

NEBRASKA'S RAILWAY ROLL OF HONOR.

The recent review of "Nebraska's Railway Roll of Honor" which appears to have attracted much attention was intended to include, and, as written, did in fact include, a complete list of the strong men who have risen to the place of general manager in this and other states. By an accident in printing, the name and record of one of the best and strongest, William B. Doddridge, general manager of the Missouri Pacific railroad for the last past nine years, were omitted. To complete the record it gives THE CONSERVATIVE pleasure to repair this kind of injustice by telling the story of the successful life of one of the very foremost of Nebraska's railroad men.

Mr. Doddridge, a native of Ohio, began life as an orphan at the age of eight years, poor and dependent. He was of Virginian and Revolutionary ancestry, and, for this latter reason, he is now a member of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution. Young Doddridge declared independence of relatives at the tender age of nine years, and began his working life as a messenger in a Western Union Telegraph office in Columbus, Ohio. He used spare moments in acquiring the art of telegraphy in the stirring days of the outbreak of the civil war, when Columbus was the rendezvous for the organization of the armies. Daily contact with Governors Todd, Brough and Salmon P. Chase, led him to promotion to important service in his calling at Zanesville, where he was to find his first railroad engagement on the Pittsburg, Columbus & Cincinnati railroad in 1866. He came out to the West and to Omaha in 1867, and secured the position of local agent at Columbus, during the trying days of the construction of the Union Pacific, and it was at that place that he married Miss Frances L. Barnum. S. S. H. Clark, quick to see merit in men, advanced him to the responsible post of division superintendent of the western section of the Union Pacific railroad. In 1881 he was made general superintendent of the Idaho division of the same property, with headquarters at Ogden, Utah, and had a large part in the construction of the Oregon Short Line and Utah & Northern railroads.

On account of changes in Union Pacific management in 1884, he resigned his position with that company and engaged with the Anaconda Copper Smelting company of Montana as business manager, to which territory he removed. In 1886 he again returned to railroading, becoming superintendent of the Central Branch Union Pacific railroad at Atchison, Kansas, a property controlled by the Missouri Pacific company. Almost immediately his jurisdiction was increased by the addition of the western division of the Missouri Pa-

cific railroad. In 1889 he was made general manager of the St. Louis, Arkansas & Texas railroad, at that time an insolvent and broken-down property.

For years Mr. Doddridge has been well-known in railroad circles in the West, and had the credit of very great efficiency in whatever position he engaged to fill. When George J. Gould became president of the Missouri Pacific in 1893 Mr. Doddridge was appointed general manager of the entire system, which position he still occupies. Mr. Doddridge's career has been remarkable, showing what can be accomplished by indefatigable will and perseverance. From the lowest positions he has worked himself up to almost the highest place in the railroad world. He has great force of character, which is shown by all the lines of his face, while his presence is agreeable and his manner quiet. While yet a young man he is considered one of the most successful railroad managers of the country.

In a later issue of THE CONSERVATIVE we hope to be able to deal with subordinate managers of our great railway systems who have won their way to distinction in both freight and passenger departments.

A NEW ADVANCE FOR NEBRASKA.

Bounteous crops and a new place for Nebraska in the confidence of the home-making people of the United States guarantee on immediate advance in population, prosperity and wealth for every part of it. The ripples of the wave of a coming immigration of landseekers and farmers are already felt before the disappearance of the frosts of a long and severe winter. This influx is evidently to be one of the largest in volume which, since the homestead era, this state has ever known. Managers of our great railways, whose direct, immediate, and ultimate interests in the new invasion are prodigious, unite in saying that there can be no mistake about it.

All of which means a new advance of the state in growing strength, in population, wealth and power, in the face of predictions of political demagogues and chronic pessimists of the Arkansas Jones brand, who insist that a prosperity which is giving the country volumes of business never before known in its history, is *not* prosperity; that raw products in unexampled abundance with ready markets at fair prices, with exports of manufactured products exceeding any previous record, and increasing at a rapid rate upon legitimate demand, mean nothing but poverty and distress; and that everything that is good is actually bad in this great country of ours.

AN UNDERCURRENT OF REVOLT.

Noisy declamation and fiery denunciation on the floors of congress of men of the best rank who resist the policy which means conquest, colonial absorp-

tion, and possible annexation of distant territories and people to the United States who can never have anything in common with our own, do not appear to have had the least influence in checking the undercurrent of revolt which animates the great mass of the people of this country against such a policy. As the daily bulletins make record of the constant killing and wounding of our soldiers at Manila and of the slaughter of a weak and defenceless race of men and the destruction of their homes and villages, the sentiment grows that the whole Philippine business is an abomination in the sight of God and men. Nor is this deep and growing feeling disposed to accept the plea that the national honor required, at any moment, or in any exigency of the war with Spain, or in the steps that were necessary to secure a treaty of peace, that this country should have bought out the birth-right of the people of the Philippines to their freedom. Even Senator Gray, who evidently stood in strenuous opposition during the negotiations of the treaty of Paris, fails to justify the policy of bringing an insurrection and a new war of injustice and wrong. If the president had stood upon his original proposition as a firm and fearless executive, which was to hold Manila as an American coaling station, and let Aguinaldo and the Filipinos fight out their own battles with Spain, the conditions that now exist would have been impossible. But this kind of strength is not in the personal construction of the president. If he had been a Grant or a Cleveland, war with Spain in the interest of these professional revolutionists and organized banditti of Cuba, which was declared against the will of the people of the United States, had never occurred.

No man living can foretell what the consequences are to be of the war now being waged upon the half-civilized people of the Philippines. It was hoped a week or two ago that Aguinaldo might be brave enough and wise enough to stop the unequal conflict and slaughter by submission to the forces of the United States. Reports from the fighting lines, and the request of Admiral Dewey for the Oregon, which is hastening to Manila, do not furnish much ground for confidence that Aguinaldo has been correctly reported. On the contrary, indications show that he is resolute and determined in carrying on the war of self-defense in a way that is giving General Otis and Admiral Dewey everything but repose. Meanwhile the people of the United States are sick and weary of the situation, and would hail with satisfaction any step consistent with the national dignity and honor that may be taken to put a stop to it.