

Taft, Next President.

Secretary Taft visited Leavenworth Wednesday and he impressed the many Kansans who had the pleasure of meeting him and talking with him as a fine man—the very best presidential timber—the natural successor of Roosevelt, whose policies he favors. He is as kindly in manner as McKinley. He looks like Cleveland which means that he will please Cleveland sound money Democrats who dislike Bryan. He has a rare smile and twinkling eye: His smile doesn't come off. He has a pleasing voice and a kindly hand-shake. Above all he has the merit of modesty which is always marked in genuinely big men. We heard a veteran say to him that he hoped to vote for him for president. "Well," said Mr. Taft, "I have merely dreamed of being president—there are other candidates and I may be only a 100-to-1 shot." And then they both laughed as if they were old friends. Taft is a big man physically as well as mentally. If he doesn't weigh 350 pounds then we can't guess very close. But his weight is so well distributed that he isn't like the man who said that when he was sick at the stomach, he was sick all over. Taft has broad shoulders and back and legs and head that are large and in keeping with his big length and breadth. Some very great and big men have filled the office with greatness. Taft will rank well with any aspirant and if chosen will become a popular idol on account of his great ability his rare good humor and his sweetness of manner that suggests McKinley. He is a great big helpful, hopeful American. Kansans can well afford to help boost Taft over the line to victory. A writer in the Kansas City Star says: He is big and robust and gives physical assurance of his ability to carry things before him. He is at once keen and wholesome. He is such a blessed change and relief from the old-time "four flushers" who get their arms around you and buzz and sputter into your ears. He looks you in the eye, clear and straight; he puts his feet down, when he walks, firm and square, and he has the kind of a smile and the sort of a laugh that you don't find in men who are devious and underhanded. He is as far removed from the solemn and owl-like, frock-coat politician that exists by ironical sufferance in Kansas, as the earth is from the dog star.—Ex.

The Unwritten Law.

An old booze fighter down in Virginia is being tried for murder and he is fighting for his neck under the "unwritten law." The result of the case will be known before this is published but we hope he'll get stuck. His daughter went riding with a young fellow one evening and got good and drunk. She was twenty years of age and knew what she was doing, so don't waste your sympathy. The girl tried to square herself with the old man by saying she was drugged and assaulted. Then the old man filled up and went gunning. He found the young man at work and, without giving him a chance to deny or explain, he killed him. The father, God save the mark, ever lastingly disgraced the girl to save his own neck by testifying that the girl told him she had been ruined, that he immediately went crazy and stayed crazy long enough to kill the boy then he became sane again. The boy's defenders wanted to show that the girl's story could not be true but the court wouldn't let them. The unwritten law, you know, is just a law that will let any story be told that is strong enough to set some fool crazy long enough to take a human life. It doesn't make any difference whether the story is hear say, incompetent or just a lie, if it makes the man crazy and keeps him crazy long enough to take a drink, load his gun and kill some fellow it accomplishes all the purposes of the unwritten law. This law is foolish enough to have been passed a Kansas legislature.

Crop Conditions in Nebraska.

Humboldt, Nebr., July 1, 1907. Perhaps no other state is so wholly interested in the crop conditions as is Nebraska. We are strictly speaking an agricultural people and any thing pertaining to crop statistics is not dry reading but vitally interesting.

April and May according to the weather sharps at Washington, and everybody will agree with them, were the coldest ever recorded by the weather bureau.

But June has been a perfectly normal month and has gone far to redeem the discredit of the two months preceding it.

Winter wheat was reported at 82 per cent of a normal condition on May 1st, and this declined to 77 per cent report by the first of June.

Prices began to soar and \$1.00 wheat was right on hand, but the farmer was able to see little prospects for it to help him as the last years crop was out of his hand and the failure of the new crop was imminent.

Late favorable reports have lowered the prices and for once the farmer was glad that conditions were such as to bring them down.

Spring wheat localities have a little better showing and report an 88 per cent condition, but that is a big decline from the condition that existed at that date last year for it was nearly 93 per cent at that date.

Oats were also reported at 81 per cent against an 85 per cent report at the corresponding date last year. Where the ground was the least it hard or conditions were in any way below the average, the oats promise to be exceedingly short, but in other cases are better than for several years, in fact the crop varies extremely.

Fruit crops from Georgia to the northern limits of our land, have suffered an unusual amount. The 16th and 17th of April a cold wave passed over the southern states and caught most of the fruit that had so far escaped.

Exactly a month from that date another wave caught the states farther north and the fruit men were very much discouraged, but have been able to rescue half a crop of strawberries and will have some raspberries and blackberries as many of those of the later sorts were hurt but little.

Cotton has suffered worse than corn and wheat and is reported at a 70 per cent condition, which is 14 below the last years rating and 13 below the average rating for the past decade.

The entire report from Nebraska seems a little too high, for instance, apples are reported at 45 per cent of a normal crop and we would be safe in writing down a 25 per cent crop and probably a 15 per cent report would come nearer the truth.

Clover was reported in a condition of 80 per cent of a normal crop and 50 per cent would come nearer the right thing as much seed was sown that will never make a stand and the old fields have only come up to half the usual showing.

From Europe the same reports are coming, cereal frozen out, ground re-plowed and other crops put in, a lack of genial weather and discouragements all along the line of agriculture.

The wine growers of Southern France are using mob violence to show their discouragement, with them it is not lack of crops, but lack of a paying market that is bringing poverty to their doors. Substitutes are taking the place of wines and as these people know of no other line of agriculture, they are starving.

From a monetary standpoint the wheat grower of the United States can congratulate himself for several things point to upward tendency of prices that will offset the shortage. Some authorities estimate that we will produce 150,000,000 bushels more than home demands require, thus leaving that amount for export. But statistics show a vast decline

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in the per cent of wheat exported, falling from 40 per cent in 1902 to 14 per cent of our bumper crop of last year. Taking this for a basis, it would not be at all surprising to find that our home demand is equal to the supply, then the shortage in European countries will boost the price. The Society of Equity is working hard to establish a union of the wheat growers and its success in other lines presages remarkable developments.

In some states where this society is working rapidly, the banks have refused to recognize the association and the farmers have withdrawn their deposits and united in establishing a strong institution of their own and find thousands of capital ready to espouse their cause.

Tobacco growers have a very strong society and cover a vast territory with their influence, securing high prices and doing away with the middle men.

Southern agriculture is waking up and calling for more laborers of a greater strenuousity than the negro and now the government is proposing to establish new immigrant stations at various southern ports and carrying the European worker directly to the fields where his labor is needed.

Alfalfa is showing a stronger lead towards becoming the favorite crop, for after cooking in March, freezing in April, more freezing and drouth in May, it has come out with a yield of a ton per acre for the first cutting and a couple more to hear from.

The Missouri penitentiary manufactures twine and sells it to the farmers of the state, this year they had 800,000 pounds on hand and were able to dispose of all of it in ten days after offering it at eight and three-fourths cents a pound. We pay 12 cents here in Nebraska for twine. Surely the great factories can make twine cheaper than the small penitentiary plant does. Three cents a pound is quite a good profit for twine maker.

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Bought A Buzz Coat.

Ewing Herbert, editor of Hiawatha world, ex-candidate for congress and past master in the art of judging Falls City peaches, has bought an automobile and will no longer patronize the stub train from Hiawatha to Falls City. There is nothing more pleasing to a man with good blood and nerve than to own and operate a buzz wagon," modestly says Mr. Herbert in his paper. We re-nig. On the boulevards it is "just grand," as Annabella says of the two step, but on a country road, ugh, may the good Lord deliver us, We've tried it and have scared every team on the high way. It isn't so bad when the men talk mean and say rude things, but when horses driven by ladies and little children get up on their hind legs and take notice we get scared. So, no buzz wagon for us. Our old flea bitten selling plater, like the old time re-legeon, is good enough for us. He doesn't skid much in going round the corners, but he chugs like the devil going up hill. He has no high speed lever and can't get far enough from home to make it inconvenient to walk back if the gas gives out. He is sate and same and beats a thing of levers and guide wheels to death when a fellow's out riding with his steady and has something to do that is far more important than tooting a horn and looking for a soft place to light.

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The weekly band concerts are enjoyable not alone to town people but to our friends from the country as well. On band concert night the street presents a very holiday appearance with its crowd of bareheaded young ladies in white and the happy, care free throng listening to the music and visiting between numbers. A reporter circulated among the crowd last Thursday evening and was astonished as well as delighted at the large number of persons in from the country. The band boys and the citizens in general extend a hearty invitation to the farming community and hope that next Thursday evening even more of you will drive in and spend an hour or two listening to a really good band.