



ENTERED AT THE LINCOLN POSTOFFICE AS
SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY

THE COURIER PUBLISHING COMPANY.

OFFICE 217 North Eleventh St.

Telephone 384.

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Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum	\$2 00
Six months	1 00
Three months	50
One month	20
Single copies	Five cents.

For sale at all news stands in this city and Omaha and on all trains.
A limited number of advertisements will be inserted. Rates made known on application.

LINCOLN, NEB., MAY 11, 1895.

IRRIGATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS Think of the arid region of the United States sustaining 70,000,000 people! That's what Mr. William E. Smythe, writing in the *Century* on "The Conquest of Arid America," says it could do. Mr. Smythe believes that the plains of western Nebraska, the deserts of Arizona, the dreary stretches of land in Wyoming and Montana, are destined to "blossom with the homes of men, and that these homes will rest upon social and industrial systems better and purer than any the past has known, and that the future population will be united by a noble code of ethics." "The new century," he says, "will invite us to a new task of transcendent possibilities to the human race." Mr. Smythe bases his statements of what the future holds in store for the arid region on what has been done in the Greeley colony in Colorado, the experience of the Mormons in irrigating and reclaiming the waste lands of Utah, and the experiments in California. In Colorado and Utah, where irrigation is provided, he finds substantial and permanent prosperity with new and improved social conditions. "Greeley's civic institutions are like her potatoes. They represent the best standard available, and are the pride of the people. To sell any kind of intoxicating liquors within the boundaries of this colony invalidates the title of the soil. This is one of the original plans which worked well; and the schools, libraries and lyceums are all in keeping with this high standard of public morals. A careful study of the development of Greeley, alike in its social and industrial aspects, would throw much more light upon the problems of arid America." In discussing the reclamation of Utah under the leadership of Brigham Young, he says: "Young taught the people that no man should own more land than he could cultivate by his own and his family's labor, and that no man should go to a store for any article of food or clothing that could be properly produced on his own small farm." He continues: "The proprietor of twenty unmortgaged acres, planted with a view to the production of nearly all that is consumed, and insured against failure by the irrigation canal, is a sovereign. He realizes independence in its best and truest sense;

for industrial independence comes nearer to the hearth-stone of every man who loves his family than does independence of people and king." To all thinking men the destiny of the great region, in which is included half of the state of Nebraska is plain. Mr. Smythe, having given much practical study to the subject, is able to point out the boundless possibilities of the future with intelligence and force. In the dark days through which we have recently passed frequent expression has been given to the hope that Nebraska might be cut in two, and the western part made a separate state. The day will come, we believe, when this section of Nebraska will be the pride and mainstay of the state.

LOOKING FORWARD Two of the best TO THE offices in Lancaster FALL CAMPAIGN ter county are held by populists. The sheriff is a populist and so is the clerk of the district court. Mr. Miller has made a good officer; so has Mr. Baker. These two men have demonstrated their running qualities, and they are just as strong now, if not stronger than they ever were. The republicans ought to have both of these offices. They can get them in just one way—by nominating the proper kind of candidates. Because the republicans swept everything at the last city election it does not follow that there will be a clean sweep in the county this fall. There is good reason to believe that success depends, to a considerable degree, on the kind of a ticket that is put up. There are within the ranks of the republican party candidates for sheriff whom it would be difficult, if not impossible, to elect. There are others any one of whose election would be assured once he secured a nomination. The same is true of candidates for clerk of the district court. In making up the ticket this fall only the best material should be selected. For district clerk there should be named an active, clean, able man; one who stands well in his party and in the community. Such a man could be elected. It is generally understood that Mr. Trompen, of Hickman, and Mr. Smith of Waverly, will be candidates for the nomination for sheriff. There is certainly at this time no disposition to fight these men. They both have many friends. But there is, nevertheless, a general feeling among those who are interested in party success more than in the ambitions of some particular individual, that the nomination of either of these candidates would be most unwise. Neither could escape spirited opposition within party lines. The nomination of one or the other would put the party on the defensive. Republicans would do well to remember that Messrs. Miller and Baker are hard men to beat, and govern themselves accordingly.

A PROSPECT OF GENUINE RELIEF The vivid green of the grass growing on Nebraska's prairie fields, the luxurious leafage of the trees, the sprouting corn in rich and well moistened soil—the things material and of the earth, and the signs in the heavens—all portend a harvest that will fill the empty corn cribs and barns, and bring prosperity and happiness to all the people. Nebraska has been sorely tried in the last two years, and the prospect of a release from affliction, which is now

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held out, is calculated to inspire the loyal Nebraskan with lively enthusiasm. A crop this year would take away all of the pestilence that failure brought upon us. A crop this year would let the wind out of populism, and the suckers that have held on to this great hulk would drop off and perish. Calamity howlers would seek their holes, and patriotism would lift up its head. The lame and the halt and the blind that compose the class that has given Nebraskasuch an unenviable notoriety would, perforce, cease their lamentations. Cranks would be jammed back into obscurity. Prosperity would clear the field, and optimism would once more be the sign and seal of Nebraska manhood. God hasten the day!

RELIEF WORK In discussing the WELL DONE work of the Nebraska relief commission of 1891 Governor Boyd, in a public message, said that this commission was entitled to a distinction, particularly unique—that of finishing its work with a cesh balance on hand. There was \$3,353 left over. Rev. L. P. Ludden directed the work and he handled \$200,000. The present state relief commission that had its incipency during Governor Crouse's administration has been under the same management and Mr. Ludden will a second time close the relief work with a balance to be turned into the state treasury. This commission, with Mr. Ludden as the active manager, has handled \$35,000 in private donations, \$50,000 appropriated by the state, and to some extent, the last appropriation of \$200,000 made by the legislature. It has also distributed supplies to the value of nearly \$500,000. Every deserving applicant within the knowledge of the commission has been taken care of, and there is, or will be, \$2,000 more or less, left over after all bills have been paid. The work of the commission has been well done and Mr. Ludden and his associates are entitled to the highest commendation.

NIGHT.

From my couch at dead of night I rise
and wide
I throw my window. The shimmering

silver tide
Of moonshine floods the room with
lustrous light,
A glorious gift to me from the hand of
peaceful night.
The shadows of the trees in tremulous
outlines fall
In phantom pictures on my moonlit
chamber wall.
The myriad shadow-leaves, with noise-
less movements slow
In a phantom breathless breeze, blow
to and fro.
Below me lies the city, wrapped in sooth-
ing sleep.
No sound comes up to mar the silence,
hushed and deep,
The streets resound no more with
hurrying feet,
No passers-by their fellows warmly
greet.
No laughter rings in merry chimes
upon my ear,
No sound of weeping or of wrath I
hear.
Soft sleep hath had her unmolested
will,
And bade all harsh discordant sounds
be still.
Then memory, the voiceless singer of
the night,
Stands by my side in a robe of shimmer-
ing white.
With lyre in hand she sings to me of
other days.
With hand in mine through bygone
paths she strays,
And lo, the night seems peopled with
the loved ones gone,
And I no longer stand in the softened
light alone.
In the night with God and memory and
silence I feel
A reverence deep, and, solemnly I kneel
And stretch my hands out through the
silvery air,
And lift my heart toward heaven in one
great silent prayer.
And lo, before my eyes I seem to see
great altar stairs,
That reach from earth to heaven—my
cares,
A heavy load I take and slowly upward
climb,
And lay them on the great white altar
for a time.
WILLIAM REED DUNROY,
AND CHARLES CLIFFORD WESCOTT.

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