

**HISTORICAL INQUIRY.** THE CONSERVATIVE of January 24th, in one of the deeply interesting articles for which it is noted, on the early history of the state, reviews a little work of 100 pages, issued many years ago by Hon. James M. Woolworth of Omaha, and entitled "Nebraska in 1857." The book, THE CONSERVATIVE says, is prefaced by a map of Nebraska and "Kansas," prepared especially for it. The Nebraska of those days was a giant in territorial expanse compared with the Nebraska of today and covered the greater part of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North and South Dakota. "And yet," THE CONSERVATIVE adds, "in all this vast region there appear hardly more towns than one can count upon one's fingers."

The book seems, from the review of THE CONSERVATIVE, to be replete with interesting matter. The early history of the territory, from the days of Marquette and LaSalle, the best routes from the east to the Missouri river, the projected railroads to the west, the weather, the wild-cat banks, slavery and many other topics are referred to. What, however, seems to have a special interest for residents of this county is the fact that one of the very few towns shown on the map of this vast territory is "Nebraska Center, at the mouth of Wood River."

As Wood River empties into the north channel of the Platte on the old William Powell farm, now the John Williamson sheep ranch, about two miles southeast of Alda, that must have been the location of "Nebraska Center."

Who of our readers can tell us anything about this settlement? Forty-four years ago it was one of a dozen or two towns thought worthy to have a place on a map covering a territory four times as great as the present state of Nebraska. Who remembers its existence—who can tell of its fate?

The history of the state is now being written by Mr. Morton and Dr. Miller and it is desirable from every point of view that the history of Hall county should appear fully and correctly in the forthcoming work. If any one can give us any information about "Nebraska Center" we shall take great pleasure in preserving the memoranda of what they may be able to tell us and forwarding the same to the editors of the history referred to.

TRUTH-SEEKER.

Grand Island, Jan. 29, 1900.

**REVERSE THE MACHINE.** During many years the legislative machinery of Nebraska has been utilized by republicans afraid of populism, and by the populists themselves, to turn out statutes inimical and threatening to capital. The state has crippled corporations by annoying requirements as to reports of their business transactions each year to

certain county and state officers. The state, by statutes, has sought to force into publicity—and public records—the private business of not only corporations but co-partnerships. This legislation, in fact all legislation aimed at combinations of capital, has tended to drive out and shut out from Nebraska millions of dollars which otherwise might have been invested here in the buildings and machinery of industrial plants. The so-called anti-trust law of this state, literally interpreted and rigidly applied, could and would dissolve and destroy every strong, energetic and ambitious co-partnership, firm or corporation doing business in Nebraska, with the purpose and intent of securing all of the trade in its line of production. It really makes it a penal offence to seek commercial power and supremacy. Under that law the predatory insects of party politics have deposited their larvæ for hatching out official maggots and butterflies, like Oldham and Smyth. These brilliant specimens of intellectual entomology, in minutest form, have filled the partisan atmosphere with chameleon glories and the ears of the groundlings with the monotony of calamitous prophecies.

But New Jersey, an older and wealthier state than Nebraska, has taken the other extreme. That state has pressingly invited and legislatively lured into its boundaries corporate capital in every sort of legitimate line of industry, manufacture and commerce.

Capital stock of the leading industrial corporations of New Jersey:

| Company.                        | Preferred stock. | Common stock.   |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| National Steel.....             | \$ 27,000,000    | \$ 32,000,000   |
| American Tin Plate....          | 20,000,000       | 30,000,000      |
| American Steel Hoop..           | 14,000,000       | 19,000,000      |
| American Sheet Steel..          | 26,000,000       | 26,000,000      |
| Federal Steel.....              | 100,000,000      | 100,000,000     |
| Amn. Car & Foundry..            | 30,000,000       | 39,000,000      |
| Pressed Steel Car.....          | 12,500,000       | 12,500,000      |
| American Bridge.....            | 35,000,000       | 35,000,000      |
| National Tube.....              | 40,000,000       | 40,000,000      |
| American Steel & Wire           | 40,000,000       | 50,000,000      |
| Am. Smelt. & Refining..         | 32,500,000       | 32,000,000      |
| Am. Sugar Refining....          | 37,500,000       | 37,500,000      |
| American Tobacco....            | 14,000,000       | 56,000,000      |
| Intern'l Steam Pump..           | 12,500,000       | 15,000,000      |
| National Salt.....              | 5,000,000        | 7,000,000       |
| National Starch.....            | 8,500,000        | 5,000,000       |
| American Woolen.....            | 25,000,000       | 40,000,000      |
| National Biscuit.....           | 25,000,000       | 30,000,000      |
| American Beet Sugar..           | 5,000,000        | 15,000,000      |
| Royal Baking Powder..           | 10,000,000       | 10,000,000      |
| Rubber Goods Mfg....            | 25,000,000       | 25,000,000      |
| American Ice.....               | 30,000,000       | 30,000,000      |
| American Cycle.....             | 3,000,000        | 6,000,000       |
| American Cotton Oil..           | 10,198,000       | 20,237,000      |
| National Lead.....              | 15,000,000       | 15,000,000      |
| United States Leather.          | 64,000,000       | 64,000,000      |
| Otis Elevator.....              | 4,500,000        | 6,500,000       |
| Total.....                      | \$678,198,000    | \$797,737,000   |
| Total preferred and common..... |                  | \$1,490,935,000 |

Where are the advantages which Nebraska has over New Jersey by virtue

of the capital-assaulting and corporation-dynamiting laws which the Bryanarchists of this state have enacted? Where, assaulting and corporation-dynamiting laws which the Bryanarchists of this state have enacted? Would it damage Nebraska if it became

the domicile of corporations controlling more than a billion dollars of capital? Where are the beneficent results of the laws against capital and corporations in this state? Where is the man, is he in the state senate or the house of representatives, who will move for the repeal of these miserable checks upon commerce? Why not reverse the machine?

**THE ROCA INDIAN VILLAGE SITE.**

It has been my intention for some time to give to the public an account of the ancient Indian village site situated about ten miles south of Lincoln, Nebraska. Frequent mention has been made of it in my articles to the press and also in my private letters to archaeologists in all parts of the United States. This account will serve to make permanent the data obtained so far in my exploring trips over this once active scene of Indian life.

This village covered a territory reaching from one mile north of Hanlon to two miles northeast of Jamaica. The pottery, arrowheads, axes and other implements are found scattered more or less thickly over the above defined length, and a breadth of a quarter of a mile on either side of Salt creek. This makes the dimensions of the village site about four miles long by half a mile wide.

Those who are not familiar with the Indian mode of building villages may think that a solid city covered this area; this is wrong. The village is built scattering; that is a group of tepees here and there as the elevation of ground favors such a collection, first, with nearness to water and wood; second, advantage of view, to guard against attack from an enemy, and third, position where the smoke would not attract attention from afar, but also near some elevation or eminence which commanded the hills and valleys for some distance around.

This village site (which I have named the "Roca Site") is admirably situated with reference to all these vantage points.

This site was first visited about two years ago and a quantity of pottery was obtained at that time. The pottery is similar in every respect to the specimens found along the Platte river the same year, and every effort has been made to determine the exact position this pottery holds in the annals of archaeology.

A careful study of all available data on pottery—and there is much—reveals some very curious and interesting facts which will be treated connectedly and at length at a future time; for this paper a description of the specimens found will be enough.

**"Blackware" Pottery.**

The pottery is known as "black ware" and is made in the manner described in a prior paper; by moulding the plastic