within the last four years came as a revelation.

"Efficiency in the transport and commissariat departments is generally accepted as indicating efficiency in other branches. The Chinese arrangements on the present occasion were so complete and worked out so perfectly as regularly to confound those who anticipated a breakdown in the com-

missariat and the consequent looting of villages by starving soldiers. "Between a European and a Chinese regiment on the march there is nothing to choose. Physique, equipment and deportment impress one as being much the same. A western soldier, perhaps, is inclined to look bored, whereas the Chinaman seems more keen and appears to take a greater interest in his work.

"At attention the Chinese infantry stand like heroes, rigid and impassive, yet in attitudes instinct with life, the expression on their faces firm, often suggestive of strong character. Skirmishing is conducted in orthodox fashion, the men showing great attention to the work in hand, carefully following every order with regard to sighting rifles, etc.

"They avail themselves of every scrap of cover while advancing, while the control of each subaltern over his section of the line and of the company commanders seems absolute. To say that the Chinese infantry is perfect would hardly be correct, but it was unanimously agreed that a very high state of discipline existed, that the men showed intelligent appreciation of the task to be performed and that the officers were extremely keen and had their men perfectly in hand.

"A significant feature of the maneuvers was that throughout several trying days hardly a man fell out, a high testimony to the condition of the troops and proof that they were being well fed and carefully handled.

AT THE NEWSBOYS' DINNER

By MARJORIE BENTON COOKE

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"I saw you drive up," said Thornton, as he came up into the hall, with outstretched hand, to greet his guests. "It's really very good of you to come."

"I should say it was at this hour— whoever heard of dinner at high noon?" retorted Mrs. Winthrop. "I'm scarcely awake yet, and in a humor usually reserved for my family."

"Mother, Mr. Thornton isn't the family, you know," remonstrated Katherine.

"No—he isn't—worse luck," said their host, smiling. "You see, I had to have it at this hour because most of my guests have to get out with their evening editions."

"Their what?" demanded Mrs. Winthrop.

"Evening editions. I hope you aren't going to think that I've imposed upon your good nature too far, Mrs. Winthrop. I'm sure I couldn't ask any other woman of my acquaintance—"

"You don't mean to say that you haven't asked any other women?"

"Just you—and Miss Katherine."

"Good gracious—have you asked us to a stag party?"

"I've asked you to a surprise party. This is the yearly banquet of the Newsboys' club. I am entertaining, and knew you and Miss Katherine would be interested. Will you go in?"

Thornton led the way into the reception room, Mrs. Winthrop following, with an expression indicating mental indecision, and Katherine brought up the rear, radiant, scenting adventure. The reception room presented an unwonted spectacle. A dozen boys, ranging from eight to 16, were examining the room, with huge enjoyment, when the door opened, and lo! Eve entered—the eternal Eve, or the mother of Eve, shall we say, in a pompadour hat, and a fashionable dinner gown.

"Hully gee—they're wimmen!" said a red-headed youngster, as he ducked

under a divan. Consternation ensued, and for a moment panic threatened, but Thornton was equal to the occasion.

"Hulton," he said to the biggest boy, who was busily trying to hold his hand over a hole in the knee of his trousers—"Hulton, will you let me present you to Mrs. Winthrop?"

Hulton blushed and limped forward, hanging on to his knee, as Mrs. Winthrop, as much at a loss as he was, murmured: "So glad to meet you, Mr. Hulton."

Thornton put his hand on the boy's shoulder.

"This is Hulton, Miss Winthrop."

Hulton looked at the girl's face, and into her very kind eyes, and said, bluntly: "How are you?"

"Very well, thanks, how are you?" she replied, holding out her hand. Hulton forgot the knee, and crushed the hand in his. Katherine turned to Thornton, intercepting his quick glance of appreciation. "Let Mr. Hulton introduce the rest of them to me, and you introduce them to mamma."

She moved away with the delighted, but embarrassed Hulton, and began a tour of the room.

"Who is the one under the divan?" she inquired.

"That's Reddy O'Connor—hates girls!"

"Reddy," said Miss Winthrop, "that divan is a little short for you—your feet are sticking out."

The boys, huddled about the divan like so many frightened sheep, giggled. Then in her simple, charming way, she shook hands with them all, and made them laugh and feel at ease.

"Mr. Thornton—dinner is served, sir," said the butler.

"Will you all come out to dinner?" their host inquired. "Hulton, you shall have the honor of taking out Mrs. Winthrop."

"Yes, and Reddy wants to come with me—don't you, Reddy," Katherine laughed, peeping under the divan.

They sat down, Katherine in the midst of the boys, and Mrs. Winthrop at Thornton's right. A solemn silence fell as the soup was served. Mrs. Winthrop, Katherine and Thornton toyed with their spoons, but the 12 sat stiffly in their chairs, and never moved a muscle.

"What the devil—I mean dickens—

is ut?" demanded Reddy of Katherine. "Bouillon," she answered. Blank stares greeted her remark. "Soup," "It looks to me like medicine—or darty dishwater. Is it good?" "Excellent. Try it and see."

Reddy tasted gingerly, all eyes upon him.

"It's all right, fellows, go ahead!"

"The quail was greeted with, 'Say, will you look at the sparrows!' and as for the salad, it was refused with scorn, until Reddy, the official 'taster,' tried it, and remarked:

"It ain't so worse—it's kind av' grass hash!"

Ices and nuts, cheese and fruit disappeared without comment.

"What do you say to a toast?" said Thornton, finally. "I have one that I should like to propose in this very superior brand of cider. Let's stand and drink it—To the ladies, God bless 'em."

The 12 looked anxiously from one to another, slid from their chairs and drank perfunctorily. "The Ladies" didn't awaken any chivalric thrills in their manly breasts. The ones they knew were apt to be overworked, and over sharp of tongue—but if Thornton wanted to drink to "the ladies"—why, that settled it. Hulton broke the silence that followed Thornton's toast, with—

"Here's to Mr. Thornton, the best feller I know, and to his girl!" They drank to that with real enthusiasm, crying, "Speech, speech." Thornton rose and laughed, and cleared his throat.

"Ladies and gentlemen: I am not much of a speech-maker, as you will find out. I'm just a quiet sort of a fellow who likes his friends and wants his friends to like him. So you see I'm very much flattered by the toast offered by my good comrade, Hulton. I think, with your permission, I will now resign the floor to our guest of honor, Miss Katherine Winthrop."

"Hear, hear! Three toots for the lady."

"I'm afraid that this is a conspiracy on the part of our host. I never made a speech before in my life, and I'm frightened to death. Reddy, stop grinning like that. I—I'd like to tell you that this is the jolliest dinner I ever went to in my life, and I've enjoyed every minute of it, thanks to our host and you. I wish you every good thing and I ask you if you will all dine with me some time? This isn't much of a speech, is it?"

As Katherine sat down, almost disconcerted at the steady gaze of 12 pairs of eyes, Reddy O'Connor was on his feet.

"I'd loike to say that ivry dommed wan av' us 'ull be on hand fer that dinner—and if any feller has got any excuses comin' he kin make them to Reddy O'Connor!" As fer Mr. Thornton, we all know the sort of feller he is, fer he's the frind av' us all. I remember the first time I laid eyes on him, I thought he was wan av' thim Cholly boys, an' I sez to him, sez I, 'Hello, Algy, where did ye git yer lid?' An' he sez to me, sez he, 'At the lid store, yer little Mucker, did ye lift yours?' er somethin' to that effect, an' I knowed he wuz my kind, and all right, all right, an' frum that minute him an' me has been frinds, an' the feller thet sez annything against him gits his face punched by Reddy O'Connor—see?"

Reddy sat down amidst shouts of laughter, when to everyone's surprise, the shy eight-year-old boot-black, commonly called "the Kid," slid off his chair to speak.

"Mr. Thornton's been awful kind to ma an' me an' the kids, an' all you fellers know he's awful kind helpin' a fella git a start, an' I—I—," here embarrassment threatened to envelop him entirely, so he marched to Thornton's side, and solemnly proffered a package. "I got a present fer you," he explained. "I didn't have much money to spend, so the fella trusted me fer it—it's a box of blackin'—it's the best blackin' made"—proudly. Thornton swallowed hard as he accepted it, and not a boy so much as grinned. They knew what sacrifices it meant to give presents.

"I think I never had a present I liked so well," Thornton managed to say, "and no hands except yours, Tim, shall ever put this precious blacking on my boots. Thank you, old chap—thank you all for coming and giving me such a happy day. I feel as rich as Croesus with such friends."

Then the dinner broke up, so that the boys could get to work on their evening editions, and Mrs. Winthrop thanked Thornton for a most entertaining experience. As she stopped to say farewell to Reddy, Katherine put out her hand to her host.

"It's very genuine, and very sweet," she said. "I thank you for it all. I like your friends and I hope that I may have the pleasure of entertaining them soon. Will you come?"

He bent lower over the hand, and spoke softly.

"Katherine, dear, couldn't we entertain them—together?"

Was there an answering pressure in the hand?

"Perhaps—we'll see," she said.

And the boys couldn't understand the affectionate ardor of Thornton's farewell to them.

"Arrah, what struck him?" said Reddy, after they got out. "He was so lovin', I thought he was agoin' to kiss us good-bye!"



This is the Jolliest Dinner I Ever Went to in My Life.