

# NEWS IN NEBRASKA

## NEBRASKA CORN AND OATS.

What is Shown by Union Pacific Agricultural Bulletins.

Agricultural bulletins just issued by the Union Pacific show what is being done this year by the farmers working in conjunction with Mother Nature in the production of corn, wheat and oats in Nebraska and Kansas. In both corn and oats Nebraska makes a splendid showing, both by taking this year's crops by themselves and by comparison with last year. In wheat there is a falling off in acreage.

In Nebraska the corn acreage increased from 5,964,048 last year to 6,174,040 acres this year. This acreage produced an average yield of 34.23 bushels, making a total corn crop of 211,230,303 bushels. The corn averages of higher quality than last year. In Kansas there was a decrease in both acreage and yield on account of continued wet weather at planting and cultivating time.

The Nebraska oat crop has a slightly larger acreage and a better yield by 7,000,000 bushels than last year. This year it amounted to 2,096,011 acres, averaging 3.11 bushels to the acre, making a total of 69,410,312 bushels. Wet weather accounts for a decrease in Kansas.

Winter wheat was short in acreage about 800,000 as compared with last year and rust struck the eastern portion of the state at the wrong time. But a showing is made of 1,661,110 acres, averaging 13.68 bushels, and aggregating a yield of 22,954,440 bushels. Kansas has about three times the acreage and about two and one-half times the results, as compared with Nebraska.

Adding to Nebraska's winter wheat output that of the spring wheat an estimated total wheat crop for the state of 30,000,000 bushels is made; and for Kansas about 60,000,000 bushels.

## BIG IRRIGATION PROJECT

Federal Government Asks Permission to Tap North Platte River.

LINCOLN—The secretary of the interior has filed an application with the State Board of Irrigation asking permission to tap the North Platte river in order to carry out some of the big irrigation projects authorized by congress. By his application it appears that the secretary contemplates tapping the North Platte just below its junction with the Sweetwater in Wyoming, where a storage reservoir will be constructed covering 93,000 acres. It is proposed to construct a dam across the North Platte which will be 250 feet long at the top and sixty feet long at the bottom. It will have a depth of 220 feet and the water will approach within ten feet of the top, so that the maximum depth of water in the reservoir will be 210 feet. The mean depth is given at sixty feet, which over the area stated would give a normal storage capacity of 1,280,000 acre feet. The proposed dam is to be ten feet thick at the top and 144 feet thick at the bottom and to be built of solid masonry.

The cost of this plant is given at \$1,250,000 or somewhat less than \$1 per acre foot of storage capacity. State Engineer Dobson says that its capacity will be sufficient to hold the entire flow of the North Platte in years wherein the stage of water is low. Its purpose is for the collection of the surplus waters in the seasons of moisture and to hold it for release in quantities sufficient to irrigate the lands below all along the course of the river.

## THE STATE AT LARGE.

Papillon has decided not to extend its corporate limits.

The Journal at Columbus has commenced publication of a daily paper. The Union Pacific is rapidly pushing work on its freight depot in Fremont.

Andrew Nordine of Cass county has been pronounced a fit subject for the insane asylum.

Mrs. A. A. King of Edgar died at Delphi, Indiana, while on a visit to her daughter in that place.

The Nebraska State Institute for the Blind at Nebraska City opened with fifty pupils enrolled for the coming term. A number of pupils are still expected and the total attendance will reach about seventy-five.

One dollar a bushel has been paid for wheat to the farmers at York for the first time since the Leiter wheat deal in Chicago. At Henderson, York county, 30,000 bushels were contracted at \$1 per bushel in one day.

Oliver Emmert, a farmer living west of Falls City, was compelled to kill five of his horses on account of glanders. The state veterinarian was called and ordered that the animals should be killed to prevent contagion.

The contractors at the new government building at Lincoln have begun the erection of the steel work of the lower floor of the structure. It is contemplated that the building will be finished and ready for occupancy by next fall.

The citizens of Lincoln again have begun to agitate the project for a new union depot. Articles of incorporation of the Lincoln Union Passenger station and Terminal company have been drafted and are being signed by the business men.

Brent K. Neal, alias Olney D. Smith the young man lodged in jail at Beatrice a month ago on the charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, pleaded guilty in the district court and was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary.

The Seymour camp team of Omaha, won the first prizes of \$500 each in the two classes open to competition in the W. O. W. contests at the world's fair, and Alpha camp team of the same city won second prize in the one class which it entered.

Joseph Scott, the York county young man who was charged with assaulting Olgie Cagle of Pierce, Neb., with intent to do great bodily harm, had his preliminary hearing at Norfolk and was bound over to district term of court under bonds of \$800.

The city authorities of Humboldt, Neb., are making an attempt to test their new ordinance against boot-legging, and have placed under arrest one J. Hoppe, who has been making his home there for some time, on a charge of disposing of liquor contrary to law. He was arraigned but plead not guilty.

Rufus E. Geiger, a fireman, has sued the Burlington for \$50,000. He was injured while acting as fireman on August 28, 1900. In his petition he claims that the engine was in bad repair and that owing to this condition he was thrown from his seat to the tracks near Germantown. His skull was fractured and he sustained internal injuries and other injuries which are described as of a permanent character.

One of the most dastardly crimes, and one which has caused as great an amount of indignation as any ever perpetrated in the community, was committed at what is known as the south barn, in Kearney. Some scoundrel or scoundrels mixed up a quantity of paris green in some feed and placed it in the barn where it was eaten by a number of horses belonging to F. G. Roundabush and Joe Duckworth, resulting in the death of four of them.



## Standard Cream.

There was a time, some years ago, when cream was always of about the same consistency. That was before the cream trade had settled down to be one of the great industries of a dairy nature. Since that time we have noticed a gradual weakening of the cream. Now when one orders cream in a restaurant or hotel he is not sure whether the fluid that is brought to him is milk or cream. In fact, it is very apparent that some of the cream so-called is nothing more than very rich milk. We doubt not that a very large proportion of the cream contains less than ten per cent of butter fat. The state law of Illinois and some other states now makes it necessary for commercial cream to have not less than 17 per cent of butter fat. But there are practically no state inspectors, and that means that the people in all of the smaller places have no protection from the law as to what the density of the cream shall be. The movement by some of our leading dairy scientists to get a standardized milk will doubtless result in getting a standardized cream. It seems to us that the cream is more often low in fat content than is the milk. The tendency is much greater to sell attenuated cream than it is to sell milk from which the cream has been partly removed. The latter is quite generally regarded as a dishonorable course, while in the making of cream there is no standard recognized, and even the one established by law is arbitrary and not natural.

## Low Pay of Buttermakers.

It is quite natural to blame the buttermaker whenever a creamery is kept in a bad condition. The proper one to blame in most cases is the manager, as in the first place he should never hire an incompetent man. He simply does so that he may save from \$10 to \$15 per month. He does not realize that by doing so he is losing \$100 per month. Some of our Iowa buttermakers are working under rather discouraging conditions. The average wages paid our buttermakers does not reach \$60 per month, and even at that figure some of the directors are continually worrying about how they will be able to reduce his wages. They do not appreciate their buttermakers' work, no matter how well and skillfully it has been performed. The result often is that the same creamery hires a cheaper man. He has perhaps been employed as can washer in some creamery. He knows nothing about buttermaking and as a result the quality of the butter from that creamery is impaired. A \$75 or \$100 man is a great deal more profitable than a cheap man, and unless good men are employed it will be impossible to keep up our butter standard.—M. Mortensen.

## Bill Nye's Cow.

The story is going the rounds of the press that Bill Nye, having a cow to sell, advertised her as follows:

"Owing to my ill health, I will sell at my residence, township 19, range 18, according to the government's survey, one plush raspberry cow, aged 8 years. She is of undoubted courage and gives milk frequently. To a man who does not fear death in any form she would be a great boon. She is very much attached to her present home with a stay chain, but she will be sold to any one who will agree to treat her right. She is one-fourth Shorthorn and three-fourths hyena. I will also throw in a double-barrel shotgun, which goes with her. In May she usually goes away for a week or two and returns with a tall, red calf with wobbly legs. Her name is Rose. I would rather sell her to a non-resident."



## Records of Farm Drains.

Another feature of engineering work for farm drainage in which there should be great improvement is that of maps and records. At Ames, on the college farm, the present authorities have had predecessors who put in quite extensive amounts of tile drains without leaving accurate plats, so that in many places we cannot now find even where the drains were built, to say nothing of their sizes, grades and depths. In making excavations old lines of tile whose very existence was not suspected are not infrequently encountered, and the writer knows of places where at least two systems of tiles in the same locality have been put in by successive generations of authorities. The same or a worse state of affairs must result on individual farms throughout the state, as time goes by and the farms change owners, unless the present almost total neglect of keeping complete records of all tile drains built is remedied. Even if the land does not change owners, men's memories fail, and the writer has often noted that even after a very few years men who actually help build drains are frequently unable to locate them within a considerable distance. Without complete maps showing the particulars of our drains how can we hope to keep them in working order! The breaking and choking up of a single tile might render many acres of land worthless in a wet season, and cause enough damage in a single year to have paid ten times over for records which would have enabled the difficulty to be located and remedied at less than one dollar's expense.—Iowa Station.

## Breeding Hardy Fruits.

Over a large area of the prairie northwest, many of the fruits grown in the eastern and southern states are deficient in hardiness. This has been demonstrated by thousands of planters. The climatic extremes of the northwestern prairies do not make fruit culture impossible; but care must be taken in the selection of varieties. The fruit lists adopted by the various state horticultural societies give the general experience with varieties. The beginner should confine his first main planting to the sorts which have stood the test, but often the list is so short that the varieties recommended for trial are needed to fill out the list. There is need of extending the present short list of fruits. Successful fruit culture is essential to true home-making upon the open prairies, hence the work of originating hardy fruits is of the highest possible importance. It is only in recent years that the immense importance of plant-breeding has become generally recognized. Plant-breeding means the originating of improved varieties by selection, crossing and hybridizing. These are often termed "new creations," and the work corresponds to that of invention in the domain of the mechanical industries. A strictly hardy winter apple, a hardy cherry or a hardy grape of large size and good quality would be worth millions of dollars to the prairie northwest.—Prof. N. E. Hansen.

At the Ontario agricultural college potatoes were planted in rows 26½ inches apart with the sets one foot apart in the row, and others were planted 33 inches apart each way, exactly the same amount of seed being used in both cases. The close planting gave a yield of 31.4 bushels more than the other method.

Loading peaches into cars before they have been cooled will bring them to market in a very bad condition. The fruit should be thoroughly cooled before being put into the cars.