

IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA.

Laws That Must Be Enacted if It is Ever to Be Made a Success.

IMPERATIVE NEED OF A STATE ENGINEER.

The Importance of a Drainage Map—How Proper Laws Can Be Secured—New Irrigation Works in the State.

(Fourth Article.)

The way to the success of the irrigation movement in Nebraska lies through the statute-book. There must be a revision of such laws as we have, and the addition of a comprehensive scheme of legislation as broad and deep as the problem with which it will deal.

Thus far these articles have dealt with the need, the benefits and the history of irrigation, and very much yet remains to be said of the agricultural and commercial aspects of it, but it is imperatively necessary at this point to urge upon the friends of the movement and the statesmen at Lincoln the need of legislation that shall lay the groundwork for success on a grand scale.

One-third of the legislative session is gone. The remaining forty days are none too long for the friends of irrigation to consider and determine what they will ask and to press it upon the legislature. Furthermore, Wednesday's convention at McCook, at which it is hoped the semi-arid region in the southwestern part of the state will be fully represented, makes timely a discussion of this branch of the subject.

The writer has received many evidences, in letters and newspapers, of the deep interest already awakened. This interest is by no means confined to the western part of the state, nor to those who are most directly benefitted by irrigation. Besides many encouraging words from settlers in the arid regions, letters have been received from individuals and companies who are ready to invest large amounts of capital in these enterprises if they can be shown to be stable and profitable. It is to be hoped that those who have followed the subject thus far will give the same earnest attention and support to this question of legislative requirements, which really lies at the root of the whole matter.



Showing the six grand water basins, resulting from natural watersheds, which are the basis of drainage enterprises in that state.

mate that any portion of this state needed to resort to artificial means to supplement the rainfall. Even then such an intimation was thought to be a reprehensible vice, and only since the heavy hand of calamity has been laid upon a dozen or more of our western counties has the intimation been seen in the light of a virtue.

The laws enacted in 1889 deal only with water rights and the right-of-way for ditches. The most that can be said of them is that they represent a first step in the right direction. Under their provisions the water in natural streams can be appropriated and conducted to lands conveniently situated. On these points the law is quite full and is intended to secure fair treatment to all. It is defective in some respects, however, and as a whole inadequate to the demands of the subject if a systematic effort shall ever be made to develop the vast region lying between the 100th meridian and the Wyoming boundary. One of the defects of the law is the adoption of the square inch as the unit of measurement instead of the cubic foot, and another is the omission of the rights of riparian proprietors.

Space need not, however, be given to a discussion of the defects of our present laws, since they will doubtless be repealed, and much more extensive and comprehensive laws enacted in their stead, when Nebraska decides to take hold of irrigation in earnest.

II.—SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION.

If Nebraska is to begin now to follow in the steps of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, California and other states and territories, making the most of her natural water supply and turning her arid acres into fertile ga dens, farms and orchards, she must first provide a system of administration. She must ascertain how much water is available and how far it can be made to go. When comprehensive laws have been provided, she must have competent men to enforce them, as she does in other departments of her government.

Fortunately, Colorado is our next-door neighbor—Colorado with her soil and climate of similar character, with prosperous irrigation enterprises in operation, and with progressive and well-seasoned ideas which we may pattern after.

The governor of Colorado recently appointed Messrs. E. L. Wells, T. C. Henry and J. S. Greene as a commission to make a complete revision of the irrigation laws. Their report, which has just been presented, is probably the best guide for Nebraska which could be compiled even if we were to appoint a commission to study the subject independently. Colorado already had extensive laws, but when the bill reported by the commissioners has been enacted it will probably have the best legal basis for its development in irrigation to be found in the statistics of any state.

About two-thirds of Colorado, or 65,000 square miles, is open to irrigation, the rest being mountain land, while the field of operations in Nebraska at first would probably be about thirty-eight thousand square miles. The first essential for successfully

grappling with the problem in this state would be the appointment of a state engineer. Under his direction, here, as in Colorado, the semi-arid regions would have to be divided into water districts or basins. In Colorado there are six of these grand districts, and sixty-seven smaller divisions. They are naturally divided by the water-sheds, and no great scheme of irrigation can be planned until they are scientifically determined. This matter will be amplified a little further on.

In Colorado the state engineer is appointed by the governor and receives a salary of \$4,000 a year. He may appoint one or more assistants, who receive \$10 a day when actually employed. In Colorado, also, they have superintendents of irrigation and water commissioners in each of the districts to see that the laws are rigidly complied with. But there the work is so much further advanced that a much larger administrative force is required than will be necessary in Nebraska for a long time to come. It is probable that a good live state engineer, who knew his business and was thoroughly imbued with enthusiasm for his state, would be able to attend to this branch of the subject in Nebraska with little assistance. He must, however, be a man thoroughly expert and thoroughly experienced in this line of work, and the salary provided should be sufficient to command the highest order of ability.

It would be the duty of the state engineer to first determine the natural water districts and the extent and nature of the supply. He would then supervise the construction of all canals and ditches and see that the work was done in compliance with the statutes as well as the laws of engineering. This matter is of the highest importance. Some very peculiar ditches have been constructed in Nebraska by men whose enthusiasm exceeded their knowledge of engineering, as well as by rasorial contractors. By this means a great deal of money has been wasted and water ruthlessly run off without regard to the needs of the territory to be covered, or the limits of the precious supply.

Successful irrigation on a large scale is impossible without the services of a competent state engineer. To attempt to go further with the work without such assistance is like putting out on a stormy sea without a compass.

III.—LET'S HAVE A DRAINAGE MAP.

If every man who reads this article had a copy of Part II. of the report of the state engineer of Colorado for 1888, with its carefully drawn and handsomely illustrated diagrams, he would say with me, "Let's have a drainage map."

The map accompanying this article is necessarily but a feeble reproduction of the large colored map in the report referred to, but it

shows the six grand water basins, resulting from natural watersheds, which are the basis of drainage enterprises in that state.

benefits of the new laws of Colorado, irrigation will be far advanced before the next senate and house assemble at Lincoln in 1903. It is necessary for the friends of the movement to take steps at once to prepare and present a draft of such a bill as they will push before the present legislature. The report of the Colorado commission should be the basis of such a bill. Southwestern Nebraska will be well represented at Wednesday's convention at McCook. Another convention to get the sentiment of the big western counties, might well be convened at Sidney within a fortnight. If these two conventions will appoint committees to consider the report of the Colorado commission and draft a bill for presentation to the legislature, there is every reason to believe that within the next sixty days Nebraska can have upon her statute books the most progressive legislation for the encouragement of irrigation possessed by any American state. And when that has been accomplished the battle has been half won.

Very likely it will be thought necessary to fortify the report of such a committee with petitions from the western half of the state urging the enactment of the bill. If so no time is to be lost in preparing and circulating these petitions.

These considerations are of the utmost importance to the friends of irrigation and should receive immediate thought and action. If the arid lands could be irrigated with mere talk they would doubtless bring forth abundantly at the next harvest time. But unfortunately talk is only valuable to the purpose when transformed into laws, into capital, and finally, into the transcendent water that makes the desert smile. Therefore, let us get laws, money and water, and lay the foundation for prosperity.

V.—NEW ENTERPRISES UNDER WAY.

The Omaha Journal criticizes these articles on the ground that they have not done entire justice to Scott's Bluff county, having failed to mention all the ditches now in operation or under contemplation. This shortcoming was an oversight, for which amendments are gladly made this week. It may be well to remark, however, that this is the time when all friends of irrigation should stand loyally together and work for the great end in view, and when neither time nor strength should be wasted in criticizing anybody who is doing his level best to develop the arid regions.

Of the enterprises now under way in Scott's Bluffs the Omaha Journal has this to say: "While we do not pretend to mention all our irrigation enterprises, it is enough to show that irrigation is our mainstay, and that we will be in a position to laugh at drought and dry years in a very short time."

Aside from the five canals—the Farmers, the Mutual, the Minnate, the Enterprise and the Winters creek—which have already made crops here, there are now in actual construction the Castle Rock and Mitchell ditches, with the Belmont, the king of them all, 2 1/2 miles in length, a certainty, and the Highland and over the fence of the interested gentlemen. This is something new in the vicinity, although it has been discussed a great deal, and the experiment will be watched with absorbing interest.

A very hopeful indication of interest in irrigation development in the northwestern part of the state comes from Dawson county, and, we believe, the first undertaking of the kind in that section. Of this matter the Marsland Tribune speaks as follows: "The Marsland irrigation and improvement company was organized Wednesday with the following incorporators: L. Snow, B. H. Miller, J. C. Waeber, R. B. Geary, C. H. Richey, T. Lyons and George E. Austin. The capital stock is \$10,000, divided into shares of \$10 each. Of this temporary organization L. Snow is president and George E. Austin secretary. The day of the organization Secretary Austin notified Engineer Burke that his services would be called into requisition by the company to run a preliminary survey for the purpose of testing the practicability and feasibility of a ditch on the north side of the river. Mr. Burke is an experienced surveyor, his specialty being on irrigation work. It is to be hoped that the preliminary work will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible, so that the question of the irrigation of the country tributary to Marsland will be settled satisfactorily."

Next week's article will deal with the possibilities of the semi-arid region when irrigation is established, of the population it can maintain, the crops it can raise, the cities that will spring up, the railroads that will be required to meet the new demands of large settlement and assured prosperity.

WILLIAM E. SMYTHE.

The Absorbing Aborigine. "Then," said Mr. Tunderbolt, thrillingly, giving his western adventures, "the Indians stole upon us."

"And what did they do?" breathlessly asked a friend.

"Then they gradually stole everything else!"

WILL HELP THE ABORERS.

Extension of the Fire Limits a Boom to Brick Makers and Layers.

OMAHA'S BRICK AND STONE AGE IN SIGHT.

The Supply of Bricks on Hand and the Demand for Large Independent Yards—Local Labor News.

The bricklayers of Omaha are in unusual good spirits, in anticipation of a prosperous season in their line. Most of them view with pleasure the prospect presented by the fire limits, arguing that it will result in the erection of more brick and stone buildings next season than ever before.

In speaking upon this subject, a gentleman who occupies a high place in labor circles said yesterday: "This question has been discussed at the meetings of all the labor unions held during the past two months and is now the universal opinion that with the opening of spring people will be brought to realize that the year 1891 will be the brick and stone age for Omaha. The reason is simply this: Years before people could build with wood, and while it was some cheaper at the start it was ruinous to skilled labor. Our bricklayers being brought carpenters here by the score, many of them the poorest kind of workmen and before the season was half over the scale of wages went down to a point where there was scarcely a living."

"Of course the extension of the fire limits will not keep these men out of the city, but it will drive them to the outskirts. A man who up to 1890 received \$2.00 per week will now receive \$4.00 per week. Average cost of board and lodging (weekly) for Americans and Europeans, \$6.00; Portuguese and natives, \$8.00; Japanese about the same or a trifle less. Of John Chinaman's fare or its cost I can get no information."

National Association of Mechanists. At the last meeting of Omaha Lodge No. 31, National Association of Mechanists, the annual convention of officers was held with the following results: Master, machinist, J. S. Davis; foreman, Charles F. Seaton; recording secretary, A. H. Bonaventura, 1319 California street; financial secretary, M. D. Houck; treasurer, J. B. Hadfield; statistician, George H. Lewis; conductor, Charles Rodgers; inside sentinel, William Marquette; outside sentinel, J. S. Doldorfer; chaplain, William Higgins; postmaster, J. W. Davis.

The regular meetings of the order are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month at Gate No. 14. The order is in a flourishing condition, with a rapidly increasing membership, which is largely due to the untiring efforts of E. Easton, the deputy grand master machinist.

Typographical Delegates. This year the convention of the International Typographical union will be held in Boston, the date being the second Monday in June and as Omaha is entitled to two delegates there is being an active campaign waged for the position. At this time the following candidates are in the field: Frank (Fanny) L. Sherman, W. C. Boyer, William Maxwell and Arthur Pickering. The election of the delegates will be held on Wednesday, March 25, between the hours of noon and 7:30 p. m.

Labor News. The bricklayers' union in Wilmington, Del., will, it is stated, soon demand 45 cents per hour from the contractors. Forty-two cents are now paid.

L. A. 1702 New York city, has sent out circulars asking other labor organizations to demand of the legislature that the factory inspection laws be improved.

About three hundred and fifty girls employed in the J. K. Pine factory of the United States shirt and collar company in Troy, N. Y., have quit work, owing to dissatisfaction with a new schedule of rates.

The sanitary potter presses met last week in Trenton, N. J., and unanimously rejected the manufacturers' reduction of wages. The men claimed that there ought to be an increase instead of reduction.

The labor organization of Switzerland asked the government of that country to increase its annual appropriation for the labor bureau to \$240,000. The undersigned opposed the increase, but it was granted by the nationalrat.

The Scotland rolling mills and pipe works and the Charlotte furnace at Scotland, Pa., have shut down indefinitely. One thousand men are thrown out of employment. Next week the rolling mill company will close 1,200 ovens in the vicinity.

In England the monthly dues in the Bookbinders' union are \$2, and a man is entitled to \$5.50 a week when out of work and 2 cents a mile for every mile he travels in search of employment, until he has drawn \$10, when he can get no more for a year.

In London the hack drivers hire the improved cabs for 10 shillings (\$4 per day), except during "the season," when the owners exact a guinea per day, a trifle over \$5. The fare for two passengers for a drive of a couple of miles is 25 cents; by the hour it is 62 cents.

According to the labor statistics of Missouri, just published by Commissioner Lee McWhorter, it appears that where girls and boys are largely employed in that state the average wages of men are less than \$1 per day, where they are not, children employed, the average is about \$2.50.

Pittsburg tinmen will ask eight hours on June 1. They recently decided that all journeymen members of the Mosaic and Executive tinlayers' unions shall receive not less than \$1 a day. Helpers shall receive \$1.50 a day for the first year, \$1.75 a day for the second year and \$2 a day for the third year.

A telegram from Pittsburgh says that thirty coal mines along the Monongahela river are now idle on account of the strike for an advance of 15 cent per bushel in the price of mining. About three thousand men are out, and the strikers claim the strike will be general in a few days. The operators say they will not grant the advance, and have arranged for an indefinite suspension of operations.

A telegram from Buffalo says that General Superintendent Bell of the Western New York & Pennsylvania railroad has granted his firemen an advance of a little over 10 per cent in wages, equalized the rights of the firemen in providing for impartial trials on all charges, and guaranteed full pay for the time they remain suspended or discharged when an investigation shows that the men are blameless.

A dispatch from Augusta says that Labor Commissioner Matthews has completed his statistics about the abandoned farms in Maine. Out of the 602 cities, towns and plantations in the state returns were received from 497, and the number of abandoned farms reported aggregated 3,316. There are 315 cities which report one or more abandoned farms, while 184 report none. The total acreage of these farms is 254,311, and these are valued for taxation at \$34,799, an average of \$4.96 an acre.

A joint conference of the coke operators and miners' representatives of the Connellsville region in Pennsylvania last week considered the demands of the miners. The latter asked an eight-hour day, weigh scales erected at all tipping, and a total reduction of 10 per cent on the price of coke. The coke interests were largely represented, and refused flatly to even consider the men's demands, pleading the reduction in coke the depressed state of trade as an excuse. The employers will have until February 6 to decide.

Brickmakers' Convention. The fifth annual convention of the National brick manufacturers' association of North America convened in Indianapolis, Ind., Monday of last week and was attended by 200 delegates, almost every state in the union being represented. The first day of the convention was devoted to receiving the visitors and assigning them to their respective hotels.

Tuesday the convention assembled in the board of trade hall, where T. B. McAvoy of Philadelphia, the retiring president of the association, spoke on the "Business of the Brickmaking is one of the largest and most important industries in the country. There is scarcely a branch of industry in which the brickmaker is not interested and his product has a universal use equalled, probably only by iron and steel."

In his report on the brick business in 1890 the convention will represent a working capital of something over \$50,000,000. They meet for the purpose of exchanging ideas and opinions relative to their business and for the good. Until the beginning of the last decade brickmaking had made less progress than any other branch of the building trades. It was made by hand and in the same way and by practically the same method as in the time of Pharaoh. Then the age of brickmaking machinery began and the industry progressed made slow progress, owing to the lack of co-operation among the craft. An Indianapolis man would spend thousands of dollars in exporting his machinery to America, only to find, later, perhaps, that a man in St. Louis, Chicago or Omaha had arrived at the same end by his own efforts. The result was that work and organization became imperative. Then the National brick manufacturers' association came into existence, and since its organization, where there are no children employed, the business has been almost revolutionized."

In the convention Omaha and Nebraska were represented by Richard Smith, president of the builders' exchange of this city.

Wednesday evening the election of officers was held and resulted in Justice C. Adams of Indianapolis being elected president and Richard Smith of Omaha first vice president. On Thursday, the last day of the convention, the members indulged in an excursion to Marion and other points, where many of them, for the first time, witnessed the process of drying and burning brick with natural gas.

The Knights in Hawaii. We have just organized a friendly society. The name is native one, and signifies brotherhood and, in fact, everything good. Owing to my inability to absent myself from my work (I am foreman on the little railroad here), I had to forego the meeting, writes J. E. Sheahan, who recently went to Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, in the interests of the Knights of Labor cause. The hall was secured for us by one of the officers of the road, who is also a member, I am told, of the Oddfellows' lodge where we held the meeting. I am not a member of a speaker, but after reading the general master workman's requirements of length and the declaration of principles, Brother Townsend addressed the meeting briefly, and, as well as I was able, explained the aims and objects of the order. There were 20,000 strong here, and now hold 11 per cent of the dry licensees, 30 per cent of the butchers' licenses, 25 per cent of the saloon licenses, 28 per cent of the hack licenses, 38 per cent of the horse hiring license (hired saddle horses), 57 per cent of the wholesale sale licenses, 62 per cent of the retail merchandise licenses, 84 per cent of the victualizing licenses, 92 per cent of the porter licenses, 96 per cent of the pastry and cake business. There are at the present time, according to the voters' registry, 700 mechanics and skilled laborers of Hawaiian and foreign birth, and about the same number of

Chinese competing with them. If you want a house, a wagon, a table, or a horse shoe made, John is right there; and if you wish to invest in a Sunday-go-to-meeting-pair-of-trousers, made in an English or German tailor, and, ten cents to one, when they come home you will find the shop mark in hieroglyphics on the waist-band. You pay \$1.00 for the hat, but the hatmaker gets \$1 for making them. It is a surprise to me to see these men making all kinds and styles of ladies' and children's under and overwear, and the wives of mechanics and mechanics tell me they can buy them cheaper than they could make them. Next in number come the Portuguese, numbering 12,000, 60 per cent of whom can neither read nor write, but they are without a moral, industrious and law-abiding people. They are not Portuguese proper, but come principally from the colonies of that nation in the island of the African coast. Next come the Japanese, 9,000 in number. They are hard-working and intelligent, but their fellow Asians with a strong feeling of nationality. Unlike the Italian and the Chinese, the Japanese has the American habits and customs, even to getting drunk and gambling. The police, the representative of their government here looks keenly after their interests, and they themselves offer a determined resistance to anything like bad treatment. The country population has not made the progress their natural intelligence and fine educational facilities might lead a stranger to expect. They are, in fact, with the exception of the mixed bloods, they cut no figure in the trades, commerce or the professions. They number forty or forty-five in Omaha, and are more of a moral than the strong weakness they acquire for sandpaper skin is decimating them far more quickly and sure than the dreadful spray of which you read so much about. The climate is something fine; in fact, it approaches the equable temperature of San Diego, Cal., more nearly than any other place I have lived in. It may be too cool in winter, but during the summer the trade winds blow steadily and coolly. Wages here are not on a very high scale. The bricklayer receives from \$3.50 per day. Unskilled labor—Portuguese, Kanaka, Japanese or Chinese—\$1 to \$1.50 per day. Mechanics' hours, nine; unskilled laborers nine and a half hours on Saturday. Average cost of board and lodging (weekly) for Americans and Europeans, \$6.00; Portuguese and natives, \$8.00; Japanese about the same or a trifle less. Of John Chinaman's fare or its cost I can get no information.

Three little kittens, soiled their mittens, And didn't know what to do; Till a wise old friend, The SANTA CLAUS SOAP, Did recommend. When these little kittens, washed their mittens With this SOAP of amber hue, Quickly vanished each stain, And their mittens again Were as bright and soft as new.



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During his several months location and practice in Omaha, Dr. Dillings has earned an enviable reputation among the hundreds of citizens who regard him almost as a last resort, and found in his skillful ministrations the relief of long suffering.

He is permanently located and has the best appointed and most conveniently located physical office and reception rooms in Omaha.

He has a large force of assistants and a physician and a sympathetic friend and advisor.

For the treatment of the following named diseases: RHEUMATISM, GOUT, GRAVEL, CALCULI, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, etc., he is the only one who has proved himself possessed of no unusual skill.

Other Diseases—Such as old sores, malignant ulcers, tumors, cancers, hives, troubles, asthma, epilepsy, St. Vitus dance, milk leg, chronic constipation and chronic diarrhoea are cured.

THE COMPLEXION—The most unguightly and muddy complexion quickly freshened and beautified.

FOR OFFENSIVE BREATH—A permanent cure.

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Dr. Dillings prepares and dispenses his own medicines, which are largely selected from nature's healing plants, herbs, roots, mushrooms, etc. No mineral drugs given.

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\$50. LOOK! \$50. MONTEKEY AND MEXICAN GULF R. R. runs diagonally across the States of Colorado, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, Old Mexico, from the port of Tampico to the port of Tampico, it is known as the TAMPICCO ROUTE.

ATA Insurance Company. FISCHER'S ICE TOOLS. Double Markers, Plows with Lifting Gears, Tongs, Bars and Fischer's Improved Ice Hooks.

Losses Paid in 72 Years \$66,271,000. ASSETS JANUARY 1, 1891. Cash Capital, 4,000,000.00; Reserve, re-insurance, 2,286,029.50; Reserve, re-insurance, 25,071.48; Reserve, unpaid losses, 20,314.21; Reserve, unearned premium, 9,777.81; Other claims, 61,290.62; Net Surplus, 3,427,756.62.

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Three little kittens, soiled their mittens.

And didn't know what to do; Till a wise old friend, The SANTA CLAUS SOAP, Did recommend.