

EDMUNDS.

The Ex-Senator from Vermont—Edmunds—is presumed to be an orthodox, old-style, Lincoln Republican and in the North American Review for August, he shows—remarks the New York Evening Post—that as a lawyer, he is plainly amazed at the opinion of the Supreme Court in the insular cases—decisions so “variant in principle and deduction”—but recognizes, of course, that it must stand as the law unless “reviewed and overruled by the same great tribunal.” But it is as a republican of the older type that Mr. Edmunds protests with most force against the “severe shock” given by the new Republicanism to the ideas of “liberty, self-government, and equality which used to be thought fundamental.” “Unequal taxation” is to him the most galling and destructive of all forms of tyranny,” but is in full keeping with the “aggressive policies” which President and Congress have undertaken to carry out. Judge Edmunds sees, also, a grave moral peril in the ready disregard of our plighted national faith shown in our “imposing conditions upon Cuba not hinted at in the solemn public declaration made by Congress.” He has not, however, lost faith in the good and just intentions of the people as a whole, in spite of the events of the past two years, and looks hopefully to the election of a Congress which shall administer the newly acquired islands in “accordance with the letter and spirit of the Constitution,” and give to their civilized inhabitants a “substantially independent self-government.”

WASHINGTON
DICTA.

In a special telegram to the Record-Herald, dated at Washington July 26th, it is stated that “a high official of the agricultural department, who positively refuses to permit his name to be used, says that the scare that is running the price of corn in the Chicago exchange to nearly sixty cents a bushel is at least premature.” From reports, received at the department, he says the condition of corn in the great belt is far from a failure, and even a short crop is not absolutely certain.

Then this illustrious, distinguished and anonymous official declares again with great pomp of verbiage: “There are people in the semi-arid regions of the West who persist in planting corn despite all our efforts to convince them that they are not in the corn belt. We have repeatedly advised them to go in for alfalfa and sorghum, but they will not plant anything except corn.”

It seems evident to the Washington sharp that some of the corn planters in the West ought to be enlightened by him as to where the corn belt begins and where it ends! Will the aforementioned high official

of the agricultural department, therefore, give out a boundary of the corn belt, send a map with a packet of seeds, showing just where it begins and where it ends? And will those pertinacious, recusant and irreverent soil-tillers, who have persisted in planting corn when they were told not to do so by this high official of the agricultural department, be prosecuted for *lese majeste*?

NEBRASKA has been in the corn belt and worn the belt for corn many years. It puts up a crop, running from one hundred million to more than two hundred million bushels of corn per annum, and although the long continued drought and intense heat of July 1901 has cut down the corn crop of the state, Nebraska will never cease to be appreciated as one of the best and most certain corn-producing areas of the American union.

The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE has planted forty-five corn crops in the state of Nebraska and never had a failure. Most of the crops have been very good; some of them bumper crops, and not a single one, a complete failure. This experience began in 1855, and the crop in 1901 is the nearest, in all probability to a half crop that Nebraska has ever witnessed. But year in and year out there is no better corn-growing country on the face of the earth than Eastern Nebraska, from the Niobrara river to the Kansas line. It has a record of productivity for this particular cereal ever since it was first opened to tillage that is unsurpassed by any similar area in the United States.

CITY CORN
GROWING.

The Record-Herald, of Chicago is a most eminently useful and instructive journal, but when it asserts, as it did in an editorial on July 24th, that “corn grows best where the sun is hot in the middle of the day, with cool nights and occasional showers,” it shows its lack of corn-based, corn-fed and corn-cultivating intelligence.

Corn does best with a reasonably hot sun, occasional showers and very hot nights. There are certain rural proverbs, relative to the requirements of clothing for humanity during the nights when corn grows best, that the Record-Herald ought to hunt up and reduce to polite parlance, and publish.

Saturday night **ONE INCH AND FIFTEEN HUNDREDTHS.** July 27th, 1901 at eleven o'clock the drought which began July 5th was ended. There fell before Sunday morning one inch and fifteen one hundredths of an inch of rinsing, refreshing rain. There is corn to sell in this propinquity, cattle to feed, and hogs to fatten. This is a good country that cannot be destroyed by a drought of one month.

Mr. Churchill, a good farmer adjacent to Nebraska City, brought into THE CONSERVATIVE office on July 30th, 1901, three ears of perfectly-matured, solid, Yellow Dent corn which was planted April 30th, 1901. This was grown on the forty acres known as “the Burris Forty.” The land is high and dry but constant tillage and the character of corn itself insured the crop against drought and all ordinary enemies. It is made and secured.

IF? The lightning rod man says:

“If you had omitted putting our attractive, alluring and electricity-domesticating conductors upon your domicile before that last thunder storm, your Home would have been shattered, wrecked and incinerated.”

But nobody can tell whether lightning would have struck a certain house without rods or not; or prove that the same house with lightning rods was spared from electrocution because of the rods. If, saith the preacher, it rains after prayer for rain, then the efficacy of prayer is proved. But it might have rained though nobody prayed.

THE SECRET OF AMERICAN POWER.

Nor has the restless, inventive, querying, accomplishing type of American manhood lost its prominence in our political and social structure. The self-made man is still perhaps our most representative man. Native shrewdness and energy and practical capacity—qualities such as the amateur may possess in a high degree—still carry a man very far. They have frequently been attended by such good fortune as to make it easy for us to think that they are the only qualities needed for success. Some of the substantial gains of American diplomacy, for instance, have been made by men without diplomatic training. We have seen within a very few years an almost unknown lawyer, from an insignificant city, called to be the head of the Department of State, where his achievements, indeed, promptly justified his appointment. The conduct of the War Department and the Navy has frequently been intrusted to civilians whose frank ignorance of their new duties has been equaled only by their skill in performing them. The history of American cabinets is, in spite of many exceptions, on the whole, an apotheosis of the amateur. It is the readiest justification of the tin-peddler theory,—the theory, namely, that you should first get your man, and then let him learn his new trade by practicing it. “By dint of hammering one gets to be a blacksmith,” says the French; and if a blacksmith, why not a postmaster, or a postmaster general, or an ambassador?—The August Atlantic.