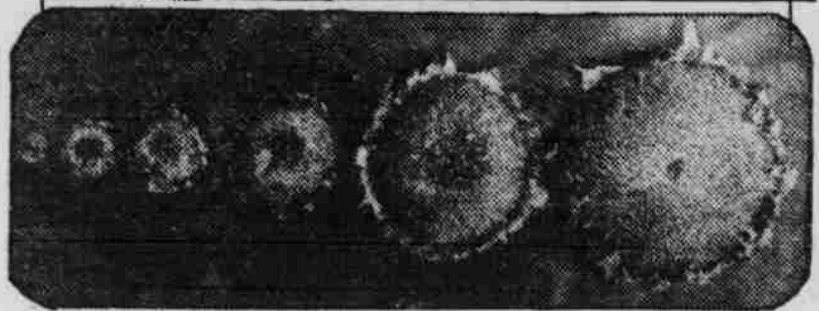


## Survival of Fittest in Nebraska Plants Is Subject of Research



Plants and grasses, like humans, are constantly engaged in a struggle for existence, says Dr. J. E. Weaver of the University of Nebraska. Above is shown Dr. Weaver and several pictures showing the competition between plants and its results. In one view is shown the relative size of heads of wheat, ranging from one-half normal density at the left to four times normal density at the right.

## Nature's Artillery Stages Some Colorful Warfare in State Fields

Nebraska is constantly in a state of war. Constant "warfare" waged in nature, especially among plants such as grasses, grains, trees, and weeds, is the subject of a study that has been conducted for the past five years by the Carnegie Institution of Washington through Dr. J. E. Weaver, research associate of the institution and professor of plant ecology at the University of Nebraska, who worked with Dr. Frederick E. Clements, institution ecologist in Washington, and Herbert C. Hanson.

A large part of this research has been carried on by Dr. Weaver and his associates in Nebraska with native Nebraska plants. In reporting on Dr. Weaver's study, the Carnegie Institution says:

"A tradition still current in the Middle West holds that the prairies and plains were once carpeted by a dense turf of buffalo-grasses and that these disappeared in the wake of the vanishing bison, presumably because of some vague bond of sympathy between the two. Another belief held that the tall blue stems had trailed westward after the pioneers and had filed on claims long before staked out by the short grasses.

### Studies Problem.

"Much field study had been given this problem in Nebraska and Kansas especially, before an opportunity offered to test the merits of tall and short grasses in actual competition. Within sight of the graceful obelisk of Ne-

braska's capitol was found a stretch of nearly pure buffalo-grass, lagging half a century behind its departed namesake.

Dotted thru it were vestiges of tall grasses, apparently hopelessly discouraged by their diminutive antagonists. The area was fenced to demonstrate the part taken by grazing in their effort, and was charted annually for three years to trace the court of competition."

During the first season the tall-grass recovered rapidly increasing its lead each year until it eventually dominated and actually replaced the buffalo-grass in much of the territory. This proved that when the bison roamed the plains by the millions, they damaged the tall grasses more than their shorter competitors. As the buffalo were killed off or driven westward the taller grasses, handicap removed, soon regained the rank allotted them by the character of the climate.

The research also engaged in study of the competition between forest and prairie. On this phase the report states that grasses of the prairie type can offer such competition to trees that without some artificial assistance grasses

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can stand off indefinitely advances made by forests.

Dr. Weaver plans to continue his study of the prairie grasses and has recently been named by the National Research Council as one of a committee of six to study the ecology of the grasslands of North America. The purposes of this committee are, in part, to standardize methods of studying grasslands, to outline plans for grazing research and to acquire areas of grasslands for permanent preservation.

## ATTEND ENGINEERING MEET

Nebraska Is Represented at Series of Sessions In Chicago.

A number of members of the faculty of the college of engineering are attending the meetings of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education in Chicago, at the present time.

They are Prof. W. L. DeBaufre, chairman of the department of applied mechanics; A. A. Luebs, associate professor of mechanical engineering; C. M. Duff, professor of applied mechanics; Prof. J. W. Haney, chairman of the department of mechanical engineering; and Prof. O. J. Ferguson, dean of the college of engineering.

Dean Ferguson, at the meetings of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, will present a paper, "Interchange Among Faculties of Engineering Schools." The paper is a review of a treatise written by D. C. Jackson, professor of electric power production at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Following the Chicago meetings Dean Ferguson will attend a week's conference of presidents and deans of engineering schools at Madison, Wis.

## EASTERNERS VISIT MUSEUM.

Among the visitors at the university museum this week were Dr. Madison Bentley of Cornell university and Dr. Edward J. Foyles, director of the museum of natural history of Rochester university, Rochester, N. Y. Dr. Foyles brought with him a group from Rochester university including Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Moore who do modeling and making of miniatures there.

## LEAVES FOR FAIR.

Miss Luvicy Hill, assistant professor of commercial arts, left Wednesday evening for Chicago, to attend the Pi Lambda Theta convention. She will also attend the commercial section of the National Educational association. She plans to return next week, at the close of the summer session recess.

## PLAN COAST TRIP.

Col. and Mrs. F. A. Kidwell will leave next Sunday for a trip to the Pacific coast with their daughter, Cathro Kidwell, who is an instructor in Mount Holyoke college in Massachusetts. Colonel Kidwell is connected with the military department. The trip will be made in Miss Kidwell's car.

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## NEW PLACEMENTS CITED

Seventeen Nebraskans Find Openings or Promotions in Teaching Field.

That positions are still opening up in the teaching field is indicated by the latest report of the department of educational service at the University of Nebraska which lists a number of Nebraskans who have recently secured teaching positions. They are as follows:—

Mrs. Mae Bunker, Lincoln, who will receive her masters degree in secondary education at the end of the summer session, commercial work, Martinez, Calif.; Clara Koenig, of Plymouth, normal training and Latin at Newman Grove; Eleanor Dixon, Blair, home economics at Eagle.

Helen Julson, Sioux Falls, S. D., English and Latin at Beaver crossing; Ina Hansen, Worland, Wyo., first grade, there; Neva Beth Turner, Lincoln, first grade at Scotts-bluff; Ralph Canada, Bertrand, superintendent at Filley; Ruth White formerly of the Pleasanton public schools, principal at Scotia.

Florence Vette, Crete, principal at Clearwater; Frances Bronn, Lincoln, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades at Roca; Abram Epp, Beatrice, vocational agriculture at Anselmo; Marguerite Peters, principal at Goehner; Stephen Epler, Bethany, science, manual training physical education at Chester; Marie Hornung, Roca, home economics at Phillips.

Lloyd Shepard, last year superintendent of Union Center at Liberty, superintendent at Palisade; Aileen Neely, Lincoln, high school work at Marion; and Elnora Cline,

Lincoln, home economics at Goshen.

## ON YEARBOOK STAFF.

Dr. Knute O. Broady, professor of school administration, has received notice of his appointment as a member of the 1934 Yearbook Committee for the Rural Department of the National Education association. Title of the yearbook is "Enriching the Curriculum of the Small Secondary School Economically." Notice of the appointment was received from Frank W. Cyr, of Columbia university Teachers College who is editor of the yearbook. Mr. Cyr was formerly superintendent of schools at Chappell, Neb.

Arthur Jones announced that Mr. Hahn's orchestra has been engaged to play for the party on July 7, at the coliseum. Further entertainment will be furnished by the Kosmet Klub quartet.

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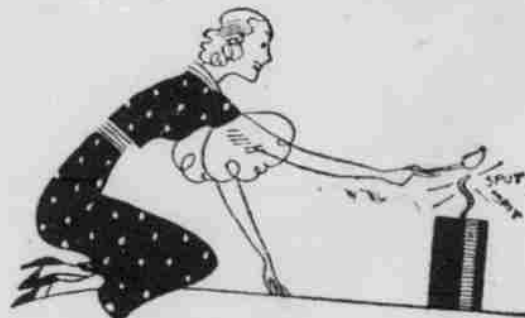
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