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J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

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OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL  
QUESTIONS.

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#### HISTORY.

The History of Nebraska, upon which Dr. Geo. L. Miller and the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE are bestowing editorial attention, will not, in all probability, be published before December, 1900.

To keep out fancies and fictions and to put in the facts and the truths of Nebraska's settlement and development in a perfectly justifiable manner is a work requiring time, tranquillity and conscientious investigation.

The attempt to make the work really and completely reliable will be continued by the editors whose final revision of its pages will be made without fear, favor or affection.

#### PIONEER PRINTERS.

November 15th, 1854, the first newspaper ever printed in Nebraska was issued from the McKinney house at Bellevue. It was called the Nebraska Palladium and its editor was D. E. Reed, a teacher in the Presbyterian Mission School.

The first stick full of type was set up by Thomas Morton. He evidently realized that he was a sort of John the Baptist for the type-setting fraternity in the prairie wilderness of that day. Therefore he said: "This is the first column of reading matter set in the territory. This was put in type on the 14th day of November, 1854, by Thomas Morton." It is a prophetic column because it pertains almost wholly to agriculture.

The other type-setters on the Palladium of that issue were A. D. Long and

Dan Carpenter. The latter was subsequently associated with Doctor George L. Miller when he established the Omaha Daily Herald. And now there are more printers in the state than there were at that time citizens in the territory and more newspapers than there were fonts of type in that office—a hundred times over.

#### HELL'S CANYON.

Hell's Canyon, a poem of the camps, by N. K. Griggs, has recently been issued by the Schult Publishing Co., Chicago.

The verses, with their illustrations by W. S. Phillips, bring most vividly before one the wild and depraved scenes of isolated camp life, amidst which are portrayed characters such as Bret Harte's pen has made familiar to the world.

There is a poetical touch in the way the surrounding nature, from majestic mountain to flowing brooklet, is made to shine forth with sunlit joy over the lesson of purity which a wandering missionary brings with him when he chances to stray into the place so aptly named Hell's Canyon.

#### THE BLATHERSKITE.

Either as a populist, an alleged democrat or a canting communist he poses before the multitude as the only one, of pulchritude, who opposes the down-tramping of the plain people, exposes the wrongs which the money power proposes, vehemently deposes that he is the peculiar instrument with which God proposes to bring about reposes for the weary and heavy-laden everywhere and supposes many will follow him, howl for him and vote for him until the century closes. He is a blatherskite. That makes him very popular in a popular form of government. And, while the corn crop in Nebraska is generally astonishingly abundant, the acreage and yield of the blatherskite crop are stupendously, gigantically greater. A department for the teaching of blatherskite oratory in the state university has been suggested by a populist paper. But blatherskites are born, not made. Ex-Senator Peffer of Kansas is a 33d degree example of the breed and Nebraska contains several who are his equal in wind, whiskers and general idiocy as to government and its functions.

#### ASIATIC LABORERS.

United States Circuit Court Judge Morrow in 1898 held that "the territories of the United States are entirely subject to the authority of congress."

If the supreme court of the United States affirms Judge Morrow, how can the laborers of the Asiatic islands be excluded from any party of the United States? How can the products of that labor be excluded from competition with the products of labor in other states?

Urged on by Bailey, Bryan and other explosive patriots of the sixteen-to-one breed, has the McKinley administration made Asiatic laborers a part of the reserve muscular force of the United States? And taking in these millions of Asiatics to compete with Americans in all the working fields of life, is the conclusion of the spectacular and long-drawn-out parade for the "protection of the laboring man" about whom the unctuous McKinley and the pious Hanna have passed sleepless nights and shed quarts of tears?

If the Philippines are now a part of this country must their inhabitants have, or not have, all the rights and privileges that the inhabitants of the territory of Nebraska had before statehood? And did not these latter have the right to freely go into any state and ask for employment in competition with any and all other citizens? What can interpose against an influx of Orientals to offer their labor anywhere in the United States? Will some expansion organ answer?

#### GOOD SUGGESTIONS.

The Nebraska Farmer of December 21, 1899, contains, on page 842, an article entitled "Meeting New Demands," which is well worth careful perusal. Our state board of agriculture can be made very useful.

Kansas has been fortunate in this respect and the reports of Secretary Coburn are an authority as to all Kansas resources and products.

Commenting on the signs of a reaction in Pennsylvania against extreme protection, the Boston Transcript (rep.) says: "It is a great satisfaction to receive assurances from that camp that the time is almost here when we can divest our industries of their swaddling clothes, and enjoy the sight of them revelling in their own strength."