

**COAL IN
NEBRASKA.**

Not long since THE CONSERVATIVE gave a statement as to the investigations which have been made in Nebraska as to coal deposits during the last forty years.

It is, perhaps, well to state that in 1868, Prof. Frederick V. Hayden, under the auspices of the general government made a surface geological survey of a part of southeastern Nebraska. He and his party came from the coal mines near Des Moines in a southwesterly direction to Nebraska City. Their observation showed that bituminous shale made its appearance on the east side of Wauwansee Lake in Fremont County, Iowa. This was under a very massive layer of limestone. Crossing the Missouri river into Nebraska they found some limestone and a similar deposit at the Weeping Water, on a farm then owned by Mr. J. W. Walsmith.

Professor Hayden and party were the guests of Arbor Lodge for more than a week. He was accompanied by Professors White of Iowa; Meek of Illinois; St. John, the assistant of Professor Agassiz at Yale college; Doctor Coues, the eminent ornithologist and author of "Birds of the Northwest;" James Stevenson, the ethnologist, and one other whose name has escaped us. After a careful survey of the immediate neighborhood of Nebraska City, a detailed examination of the different strata through which the shaft at Arbor Lodge had been sunk to the depth of 100 feet below the bed of Table Creek, each of these gentlemen put down his opinion as to the depth at which a workable bed of coal would probably be found. Then an average was made and it was determined that within 1,200 feet of the surface there would be found a good paying vein of coal, or its geological equivalent, here at Nebraska City. But times were hard, money even then, before the "crime of 1873," very difficult to obtain at less than 2 per cent a month, and for that and other good reasons the further prospecting for coal in and about Nebraska City at that time was abandoned.

The Saline County Democrat of August 1, copies the recent article of THE CONSERVATIVE as to the importance and possibility of getting workable beds of coal within the limits of this commonwealth. It gives a very concise statement of work going on at the Karpisek farm within a few miles of Wilber. This prospecting for coal has developed there, in Saline county on the farm named, at a depth of 180 feet, a vein of good coal 21 inches in thickness.

Iron ore of superior quality is reported likewise to have been found in the same shaft. The Democrat shows that the work is being carried on by drilling and that at present a depth of 300 feet has been reached and that the drill is now in very hard rock. Gentlemen who have

the enterprise in charge intend to go down several hundred feet more in their search for black diamonds. It is their intention, if a vein of greater thickness than 21 inches is not found, to sink a shaft and work the vein already discovered. It is very gratifying to observe that the enterprising people who have engaged in this project fully concur with THE CONSERVATIVE as to the necessity for a persistent, intelligent and exhaustive search for coal in the state of Nebraska at the present time. Every county paper in the state, every village of any enterprise and pluck should intensify public sentiment as to the great benefits which can be derived from coal mining in this state, and in each locality thorough search should be made.

THE PRESIDENT'S WAR.

The war in the Philippines is in one sense the president's war. It is not one which the Congress has definitely declared. We speak of it as an insurrection, sometimes as a rebellion. We do not regard it as a war with another nation; but as a revolt of a people owing allegiance to our government as their sovereign. That allegiance began when the treaty of Paris was formally ratified by the final action of the governments which were parties to it. Then, not before, we acquired the full right to govern the people of those islands as actual subjects, and to command their obedience. It is true that, as an incident of the war with Spain, we had sooner obtained a military foothold about Manila, and were responsible for the maintenance of order within the district of our military occupation; but we could not be expected or required to do more.

Whatever authority was exercised during that period was purely martial and had reference to our own interests as a power at war with Spain. The question of the ultimate disposition of the islands, whether they were to become our own, or be left in the sovereignty of Spain, or established in independence, did not affect the nature of the authority to be exercised then. It was a martial government for military purposes. The president, as commander-in-chief of the army, was the arbitrary ruler of the people living within the lines of our military occupation or within the sphere of its influence. This condition operated to effect a suspension or interruption of their allegiance to Spain, but did not finally sever it in the contemplation of international law. Their ultimate status depended on the disposition of the islands at the conclusion of the war by the terms of the treaty of peace. By this treaty, the sovereignty of the islands was relinquished by Spain and expressly transferred to the United States. When the people inhabiting the islands, whom all the nations of the world had recognized

as subjects of Spain, refused to recognize this transfer and insisted upon independence, they became, by their first overt acts of hostile violence, defiant enemies of the government which had obtained, as a result of war, the title of sovereignty, the right to claim obedience, and the obligation to preserve order.

It will not be seriously maintained that this acquisition of sovereignty was contrary to the laws, customs and conventions by which the relations of nations and the destinies of peoples are determined. We are not now discussing the wisdom of requiring of Spain the cession of the Philippines, or the policy of expansion, as a matter of domestic advantage. These are questions of another kind, which may be answered without affecting the validity of the proposition we have asserted. The islands are now ours by a good and sufficient title, which we have a right to maintain and defend against all opposers. In all the world, so far as we know, there is no official questioning of this right. No nation, no recognized authority in international law and statecraft, protests, or even suggests, that it lacks an essential condition of validity. This being the state of things, there can be no impropriety in regarding the war now waged by the Filipinos upon our sovereignty as an insurrection.

This brings us back to the proposition with which we began, that the war is the president's war.—Boston Herald.

Lodges of sorrow will be instituted by the county committees of populism and fusion all over Nebraska. The regalia of mourners will be made of matured ears of corn, grown in 1899 and finished up by the late rains. The assured corn crop is an assurance of the early decline and decease of the hopes of office by populists.

Weeping and wailing in the tents of fusion are the lachrymose results of the tears from the clouds which have baptized Nebraska with a bumper crop. Good crops kill calamity, dry up the oratory of discontent and make sixteen satisfied citizens to one growler.

**A SIMPLE PLAN FOR ROOTING
PLANTS.**

Cuttings taken in August for winter house-plants should be rooted in the usual manner in a propagating-bed arranged for the purpose. This is practicable in the conservatory, but for those who have not such a good place for this work the "saucer system of rooting" is recommended, which consists of flat pans or saucers, in which is placed a couple of inches of sand. The cuttings are placed in this sand, which is kept constantly wet and in the sun. It is highly important that the sand be kept wet during the entire time of rooting.—August Woman's Home Companion.