

the chainmen of one surveying party may have been more scrupulous in this regard than those of another; the subdivisional lines were in some instances run several years after those of greater importance, and the trails may have been obliterated by cultivation in the interval; and the trails may have been, doubtless were in many cases, overlaid by later freighting roads, and so their original character wholly disguised.

The maps do, however, show some things. They show a radiation of trails from two Pawnee villages on the south side of the Platte, some five and eight miles below Fremont; another less distinct radiation from the Otoe village west of Plattsmouth; and a third from a point on the Missouri in Thurston county, no doubt the place of the Omahas. No roads appear in the vicinity of Nebraska City, though this is known to have been a favorite stopping place of the Otoes after the building of the block-house in 1846; probably for the third of the reasons named above. None appear in the region about Roca, where Mr. Blackman found signs of large villages, nor any near Columbus, where Judge Savage found Quivira; would this be because these centers of population go back of the traveling age? The Platte bottom, on the south side, is full of them for a long distance up, and there is a plain one running southwest from the halfbreed tract, apparently, which dates from the 30's. But the most distinct and continuous of all is evidently the old highroad between the Pawnee villages below Fremont and those on the Republican river in Kansas. This runs east of Wahoo, crosses Salt Creek very near Lincoln, the Big Blue not far from Crete and the Little Blue just below Alexandria, and passes into Kansas in the northeast corner of Republic county. This is rather singular, because the Pawnee Republic is supposed to have been in the northwest corner of that county. The trail traced on the maps is twenty-five miles too far east to be a direct route to it.

A careful scrutiny fails to detect any indication of trails leading toward the pipestone quarries in southwestern Minnesota, whither all tribes are commonly supposed to have made periodical pilgrimages for the material for the sacred calumet. It is possible that all the poetical legends about this neighborhood having been a neutral meeting-ground for the different tribes, may have been pure myth.

Calumet, by the way, seems to be the biblical "shawm," transplanted by a queer freak of etymological fate.

A. T. RICHARDSON.

**SECRETARY WILSON AND FRUIT GROWERS.**

It is eminently proper for the department of agriculture to earnestly en-

deavor to encourage the growth of fruit and the extension of the industry. But it is of doubtful propriety or expediency for the department to take any action which will place the nation in the position, even indirectly, of becoming a partner with growers in the business of exporting fruit to other countries. Yet this would, in effect, be the result if Secretary Wilson were to carry out the idea he apparently has of guaranteeing shippers against loss, under certain conditions, or of defraying the cost of transportation.

The authority under which Secretary Wilson proposes to take this extraordinary action is an item in the appropriation bill to the department of agriculture, setting aside \$20,000.

"to investigate, in connection with the other divisions of the department and experiment stations of the several states, the market conditions affecting the fruit trade in the United States and foreign countries, and the methods of harvesting, packing, storing and shipping fruit, and for experimental shipments of fruits to foreign countries, for the purpose of increasing the exportation of American fruits, and for all necessary expenses connected with the practical work of the same."

The expression, "and for experimental shipments of fruits to foreign countries for the purpose of increasing the exportation of American fruits," is construed by the Secretary as permitting him to guarantee shippers against loss, should their fruit perish during transit, or to guarantee the cost of transportation. The comptroller of the currency gives a hesitating acquiescence, but in his added "I know no law to forbid the same," there is an apparant doubt of the propriety of Secretary Wilson carrying out his plan. The amount of money involved is trifling, but the principle is exceedingly great. It is, in effect, nothing else than a bounty, a form of paternalism, against which the voice of the country has been strongly raised on more than one occasion. The language of the item may be so construed as to permit the department of agriculture to form this questionable partnership with the fruit-growers, but the principle at stake is so important that it would be better policy for the Secretary to refer the matter to congress for action.—Philadelphia Ledger.


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