

T. A. BLAIR SEES NO BIG DANGER OF STATE BECOMING A DESERT; CHANCES OF MOISTURE MORE EVIDENT AS DRY CYCLE NEARS ITS END

That Nebraska is in no great danger of becoming a "Gobi" desert is the prediction of T. A. Blair, head of the Government Weather Bureau and assistant professor of meteorology at the University of Nebraska, in reply to the speculations of drouth weary Nebraskans on the possibilities of another great inland desert.

Admitting that aridity and heat which this year have blazed a trail of devastation from end to end of the state are without parallel, he believes that the cycle is at an end. Once that cycle is completed, he went on to say, fields of the state once more will be green and productive and streams in Nebraska again will run bankfull.

"Our science of predicting weather phenomena is not definite enough to grasp the full significance of this drouth in its relation to the past," said Blair. "But we can recognize certain ups and downs in weather records, and these indicate that our present drouth is not a permanent or fundamental change."

In Blair's office on the university campus are weather charts on which are plotted precipitation variations since 1878, year of the Lincoln bureau's establishment. Even further back, to 1850, are recorded rainfall totals, based on less accurate observation of army posts of frontier days.

The charts show a series of

cycles of copious moisture and parching drouth, but from the point of departure—1850—the general tendency of the moisture line has been downward. Precipitation here this year, 5.35 of an inch, is only one-third of the average rainfall of sixteen inches for the first six months of the year, and lowest recorded during the eighty-four years of records.

"The chart shows these cycles," said Blair. "From 1878 to 1885 rains increased and then dropped from 1886 to 1901. From 1902 to 1909 the tendency was upward, but since that time the tendency has been uniformly downward, with the exception of the wet year of 1915."

The fact that variations divide themselves naturally into cycles, he pointed out, gives indication that the end of the dry tendency is approaching in Nebraska.

"No one knows the cause of these drouths beyond the proximate forces which withhold rainfall," said the expert. "But conjecture on radio activity, over cultivation of land, a falling water table and other explanations are only theories, generally unbased on definite fact."

"We cannot foretell with certainty the end of these conditions in Nebraska. But we are certain that conditions will change and that rain once more will fall over the state."

EXPERIMENTAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AT TEACHERS COLLEGE IS GREAT SUCCESS

First grade students at the University of Nebraska's elementary education laboratory school thoroughly enjoyed their last day of summer "college work" last Thursday morning.

To the twenty little tots, who had completed a summer study of the farm, the ice cream sherbet was really their "dessert." They had already learned to feed animals, churn butter, make cheese, set hens, and had experience with growing seeds and had collected grains—which is really something different in first grade study.

Rural Pupils Guests.

Their guests at the Thursday farewell party were the students from Miss Gladys Zutter's rural room, picked students from Lancaster county rural schools.

The third grade students, under Miss Sue Burford, put on an elaborate demonstration of "Play in Other Lands," inviting the other classes to the pageant.

The stage setting and posters, all the work of the youngsters, were done under the supervision of Miss Lyda Dell Burry, summer art instructor at the school. With colored hemispheres ribboned off to show the six chosen countries, the children dramatized the parts of the natives, in full dress, illustrating the life and homes of the Dutch, Arabians, Congo district, Eskimos and Swiss. The stage background showed the "typicalities" of the lands selected, with perhaps the chamois skin door igloo rating as the "coolest." Next was the Swiss Alps.

The nursery room, where members of the younger young set were educated and entertained daily, was another particularly bright spot on Thursday, altho their official "good byes" were not said until Friday.

Examined Daily.

There playing and enjoying themselves under the tutelage of Miss Clara Evans and Miss Adeline Howard, the little folks played, sang, skipped and behaved very nicely—even the visitors were crowding all windows and doors.

Every morning when the tiny tots made their appearance with their mothers they were examined by a doctor—to make certain that they were well enough for the day's program. Then, Thursday, as on other days, the mothers were at liberty to go—leaving little "Susie" and "Dickie" free for their literature experiences, rest, lunch, and play. The zest with which the youngsters jingled their play band bells, softly sang, and reacted to musical chord signals was remarkable.

The fourth graders were not present Thursday morning as their teacher, Miss Frances Assenmacher, was not in the city. Their work closed Wednesday. Their

which is as much as we expect. Their project work included the construction of a miniature highway, the collection of pictures, model planes and busses—and the making of a frieze of the airport, and posters of ideal highways.

Study Housing.

Miss Edith Erb's sixth grade under the direction of Miss Gertrude Oering, teachers college instructor. They have learned the privilege never before granted Lin-highways and skyways, with tours summer course included a study of coin grade school students thirty minute classes in beginning typing, to the bus station, municipal airport, a trucking company, and even an out-of-season inspection of snow removal equipment.

Boys and girls completed the plans for a large learning situation, studying housing in all of its phases. Their work included the selection of sites for farm homes, the study of slum clearance, the collection of pictures, newspaper clippings, house plans and building materials. They went into city and farm planning, blue printing, the composition of music and poetry, the filtering of water, the making of a frieze in design of all occupations included in the building of a radio broadcast.

The last three weeks of the summer session, they were given the entire key board in three weeks, older students to do," she stated as she pointed to some of the concert work which they had fingered out.

Several of them had as many as three consecutive perfect lines in a short half page, accomplishing such lines as: "fff fr ft juu jvy fr ft juu jvy and A lad asks a lass. A lad asks a lad."

Thursday was the do-as-you-please day for the young "stenos" and "secretaries," with most of them writing personal business letters or experimenting "on their own."

Henzlik in Charge.

F. E. Henzlik, dean of teachers college, and Miss Clara Wilson, chairman of the department of elementary education at the university, were in general charge of the laboratory school, conducted in the Bancroft building. There have been an average of over 1,000 visitors a week all summer—including parents, friends and student teachers, according to the word of the door clerk.

"The aim of the school is the growth of the child—emotionally, physically, mentally and socially," Miss Wilson declared. "The core of the curriculum is social studies and science and arts, with the three R's—the tools of learning—serving as a means to an end."

She declared that teaching the child to think comes first and the building of desirable social and moral habits and health—physical and mental—is stressed. She pointed out that nothing else in the school routine or procedure is important enough to cause loss in any of these.

He: Will you marry me?
Heiress: No, I'm afraid not.
He: Aw, come on, be a support.
—Rice Owl.

PERSONALS

Emanuel Wishnow is leaving soon to study music at Falls Village, Conn. He will study with Jacques Gordon, of the famous Gordon String Quartet. He will be away until the opening of the fall term of the school of music.

Miss Alma Wagner, instructor in voice has left for Chicago, where she will attend the Century of Progress exposition. She will later visit various points in the east.

Mrs. Lura Schuler Smith is leaving Aug. 1 to spend a month in Estes Park, Colo.

Prof. Howard Kirkpatrick, director of the school of music is visiting a summer camp at Nemo, S. D., where he has a summer home.

Lavonne Rist went to her home in Humboldt with Roma De Brown last week end.

Mary Lou Denton was in Lincoln Friday to complete her summer school work. She left school recently due to the serious illness of her father. Her home is in Talmage.

Katheryn Ellis, of Weeping Water, spent the week end at home.

Maxine Cloit spent the past week end at home in Plattsmouth.

Lillian Rowher made a business trip to David City last Saturday.

Dr. Elizabeth Williamson, in charge of Carrie Belle Raymond Hall, has left for her home in Galesburg, Ill.

Mrs. Gadis, house mother at the Pi Beta Phi house during the summer session, plans to spend most of the month of August with friends in Estes park.

Vincint C. George and Helen Day Coon, graduates of the University of Nebraska and now residents of California, visited here last Saturday.

Vincint George, graduate of 1916, plans to spend about a month in Custer county. He is an instructor in the Los Angeles Junior college.

Mrs. Hattie Hepperly Dewey of India visited the University recently. Mrs. Dewey, after she was graduated in '21 went to India to teach. She plans to visit with her folks at Norfolk for about a year.

Walter H. Keller, '31, for the past two years part time instructor in economics, has resigned his position and will leave for Berkeley next week where he has accepted an appointment as teaching assistant at the University of California. He will take work toward his doctor's degree.

WATKINS BELIEVES THAT BIG TREE BELT TO BE SAVING FACTOR IN SOIL EROSION

The contemplated Roosevelt "tree belt" received great encouragement from Clayton W. Watkins, extension forester at the University, recently. He saw in its great possibilities for preserving and conserving the natural resources of Nebraska.

While Watkins declined to say just what part he would play in the program should it be carried through, he stated that examples of shelter belts already in existence in the state were of some benefit.

The "belt," he said, should be of some help in preventing soil erosion which has become an acute problem in some districts, slow up the wind velocity and decrease the amount of evaporation from the soil.

Watkins further explained that

if the tree belt contemplated by the Roosevelt administration were planted in the proportions indicated by recent announcements, it would have a great effect upon the production of crops. For, according to Mr. Watkins, many farmers over the state have planted small tree belts, and surveys have shown that they not only affect the immediate territory but the area some distance from it.

The shelter belts wherein windbreaks would be established running north and south, planted one mile apart, making 100 parallel windbreaks in the belt, is a bigger project than the Tennessee valley project, in the mind of Mr. Watkins.

According to Watkins planting will not start until 1936 or thereabouts, and will put many men to work.

Dr. Watson is planning a three or four weeks vacation. He first plans to visit the World's Fair and later his father in Minnesota. He hopes to do some lake fishing while in Minnesota.

Miss Minnie Schlichting, assistant principal and supervisor, Teachers college high school, and Miss Lois Keefer, Longmont, Colo., who is attending summer school here, will drive to Minnesota for a three weeks' vacation at the lakes. Their itinerary will also include Duluth, Minneapolis, and St. Paul.

Norman Finke, '34, was a visitor on the campus.

at the national meeting of science teachers who are members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Johnson has been asked to serve on a committee of the National Council of Supervisors of Elementary Science to study the development of a National Council of Science Teachers and will present a plan for such an organization of Science Teachers at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Pittsburgh in December.

FACULTY WRITINGS LISTED BY DOANE

Librarian Compiles New Catalog for Two-Year Period.

A University of Nebraska bulletin has been edited by Gilbert H. Doane, librarian, which contains a list of publications by members of the faculty during the period from July, 1931, to June, 1933. An appendix lists graduate theses of the university from July 1, 1931, to Aug. 30, 1933.

Seventy-one departments of the university are represented with publications of faculty members from each department.

As to the number of publications in the various departments the first ten appear thus: law, 69; English, 58; industry and survey, 46; surgery, 44; geography, 35; chemistry, 33; agricultural extension service, 29; agronomy, 28; physics, 24; philosophy and psychology, 24.

Dr. P. G. Johnson To Present Paper At Teachers Meet

Philip G. Johnson, Ph. D., supervisor of physical and biological sciences, teachers college high school, has been asked to present a paper

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