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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

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Constitutional Convention Procedure.

It seems to be practically agreed that a constitutional convention will be called to revise Nebraska's fundamental law, although the same object could be achieved more speedily and with less expense by direct submission of amendments. While the considerations that favor the convention plan are generally taken to outweigh the disadvantages, the people should, nonetheless, understand the procedure so as not to raise up expectations that cannot be met.

In the first place, all the present legislature can do is to submit to a vote of the people the question whether a convention to revise the constitution shall be called. After such action the proposal goes on the ballot to be voted at the next election of members of the legislature, which, in this instance, means the election of 1918. If a majority of the votes are cast "yes," then the next following legislature, the session of 1919, must pass a law providing for the calling of the convention. Here the only limitations fixed by the present constitution is that the convention shall consist of as many members as the house of representatives and shall be chosen in the same manner and shall meet within three months after the election. This means that the convention will be composed of 100 members, of which twelve will be allotted to Omaha and Douglas county. If elected in the same manner as members of the legislature, members of the convention will be chosen at large throughout the county and presumably stand first in party primaries and go on the ballot as party nominees.

The present constitution also provides that no amendment agreed upon by the convention shall be effective until submitted to the voters and ratified by majority vote on the proposition. There is nothing to prevent this vote being taken at a special election, if so ordered, and, therefore, assuming that the convention proceeds with utmost expedition, the proposed new constitution might be ready for submission by the fall of 1919 and, when approved, become operative with the beginning of the year 1920.

In other words, Nebraska can start the next census decade with a newly revised state constitution, if it wants to, but there is no need of becoming unduly excited about it at this early stage of the game.

"Pingree Patches" Next Summer.

One of the ways for lowering the high cost of living is to produce some of the expensive necessities for yourself. This is not a new suggestion, but is now renewed because it is as serviceable at this time as ever it was. If the home owners will cultivate the backyard plots they will be able to produce all the vegetables they will need for summer table consumption and have some left over to be preserved for winter. If the vacant lots that usually grow only noxious weeds are put to use, more potatoes, for example, can be raised than Omaha will use in a winter season. This will require a little effort, however, for a garden patch will not take care of itself, however well it may be planted. Gardening, even of a limited scale, is an interesting pursuit and should be a source of pleasure as well as of profit. If you do not feel like putting forth the effort in the spring and summer you have little right to complain if the man who does asks you his own price for the surplus he has produced and for which you have need. One of the best ways of meeting the high cost of living is to help yourself by raising some of the things you eat.

Message of a Cartoon.

One of the advantages enjoyed by a good cartoonist is that he can put more into a few lines in his drawing than a writer can explain in a column. Such a cartoon is the one by Hal Coffman, published in The Bee on Saturday. It carries a message to young men, a sermon whose application is easy to the thinking, earnest youth. Luck and pluck are valuable assets in the battle of life, but the greater factor is you. If you are plucky and determined, "luck" will follow. Industry and thrift are the means through which success is conquered, and these are personal attributes. The world is full of opportunities for the young man; it needs his enthusiasm and his courage, his fresh, vigorous energy, and the best it holds is his if he but make the proper effort. Honor and power do not come by chance to any, nor does the world search out the slothful or careless to reward them. The road to success is a steep one, and only the plucky climbers can make their way up. This brings it home to you. If you have the courage to tackle the uphill route, you needn't worry about the luck; it will come along, but you will not be aware of it.

Treasure in Nebraska Legislature.

Foundations of democracy are now being shaken by reason of the unexpected attack from within. It is bad enough to combat republicans, whose progressive ideas do not square with the antediluvian notions involved in state's rights and similar dogmas dear to the democratic heart, but when trusted brethren of the faith of Bryan and Hitchcock take up a proposal that has been denounced as pernicious because of its republican origin, time has come to sit up and take notice. What has happened? Nothing much; a joint committee of the Nebraska legislature has just recommended for passage a resolution that says control of interstate commerce should be vested in the Interstate Commerce commission. Of course, this resolution deals specifically with the distribution of freight cars, but that is a detail. If the state commissions are unable to control one feature of interstate commerce, why should they be held competent to deal with any? The logic of events is forcing even the democrats to open their eyes to the truth that theories of yesterday do not apply to today.

What is a cabaret? The federal supreme court defines it as a part of "surroundings where people having limited powers of conversation or disliking the rival noise may get a luxurious pleasure not to be had from eating a silent meal." Coming from an authoritative source the definition is the last word on the legal side of the issue. But admirers of simplicity and brevity, as well as accuracy, prefer the poetic definition: "The habitation of souls that burn incense and money into the night."

"You shall not bury the democratic party in a drunkard's grave," shouted W. J. Bryan at Springfield, Ill. Fear not, colonel. A party which survived three "cross of gold" treatments gives promise of living long enough to repent and dry up.

Our former friend and confidante, Pancho Villa, has already cost the federal treasury \$70,000,000. The cost of Mexican banditry trots nimbly with war as a booster of federal taxes.

Is Meat Supply Failing?

Wall Street Journal

In a compilation of the National City bank it is shown that meat cattle in the United States have decreased 10,000,000 head in a decade. This would mean that during a period when population had increased 18 per cent, meat cattle had decreased 20 per cent. The figures as presented are from official records, but any inference drawn therefrom that our meat supply is failing is not correct.

If the estimate of the live stock population which the Department of Agriculture takes every year is approximately correct, then the year 1906 was the crest of the cattle industry, for on January 1, 1907, the number of cattle other than milch cows was 51,566,000. The passing away of the free range began writing its history as surely as the tape tells the story of securities. The annual estimates declined year after year until on January 1, 1914, it was shown that the number in 1913 was 35,855,000, without counting milch cows.

As the numbers decreased the price of meat and of cattle on the hoof increased. Changes also began to appear in farm husbandry, in favor of increased cattle on the farm. Vast areas of land that had been subject to the "Texas fever" have since been cleared of the tick that causes the fever. More is being cleared every year, increasing the opportunity for cattle production. Bankers are taking a wider interest in the matter. Cattle paper is finding favor where before it was not known, and feeders and stockmen find it easier to finance their operations.

This, too, is shown in the live stock figures. From the low point of January 1, 1914, there has been a steady and fairly rapid improvement. In the first year's recovery from the low point it was 3.4 per cent gain; the increase of the next year was 6.4 per cent, and the year that has just closed, notwithstanding war's demands, made a gain of almost 3 per cent over the preceding year. According to the official estimate, there are now 4,600,000 more of such cattle in the United States than on January 1, 1914.

Like everything else, agriculture in the United States has been going through a readjustment. Farmers are meeting the changed conditions because prices have made a good business reason for so doing. They have already arrested the downward course of the beef steer and have turned his nose into the upward path of production, and the entire live stock industry, with a total value of \$6,700,000,000, seems on a sure foundation.

Nebraska Press Comment

Plattsmouth Journal: Governor Neville could have shown a sufficient respect for Chairman Langhorst to have at least honored him with a position on his staff. A recognition of this kind would have shown that the governor was not altogether unfriendly to Mr. Langhorst.

Beaver City Times-Tribune: The Nebraska lawmakers, who are figuring upon an election of county and state officers but once in four years, are moving in the right direction. They must remember, however, that until the federal constitution is changed, there must be a congressional election every two years.

Kearney Hub: Governor Neville asks that the governor's mansion at the state capital be made "habitable for man." Governor Morehead and his wife have just completed four years of residence there. If the mansion is not now "habitable," we think that the ex-governor ought to be called on to explain what he did to it.

Ainsworth Star-Journal: We naturally must find fault with the state legislature now in session. It seems that every class of professional men have endeavored to get a man in the legislature who will secure favorable legislation for their own selfish interests. The printers, the doctors, chiropractors, lawyers and every other trade has a pet bill of its own. If they would legislate for the benefit of all, more might be accomplished. But they say it is necessary for certain classes to have special legislation for the good of all the people.

Omaha Journal-Stockman: What a lot of sentiment is wasted every day. A humanitarian complains in the columns of The Omaha Bee that the cattle pens down at the stock yards are open to the free air of heaven all the time and that when the weather is snowy and cold the cattle are compelled to suffer. Did it ever occur to this humanitarian that these cattle were born and raised out in the open? Does not everyone know that cattle that spend the winter without protection from the weather are healthier and in better condition in the spring than cattle that have been housed up and pampered? What makes tuberculosis and kindred diseases so prevalent in the dairy herds of the east? Nothing but this well-intentioned but ill-considered idea that stock must be housed up in order to be kept healthy and comfortable. What makes western beef the best and most wholesome in the world? Simply the fact that the cattle out here live a free life in the open air and are not subject to the diseases that attack stock that is confined in barns part or all of the time. Such sentimental humanitarianism is simply a joke and a severe reflection on the good sense of those who profess it.

Shafts Aimed at Omaha

Fairbury News: The Omaha school janitors want a retirement limit and a pension. So do editors and doctors and lawyers and a lot of other people whose only salvation for their declining years is industry and economy. That little poem entitled "Man Wants But Little Here Below" was written away back during the years when a man was thankful for a good job and didn't ask to have a pension thrown in with every other afternoon off on full pay.

Hastings Tribune: The Douglas county sheriff says he is putting that lid on tight on everything outside of Omaha. If he does that it will keep him going some.

Hartington Herald: A recent editorial in The Omaha Bee speaks of the mortgage as being a stimulus to economy and industry. This is no doubt a fact, but it is a stimulus which no one having once escaped from cares to resume. There are other stimuli than the mortgage which are more agreeable and no less effective.

Kearney Hub: An Omaha judge is recommending a "rural environment" for city incorrigibles. Probably overlooks the fact that "rural environment" is about the last thing a bucking boy will stand for, especially if it gets him right down to the hard work of the farm. Only a few will stand for it. Most of them would take kindly enough to a well conducted institutional farm, but for what the judge calls "farm environment," not on his judicial tipster.

Fremont Tribune: An Omaha woman has sued a dentist for pulling the wrong tooth, as if she knew which tooth should be pulled, and she wants to pull his leg for \$10,000. If she gets it, here's a hunch: There are thirty-two teeth in the human head, if there be wisdom teeth among them; when you get ready for a set of false grinders have them pulled and collect \$320,000. Very likely the young woman of Omaha should have the \$10,000, but perhaps it would be well to confer with her before laying plans.

People and Events

An amphitheater to seat 38,000 persons is planned for New York City.

There are nearly 20,000 regularly established libraries in the United States.

It has been discovered after numerous experiments that dark hair is much stronger than fair.

The present year marks the semi-centennial of the death of Elias Howe, the inventor of the American sewing machine.

England has bestowed nearly 300 Victoria Crosses on her gallant soldiers and sailors since the beginning of the present war.

TODAY

Health Hint for the Day.

If you are over-stout or if you have a weak heart, beware of Turkish and Russian baths as they are depressing to the circulation.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Turks met new reverses in the Erzzerum district.

French counter attacks recovered trenches south of Lens.

More than a score of persons killed by a Zeppelin raid on Paris.

French lines penetrated by German attacks south of the Somme and near Neuville.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

At the instance of A. J. Poppleton, general attorney of the Union Pacific Railroad company, a call was issued by Mr. Bechel for a meeting of the charter committee. Only nine of the fifteen members were present, namely, Mr. Poppleton, Frank Murphy, Max Meyer, John C. Creasey and Messrs. Bechel, Lee, Bailey and Bailey of the city council.

A fire broke out in the residence of Mrs. William Ross, 2215 Burt, and before it could be extinguished it destroyed about two-thirds of the house. A Swedish servant who worked for Mrs. Ross claimed to have lost about \$150 of her earnings and mourned her loss with many tears.

An alarm of fire was sounded from Box 2, corner Twentieth and St. Mary's avenue, but some of the companies misunderstood the number and



ran to the corner of Ninth and Jones. They then went to the right place and found that it was a chimney on Fred Krug's residence on Twentieth, near Leavenworth.

About thirty-five women and gentlemen interested in the promotion of church and other music assembled in the Sunday school room of Trinity cathedral and organized a society to be known as the St. Cecilia society. John P. Williams was elected president; Prof. J. E. Butler, vice president; W. S. Gould, secretary; Mrs. W. T. Tisher, treasurer and Mrs. J. W. Cotton, musical director.

C. E. Mayne, the real estate man, announces that from 10 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night his office is crowded with people buying lots in South Omaha and Benson.

This Day in History.

1717—Sir Jeffrey Amherst, who commanded the British forces in the war against the French in America, born. Died August 3, 1797.

1766—"Light Horse Harry" Lee, one of the most picturesque of the American commanders in the revolution, born in Westmoreland county, Virginia. Died at Cumberland Island, Ga., March 25, 1818.

1820—King George III of England, who was chiefly responsible for the bitter feelings of the American colonies toward the British crown, died at Windsor. Born in London, July 4, 1738.

1843—William McKinley, twenty-fifth president of the United States, born at Niles, O. Died at Buffalo, September 14, 1901.

1853—Marriage of Napoleon III and Eugenie de Montijo, countess of Teba. 1856—Order of the Victoria Cross instituted by Queen Victoria.

1861—Kansas was admitted to statehood.

1867—President Johnson vetoed the compromise bill for the admission of Nebraska.

1873—German occupation of Paris forts completed.

1890—United States formally recognized the republic of Brazil.

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