

A RADIATING POINT.

Some time since THE CONSERVATIVE published an article showing the unfailing fertility of southeastern Nebraska, southwestern Iowa, northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. The article gave the names of the counties constituting such section of the above states.

If one makes Nebraska City the hub of a geographical wheel, the spokes of which shall be each 150 miles in length, within the circumference of that wheel there is a population of 2,251,000. Within this circle are 773,000 of the population of Nebraska; it also contains 591,000 Iowans, 559,000 Missourians and 328,000 Kansans. This shows that 33 per cent of the Nebraska population, 27 per cent of the Iowa, 25 per cent of the Missouri, and 14 per cent of the Kansas population are within the circumference of the circle, of which Nebraska City is the solid and prosperous center.

Nebraska City has never indulged in a "boom." Therefore its manufacturing establishments are upon a substantial basis. The value of their commodities is created by the immense demand for them. The demand is an outgrowth of a desire for cereal goods, packing-house products and starch, which are always true to name, up to standard and never adulterated.

Nebraska City is located in a section of country of which Malte-Bruns in 1827, in his Universal Geography, says:

"These deserts, though scarcely habitable themselves, are not such formidable barriers to commercial intercourse between people situated upon their opposite sides, as those of Africa and Asia. After we pass the meridian of 96 degrees vegetation becomes less abundant and vigorous, and sterility increases."

John James Ingalls, the famous Kansas statesman and literateur, well said:

"The modern history of the Missouri valley dawned in 1541, when Vasques de Coronado, a Spanish soldier, led a small army from Mexico across the plains northeastward till he entered the Missouri and Mississippi valleys. He got some hint of the fertility of these regions, for on his return to Mexico he reported: 'The earth is the best possible for all kinds of productions of Spain. I found prunes, some of which were black; also excellent grapes and mulberries. I crossed mighty plains and sandy heaths, smooth and wearisome and bare of woods, and as full of crooked backed oxen as the mountain Serena in Spain is of sheep.'"

The prevalent belief that the Missouri valley, and especially the west side thereof, was unfit for the maintenance of a dense population and absolutely worthless for agriculture, was so strong, even in 1864, that few citizens of the Eastern or Middle states could be induced to attempt home-building in either Kansas or Nebraska. The story

of the sterility of these plains was so generally believed by the American people that no contradiction except the corn crops grown upon them obtained any credit. Up to 1860, when the first scorching drouths withered the crops of Kansas, there had been only a few settlements made along the eastern rim of Nebraska. Its southern counties, especially Pawnee and Richardson, had very short crops that year; but in the main, Nebraska, especially in Dakota and Burt counties, was blest with superior yields of corn and potatoes, in so much that even from Nebraska City contributions of subsistence were forwarded to the drouth-stricken sufferers in Kansas. The drouth in that state resulted in James H. Lane and S. C. Pomeroy visiting the various state legislatures in the winter of 1860-61 and begging seed wheat and other valuable things for their suffering fellow-Kansans. The country responded to their importunities with great generosity. The consequence was, plenty of beans, seed oats, seed corn and seed wheat contributed to Kansas, together with large sums of money and the planting of a great many acres in 1861, together with the subsequent election of Lane and Pomeroy to be the first United States senators from Kansas.

Since this episode in plowing and politics there has been no absolute failure of crops anywhere within the area described in the beginning of this article. In the counties of the four states which make up this wonderfully fertile and productive expanse of well-farmed lands, of which Nebraska City is the growing and flourishing manufacturing center, there has never been made a record of a complete crop failure during the century.

Plowing and Politics.

NEEDED.

There is needed among the voters of the state of Nebraska a revival of self-instruction as to the duties of citizenship. Every ballot should represent study, reflection and conclusion upon the part of the man who deposits it.

No ballot should represent the importunity, the persuasiveness nor the sophistry of any candidate whose name it may contain.

Independent investigation of economic and political questions, by each citizen who casts a vote, can alone bring about an intelligent and efficient administration of government. Nothing else can save the people from eventual despotism. Intelligent citizens need and will tolerate no "bosses," either in Nebraska or New York. The money question needs study. The foreign policy needs study. Expansion and annexation need study. During the quiet evenings of the coming winter every citizen, by his tranquil hearth, should study the United States and its best interests.

USEFUL.

While THE CONSERVATIVE may not endorse all of the views on health and sanitation advanced by Doctor Longshore-Potts in her entertaining and instructive lectures, recently delivered at the Overland, in Nebraska City, to large and gratified audiences, it cheerfully admits their practical and useful character.

POET NAUSEATE.

Who knows anywhere in the long rows of heroes which adorn the avenues of the centuries one who arose with more meteoric splendor than the "Poet Nauseate" of Nebraska, with a white rose; John Milton Thurston, United States senator from Nebraska, lachrymose exhorter for war with Spain and all-round spectacular statesman?

AN ORATOR.

The Rev. John Henley, between the years 1692 and 1756, made political speeches, theological discourses and lectures upon literature all over England, drawing great crowds to hear him talk. But of him the wicked and unregenerate Hogarth said:

"How fluent nonsense trickles from his tongue!
How sweet the periods neither said nor sung!
Oh! great restorer of the good old stage,
Preacher at once and zany of thy age,
Oh! worthy thou of Egypt's wise abodes;
A decent priest, where monkeys were the Gods!"

But Hogarth by posterity is pretty well known while Henley and his orations are never mentioned. Hogarth made pictures. They live. Henley made platitudes. They die. "Puck" and "Judge" will out-live all the orators whom they satirize.

TEMPERANCE.

In 1882, 1883 and 1884, the old-style, honest-money, gold standard democrats of Nebraska affirmed in their platform the following relative to the liquor traffic:

"The state of Nebraska, in common with other states of the Union, has, and exercises, the right of regulating the sale of intoxicating drinks, in the interests of good order within the state; but the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of such drinks within the state is contrary to the fundamental principles of social and moral conduct, and if enacted will be neutralized by the constitution of the United States, which permits the introduction to every state of foreign liquors imported from abroad and controls also every form of interstate commerce."

With this declaration the party went to the polls and received, in 1884, more than twice as many votes as it had received in 1882.

Subsequent legislation, partly in accordance with the proclaimed views of the Nebraska democracy of that day, gave to this commonwealth the so-called