

SCHOOL LANDS. The tax-payers of Nebraska would be pleased to know how many acres of school lands have been sold and how much they brought an acre, the date of each sale, whom the sale was to and what officer made the same?

Nebraska had an endless legacy in school lands bequeathed it by the federal government in 1867 when admitted into the Union.

Who has taken care of that legacy? What political party has acted as administrator and disposed of that legacy, in large part, by deed?

Who has the courage to hunt the land-selling records of Nebraska and to bring them into the clear light of day so that all the people may see and know what prices have been paid and who paid them for the thousands of valuable acres of school lands which have been wrested from the commonwealth and vested in political friends, retainers, and pirates?

Give up the land lists. Publish all sales by the state. Tell who bought of these lands, when they bought and what they paid?

Then tell who got forty-eight thousand acres of penitentiary lands and what the price paid per acre may have been? Let us have light! Legislators who wish reform should turn on the light.

Those who assume to advise the plain people as to what is best in daily business or political life, should be able to show that, at sometime, somewhere, they have demonstrated either in professional, commercial, industrial or political affairs the value of their opinions and judgment. Of what value is the advice of plowmen to the pilot of a great ship? Of what weight is the opinion of a life-long pauper and confirmed idler as to the best methods of making an honest livelihood or running the finances of a republic?

PERSECUTION. THE CONSERVATIVE, because of local interests and associations, prefers the election of Honorable M. L. Hayward to the United States senate. There are, of course, other republican citizens of high intellectual attainments and superior character in social and business life. But they reside at Omaha, Beatrice, Lincoln and other towns outside of Otoe county, and therefore are not so attractive to our citizens as Judge Hayward.

There is danger of the opposition to Mr. D. E. Thompson—who seeks the senatorship in a business-like way, just as it was sought by Van Wyck, Saunders and Paddock—becoming so intense and bitter that it will seem personal persecution. Should such a state of affairs be brought about by the enemies of Mr. Thompson the possibility of his election might become a probability.

The American people admire fairness in a fight. The fact that Thompson has

been a brakeman on a railroad, and that by well-directed effort he has climbed the golden stairs which lead from diligent industry up to competency, is a credit to the ability of Mr. Thompson who, in this free country, has as much right to aspire to the senate or even to the presidency as the most gifted orator or jurist in the republic. Do not persecute a man merely because he appears unexpectedly in a general scramble unless you wish to make him friends.

A COMPLIMENT. An inflamed populist editor of Western Nebraska, dipping his pen in wrath, writes pyrotechnically of the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE:

"His selfish soul will roast in damned torment just so sure as there is a hell to receive it."

From such a source what could be more complimentary?

From The Tampa Herald of December 29, 1898, by J. D. Calhoun, formerly of Lincoln, Nebraska: "The Herald has been enjoying of late the pleasure of reading THE CONSERVATIVE, a weekly paper published at his home in Nebraska City, Neb., by J. Sterling Morton, lately secretary of agriculture in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet. The paper is what its name implies, with the addition of Mr. Morton's strong personality. There are few men whom it is so great a pleasure to read after. He is right in very few things, and wrong on nearly all the general principles, but a most charming writer. Clear, forcible, elegant in diction, no man has a more complete command of the language. Mr. Morton's ideas are always brilliant, often unique, and his way of putting them is dashing and dogmatic. Because of these qualities and the added charm of old associations, The Herald is glad of Mr. Morton's return to journalism, and it recommends his paper to those who do believe or wish to believe in the gold standard, free trade, land taxation only, the superior rights of corporations and a number of other things in that line which are less easily defined without offense."

Experimental blacksmith shops, carpenter shops, experimental electric plants and telegraph lines and stations may demand an appropriation from the Nebraska legislature and get it too when that experimental farming appropriation has been secured.

Why not? Why confine to agricultural experimentation alone the subsidies of the state?

An interesting article recently appeared in the Washington Star relative to putting up seed by a syndicate of market gardeners for free distribution by congressmen. The Star is indignant because only twenty cents a thousand is to be paid for packing the aforesaid and

one of its readers, whom it endorses, vents herself thus:

"Those are 'sweat-shop' wages. Think of it, to work all day in the midst of seed dust, mucilage, waste and the most tiring conditions, and get for it at the most but 50 cents. It's shameful! I applied for a place there because I must have work, but I cannot do it for any such wages. The government has no business to permit such things; it is rich enough to pay to have the work done at decent wages. When the seed distribution was made in the agricultural department there were as many as a hundred women employed, and all earned not less than a dollar a day. A woman can live respectably and keep her head above water on that, but on less—well, God help us, that is all I can say."

The Star reporter called upon Assistant Secretary Brigham, in charge of the seed distribution, who declared that he had no control over the contractor, which doubtless is true. But Mr. Brigham added:

"People don't have to work for him at that figure unless they choose!"

Mr. Brigham may be remembered as the grand master of the national grange who, in the interests of the farmers of the United States, has for years been making gigantic sacrifices of his personal fortune and time carrying his disinterested benevolence to the extent of allowing even his own offspring to accept salaries of the department of agriculture of less, in some instances, than two thousand dollars a year. Philanthropy is beautiful.

More railroads are called for in Nebraska. Especially up about Spalding, in Greeley county, is the demand for a railroad becoming imperative. Just so soon as Nebraska by her legislature gives promise of treating capital in corporate form with decency and justice, and it can also be shown that a railroad into Greeley county and up to Spalding would pay for the building thereof with a fair return of interest on its actual cost, it will be built. Populists are so denunciatory of capital, so desperate in their legislative assaults upon corporations, that money and men are driven away from Nebraska which might otherwise come in and help build up the state.

The importance of keeping a written record of sanitary conditions in each household cannot be over-estimated. A daily journal in every home which carefully states the health and illness of its occupants is at the end of the year or at the end of a term of years of inestimable value. The study of sanitation should be introduced also into the common schools of the United States.

The public men elected to office by a political party are the incarnated conscience of that party. Their acts and services are in harmony with its ideas of right and wrong.