IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA.

A Study of the Splendid Convention in the Southwestern Section.

IRRIGATION PRODUCES A CROP OF FACTS.

How Land is Increased in Value by the Method-Its Bearings on Cities and Towns-Prof Hicks Talks Science.

ARTICLE V.

After McCook, the Sidney convention After Sidney, a great mass meeting at Lincoln to give a ringing endorsement to the bill to be drafted for presentation to the legisla-

That is the programme for the immediates future, as outlined by the splendid gathering at McCook during the past week. Everybody recognizes that a comprehensive state law must be the basis of a general system of irrigation in Nebraska-that capital will not embark in an effort to develop the western half of the state unless it can be assured that justice will be guaranteed to all interested parties, and that canals will be constructed and the water supply guarded under the supervision of a competent state engineer. The McCook couvention undoubtedly spoke the sentiment of the state when it emphatically declared in favor of a state engineer, the division of the state into water districts, and the preparation of drainage maps as the basis for intelligent investment and development.

Nothing that could be written at this and importance to the movement as a study of the convention at McCook. It represented a district of large area, which has been settled mostly by homesteaders and is now dotted with promising towns. When it was thrown open to settlement nobody dreamed that irrigation was necessary or desirable. To say so amounted to a slander. But experience has taught the people that irrigation is necessary. Agitation and discussion have brought them to believe that that is a fortunate country which has opportunities of irrigation and proceeds to utilize them. The fact is beginning to be seen that out of the ashes of last year's devastated fields there may arise a greater prosperity and a nobler civilization than exists today in any section which depends upon the rainfail for the basis of its agriculture.

Inventors and manufacturers have harnessed steam and electricity and made them the docile servants of their will. Now the western farmer proposes to domesticate the water supply and lead it in a thousand threads of silver over his arid acres. What other path of development is open to Nebraska! She has neither mines nor forests. Her natural wealth is a rich soil and a superb climate. To make the most of these is the only road to prosperity And at least one-half of the state is now engaged in an effort to accomplish this on a grand scale.

It was in this spirit that the farmers and business men of ten southwestern counties assembled in convention at McCook. The speeches and proceedings are therefore of the greatest moment.

I -JUDGE COCHRAN AND GOVERNOR FURNAS. Judge J. E. Cochran of the Eleventh judicial district, had evidently closely studied the relation of the general government to irrigation enterprises in the west. He stated that he had had a considerable correspondence with senators and members of congress, and that his latest advices were to the effect that the government would render no assistance, at least for a generation, In a very vigorous speech he denied the theory that the government had no power to act in this matter.

He reviewed the history of legislation since 1838 and said that in that time congress had appropriated multiplied millions to make the farms of central and southern states fit for agriculture. He cited particularly the cases of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, which in that time had received 4,500,000 acres to assist in building canals to drain their land. He also quoted similar instances in regard to swamp lands in the south and analyzed the river and harbor bill, recently passed, as another example that congress had both the power and disposition to assist in such works of internal improvement. "If the government for fifty years past has done this," said Judge Cochran, "it has power to help to make the arid regions of the west fit for habitation and put them in a position to increase the national wealth." The convention in its resolutions proed congress to turn over the arid public lands to the several states for irrigation purposes and on the second day of its session declared in favor of a direct appropriation.

Hon. Robert W. Furnas, alone of the men who have enjoyed the highest bonor in the wift of Nebraska, continues to be a prominent figure in all movements aiming to develop her resources and increase the prosperity of her people. The warm greeting which he re-2cived in McCook showed that he was still one of the best loved, as well as one of the most conspicuously useful citizens of the state. In his interesting address he referred to the well known fact that he favored irrigation more than thirty years ago, when it was not safe to intimate that such a thing was necessary. He rejoiced that the time had come when the doctrine fell on willing ears. He said that western Nebraska had a fine soil and plenty of water, if it is looked up and properly cared for. Healluded to the need of legislation which would give proper assurance to investors in regard to the management of the water supply. He also described his observations in California when he was acting for the goverument, and gave some rather startling figures of crops now raised in that state in a valley that was desolate until brought under Irrigation. In closing, the governor urgently suggested the need of a mass convention a Lincoln, to impress the legislature with the size and importance of the movement.

H-PROFESSOR BICKS' LUCID SPEECH, There is one quiet and scholarly man, of eminent scientific attainments, who has for five years been proving the soil, sampling the water and ascertaining its extent, in western Nebraska. This is Professor Lewis E. Hicks of the geological department in the state university. During that period he has been urging that irrigation was desirable, but has found the people unwilling to listen to his arguments. His appearance at the McCook convention, however, was a signal for hearty applause, and both farmers and business men were ready to listen with eager cars to a sci entific explanation of their resources.

"Save the water you have and make the most of it," was the text of his address. He urged the people to first make the most of the water that is in sight, assuring them that they would find an abundant supply underground when they needed it. He had care fully examined the Republican river, both with reference to its surface and its underflow. He stated that the surface water in that river was usually sufficient to irrigate 100,000 acres, while the underflow could be made to furnish water for at least one million more. He answered one question about which there had been many anxious enquiries, by stating that there is no divide in the valley of the Republican or the Frenchman which was not susceptible of irrigation if the streams were tapped at the right place. He also described what could

be easily done in the valley of those rivers. Confining himself closely to his text, as to the wisdom of making the most of every drop of surface water, he explained the plan of coastructing storage basins or reservoirs to retain the water during the months when it would not be needed for irrigation. He stated that very many canons or ravines, having a large drainage area, could at slight cost be lammed up and made very useful as storage These would be filled by the ecasional heavy rain, the melting snow, or natural springs. If used in this way a vast amount of water would be saved which now runs almost entirely to waste.

In connection with this branch of the subject he explained how this system, available at slight cost to many farmers, could be made to do good service in a double sense. In the first place the presence of a sheet of water n such a basin would greatly enrich the soil by the process of silting, similar to that in the valley of the Nile. Such a basin would be wonderfully productive, and if it were an alkall soit the water would cure it and a rich soil gradually be built up. Furthermore, the water which had already performed this useful function could be drawn off by a simple plan of ditches, and turned upon the arid acres. He cautioned farmers, however, against making the mistake of trying to dam up every draw without regard to its supply

of water. The professor gave an interesting descrip ion of ancient irrigation on the Nile. He stated that under such a system as existed here a farmer would make more money off a single acre than on an entire section under resent conditions in southwestern Nebraska. He then dwelt upon the difference between intensive farming as practiced in Europe, and ompared it with the extensive farming of the

west. A unique feature of his address was time would be of such interest his statement of the effect of irrigation on the social life of the people. When a farmer begins to realize the value of water and to cultivate a small number of acres intensely, rather than a large number promiscuously, his acres take on a cleaner and neater appearance. He cannot allow the common weeds, with vorarious appetite, to eat up the precious mois ture with which he fertilizes his ground. The result is a model farm, so far as the land is concerned. Following this, as a natural consequence, he wants a better barn, a better louse, more of the comforts of life for him self and family. His increased profits enable him to have these things, and the result has been, wherever irrigation has been success fully introduced, that social life has gained great deal and that the farmers as a class have risen in the scale of civilization.

Another practical suggestion in the profes or's address related to the treatment of the soil in a manner that would make the rainfall most beneficial. He stated that a large por tion of the natural rainfall goes to waste be cause the hard prairie sod is not broken, and that when it is the plow does not go deep enough. The soil should be plowed two fee deep so that it would absorb and hold the moisture and be less susceptible to the action of the sun. He strongly advised the convention that it could not depend on the government to develop Nebraska, but it must rely on the energy of its own people and the attractions which it can hold out to invest-

The great importance of Prof. Hicks address in the fact that lies he has recently investigated the lion and water supply of southwestern Nebraska under the auspices of the general government. He has demonstrated by scientific methods that the section of the state which suffered most from the recent drouth may be made to blossom into assured prosperity by irrigation.

III .- THE TALK OF A PRACTICAL MAN. The members of the convention enjoyed a rare treat in the speech of Mr. B. F. Babcock of Garden City, Kas. He is not only skilled in engineering, but the principal owner of the largest irrigation enterprises in Kansas. He is, moreover, a much traveled and cultivated gentleman, and his speech was therefore interesting from several stand

He stated that irrigation is not only the most practical question in Nebraska, but also the most interesting agricultural problem i all parts of the world. From a personal knowledge of all the states of the union, and most of the countries of Europe, he could testify that the most profitable farming in the world was done by means of irrigation. This was the fact because under natural conditions agriculture is not a certainty. Under irrigation it is an absolute certainty, because you control the water that makes your crop. He suggested that when the enterprise was finally under way in Nebraska it would be well to bring practical farmers from Colorado, Utah and other sections where irrigation is practiced, to teach the best method of applying it. He stated that the farmer possessing forty acres under a good system of irrigation is wealthier than the farmer with 160 acres, dependent on

natural rainfall. One feature of Mr. Babcock's address, which will interest the owners of realty, was his statement of the effect of irrigation on the value of lands. He said that he once addressed letters to the county cierks of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and California, asking them to state the value of farm land before irrigation was introduced, and afterwards. Averaging the results of his inquiries, he found that lands in these states had increased from five to eight times in value. The original value of the land was the government price, \$1.25 an acre. Afterirrigation, districts remote from large cities were worth from \$25 to \$50 an scre, while in the vicinity of Denver they were worth from \$100 to \$150 an acre, and in parts of California it was quoted as high as \$350 an acre. He predicted that if the time ever comes when any county can show 100,000 acres under irrigation it would be the richest county in Ne braska, excepting only Douglas and Lan-

caster. He dwelt also upon the vast importance to the cities in the state of a prosperous surrounding country. If the farmers are not making money and doing their share to increase the wealth of the country, it is useless to hope for the growth of large cities and towns. For this reason the success of the present movement is not less important to the residents of cities and towns than to the farmers themselves. They are all in the same

boat and must stand or fall together. Having had large experience in operating upon the Arkansas river in Kansas, he could testify that rivers of the same character in Nebraska were capable of supplying unbounded facilities for irrigation. He is interested in the Culbertson ditch, and expects to see it in practical operation this spring.

In private conversation Mr. Babcock said that he had no doubt that ample private capital would flow in if the laws were made to conform to the best features of the Colorado and Wyoming statutes. As a citizen of Kanses he is anxious to have a large delegation from that state attend the mass convention at Lincoln and get inspiration for a similar campaign at home.

One of the most interesting speeches of the convention was made by the gentleman who is widely known as "Buffalo" Jones. Having constructed most of the ditches in Kansas and operated to some extent in Nebraska, he predicted the complete success of the project in this state and gave many valuable suggestions of a practical nature.

Senator Koontz and Representative Ruggies represented the legislature at the con-

vention. IV-RESULTS OF THE CONVENTION.

vention were of the most important nature. It constituted the formal inauguration of a campaign destined to be crowned with a vic tory speedy and complete. As such it will

be a bright page in the history of Nebraska. The resolutions, which have been printed in full in Tax Bez, represent the programme of the movement. The western part of the state is solid for a state irrigation engineer, for the division of the state into water districts, and the preparation of a complete sys tem of maps, showing the water sheds and the nature of the streams. When these laws have been secured the movement must undertake to interest capital in these enterprises, and thus realize the fruits of the agitation.

The appointment of Messrs, LeHew Meeker and Morse as a committee to repre sent the southwestern part of the state, in conjunction with a like committee to be appointed at Sidney, secures a high order of ability for a service, which will aim at the drafting of a bill which, it is hoped, will be a model for other states to pattern after.

Thousands of people who have now lively concern in the progres of the movement will await the results of the big convention at Sidney next Saturday with a keen interest.

On page fourteen of this issue of THE Bur there is published a full account of the Immense progress made in Scott's Bluff WILLIAM E. SMYTHE.

RETALIATION.

Munsey's Weekly. With fickle heart and love he spoke To almost every girl be met, And to the fact at last awoke That each one was against him set.

His bachelor life devoid of joy, His cheerless days I dare not limn-He treated Cupid as a toy And Cupid has made game of him.

ODDS AND ENDS

A man in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania catches rabbits with a hook and line. The sultan of Turkey has attached to his dy guard a soldier who is 110 years old. During 1890 railroad property of a face value of \$282,500,000 was foreclosed or went inth

Dr. Cruice of St. Joseph's hospital, Philadelphia, says that delirium tremens is de-creasing in this country. The cost to the state of Massachusetts of

the hands of receivers.

rinting and distributing 1,000,000 ballots at the last election was only \$8,953.39. There are twenty six monarchies and twen ty-five republics in the civilized world. Six

teen republies are in South America. A fine of \$5 for the benefit of the pension fund of firemen is imposed on every house in New York where a chimney burns out. A New Hampshire saloonkeeper was re-cently tried on 1,000 distinct charges, and was convicted on 715 The aggregate of his

ies was \$8,000. An Atchison, Kan., woman got up in her leep, lit a lamp, and went to sewing. After working quite a while she ran the needle is

r finger and awoke. Polly Ann Collins, twelve years and three months old, married Jesse L. Donahue, a wid-ower thirty-three years old, at St. Helens, Ky., with the full consent of her parents.

The Board of Underwriters of New York ound that the heating apparatus of sixty six churches in the city were defective and liable to cause dangerous fires at any time One of the latest things in church fairs is a bazaar held in Edinburgh, Scotland, for the purpose of raising funds to provide accomlations for ladies who faint during church services.

Chief of Police Marsh of Chicago estimates that there are between 4,000 and 5,000 men in the city unable to obtain work, and fears that many of them will be driven to crime through want. Adding the first figure to the second i

1891 gives us the third, and subtracting the fourth from the third gives us the second And if we add all the figures we get th number of the century. Four educated Apache Indians have been arrested at Solomonville, Ariz., for connection with the forging of Captain Bullis' name

to a government check for \$125. The quartet is addicted to poker maying. Seward Clayton, born October 16, 1709, died this morning at his home near Savannah, Ga. Around his death-bed stood five sons, each of whom was six feet three inches in height. Mr. Clayton was a prosperous planter.

Near Camilla, Ga., there is a justice of th peace who uses the oath to witnesses as fol-lows: "The evidence you shall give in this case shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and pay all costs, so help you God." A beggars' journal has been started a

Paris, and it is said, meets with success The cost of a number is 2 cents, and it contains articles on the best methods of pursuing the business and advertisements of use to those soliciting charity. A burgler who stole two coats, an un

rella and other articles from a St. Louis residence the other night, ate a hearty luncheon before his departure, and left be-hind this note: "Thankful for what I got, but wish you had more to give." Emma Wilson of New York, nine years old, was in the habit of drinking water from

the copper faucet in her mother's kitchen. A few days ago she was taken sick and died and the physician said the cause of her death was arsenite of copper poisoning, resulting from her habit of putting her mouth over th Charles Dennis, a good looking white man

and Victoria Dozier, a full blooded colored woman, were arrested in Opelika, Ala. Den-nis is a substantial farmer of Mariwether county, Georgia, with a wife and a family of five children. He became enamored of Vic-toria, who was his wife's cook, and was eloping with her to Texas, William Munson, a hermit, was found dead

in his hut, near Arnoid's Station, Conn. His body was removed by relatives, but the lat ter did not trouble themselves to examine the hut, supposing it contained nothing of value. Subsequently as party of young men visited the shauty, and after a short investigation turned up bank books and bonds valued at \$7,000. Mrs. Stuff, who was familiarly called Aunt Kate, died at Greencastle, Pa., a few days ago

She was almost ninety-eight years of age at the time of her death, and up to within a few days before the happening of that event had not drank or tasted water since she was a little girl. Aunt Kate insisted that "water wasn't healthy," and drank tea and coffee Maude Deneau of Lockport, N. Y., twenty one years old and less than four feet high, was married to a tail, siender young ma-

est married woman in the state. She is of French parentage and very handsome, with dark hair and eyes. She was cast off by her parents because she gave up her religion ing a Catholic, to marry the man of her Dr. Tremblay of Windsor Mills, Quebec, a few nights ago took a dose of poison in mis take for a preparation for asthma from which he suffered. He tried every means to counteract the poison, but failed, after which he went to a priest, made his confession, re-ceived the sacrament, made his will, and

then went home and died in great agony is

ed John Argue. Mrs. Argue is the

presence of his young wife and three The family of a man named Anderson, re siding at Lyon Mountain, Clinton county, N. Y., has been greatly afflicted. Last week Anderson's wife died from typhoid fever, and a thirteen-year-old daughter also died from the same disease. On the way to the funeral the ten-year-old son of Mr. Anderson was kicked by a horse and the lad's leg was broken. Another daughter died of fever Wednesday of this week, and two remaining children, a boy and a girl, are sick from the

The origin of the National Marine band at Washington is most curious. Nearly one hundred years ago a yankee captain kidnapped a strolling troop of musicians on the shores of the Bay of Naples and brought them to this country. From this handful of Italians the band was developed. The descendants of these stolen Italians are now among the wealthiest people of Washington. Some of them are prominent lawyers and others have their names connected with the others have their nam es connected with the kest known hotels and the largest real estate offices in the capital city.

Dr. Birney cures catarrh, Bee bldg.

At Pittsburg man has patented a bicycle to work by hand power. The advantages claimed over the rational type are lightness, The practical results of the McCook con- speed and concentrated power.

WATER ABSOLUTELY NEEDED.

Inter-State Conference for Adoption of Plans to Make Arid Lands Fertile.

FORTUNES MADE FROM IRRIGATION.

Significant Comparison from California's Test-Colorado's Future Depends on an Artificial Water Supply.

No other subject of equal importance to the west with irrigation is likely to be considered in the present session of congress or the Kansas legislature, declares the Topeka Capital Upon this problem of irrigation the future of the western portion of Kansas is almost entirely dependent, and the chances of its solution in the near future are rendered favorable by the general interest, both scientific and popular, taken in the subject. Kansas cannot afford to see her western plains depopu lated because of drouth while it is possible by irrigation to make that section a marvel of productiveness. The Capital is cordially in sympathy with the approaching convention called to discuss this topic, and we further more believe that the time has arrived for the calling of an interstate convention for the ame purpose

The results of such a convention may be appreciated by a glasce at the deep harbor work now about to begin at Galveston, due to the demands of western states set forth in 1889 at the Topeks convention. The west has reached the position where her demands are heard and heeded at Washington. The united petitions of Kansas, Colorado, Ne braska, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Texas, Oklahoma and the Indian territory would secure promptaction at the hands of congress; and Kansas, by reason of her prominence as a leader in the new west and of her advanced position as an advocate of irriga-tion, is the proper state to issue the call for the convention. In the judgment of the Capital, the time has come for the issue of In endorsing these views the Lincoln Jour-

nal makes these observations: Nebraska will need less irrigation probably than any of the states to the south and west, but our people can afford to expend a grent deal of time and money to encourage the construc-tion of comprehensive irrigation systems in Kansas, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico and the indian territory. When the aridity of the southwestern plains is conquered the destructive hot winds will no longer harass the settlers in the western counties. braska will heartily join in the movement for an interstate irrigation convention.

From a bulletin just issued by the Los Angeles chamber of commerce some very signifi-

cant comparisons are drawn between the profits from farming where irrigation is used and those where artifical means for propaga-tion of crops are not resorted to. Here are some examples: From 185 peach trees Mr. Lattin cleared \$1,056.80. Another man cleared \$674.65 from four acres of trees. Another man cleared \$38 from 190 trees, six years old. Another man from ten acres cleared \$800. Another man from two acres \$400. The lesser profits are from trees not irrigated. Mr. Dewey cleared \$2,734 from six acres of prines. Another man from eight acres of irrigated—cleared \$900. Another man cleared \$55.60 from one-third of an acre. Another one cleared \$150 from 100 trees. Mr. Holden, from 2,000 trees planted in 1889, sold \$714 worth. Another man cleared \$100 from eighty apricot trees. From ten acres on an other place \$375 net was made. Still another from three acres made a profit of 781. One man from four acres of land made a profit of \$250 from tomatoes. From three and a half acres of oranges Mr. Nixou made a pet profit of \$2,225. George Hanna sold from five acres, his oranges on the tree at a profit of \$900; in the same way peanuts yielded a profit of \$50 to \$200 per acre. Another man sold from one and a half acres fourteen tons of alialfa at a net profit of \$72. Another man from half an acre of strawberries cleared \$190.11. Another man made a profit of \$307 from an acre of

Chances in Nebraska.

Numerous petitions to the legislature are being circulated in Chappell asking the state o do something for western Nebruska in the matter of irrigation. If the state would take hold of this enterprise it would give the people employment and there would be no further need of shipping charity goods to this county, says a correspondent. Irrigation would be the means of adding several million of dollars worth of property to the state. It would only be a short time before the state would get its money back in the way of in-

Deuel county has a solld tract of land 20x30 miles in extent and comprises nearly four hundred thousand acres of the finest land and richest soil in Nebraska, Under irrigation it is capable of the highest state of cultivation and immense crops of every variety could be raised, and instead of the state get-ting a tax on land assessed at \$2 per acre it would receive a revenue from land valued as \$40 or \$50. Farmers have tried to farm ther for the last five years and have worn away that many years of their life without realiz-ing from their labors the stern necessities of All this could be obviated by the state taking hold of the matter and causing ditches to be taken from the North Platte river that would cause the water to be spread over the

There is an abundance of water in the North Platte river and the only thing needed is capi tal to take hold and push the enterprise to completion. It would be far better for the legislature to appropriate \$100,000 for something of this kind than to spend half the amount on a whim

trying to keep from recognizing a duly elected

governor. Big New Mexican Scheme.

A party of civil engineers and surveyors of the Rio Grande irrigation and colonization company outfitted at Albuquerque, N. M. , and left to establish the source of the big ditch and to locate a dam for an immense reservoir. They were joined at Bernalillo by Mr. Anderson, a hydraulic engineer from Denver, Colo., and then set out for the mouth of the Santa Ana river.
They will follow up the stream for about

fifteen miles to a very high but narrow can-yon. This will be dammed and from here the source of the ditch to irrigate millions of cres, now arid, will commence. Colonel P. 3. Smith of New York, who has built several big ditches, is managing the scheme. which a number of eastern capitalists are interested.

Big Colorado Pipe Line. There is a tract of land between eight and

twelves miles from Canon City, Colo., that ought to be brought under cultivation, says the Record. Surveys have been made of a canal-also of a pine line and reservoir site. The surveys will be a matter of record in the United States land office as soon as the United States survey of the Arkansas drainage basin is finished. The land lies in one whole body and is a deep red, sandy loam. There are about two thousand acres, mostly government land. The reservoir site has an area of eighty acres; will average, when completed, about sixteen feet in depth for the eatire area. The reservoir will be thirty-five feet deep in deepest point. The pine line pro-posed is 16,000 feet in length and has a fall of over sixty feet. Pipe can be laid in a trend of sufficient capacity running the year round to irrigate the land at a cost that makes the investment for revenue a good one. A com-pany has been organized and all rights are secured that are necessary to prosecute the work

Profits in Utah.

J. H. White told the Salt Lake Tribune hat on his ranch of 380 acres near Kaysville they have cut as high as seven tons of alfalfa hay in a season and sold it at \$14 per ton making \$98 per acre. He further says that so much of the farm as could be irrigated has been tilled, and it has also been grazed by his stock. He estimates that the entire farm has been paying 10 per cent on a basis of \$200 per acre. Among the big crops raised was named that of last season, when oats averaged sinety-six bushels per acre, and two years

before the average was 110 bushels. Regarding irrigation, one gentleman said he raised a big crop of potatoes last season on two acres, irrigated by an artesian well, with a two-

inch casing. All Depends on Water.

In what was regarded as a portion of the great American desert, as the plains country was called on the maps of fifty years ago, there are now approximately 1,500,000 acres under cultivation, producing last year a crop valued at \$42,500,000; 10,000 miles of main irrigating canals, and 1,500,000 acres more land which these ditches can water which yet awaits the labor of the farmer, says the

But how about the country which lies be youd the point where irrigation with present facilities can be carried! What of the socalled run belt of eastern Colorado! section agriculture has been attempted without irrigation and the result has not been en-couraging. While it may be possible in occasional seasons to raise a crop, he experience of five or six years the experience of five or six years has shown that the average rainfall is insufficient for crop purposes. The difference be-tween farming with irrigation and farming without it in Colorado is shown by the difference in the two communities—the former has produced over \$40,000,000 and has an abundnce; the latter is suffering from widespread destitution and want. Evidently some means must be devised to supply water for the eastra portion of the state, and the work is one which should engage the attention of the fed-eral government which has sold these arid ands to the settlers. As the rains are not to e depended on, artesian wells or the overow of the streams must be resorted to, and he state legislature should direct the attenion of the national government to the fact,

Comments and Suggestions.

Beaver City Tribune: The last issue of THE ONAHA BEE contains maps and a description of the irrigating ditches now in use n western Nebraska. Some of their ditches are long- ones and have cost many thousand dollars. Private enterprise, so far, has been the only mover in the matter. Whereever tried success has followed and the dry arid plain has been turned into a garden. s more available water in Beaver county han in any other territory of similar area in the west and it will not be long until it will cutilized or we miss our guess.
Culbertson Sun: The B & M. railroad

company are taking an interest in irrigation for southwestern Nebraska, and say that they will do all in their power to secure the

Rocky Ford, Colo., Enterprise: The plo-neers who constructed the Rocky Ford and Catlin canais, thereby demonstrating the possibilities of this great and fertile valley, descrive great credit. Thousands of families will make beautiful homes in the country these pioneers have shown to be the garder spot of Colorado.

Chimney Rock Transcript: Within sight of this office there are six different and separate irrigation companies at work as we write, and we believe each company will have water running within the next year. Bayard is the very center of the best pros pective irrigation ecuntry in Nebraska.

Pueblo Chieftain: Let no man who de-sires to depend upon cultivating the soil for a livelihood in Colorado be feel enough to setle upon land which is not susceptible of ar the upon man which is not susceptable of ar-thicial irrigation. With a good ditch and a plentiful supply of water, his crop will come if properly cultivated and cared for with a certainty which is unknown in countries which depend on the natural rainfall, but without those necessities the farmer will find his lot anything but a happy one and his chances for obtaining a livelihood from the soil poor indeed. Under the ditches in the Arkansas and San Luis valleys there are thousands of acres of land which can be irri-gated. These are the localities in which farmers should settle, and the return for their labor will be certain and abundant. Holyoke, Colo., Herald: The Champion

Valley water power and irrigation company has made a proposition to put in eighteen miles of irrigation ditch in Champion pre cinct, Chase county, Nebraska, for \$5,000 in precinct bonds. The water is to be taken from the Frenchman river, and it is claimed that the proposed ditch will irrigate at least 7,000 acres of land. If the people just over the state line in Nebraska have so much faith in the water supply of the Frenchman, it cer-tainly would be a wise move on the part of the citizens of Phillips county to make a thorough investigation as to the amount of water that could be obtained from the rivers in this county. If the river furnishes water enough in Chase county to irrigate on the scale that is proposed, there is certainly no good reason why sufficient water cannot be obtained from gate on a more limited scale. Why not inst gate this matter!

Gering Courier: Scotts Binff county would have been long before this time as complete a collapse as many of her neighbors, were it not for the canal enterprise, and the certainty We have been undergoing a course of sprouts in the way of hard times, it is true, but underneath it all lies the universal feeling o confidence which buoys up the settler and causes him to cling to his interests in the fair valley of the Platte with a stubbornness born only of the irrigation spirit.

Progress and Plans.

The Minatare canal company of Box Butte county has purchased an Austin ditching machine which they expect to arrive at Alli ance within a few days. It is of the latest improved pattern.
Gering Courier: The survey party of the

new farmers' canal are now down as far as Highland precinct, which makes about sixty miles of the line. They expect to finish up sometime next week. The construction and straightening out of the ditch matters have been completed. The construction company has decided to advance \$10,000 and also to ssume the expenses of the first survey.

Concerning the carrying on of farming

operations on a gigantic scale the San Lui valley will hold first place in Colorado this year as in 1890, says the Saguache Herald The companies under the general manage ment of T. C. Henry will farm all told, under the San Luis and Empire canals, 45,000 acres. It is possible this area may be in-creased by from 2,000 to 6,000 acres if the spring opens favorably. At this rate of improvement there soon will be no raw land under these ditches, and this is the great beneficial end to gain.

White Sulphur Springs water and electric company, to supply the town of White Sulphur Springs, Mont., with water for domestic and manufacturing purposes, and to irrigate land adjacent to the pipe line which will conduct the water into town, has been incorporated. The incorporators are Thomas S. Ash. B. R. Sherman and Elmer J. Ander ion; capital, \$100,000. Judge Emery of Lawrence has written to

the Tepeka Capital calling for united action in impressing through discussion the importance of irrigation. "We must wet western Kansas," he says opigrammatically, "or turn that section back to pastoral uses." In an area of the equivalent of six square niles of the level lands of Salt Lake valley. Utah, west of the Jordan river are more than

sixty artesian wells. They have an average depth of 200 feet and an average diameter o two inches and an average flow per minute of fifteen gallons of water.
It is reported in La Junta, Colo., that the Otero canal will be extended to the Purga

Star-route Dorsey, who has a big ranch in Colfax county, New Mexico, is building a number of extensive reservoirs on his land and will demonstrate the feasibility of this system of supplying moisture for grass and rops.
In Douglas county, Colorado, it is proposed

to petition the county commissioners to call an election for the purpose of voting on the

an election for the purpose of voting on the question of issuing bonds to make an artesian well in each township.

There should be prosperity among the settlers of the west end of Klowa county, Colorado, this coming season, says the Leader. Private enterprises and capital has undertaken the construction of several small ditches to be taken out of Adobe creek. The hig Bob creek dirch will be extended to a big Bob creek ditch will be extended to a point a few miles northwest of Arlington this year, and by another year much valuable land will be brought under irrigation. The settlers can get employment on these works and they will thus be enabled to tide over the hard times until the water runs in the ditches, which will insure good crops in the future.

The associated cycling clubs of Chicago have decided that the national meet of the L. A. W. should be held in the "windy city" in 1883.

ECHOES FROM THE ANTE ROOM

New Developments in the Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias.

CONSOLIDATION OF

The Grand Lodge of the Treue Bund Masonic Grand Lodge of New Mexico-News and Notes.

A revolution will soon take place in Uniform rank affairs among the divisions of this clay, which will result in the Omaha reg-

iment being reduced to a battallon It has been painfully evident for the past two years that if something extraordinary was not done to prevent it, the divisions of the Omaha regiment, with the exception of Omaha division No. 12, would disappear entirely.

Several efforts were made to induce the divisions to consolidate and form two or three good divisions from the active members of the rank, but these efforts were unsuccess-

Matters went on this way, the divisions, with the notable exception of Omaha No. 12, rapidly deteriorating but still retaining their charters

Some of the active members came to the

conclusion that heroic measures were necessary and a mass meeting of the Sir Knights of the Omaha regiment was called. The meeting was held in the Pythian hall in the Paxton block, and was attended by members of the various divisions in the city. The matter was thoroughly discussed, and many of the members spoke favorably of the propsition to consolidate the weaker divisions, but no action was taken.

Shortly aftewards another meeting was held, at which it was agreed that Lily, Launcelot, Myrtle and Douglas divisions were to consolidate and form two divisions. In order to decide which two of these should relin-quish their charters four slips were placed n a hat, each containing a name of one of these divisions. These were drawn, and it fell to the lot of Lily and Launcelot to throw up the sponge.
Subsequently the members of Lily division

claimed that they were not represented at the meeting at which these proceedings were had and they refused to lie down and die-Instead, they went to South Omaha and made a proposition to the lodge there to reseive about thirty members of the lodge, who were desirous of forming a division, and reor-ganize Lily division, allowing South Omah a members to elect the officers This proposition was favorably received by the South Omaha Knights as it would relieve

them from the payment of a charter fee. The matter was referred to a committee of the South Omaha Knights which reported favorably on the proposal and was authorized to investigate the cost of uniforms, etc. As the matter now stands there are six divisions in the city, namely, Omaha Black Eagle, Trojan, Myrtle, Douglas and Lily. Ali of the divisions will elect officers during the coming month and a general revival of inter-

est is looked for.

Crescent lodge No. 38 of Helyoke, Col., installed the following officers at its last meeting: C. M. C. Woolman, P. C.; John Dye, C. C.; R. E. Webster, V. C.; A. M. Woodford, P.; J. F. Forbes, K. R. & S.; E. E. Brannon, M. at A.; J. N. Andrews, M. of E.; Thomas Vernon, M. of F.; J. Lewis, I. G.; C. Gustasen, O. G. The installation services were conducted by Jerome Lewis, D. D. G. C., and George Weir, G. M. at A. After the ceremony the members adjourned to the banonet room where a toothsome repast was est is looked for. banquet room where a toothsome repast was

Treue Bund. The grand lodge of Nebraska and Iowa of

the U. O. T. B. held its annual session in this city last week.

The report of the secretary was as follows: On January 1, 1800, there were in this grand jurisdiction six subordinate with a membership of 265. On January 1, 1891, there were seven subordinate lodges with a total membership of 367, a net gain of 02 members. There was organized during the year one subordinate lodge at Sioux City known as Lincoln lodge No. 75, with a mem bership of 22. Amount of capital on band January 1, 1890.

including all property, \$2,032.48; amount on hand January 1, 1891, \$2,416.62, a net gain of \$384.14. During the year the following amounts were paid out for relief: Sick benefits, \$585; benefits to three members for wife's death, \$600; benefits to wives of de ceased members, \$2,000.

The following officers were elected for the

ensuing year: August Schroeder of Omaha, T. M.; J. H. Thoms, Plattsmouth, B. M.; August Shirbach, Omaa, secretary: Rud Hartz, South Omaha, treasurer; J. M. Lemke, Council Bluffs, G. M.; Fred Mittnacht, Omaha, G. W.; Carl Freeb William Smith and F. J. Freitag, Omaha, trus-

Masonic.

The Masonic grand lodge of New Mexico met in thirteenth annual session at Albuquerque last Monday. In 1877 the first grand lodge was formed in Santa Fe, and at a time when there were only four lodges in the ter ritory. Now there are twenty lodges with a membership of over one thousand. The first grand master was W. W. Griffin (now deceased) of Santa Fe. Temple lodge of Albuquerque entertained the visitors in royal style at a banquet at the San Felipe and a hop Tuesday night at the opera house. It was decided to erect a \$50,000 Masonic tem-ple in Albuquerque for the grand lodge of the future. The following officers were elected and installed: C. H. Dane of Deming, grand master; Richard English of San Marcial, deputy grand master; Joseph H. Kuhns of Albuquerque, grand senior warden: Charles A. Sporlinger of Las Vegas, grand junior warden; A.C. Fox of Rater, grand Areasurer; H. A. Keen of Albuquerque, grand secretary.

G. W. Lipe of Council Bluffs is one of the members of Nathan Whitney chapter, No. 129 of Franklin Grove, Ill, which met on the 22d ult. to celebrate the 100th birthday anniversary of Nathan Whitney, the oldest living Mason in the world, both in years and in membership. Mr. Lipe was unable to attend the outer of the content of the co the gathering, but from him are learned som very interesting facts concerning the centenarian. Nathan Whitney was made member when he was twenty-two years of age, so that he has worn the apron for seventy-eight years. He was one of the char-ter members of the chapter which bears his name. One of the very strange coincidences is that this chapter has always held its regu-lar convocations on the Thursday of each month on or before the full moon, and this last week fell, queerly enough, upon the 100th birthday anniversary of Mr. Whitney Another interesting coincidence is that the present high priest, who officiated on this anniversary, is of like name, Nathan Whitney, he being a grandson of the veteran thus honored.

Crder Eastern Star Vesta chapter, No. 6, will hold its seven teenth annual social at Freemason's hall. Six-

teenth and Capitol avenue, next Th ursday evening. These annual entertainments of Vesta chapter have gained a wide celebrity among Omaha people, and it is safe to say that the seventeenth annual will be no excep-tion to the rule. Master Masons, their famliles and friends have a standing invitation to attend these affairs, and special efforts have been made to provide a pleasant entertain No individual invitations have been issued.

1. O. O. F.

The members of Ivy Rebekah degree lodge were entertained at the residence of E. L. Armstrong, 979 North Twenty-fifth avenue. Wednesday evening. Progressive high five held the boards and a most enjoyable evening was passed.

The Daughters of Rebekah lodge of Revnolds installed officers for the ensuing year as follows: Mrs. A. H. Bothwell, N. G.; Mas. U. D. Moore, V. G.; Mrs. Henry St. Martin, secretary; Mrs. G. W. Hoch, treas-

Next Friday evening, the 6th inst., Omaha

lodge No. 2 will celebrate its thirty-fifth an-

A Rebekah degree lodge was Instituted at Holdrege last Tuesday with about twenty-five charter members. About thirty Re-bekalis were present from Juniata and Hastngs. After the ceremony a banquet was served.

iversary at its hall on Fourteenth and Dodge streets. A pleasant entertainment will be provided, consisting of an address by Grand Master Evans on the history and work of the lodge, and addresses by several other members. These will be pleasantly interspersed with musical numbers and folowed by refreshments. The evening will be

losed by dancing Council Bluffs Robekah degree lodge pald a very pleasant visit to Ruth lodge last Sat-urday evening. About fifty members came over from the Bluffs to witness the exem-plification of the degree work by the team of Ruth lodge. This team is the one which re-ceived a prize at the Chicago meeting for its excellent work, and the manner in which the work was put on the floor for the visitors from the Bluff's elicited loud praise. The team is provided with full paraphernalia for the work, the outfit being the finest which could be procured, and each member of the eam takes especial pride in rendering her part in a perfect manner.

Custer post No. 7 and Crook post No. 262, together with Custer's Women Relief Corps No. 82 and Shoridan Relief Corps No. 88, will hold a fair and a series of entertainments at the Coliseum March 4, 5 and 6. The services of Colonel Lew Ginger have been secured o manage the enterprise, and the well known ability of Comrade Ginger is a guarantee of success. The proceeds of the enterprise are to be turned into the relief fund, which will e used to help needy soldiers in this state, a addition to the entertainment a fine museum of war relies will be on exhibition, the material for which is being gathered

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