and Beaver-Sappa

The Platte is used extensively for irrigation in the western part of the state, the Grand Island Electric company. but not much for power. If it ever becomes of advantage to do so, much power could be produced at the "drops" during the irrigation season and from the nor-

in generating electric current.

in Wyoming, but it receives very little to speculate on its rights. water from that source. The drainage Need Better Understanding.
area is about 9,000 square miles of high In view of the conditions herein rewater from that source. The drainage

from the sandhills and table lands, Flow is Uniform. The flow is quite unitorm, charge of about 800 second feet at Val- ment. entine and more than 1,000 at Niobrara. The leading tributaries of the Niobrara is cheap power, are Snake river, discharge 200 to 250 second feet; Minnechaduza creek, about 25 progress is being made, second feet; Plum creek, 15 to 75 second

northwest of Ainsworth. cussed: Four miles east of Valentine, years. The principal drawback for these is the lack of market for the power. Some persons thought that industries might be brought to Valentine and other power sites, but practically all hope for such developments has been abandoned. About 50,000 theoretical horsepower could be generated in the Niobrara basin, yet there is no economic demand for it. A market may yet be found by long distance transmission. Sloux City wishes to secure

power from this source. Loup in Center of State. The Loup system is in the center of Nebraska. The drainage basin, with an area of about 14,000 square miles, includes sandhills, loess plains, loess hills and broad valley bottoms, in which bench lands are a feature. The rivers head in time. sicady water supply. The rainfall soaks out to the rivers through thousands of springs. The ground water gives to the rivers a uniform flow, so characteristic of this ystem. Furthermore, the run-of it larger, compared with the drainagarea, than in the other Nebraska rivers The principal tributaries and their ap proximate mean discharges are the Sout-Loup, 150 to 300 second feet; Mud creel no record; Dismal river, 300 to 400 accord feet; Middle Loup, about 1,000 to 1,10 second feet; North Loup, about 1,000 sec ond feet; Calamus river, 400 second feet Spring creek, no record; Cedar creek, 1 to 300 second feet, and Beaver creek fifty to 150 second feet. Diamal river i a branch of the Middle Loup and Cala mus river is a branch of the North Lou-The Loup proper is formed by the June

tion of the Middle and North branche near St. Paul. The discharge of the Lov at Columbus is rarely below 1,300 second feet in the summer and early fall. It is shout 3,000 second feet most of the year Though the headwaters of the Loup arnot much affected by floods, the lowe

courses experience them practically ever spring, due to thawing of snow and rains The Loup has valuable power possibili ties. There are several developments 1.

cluding their discharges, are found in the Paul, except that the Babcock project reports of the state engineer, the geogra- has a small power plant where its canal phy of Nebraska, and in water supply crosses Beaver creek. The Loup is papers 215, 216 and 230 of the United larger than the Platte at Columbus dur-States geological survey. Most of the ing much of the year. In fact, the Platte rivers fluctuate much in their seasonal below that point carries mostly Loup and the grantees are bound under the law

Several Republican river projects have Five leading filings and grants have been damaged by washouts and ham- been made along the Loup and lower quite possible that not more than one pered because of a lack of water at Platte. They are known as the Boelus, or two of the large projects can complete times in summer. Three powers now Babcock, Commonwealth, Kountze-Pat- development within the time prescribed operate from water of the trunk stream. terson and the Ross. The first named in the grants. We should distinguish be They are at Superior, Orleans and Arapa- project is to take out of the Middle Loup | tween private concerns and public utility There are several powers in the southwest of Boelus and divert into the corporations. tributaries of the Republican, most of South Loup. The grant is for 1,000 secthem being in the Frenchman. Medicine ond feet; the head is twenty-seven feet evident that perpeual water power rights and the theoretical horsepower 3,668. This have been conveyed in practically all project is to be developed and owned by projects now developed, and that the only

project is known also as the Richards, Kountze-Patterson and as the Central as being best in water power develop Kountre-Patterson and as the Central Services corporation. The point of the most all supply of the river at other times. Power is now developed in connection with irrigation at Gothenburg and Kearney. The Pumpkinseed, Rush creek, Blue creek, Blurdwood and the Wood river tributaries have small discharges, yet enough for power development.

Floods are features of the Big Nemaha. Little Nemaha, Salt creek and Logan creek. They hinder water power development. In fact, powers have been removed from Salt creek and Logan because of floods and the interference of dams with drainage.

The streams of our state best developed for power are the Big Blue and the Little Blue. These have fairly uniform flows, not much affected by dry times and the cold of winter. The cost of construction is relatively low, and the Little Blue. These have fairly uniform flows, not much affected by dry times and the cold of winter. The cost of construction is relatively low, and the streams are at Seward, Millord, Crete, DeWitt, Beatrice, Holmesville. Blue Springs, Fairbury, Hebron and Deweese. They are used in milling and in generating electric current.

Service corporation. The bount side of the Platte, southeast of Schuyler. A canal more than thirty miles of the Holmestale and nor than the south side of the Platte, southeast of Schuyler. A canal more than thirty miles and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and onto the upland to a reservoir site east of Cedar Bluffs and the work has been down this project.

The Ross project.

The Ross project is to take out of the cast side of the Platte, southeast of the work has been down on this project.

The Ross project. Service corporation. The point of the ment are the following:

ects is a problem. It is evident that they Bazile creek, Bow creek and the Elk- cannot meet the conditions of the grants horn river have powers. The Elkhorn within the time allowed. Furthermore, has a large flow most of the year. Its the amount of power which could be defloods and the changing channel are veloped in all the projects, about 100,000

horsepower, is more than would be util-The state has more than 100 developed ized under present conditions. The prowater powers, most of them being small. moters find it difficult to secure funds The largest amount of undeveloped power for development. In this they have a is in the Niobrara, Loup and lower course great drawback. It is plainly evident ogress is being made The Niobrara, or Running Water, heads The state is permitting a few individuals

plain and sandhill country. The prevail- viewed, it seems that definite steps should ing soils of its basin are fine sandy loams be taken in the near future to bring and dune sand, with small areas of clayey about a better understanding, and a soil and atony land. The valley proper is definite solution of these water power deep and narrow as a rule, especially so problems. Let everyone having responsiin its middle course. Much of the water bility in this matter read it in the light of this river comes from springs issuing of state welfare. The following facts should be kept in viewt

1. That there are large power possiwith a dis- bilities in Nebraska awaiting develop-

2. That one of the state's greatest needs

2. That, under present conditions, no Much has been said about the conserfeet; Long Pine creek, 50 to 100 second vation of water power. This does not eet; Keya Paha river, 50 to 300 second mean withholding from utilization. A feet; Eagle creek, 10 to 25 second feet, better conception is that conservation is and the Verdigris, 40 to 10) second feet. development for the most beneficial use. These discharges are only approximately Thus far, much of the water of Nebraska correct. Among the powers in operation has gone to waste. It is now running are those of the Minnechaduza, Plum from the state without utilization. This creck. Eagle creek and the Verdigris, should not be, for Nebraska is practically The best development is in Plum creek without a fuel supply, except for what is brought from other states. Nebraska A large amount of power could be de- produces abundantly of farm and ranch

veloped in the tributaries and trunk products which go to power centers for streams of the Niobrara. Some of the milling. The state is rich in agriculmost desirable sites are in Snake river. ture, but relatively weak in manufactures The following sites are now being dis- and commerce. This condition is well known, hence it needs no further discussouth of Spencer and near the mouth of sion. Admitting this, we should realize the river. These have been talked of for that greater effort must be made for an 'all-round" development of the state. But industry follows power. It must have cheap power. Let us be encouraged in the fact that the state has the water resources with which to develop power in its most desirable form.

> Better for Local Use. Certain advancements of recent years make sure the utilization of such rivers as the Loup and lower Platte. They are oncrete construction, canalization, and iong distance transmission. These conditions enhance the value of power sites. It should be recognized, however, that most of our streams are too small for use in long distance transmission. They are better suited for local use.

The conservation of the Loup and the lower Platte deserves attention at this These rivers are well located with the sandhills, from which they draw a respect to the state's largest cities. The power, if developed, could be carried to into the hills, is thus conserved and doled an urban population of fully 200,000 people It could be used to light both city and country, to drive the machinery of special industries, and to draw the cars of city and interurban railways. These things are desirable and attainable, but there is not much doing in the way of construc ive effort. Policies are being advocated. The public is interested in the matter in general way, but there is no definite asis upon which to decide in favor of any given plan. Those who administer he law, and all who have anything to do with the subject, receive more or less criticism, whether justly so or not. The iscussion is from two points of view-of e state, and of private interests. This sakes it interesting and attractive in It seems that we have now ached a point where this problem should e considered in its proper relationship o industry and to the public welfare and

ore upon a fact basis. The leading policies for the conservaon of water power are: Private ownership and state super-

District ownership and state super-3. State ewnership and control.
4. State guaranty and popular

gion of the merits and weak points it volved in each of these policies,

have been made in Nebraska. The state flow. This is especially true of the Re- water in late July, August and Septem- affecting these cases. The public utility corporations are subject to public contro as regards rates and service. But it is Private individuals are not bound so closely under the law. It is thing that can annul them is non-use. The Fremont Canal and Power company Among the things which have been discussed and quite generally agreed upon

Certain grants for power development

consumer.
D. Protection in the courts in case of

C. Good service and a fair charge to the consumer.

D. Protection in the courts in case of dispute.

There is no definite agreement concerning the tenure of franchises—whether fixed-term or indeterminate. Operators favor the indeterminate franchise. Some fovar a clause permitting renewal at the end of a fixed period, and others not. In case renewal is refused, the state should provide to take over plants at their fair value, It would seem that the general practice in business should prevail in these leases, especially so, because the projects will differ greatly in their value and desirability. The matter of rental or annual charge is one of dispute. Some favor a nominal charge and the cheapest power possible for the consumer.

6. That the monopolistic control of water power should be guarded against. The accomplishment of this will be difficult, for water powers are most efficiently managed when in large holding By such combinations, the load is equalized and the danger of breakdowns is reduced. So from the nature of the case, we may expect to see the powers of each Nebraska river, such as the Big Blue and the Little Blue brought together under a single organization or control within a few years. Such a development need not be monopolistic.

7. That the policy favoring state ownership and control of water powers is galring favor. Just what is to be done in this line in Nebraska, is a problem. The policy is right in principle, yet it should not be inaugurated without a stronger sentiment in its favor. State ownership has its strong points and its pitfalls. It requires an administration of permanence and free from political influences. The construction of projects should not be started until there is a sure market for power.

Let me say, in closing this article, that

Let me say, in closing this article, that am not here favoring any given policy There is more or less merit in each of them. Our principal effort should be directed in the line of bringing about results, but we should not go too far in this respect. If private capital can be interested in these projects by a leasing system fair both to the operator and the consumer, then well and good, but if not, we should undertake the development of approved projects under state manage-

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