

Grinstead Discusses Drainage Matters.

Salem, Nebr., June 27, 1904. Falls City Tribune:

It has been the purpose of these articles to discuss consecutively each precinct in the county as the same is related to the improvements contemplated by the drainage system. Our attention however has been side-tracked by the side-shows with two-tailed peacocks as the attraction. Just now the paramount issue with the owners of 40,000 acres of wet lands is a way if possible to reclaim the same from what in late years has been an annual inundation of the lands and a consequent destruction of the growing crops.

The one paramount issue with all the people of the county—the one in which all agree—is good roads—and how to attain them.

It avails us but little if we can move around amongst our neighbors only on the upland if we must have a banistered foot-log as the only means by which to cross the bottoms to and from the marts local trade.

One or the other of two plans must be adopted in order to make permanent passable roads across the bottom lands. We must either lower the water line, by drainage below the surface, or raise the grade-line above the same. We have told you how, from the west boundary of the county to the Missouri River, the same can be done, in which we are corroborated by the concurrent opinion of all competent authorities.

This lowering of the water-line can be made by methods heretofore explained. Now there are those who have another method in contemplation, which is to raise the grade across the bottom above the present water-line.

We are all agreed in this one proposition that the surface of the road must be separate from the water-line and must be distinctively above it. Unless this is done any attempted improvement along this line will be a failure. To do this then must be constructed water-ways in some places almost entirely across the bottom. These waterways will

have to be made of wood and will be very expensive both in original construction and in cost of annual repairs, and will then be of doubtful efficiency. It is probable that the latter method will cost the county road fund more money than be necessary to make a ditch twenty-four feet wide at the top, nine feet wide at the bottom, ten feet deep and thirty miles long. After the same is done, leaving old channel open until new channel acquires its growth, this will permanently place the water line every where at least six feet below its present status, leaving line for road at surface of ground and permanently above the water-line. This grade can be rounded in center one foot in height with excavations one foot in depth from each side of the road, not to exceed in most places forty feet for road.

This plan contemplates the new channel to be located usually approximately on the lowest lands. These minor channels along the road-way running into new main channel of river with a natural surface gradient of from one to three and one-half feet per mile. Using Missouri drag method at the proper times and places will in my opinion solve the problem and give us ideal roads perpetually and certainly with a minimum of original cost and subsequent annual expense for repairs.

Remember always that the owners of overflowed lands will at their own expense make this new channel and build the bridges incident thereto in any given drainage district.

The later method will not only do what is claimed for it as the only feasible way by which good roads can be had, but under it 40,000 acres of fertile lands may be reclaimed from inundation and consequent destruction of crops thereon. The same will be placed on the tax roll at an enhanced valuation of not less than \$2,000,000, together with the annual crop of one-fourth that much more.

Yours Truly,

R. E. Grinstead.

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For further information see local agent.

J. B. VARNER,

AGENT

Our Market Letter.

Kansas City, Mo., June 27, '04. Supply of cattle here last week fell off 5,000 head as compared with previous week, and the loss was nearly all stockers and undesirable thin stuff. Prices showed a slight closing up, best kinds of cattle selling a little cheaper, and the medium grass stuff made a small advance. Top beef steers brought \$6.30, and some straight grass steers sold around \$4.40. Beef steers generally lost 10 to 25 cents during the week. Dry lot she stuff did not change much; steers and heifers mixed sold at \$5.85 and \$5.90, best prices of the season; best cows ranged up to \$4.60, good to choice heifers at \$4.00 to \$5.35. Best grass cows gain 10 to 15 cents. Bulls were steady at \$2.75 to \$4.25. Veals gained 25 cents, selling at \$4.00 to \$4.50. Feeders were steady at \$3.75 to \$4.70; stockers gained 10 to 15 cents, and sold at \$3.25 to \$4.65. Run today is fair at 7,000 head, market strong at 10 cents higher on best ones. Present indications favor a good market for best beef cattle, but prospects are not so good for other kinds.

Hog run dropped off last week and prices gained 20 to 25 cents in consequence, closing week at best point. Supply today is moderate at all markets, but market is barely steady, some cases 5 cents lower, with a top of \$5.30, bulk of sales at \$5.10 to \$5.25, light hogs up to \$5.20. Continued light receipts are expected,

and prices should hold good, at least, for the present.

Sheep and lamb prices lost 30 to 40 cents last week. Texas run holds on longer than expected, and more natives are coming than were counted on, making total receipts moderately heavy, but quality is only medium. Too many half fat lambs came in and such were hard to move. Spring lambs bring up to \$6.60, clipped lambs \$5.00 to \$5.74; ewes up to \$4.50; wethers \$4.75. Supply today is 4,500, market draggy, particularly on common kinds. Arizona goats sold at \$5.25 today.

J. A. Richart,
Correspondent.

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