

# TOWN BENEFITED BY BEETS.

## Valparaiso Merchants Build Up Their Business.

### ALL IDLE LABOR IS EMPLOYED.

#### As a Consequence People Have Money to Spend Who Never Had it Before. Profits are Largely Indirect, but the Beet Raisers are Happy.

The people of Valparaiso, Nebraska, have hit upon a method of insuring remunerative employment and general prosperity to themselves and to the town in general that will commend itself to other towns in the state. Within two years children have become well dressed who had never been decently clothed before. Old grocery accounts have been paid, houses have been painted, sidewalks built, and all through an inspiration so simple that a hundred towns will wonder why they never thought of it themselves.

A few years ago when hard times had settled upon the country and the poor of the large cities were without work, and often without bread, the mayor of the city of Detroit made himself famous by an odd request. He asked the owners of vacant lots in the city to lay them at the disposal of the city to be used for growing potatoes and other garden produce by the labor and for the benefit of the suffering poor. The plan was a success, and though the mayor was never afterward known by any other name than "potato" Pingree in the funny columns of the press, he made a name for himself that will long be remembered gratefully by the people whom he helped to help themselves.

#### Like Pingree Plan.

The people of Valparaiso may never have heard of "Potato" Pingree, but they are carrying out his ideas in a way that is strikingly simple and effective. Valparaiso is a town of about seven hundred people, situated in Oak Creek valley twenty-five miles northwest of Lincoln. It is something of a railroad town, being at the junction of the Lincoln and Omaha line of the Union Pacific and the Lincoln and Stromsburg branch of the same road. Beyond the railroads the town depends for its support largely on the trade of the farmers in the vicinity.

In common with most towns of its size there are many families in Valparaiso who depend for their support upon common labor. Some work on the farms in the summer, many find employment on the railroad, and in various other ways make out their living. There are often more laborers in the town than there are jobs, and at some seasons a large proportion find it difficult to obtain work. In the summer there are a large number of boys left without occupation by the closing of the schools, and most of these were until recently compelled to spend several months of the summer in demoralizing idleness. The summer earnings of many families were not sufficient to carry them through the idle time in the winter, and many of them suffered for the necessities of life unless some stereotyped could be found who was willing to extend credit till wages should begin to flow in again in the spring. This caused loss to the merchants, who, however, found it hard to refuse credit to a suffering family.

A. K. Johnson, a prominent business man of the town, had observed this unsatisfactory condition of affairs and two years ago he conceived the idea of making it possible for everybody in the town, large or small, to have employment at least a part of the year. His plan was to form a company in which as many as were willing might take an interest, and go into the business of growing sugar beets. There is from twenty to thirty dollars worth of hand labor in growing an acre of sugar beets, and Mr. Johnson's idea was to rent some of the rich bottom land that abounds in the neighborhood of Valparaiso and plant enough sugar beets to furnish employment to everybody in the vicinity who wanted work during the spring and fall. It was an enterprise that did not promise much to the investor. Farmers in the vicinity of Valparaiso had tried growing beets, but without making much money by the venture. The company must be formed, not for the prime purpose of making money for the company, but to make money for the town by the payment of wages to the people. The merchants felt that they could well afford this, for the extra money that the people earned would mean extra business for them and prompt payment of accounts. They could afford to invest a few dollars without hope of receiving dividends on the investment. The men who would find needed employment in the beet fields could afford to take stock in the enterprise without hope of interest, for they would make money at all events.

In this spirit the company was organized with a capital of about seven thousand dollars, half of which was guaranteed by the merchants and citizens of Valparaiso, and the other half by the men who would also profit by the extra beet crop, the laborers in the sugar factory at Ames, whither it was proposed to ship the beets. An experienced beet grower was employed to superintend the operations of the company at a salary of sixty dollars

a month. Two hundred acres of land was rented at a rental of five dollars an acre, and with the purchase of a team of mules—horses' feet are too big to be trusted in a beet field—the combination was ready for operation.

#### Mistakes of the First Year.

It was a new business for everybody except the superintendent and the result was the usual one under the circumstances. Two hundred acres was too much land with the labor that the town afforded. The season was wet, and more than the ordinary amount of labor was necessary to keep the weeds out of the fields. The season was unusually late. The result was that the beets cost the company in the neighborhood of fifty dollars an acre, whereas they had expected to get out at a cost of not more than forty. To add to their troubles the last fifteen acres of beets was not gathered in time, and a hard freeze caught them in the ground. This was a total loss of about seven hundred dollars. Other losses were born as the result of the inexperience of the company in the beet business, and at the end of the season the company found itself a thousand dollars on the wrong side of the ledger.

The stock had been sold on a basis of \$25 a share. Some of the merchants had taken as much as eight shares, while many laboring men had taken single shares paying for them in monthly assessments of \$1.50 a share.

This looks discouraging on its face, but strange to say, there was not a man to be found who had any regrets to express over his investment in the sugar beet business. The laboring man who had lost four dollars and a half on his stock had made a good many times that amount by his labor in the beet fields, and the business man who had lost all the way from ten to forty dollars, felt that he had made it back more than once in increased business and decreased losses from bad accounts. They had got off well for beginners at the business, and at the beginning of another season were ready to try it again with the conviction that whether their late experience would make the business pay a dividend or not, they could not afford to let the beet-sugar business die.

#### More Conservative Business.

This time more conservative plans were adopted. The alliance with the laborers at Ames was not renewed, for the reason that all the capital that was needed could be obtained at home, and it was thought rather better to have full control of the business in the hands of the local managers. It was estimated that eighty acres of beets would furnish employment for all who would be ready to work, and would be as much as could be handled successfully with the labor that was available in the community. Accordingly a working capital of \$2,400 was raised in the same way as before, all being subscribed in the town, and eighty acres of bottom land was rented and planted.

This year, like the last, has not been a good one for beet growers. The cold wet spring made much replanting necessary, and this took extra labor and caused extra expense for seed. The replanted beets could not make the growth that the earlier did, and not being fully matured at the time of gathering will not test as high a percentage of sugar as the early beets. In spite of these unfavorable features of the season the crop promises to make a small profit for the company, perhaps enough to make up for the deficiency of last year. The beets that have been harvested have weighed out about twelve tons to the acre, and have commanded a premium of from twenty to thirty cents per ton over the contract price on account of their high sugar test. As one alights from the train one of the first sights to greet his eye is long ranks of beets sliced near the track awaiting shipment to the factory.

There are many towns in Nebraska where the growing of sugar beets makes profitable employment for everybody in and near the town who is willing to work, but these are the towns so situated that the growing of the crop may make large profits to the capitalist who engages in the business. So far, the town of Valparaiso is the first to go into the business from philanthropic motives, and the success of this experiment suggests that other towns that have a surplus of idle men and boys during the summer might redeem themselves from shabbiness to prosperity as Valparaiso is doing. Probably half the towns in the state are as favorably situated as Valparaiso for this purpose, and would have the same chance for success. The motive for making the experiment can hardly be called philanthropy, for in the end it costs nobody anything. It is a high type of enlightened selfishness, to put the least favorable construction upon it.

#### Effect on the Town.

Just what the effect of the plan has been in Valparaiso is easily learned by anyone interested enough to visit the town. Everybody is posted on the matter, for it is a business that nearly everybody owns, and if not that, they are interested in its success in indirect ways. One has only to stand among the silos where the teamsters are unloading their wagons of beets as they come from the fields, to get an idea of what it means to the laboring people. "My three little boys made five dollars and a half Saturday," says one. "The oldest one cried at breakfast because he thought he was going to be late. I never saw

such boys to work as they are. I've made four and a half today myself." Eleven teams were engaged in hauling beets when the writer was there, all driven by men who would husk corn later, but would have been idle but for the beet business. None of them had made less than four dollars that day, and most of them had children in the field topping beets and making from a dollar for an eight or ten year old to two or three dollars for an active boy or girl of fifteen.

"It makes just this difference to me, this beet business," said one of the haulers; "if I hadn't had the work with the beets last year, I just don't know how I could have got through the winter with my family. I have made over three hundred dollars out of the beets that I would not have made otherwise, for most of it was made at times when I could not have had work at anything else. And there are more like me in town. I own stock in the company now, and will take more another year whether we gain or lose this year." A bright faced boy of ten or eleven years trudged past at this moment, swinging his dinner pail and holding himself with the proud erectness that always marks the boy who knows that he is good for something. "How much did you make today," he was asked. "A dollar ten, didn't do so very well," was the reply. A little later the same boy was carrying home a sack of bananas as an extra luxury for the family supper table.

#### Merchants are Pleased.

The merchants are hardly less pleased with the workings of the beet business than the people who do the work. "It is one of the best things that ever happened," said W. P. Allen, the proprietor of a large general store. "Boys and girls who have always lived in idleness have become broad winners, and their self respect and general conduct has been improved immeasurably by the change. We have been surprised at some of the people who have gone to work. In fact work has become popular even among the class who had seemingly never worked before. The fact that large numbers work together made it something of a lark to the younger ones, and if there is a boy or girl in town who has not supplied himself with money enough to buy all needed clothes and more I don't believe I know who it is. The person who refuses to work now is looked upon with contempt, and many have gone to work because of the sentiment.

"The effect upon the business man has been easily observed. The larger part of the money from the beets goes to a class of people who had been confined to the barest necessities of life, before, and they were so poor that the merchant took a great risk in allowing them to run up an account. Now they buy good clothes and many things that were beyond their reach before. If they need anything before pay day their credit is good. Small boys whom we could not have trusted for a cent two years ago can buy a suit of clothes on credit till pay day if they want to. The total of three or four thousand dollars that is brought to town by the beet growing is not a large amount, but the important thing is the way it is distributed. The people get the money who need it most, and so small an amount as this makes the difference between comfort and poverty in dozens of homes, and makes a difference to the whole town. Old accounts are being gradually paid up, that we had given up for lost long ago. In many cases the boys of the family are devoting their earnings to this purpose. At the same time that they are earning money they are acquiring habits of industry such as will make the difference between prosperous men and never-do-wells in the course of time. Many a man or boy has found out for the first time that work is not such a bad thing after all, and it is making better citizens of them. I should want to invest some of my money in the business every year in the face of a constant deficit. There is no need of losing anything in the business, and I do not think we shall, after the experience that we have had. That is a secondary consideration, however, with most of us."

#### Good for Everybody.

The views expressed by Mr. Allen are endorsed in various keys by the business men generally. The experiment has been a good thing for everybody in the town. There is not an exception so far as could be learned. Laboring men carry a new dignity when they speak of the company as "we." "We are making this thing win," said one man, as he hoisted a heavy bucketful of beets out of his wagon. "There's lots of hard work about it, but it is easy to work hard when we are paying ourselves well for it. My eight year old boy makes a dollar and a quarter every day topping beets, and I make four or five dollars myself. That seems pretty good to me."

"Being in the hardware business, I do not feel the direct effects so strongly as the general merchants," said W. J. Collier, one of the directors of the company. "I had two hundreds dollars worth of stock last year and lost thirty-six dollars, but I don't figure that I lost anything even in the hardware business." Mr. Collier mentioned the fact that the town has arranged for a lecture course this winter with season tickets selling for \$1.75, and many of the boys and girls of the town have bought tickets, paying for them with their own money made in the beet fields.

There is no thought but that the business will be continued indefinitely and on a growing scale. The gossip of the stores and of the streets is on the wholesome subject of sugar beets. Money is jingling in the pockets or standing to the credit of boys who have gone around in shabby trousers and dresses but yesterday, and the girls are earning their own ribbons. There is no worry anywhere over the wherewith to buy the winter's coal, and this condition is too satisfactory to be changed by voluntary consent.

—Nebraska State Journal.

#### "IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"

##### Lecture Delivered by Rev. Father Shyne of St. Louis.

Rev. Father Shyne who has just come here from Kentucky lectured at 7:30 at the Sacred Heart church. The unpleasant weather did not keep the crowds away for when the lecturer ascended the altar steps there was no vacant spot in the church. He is well known in Omaha, St. Louis and Memphis and has visited nearly all of the large cities of the country. His subject was "Is Life Worth Living?" He showed the ethical argument for serving God.

"Man is an epitome of all creation. He grows, and so does the plant; he grows and feels, and so does the animal; he thinks—a thing which neither plant nor animal can do. He is God's noblest masterpiece upon the earth. He is the head and culminating point of the grand series of organic nature. Thought is the crown of his being. Look at the coal beds all 'round' us here! It is by thought that man has transformed his hidden heat into the energy that sends your trains speeding over the prairies.

"What could have moved God to create us? Nothing but an impulse of his goodness. He would not be an infinitely perfect God, an infinitely happy God, had he created us for any other end but himself. We are all made for God, and all things else created are made to help us to reach God. We are made to praise, reverence and serve God, and thus save our souls. We all yearn for happiness. We cannot shake off this desire. It is implanted in our nature by divine providence, and he never does anything in vain. Now we cannot be perfectly happy here. The millionaire wants more wealth; saint more sanctity; the sensual, corrupt man wants more beastly and inhuman ways of satisfying his passions. It follows then, that this happiness is reserved for us in the life to come, provided we do, not our will, but God's."

As a logical sequence of this lecture, Father Shyne will speak next on "The Great Obstacle to Happiness."

While the mission is for Catholics, non-Catholics are welcome to attend, but the aim of the mission is not to make converts from other religions but to make poor Catholics good ones and good ones better.

The order of exercise during the week will be as follows:

6 a. m.—Mass and short instruction.

9 a. m.—Mass, sermon, children's mission, blessing of objects of devotion.

7:30 p. m.—Rosary, lecture and benediction.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

##### Interested Persons Held Meeting in O'Neill.

O'Neill, Neb., Nov. 5.—A large number representing the various denominations of the county who are interested in Sunday school work held a convention or institute at the Methodist church in O'Neill says the Frontier. One of the interesting features was a talk from Miss Haines, state superintendent of primary work. The gathering was altogether enjoyable and profitable.

Thinking to play a joke on Will O'Connor, some of his gent friends cut the lariat rope of one of his horses and saw that the horse fell into the hands of Pound Master Huff. Then there was a dollar damages to pay, but the jokers misarranged in their calculations in this connection, as Will declared the horse wasn't worth a dollar and refused to pay.

Three chaps of young and tender years from a neighboring village visited O'Neill the first of the week. One of them, an exceedingly "vealy" lad, became so badly bewildered from "tangle foot" that his more sober companions had to convey him to the depot and put him aboard the train upon their departure. Perhaps this lad thought he was doing a real manly thing in thus making a jackass of himself, but we don't believe he would want his mother to see him at that time.

Luther Jackson, while working in the sand pit during the construction of the cement walks, sustained an injury by a cave-in that requires him getting about on crutches. The joints of one of his limbs were badly sprained by the weight of a great quantity of sand, but no bones were broken.

O. O. Snyder was highly honored at the Odd Fellows grand lodge at Lincoln last week when he was chosen grand representative for Nebraska to the annual grand lodge of the world which meets at San Francisco next September. It is an honor for which there are a good many applicants and the one to whom it falls usually ranks high in Odd Fellow circles. The honor shown Mr. Snyder is well bestowed.

# BANKRUPTCY, EXEMPTION

## State Journal Discusses Two Matters of Interest.

### N. A. RAINBOLT'S ADDRESS.

#### Ex-Banker of Norfolk Furnishes Food for Thought to the Commercial Interests of the State—A Premium Placed on Dishonesty.

[From Thursday's Daily.] Nebraska bankers do not like the national bankruptcy law. They resolved to that effect with the same definiteness that marked their opinion of the asset currency proposition. It is only three years since the bankruptcy law went into effect and the action of the bankers in declaring against it so soon is significant. The case against the law was set out by N. A. Rainbolt of Norfolk in an address on the subject, and his indictment is severe enough to start the people generally to thinking about the matter. "If no one would take advantage of the law," he says, "but those for whom it was intended there would be no opposition to it. But where one deserving seeks relief, five or more unworthy resort to its use. I examined the records of ninety-four cases of bankruptcy in the district where I live. With twenty-one of the bankrupts I was personally acquainted. Of these twenty-one I found one worthy case, six unworthy or dishonest cases, nine doubtful and five farcial. Ninety-one of the cases had small dividends each, not exceeding 10 per cent. In the two years ending September 30, 1902, there were in the United States 26,376 voluntary cases closed. Of these 5,869 had liabilities less than \$100; more than half had liabilities less than \$5,000, and nearly one-half or 12,984 cases had no assets."

These figures seem to indicate that the law, as it operates at present, is pretty much a farce. A man who goes through bankruptcy to escape liabilities of less than one hundred dollars is hardly a subject for the benevolence of the law makers. The law is made for the benefit of the honest man who is unfortunate and if this class does not take advantage of the law it is worse than of no effect. Mr. Rainbolt asserts that of those who have had financial reverses very few really worthy men have ever appealed to a court of bankruptcy, and he cites William McKinley, Sir Walter Scott and Mark Twain as examples of men who were wrecked financially but who were too honorable to ask for relief from their debts. The Nebraska congressmen will therefore be asked to work for the repeal of the bankruptcy act, and as both the Nebraska senators are bankers, it is reasonable to expect that some effort will be made to carry out the suggestion.

The situation against the bankruptcy law calls to mind the fight that some of the business men of the state are making for a modification of the exemption laws. As these statutes now stand the payment of debts is purely a voluntary matter with a very large proportion of the men who are heads of families, and the business men, especially the retail dealers, claim that such laws put a premium on dishonesty, and serve only for the protection of deadbeats. Moreover, the honest man suffers by the exemption laws, his credit being limited by reason of the fact that he need not pay unless he wants to do so. After a winter of strenuous effort the state grocerymen's association last year got a measure through the legislature that they considered an improvement in the law. This bill provided that 20 per cent of a man's salary should be subject to garnishment, provided the amount attached did not reduce the total income to less than thirty dollars a month. This bill was in the nature of a compromise, insuring the householder against being deprived of a living, and giving his creditors a chance to collect part of his salary in case he would not pay voluntarily. This bill was passed in the last days of the session, and Governor Mickey vetoed it after the legislature had adjourned. This act of the governor is the cause of the resolution of the grocers at their recent meeting in Omaha to make an effort to prevent his renomination or re-election, in the hope that a different governor may be willing to approve the bill which they will try to pass through the legislature at its next session.—Nebraska State Journal.

#### MEADOW GROVE.

Mrs. Geo. Kuder went to Omaha Saturday morning, returning in the evening.

Kit Ames was down from Holt county visiting friends the fore part of the week.

S. Schneider left on Tuesday's train for an extended trip through Cherry county.

Mrs. Bert Risor went to Stanton Saturday to visit with her parents for a few days.

The Meadow Grove Telephone company have placed eight new 'phones in Emerick and vicinity.

Pat Inglesby of Battle Creek is looking after S. Schneider's saloon during the absence of the latter.

J. R. Dow and J. R. Pierce drove seventy-five head of cattle down from Holt county, which they will feed this winter.

Dr. H. L. Kindred, G. E. Warrick,

# THE OLD RELIABLE



**Absolutely Pure**  
**THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE**

and W. P. Evans returned Wednesday from Wood Lake and report a way out time.

Mr. Mead and wife of Beemer, parents of Mrs. Geo. Carter, arrived in Meadow Grove Tuesday to visit for a few days.

W. T. Recroft and mother of Norfolk visited with G. H. Recroft and family Sunday, departing Monday for Neligh to visit for a short time.

Geo. Mills and Chas. Cook and family returned from Holt county Saturday where they have been visiting for a week with W. W. Mills and family.—Meadow Grove Press.

#### Letter List.

List of letters returned unclaimed for at the postoffice at Norfolk, Neb., November 3, 1903:

A. D. Julliard, J. H. Lyon, Frank Smith, Miss Dora Smith, Dee Wilkinson, John Wilson, Robert Wilson.

If not called for in fifteen days will be sent to the dead letter office.

Parties calling for any of the above please say, "advertised."

John R. Hays, P. M.

#### MANY LISTEN TO FATHER SHYNE.

The Mission Week at Sacred Heart Church is Drawing Overcrowded Churchfuls.

Sacred Heart church was overcrowded by the lecture of Rev. Father Shyne, S. J., upon the topic of "Confession in the Catholic Church." Father Shyne is a brilliant speaker and the audience is greater each evening during the mission week. Tonight will be a sermon upon the topic, "Man's Greatest Help to Happiness." On Sunday a mission will begin at Battle Creek.

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NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, PACIFIC HOTEL, THURSDAY, OCT. 29, ONE DAY ONLY



returning every four weeks. Consult her while the opportunity is at hand.

DR. CALDWELL limits her practice to the special treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose, throat, lungs, female diseases, diseases of children and all chronic, nervous and surgical diseases of a curable nature. Early consumption, bronchitis, bronchial catarrh, chronic catarrh, headache, constipation, stomach and bowel troubles, rheumatism, neuritis, sciatica, Bright's disease, kidney disease, disease of the liver and bladder, dizziness, nervousness, indigestion, obesity, interrupted nutrition, slow growth in children, and all wasting diseases in adults, deformities, club-foot, curvature of the spine, diseases of the brain, paralysis, heart disease, dropsy, swelling of the legs, stricture, open sores, pain in the bones, granular enlargements and all long-standing diseases properly treated.

#### Blood and Skin Diseases.

Pimples, blotches, eruptions, liver spots, falling of the hair, bad complexion, eczema, throat ulcers, to a pain, bladder troubles, weak back, burning urine, pa sine urine, too often. The effects of constitutional sickness or the taking of too much injurious medicine receives searching treatment, prompt relief and a cure for life.

Diseases of women, irregular menstruation, falling of the womb, bearing down pains, female displacements, lack of sexual desire, leucorrhoea, sterility or barrenness, consult Dr. Caldwell and she will show them the cause of their trouble and the way to become cured.

#### Cancers, Glands, Fistula, Piles

and enlarged glands treated with the subcutaneous injection method, absolutely without pain and without the loss of a drop of blood, is one of her own discoveries and is really the most scientific method of this advanced age. Dr. Caldwell has practiced her profession in some of the largest hospitals throughout the country. She has no superior in the treating and diagnosing diseases, deformities, etc. She has lately opened an office in Omaha, Nebraska, where she will spend a portion of each week treating her many patients. No incurable cases accepted for treatment. Consultation examination and advice, one dollar to those in need of it.

Dr. OBA CALDWELL & Co. Chicago, Ill. Address all mail to Bee Building, Omaha, Neb.