

RAILROADS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

The railroads of the United States have primarily the friendship of every good citizen who has freights to ship or land journeys to make. In every new country the value of railroads as a means of development is estimated to be above the value of all other methods of modern times. During the last half of the present century the railroad has in many states and markedly in Kansas and Nebraska, preceded the population. Since 1866 the locomotive and the passenger coach have pioneered the prairies and plains and opened the way for the emigrant. Since that date new lands have been offered for occupation, after being connected by railroads with all great commercial centers, at very moderate and alluring prices.

Land in and of itself has no more value than water and air. The value of land depends entirely upon some human effort put forth upon it or in relation to it. The best and most fecund lands of eastern Nebraska when THE CONSERVATIVE first saw them in 1854 had no exchangeable value. The United States government had not then surveyed and plotted those lands. But their survey was completed in 1856 and in April 1857 the land office at Omaha, John A. Parker, of Virginia, register, and Addison R. Gilmore, of Illinois, receiver, opened for business. First came the pre-emptors. They were known as "squatters." Before the surveys many of them had lived upon their "claims" more than two years. The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE was among the first pre-emptors to reach the new land office and purchase the quarter section—now known as Arbor Lodge—where he had then been residing for two years, at two hundred dollars. Then land adjacent to Nebraska City was one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Subsequent to that year prices improved very slowly. Agricultural College scrip was on the market at from fifty to sixty cents an acre. It was receivable for land at any United States land office. After that homesteads were given to all settlers. And even in 1865 lands in eastern Nebraska, in Otoe and Cass counties, was offered in New York City by the writer of this article, at one dollar an acre and declined.

The land was easily cultivated, very productive, and as sure of annual fruition in profits and satisfactions as any soil, in any climate which this great globe has ever offered to mankind. But people came tardily and reluctantly. There had been no efforts put forth in relation to these lands for the purpose of connecting them by railroad transportation with those world-markets which could take all their surplus products.

But in 1868 the first railroad, the Northwestern, touched these lands on the west bank of the Missouri and awoke their values with the electric thrill of the great grain market of Chicago on the

east. Then came the Rock Island, the Burlington, the Illinois Central and the Wabash until now these lands and their products are connected directly and indirectly with every great market in the world from Chicago to New York, Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna and Rome.

Therefore values for Nebraska and other trans-Missouri farms are a result of incorporated capital which built railroads and furnished accessibility to markets for the products of those farms. Without the means of sending corn, wheat, hogs and cattle, or their products, to consumers in other states or in Europe, who would farm in Nebraska, western Iowa or Kansas and how could people live and prosper in Colorado, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Idaho and Montana?

If any class of citizens, any profession or gainful occupation, in America should be the friends of the railroads it is the agricultural class, the farmers of the republic. For them the railroads have made markets possible and the production of a surplus profitable. The solid and substantial identity of interest that obtains between farmers and railroads should not be sundered either by personal prejudices or popular fallacies. Railroads can be profitably operated only where agriculture is successful and agriculture can be successful only where railroads are profitably operated.

A SONG WITHOUT WORDS.

The little paper called Life does things very neatly, and when it wishes to call names does so without using any harsh language.

It commiserates the unpleasant position of Colonel Bryan, who sees himself obliged to remain at the front with sword and gun when he would much prefer to be at home, busied with his high and holy mission; and then it prints a tiny picture, showing a fine proud goose leading away a Plodding Ass by means of a string.

MONOPOLY.

From the Greek we derive the English-American word "Monopoly." To say that an individual or a corporation has a monopoly is to declare that the sole power of dealing in a certain commodity, an exclusive right to buy and sell a specific merchandise, is vested in that person or company.

In the United States there is very properly a popular prejudice against all kinds of monopolies. This prejudice has been largely a product of the discussions between protectionists and free traders.

The protective policy means legal obstruction to the importation of certain goods into the United States in order to give a monopoly to the home producers of such goods.

Free trade permits all to buy where the goods they demand are cheapest and sell where the things they wish to dis-

pose of are highest. Free trade does not compel anybody to trade anywhere but merely permits everybody to trade everywhere.

But the populist party and the republican party in Nebraska advocate monopoly as to the right to receive votes for the United States senatorship in the next legislature.

The populists proclaim Allen the monopolist of their organization. They declare that no other man than Allen shall be voted for by the populist members elected to attend the coming legislative session at Lincoln. Allen has the sole and exclusive right and he is protected in that right by instructions to all nominees.

The republicans in some counties, if not all, are pledged to John L. Webster and he claims the sole and exclusive right to be voted a United States senator by republicans.

All the populists in all counties are precluded from the privilege of being voted for by their representatives or even named for the United States senate.

And if Webster has his way all republican legislators will be forced to vote for only Webster for United States senator.

For anti-monopoly these two and only political parties in Nebraska make a very paradoxical showing.

Allen monopoly! Or Webster monopoly! Which?

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS CABINET.

The president of the United States and his constitutional advisers were present on the grounds of the great Transmississippi Exposition at Omaha on Wednesday, October 12, 1898. And besides those officers of the government of this one-hundred-and-twenty-two-years-of-age Republic there were ninety-seven thousand other American citizens in attendance.

The president of the exposition, Mr. Wattles, welcomed the president of the United States in a very patriotic speech and the president of the United States, William McKinley, of Ohio, replied.

In the remarks of President McKinley may be found the significant sentence:

"The men who endured in the short but decisive struggle its hardships, its privations, whether in field or camp, on ship or in the siege and planned and achieved its victories, will never tolerate impeachment, either direct or indirect, of those who won a peace whose great gain to civilization is yet unknown and unwritten."

THE CONSERVATIVE calls that a significant sentence and yet the significance of the last clause thereof is the most striking.

Did President McKinley mean to say that the soldiers of the American army will not tolerate criticisms of the secretary of war nor submit to denunciations of the methods which it is said failed