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# The ❖ Nebraska ❖ Bee-Keeper AND IRRICATOR.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO APICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

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Vol. 7.

YORK, NEBRASKA, JANUARY, 1896.

No. 1.

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# The \* Nebraska \* Bee-Keeper AND IRRIGATOR.

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YORK, NEBRASKA, JANUARY, 1895.

No. 1.

## CONSTITUTION

—OF THE—

North American Bee-Keepers' Union as Reported by the Committee.

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Thomas G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.   | F. A. Gemmiel, Stratford, Ont.   |
| J. T. Calvert, Medina, Ohio.      | M. B. Holmes, Athens, Ont.       |
| A. B. Mason, Toledo, Ohio.        | Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa. |
| R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont. |                                  |

### ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This organization shall be known as the "North American Bee-Keepers' Union," and shall hold meetings annually at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors, due notice being mailed to all members at least 60 days previously, and published in the bee periodicals of the United States and Canada.

### ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

Its object shall be to protect the interests of its members, to defend their rights, and to disseminate apicultural knowledge among the people.

### ARTICLE III.—OFFICERS.

Sec. 1.—The Officers of this Union shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, whose duties shall be those usually performed by such Officers.

Sec. 2.—The Secretary shall be General Manager, and shall have charge of the executive work of the Union, under the advice of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 3.—The Officers shall be elected by ballot, and hold their several offices for one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 4.—Nominations for Officers shall be sent to the General Manager before the first day of November in each year, who shall cause the same to be printed in the bee periodicals—and shall be printed and mail-



ed by Dec. 1, with the necessary Ballots, to every member who has paid dues for the previous year.

Sec. 5.—The Treasurer shall furnish a bond of \$2,000 (to be approved and held by the President), for the faithful accounting of the funds of the Union, and shall pay out the funds only on Vouchers signed by by the President and Secretary.

Sec. 6.—The terms of office shall be for the calender year, and the polls shall close on the last day of December.

Sec. 7.—Each annual meeting shall, by majority vote, elect a Chairman and Recorder from those present, to preside over the meeting, and prepare a suitable Report of the Proceedings for publication in the bee-periodicals as soon as possible after the close of the meeting. Any member, (whether an officer of the Union or not) shall be eligible to these positions.

#### ARTICLE IV.—BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Officers shall constitute a Board of Directors, which shall determine what course shall be taken by this Union, upon any matter presented to it for action; and cause such extra assessments to be made upon the members as may become necessary; provided that only one assessment shall be made in any one fiscal year, without a majority vote of all the members (upon blanks furnished for that purpose), together with a statement showing good reasons for another assessment.

#### ARTICLE V.—MEMBERS.

Any person may become a member by paying to the Secretary an Entrance Fee of \$1.00, for which he shall receive a printed receipt, making him a member of the Union, entitled to all its rights and benefits until the 31st day of December, following. The Annual Fee of \$1. shall be due on the first day of January in each year, and must be paid within three months in order to retain membership in this Union.

#### ARTICLE VI.—FUNDS.

Sec. 1.—The Funds of this Union shall be used for any purpose in the interest of the pursuit of bee culture, when approved by the Board of Directors; and to pay the legitimate expenses of the Union.

Sec. 2.—The Salary of the General Manager shall be determined by the Board of Directors, but shall not be more than twenty (20) per cent of the gross income for each fiscal year.

#### ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of all the members; provided that all proposed amendments shall be presented in writing, signed by three members, and sent to the General Manager before the first day of November, so that they may be presented in his Annual Report.



Revision of the State Fair Premium List as recommended by the State Bee-Keepers' Association.

THE executive committee were authorized to prepare a revision of the present premium list and present to the Board of Managers of the State Agricultural Society, and ask its adoption, recommending the cutting down of some premiums, and adding other premiums, so as to not materially change the aggregate of the whole. The following is the list as revised by the committee:

CLASS K.—Bees, Honey, and Apiary Goods.

E. WHITCOMB, FRIEND, NEB., Superintendent.

RULE 19. When there is but one exhibitor competing for a premium, the committee may award no premium or second or first, as merit may warrant. But in no case shall the money award exceed half that stipulated in case of competition. In non-competitive awards, committee must state in writing to the Board, in detail, the reasons for awards. All non-competitive awards are subject to revision and change by the Board of Managers, or the State Board when in session: *Provided*, The Board of Managers or the State Board shall have power, in extraordinary cases, with evidence justifying, to award a full cash premium.

✎ Twenty per cent of all cash premiums over two dollars awarded by the Board will be retained as entrance fees.

LOT 1—Bees, and Honey.

POINTS FOR THE JUDGMENT OF HONEY.

✎ All competitors on honey must produce their own honey.

*Comb Honey:* 1st. Perfection of capping. 2d. Evenness of surface. 3d. Whiteness of capping. 4th. General appearance to marketability.

*Extracted Honey:* 1st. Cleanliness. 2d. Clearness. 3d. Flavor.

	1st Pre	2d Pre	3d Pre
1460 Best comb basswood or white clover honey, not less than 20 pounds, crated and in single comb sections weighing not more than 2 pounds each.....	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$2.00
1461 Best alfalfa honey, the same amount and crated as above.....	5.00	3.00	2.00
1462 Best sweet clover honey, the same amount and crated as above.....	5.00	3.00	2.00
1463 Best fall honey, the same amount and crated as above.....	5.00	3.00	2.00
1464 Best 20 pounds extracted white clover or basswood honey.....	3.00	2.00	1.00
1465 Best 20 pounds extracted alfalfa honey.....	3.00	2.00	1.00



1466	Best 20 pounds extracted sweet clover honey.....	3.00	2.00	1.00
	The above to have been extracted previous to July 1st.			
1467	Best 20 pounds extracted heartease fall honey to have been stored after August 1st.....	3.00	2.00	1.00
1468	Best 20 pounds extracted alfalfa fall honey to have been stored after August 1st .....	3.00	2.00	1.00
1479	Best 20 pounds extracted sweet clover fall honey to have been extracted after August 1st.....	3.00	2.00	1.00
1470	Best and largest display of anyone, including bees extracted and comb honey.....	10.00	5.00	3.00
1471	Best exhibits in beeswax.....	5.00	3.00	1.00
1472	Best exhibit of apiarian supplies and implements	10.00	5.00	3.00
1473	Best display of honey in marketable shape, products of exhibitor's own apiary.....	10.00	5.00	3.00
1474	Best display of honey candy, honey sugar, and sweets by any one, in which honey is made to fill the place of sugar.....	3.00	2.00	1.00
1475	Best honey vinegar, not less than one-half gallon	2.00	1.00	
1476	Best display of bees and queens in observatory hives, and not allowed to fly, not less than five cages	10.00	5.00	3.00
1477	Best exhibition of extracting honey to be exhibited on the grounds, under the direction of the superintendent, not later than Thursday of the Fair....	5.00	3.00	2.00
1478	Best honey extractor, test to be made by actual extracting upon the grounds .....	3.00	2.00	1.00
1479	Best all purpose single wall hive.....	2.00	1.00	
1480	Best all purpose chaff hive.....	2.00	1.00	
1481	Best bee smoker.....	1.00	.50	

The following is confined to exhibitors in Nebraska alone.

1482	Best display of apiarian implements and supplies, including comb foundation, drawn, and bees in cages	5.00	3.00	2.00
1483	Best report of surplus honey stored by any colony of bees during the year 1896, the amount of stores, manner of building up, handling, kind of hive used, kind and quality stored, to be verified by owner, entries to conform with other entries of this class, and report with verification to be filed with Superintendent not later than noon on Thursday of the Fair	10.00	5.00	3.00

### LOT 2—County Collective Exhibits.

1484	The county in Nebraska showing the best collection of honey of all kinds, any or all ages, shapes, and conditions.....	15.00	10.00	5.00
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The exhibits must have been produced in the county exhibiting, and the product of not less than five apiaries. Individuals composing this collective exhibit may compete for any or all minor premiums offered.

LOT 3—Honey Producing Plants.

1485 For the best collection of honey producing plants, giving time of blossoming with common and proper names .....	10.00	5.00	3.00
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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## The Nebraska State Bee-Keepers' Association, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 17-19, 1896.

THE FIRST session of the society for 1895, was called to order in the Bee and Honey Hall on the State Fair Grounds at Omaha, Neb., September 17th, at 7:30 p. m., with E. Whitcomb, President, in the chair. After Roll Call, the president gave the following address:

MEMBERS OF THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION:—The present meeting brings us into new quarters, which, when fully completed are not to be excelled in the world. The past and present reverses have compelled us to be content with one of three honey cases in our present new hall, which in the future will adorn its interior, and place all the finer exhibits beyond a possibility of injury from dust, dampness or handling, during fairs to come. The past dry year has put the apiarist entirely upon his mettle, and there are but few who have any degree of success to report at this time. These dry years are not entirely without their good results, for they have taught us many things of apiculture which we would otherwise not have learned. Again, they have weeded out the small and inexperienced who are always upon the market with their products, regardless of the cost of production, and with ill prepared stock, and at any price that they can get, and solely to the discredit of the expert bee-keeper and the finer goods which he is usually able to offer.

An attempt was made during the last session of our Legislature to have a law enacted that would place foul brood under the supervision of a State Inspector, similar to that of the Province of Ontario. The great press of bills during the closing hours of the last session prevented this from becoming a law, and we are left with that from which no relief can be obtained. I notice that in the districts where foul brood has been reported that in a great measure it has run itself out for



want of material to further perpetuate the disease.

It is with regret that I notice the cutting of the premium for the county collective exhibit to a mere nominal premium. This was done without my knowledge, and I regard it as a mistake which the State Board will repair before the next State Fair. County collective exhibits have for long years been the very life in the agricultural exhibits at our State Fairs, and I regard them of no less importance in our state honey shows, which are not at all in the rear in regard to interest to the common public.

Our winter meeting was held at Auburn, Nemaha Co., and while there was not the attendance that might be desired, yet a great deal of interest was manifest, I have visited that county twice since that occasion to talk up the interests of bee-keeping, and believe that there exists as lively a local association as can be found in the state.

I recommend that an effort be made to place the county collective premium in this department back on its old footing, if not upon a better one. Of legislation that will place foul brood and kindred diseases under the supervision of a State Inspector and entirely without expense to the bee-keeper other than that for local treatment when so desired. That an effort be made to organize more live working county societies. That we strive to work the products of our apiaries up to the highest standards possible.

Our annual meetings in the past have given us an opportunity for a free interchange of experiences and methods, and we have thereby been able to sift more of the good from that which was rather undesirable.

The Nebraska apiaries were well represented at the meeting of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association, held at St. Joseph, Mo., in October, 1894, not only with the presence of our people, but with a selection of the products of our apiaries and handiwork, such as has never been excelled anywhere, and which we believe made a good impression upon those present who had not heretofore regarded the importance of Nebraska as a honey producing State. The next meeting of the North American Association will be held in our state and I recommend giving those who visit this meeting from abroad such a specimen of Nebraska push and energy and Nebraska hospitality as has never been given the members of that association.

The past meetings of this association have been marked with that unison of action which denominates success and which I bespeak for the future.



Next in order was the report of the Secretary and Treasurer, which was as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers' Association:—Another season in bee culture has passed, and at its close we are here assembled in annual convention, to discuss the past and plan for the future. The drouth of '94 put our bees in very bad shape for winter, and as we predicted last year, the winter very nearly wiped our bees out of existance. Reports from the various counties of our state, all told of severe losses varying from 50 per cent. in some counties to 97 per cent. in others, while those colonies which lived through were generally in a weak condition, and it was a struggle to pull through to fruit bloom when they began to build up very fast. During June there were some general showers which started the honey flow enough to have the bees build up rapidly.

With the summer rains came, we trust, the opening of a new era in bee-keeping in Nebraska. With July, came the new swarms, and to those who had bees in good shape at that time, it has truly "rained honey."

We think that never before in our experience with bees, have we ever known such excessive swarming in our own community, while reports of a similar condition exist elsewhere in the state.

We hope and trust that those who were so badly discouraged at the dark outlook of empty hives last spring, will again take courage and make a new start, determined to succeed in this our sweet pursuit.

At our Annual Meeting one year ago, a desire was expressed to secure the meeting of the North American Bee Keepers' Association for Lincoln this year. About thirty from this state attended the meeting at St. Joseph in October, but owing to a previous agreement to have the 1895 meeting at Toronto, Canada, it was thought best by your delegates not to press the matter too sharp for Lincoln, but withdrew with a promise to visit us in '96. Owing to financial conditions and press of work at the time, I was unable to attend the Toronto meeting, but true to implied promise, the next meeting will be held in Lincoln.

Our winter meeting was held at Auburn, Dec. 4-5, with little besides a local attendance.

The subject of collecting data of the Honey Flora of our state as discussed two years ago, is producing good results, and we trust it will be continued as taken in connection with the display here made, it is an object lesson of great value to the honey producer, and by way of suggestion I would like to see this Society ask the State Board of Agriculture to have specified in the next State Fair Premium List, "that these



mounted honey plants should be marked as to whether they are most valuable for pollen or honey, also that the time of blossoming and duration of bloom, and that these data should be accorded points of merit in awarding the premiums.

During the past winter I had printed 300 copies of the doings of the Society for the year. After these were printed, and while being bound, I received from Prof. Bessey, of the State University, a copy of Bulletin No. 40, which is a preliminary list of Nebraska honey plants. I immediately wrote to him and secured 100 copies and bound them with my own report and sent them out over the state as well as to experiment stations and bee periodicals elsewhere.

A suggestion as to meetings other than our Annual meeting. I would like to see the experiment tried of holding a mid-summer meeting instead of a winter meeting, or perchance, both. My idea is this: That were we to hold a summer meeting in some central locality, at a time of the year when bees are active, members might perhaps take a greater interest in discussing questions which come up every day for solution in the bee yard, but which are lost sight of and forgotten in the dead past, before a winter meeting.

As Treasurer of the society, I have to report as follows:

Cash on hand, as per last report .....	\$14.85
Received for memberships .....	5.50
	<hr/>
Total Receipts.....	\$20.35

To printing circulars for St. Joe Convention.....	\$ 1.50
Painting two banners for St Joe Convention ....	1.50
40 yards muslin for same .....	2.40
Printing 300 Reports.....	10.00
Postage on Same .....	1.00
Postage on 45 letters .....	.90
Postage on 150 circulars .....	1.50
Badges .....	1.00
Receipt Books .....	.50
	<hr/>

Total Expenditures	\$20.30
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With this meeting, I close four years work as Secretary and Treasurer of the society. When I took the position, there was no money in the treasury and some outstanding bills to be met. These have been settled, and our expenses kept within the finances.

Our trip to St. Joe was a little expense, but I think was worth to the Society and State all it cost and justified the outlay.



We must now go to work with a strong pull to make a grand success of the next meeting of the North American, and to this end I wish to suggest the appointment of a committee in every county in the state, if such can be found who will work in connection with the executive committee to work up an attendance and interest in our state society, and thus be better prepared for the coming of our bee-keeping friends.

Also we think that the executive committee, or a committee appointed for the purpose, should at once be authorized to make preparations for the meeting next year. There must be no steps backward, but with a push prepare for the entertainment of these visitors in royal style.

After the Secretary's report, R. M. Lewis of Omaha, G. M. Whitford of Arlington, and Wm. James of Pleasant Hill, were appointed committee to report on the suggestions of the president and secretary.

Experiences of the year were then given by Whitcomb, Whitford, Stilson, Lewis, James, and others.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

WHEREAS, we, as exhibitors, in the Bee & Honey department of our State Fair, have for our use, probably the finest building, used exclusively for a honey exhibit in the United States, if not in the world. Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we respectfully tender our thanks to the Board of State Fair Managers and the Omaha Fair Association for such exhibition hall, and promise to use our best endeavors to make such a showing of our products as shall be an honor to our state and the Society to which we belong.

The meeting was then adjourned to meet Wednesday evening, at 7 30.

### Does it pay to Irrigate.

We will give you a few figures from actual crops the past year and let you figure it out yourself. Hiram Manchester of North Loup harvested 114 bush. of oats from an acre. Jerry Dyer of Hershey records 110 bushels. Peter Smith of Columbus, getting 96 bushels of corn. Chas. H. Simmons gets \$100 an acre for his alfalfa. Wm. H. Wright of Gehring raised 800 bushels of onions which he sold for \$800. Now these are results obtained by practical work on our Nebraska land. The cost of putting water on our land is very small compared with the increased yield. Will it not pay every farmer to water a few acres and insure himself against total failures of crops.



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L. D. STILSON, - : - : - EDITOR.  
YORK, NEBRASKA.*Official Organ of the Nebraska State  
Bee-Keepers Association.*

Entered at the post-office as second class matter.

A Happy New Year to all our friends  
both old and new.

On Jan. 10th. fifty of the Bee Keepers and Horticultural people held a joint meeting at the home of the Neb. Bee Keeper. It was surprising to see how many people of our acquaintance had business here that day. After dinner, and a general visit, each society held an election of officers for the year, and appointed committees to look after the particular interests of each. After which, the editor and wife were presented with tokens of esteem by the members of these societies, it being the 32d. anniversary of wedded life, twenty-five of which had been spent in the immediate vicinity of York, keeping bees, raising fruit and farming.

Hardly had the bee and fruit friends turned their faces homeward when an equal number of G. A. R. Comrades and their wives members of the W. R. C. walked in without even saying by "your leave," taking possession of the home and conducting things in their own manner during the evening, when they too, wished us health and prosperity, bade us good night and departed, leaving behind another bright spot in life's pathway long to be remembered, for which we feel truly grateful to our friends and neighbors.

Do you need any new hives or fixtures? Order them early and avoid the rush. It's coming Bye and Bye.

Officers of the North American Bee Keepers' Association 1896:—President, A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio; Vice Pres., Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn, Ont.; Secretary, Dr. A. B. Mason, Auburndale, O.; Treasurer, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich. The next meeting will be held at Lincoln, Neb.

Officers of the Neb. State Bee Keepers Association:—Pres., E. Whitcomb, Vice Pres., H. E. Heath, Lincoln, Sec. and Treas., L. D. Stilson, York.

The Nebraska Beet Sugar Association meets at Fremont, Neb. Wednesday and Thursday, February 5th and 6th, 1896, commencing Wednesday at 1:30 P. M. All who are interested are invited to attend

Sweet Clover has had more friends show themselves this year than ever before. How is that for a noxious weed when the town people in Neb. and Ill. have been pasturing their cattle on it all summer.

Winter with its biting winds outside but with the bees safely housed and ourselves by the fire we can laugh a little any how and if when we figure the past years profits they are not as large as we might wish, we live in hopes of a better day "Bye and Bye."

The International Bee Keepers Congress held at Atlanta Ga. on Dec. 4 5 organized by electing Dr. J. H. Brown of Augusta Ga. President, A. I. Root of Medina, Ohio Vice President, J. T. Calvert Medina Ohio, Secretary. The old veterans in the business were there and a rich meeting the result.

Sweet Peas painted from nature at Fordhook Farm, is the beautiful lithographic picture sent us by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., size 13x15 inches.



The Iowa Seed Co. of Des Moines have issued a beautiful seed catalogue as usual, containing as fine an assortment of seeds, etc., as can be found in the west. In our dealings with them last year, we found them honorable in their business. We have been personally acquainted with one of the managers of this firm for several years, and think them reliable. Send for catalogue, mentioning this journal.

The Biggle Poultry Book like its predecessors the Horse Book and Berry Book is overflowing with good, sound, common sense. Like the Farm Journal from which much of its material is taken, it is boiled down and to the point and yet every chapter covers the ground carefully and thoroughly. The enumeration of a few of the leading chapters will give an idea of the scope and character of the book: Early Broilers, Hens Expressly for Eggs, The Farmers' Flock, The Village Hennyery, Fattening and Marketing, Diseases and Enemies, Chicks with Brooders, etc., etc.

To many the feature of the book will no doubt be the sixteen colored plates showing twenty-three breeds of poultry true to color and shape. Published by Wilmer Atkinson Company, Philadelphia, Pa. Price, 50 Cents.

The Nebraska Farmer is "dead set agin'" sweet clover, and thinks it should be destroyed forthwith, and without even a decent funeral. Perhaps the editor thinks dog fennel smells better and sunflowers look better, and rag weeds make better butter, and buffalo burrs better honey, than sweet clover, and take them altogether they make a combination which suits him better for roadside ornamentation.

Really there is no accounting for

tastes only in the bringing up. Anyway, Bro. Heath, what ails you? Did the sight of a ton or so of sweet clover honey at the State Fair make you sick, because you could not get more of it.

The citizens of North Platte and vicinity are so enthusiastic with the fact that irrigation is beneficial that they are now planning to hold an Irrigation Fair this coming fall, in October. This is the proper way to let their light shine, and may they have success in the undertaking.

We have just had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with Hon. I. A. Fort, also of getting acquainted with "Lute Wilcox," editor of The Field and Farm, of Denver, Col., who is also the editor of a new hand book entitled "Irrigation Farmer," which is just now having a wonderful sale among irrigators.

Much of the meeting of the State Horticulture Society was devoted to irrigation as used in fruit growing, and we will give a synopsis of the meeting in next issue.

As we are adding extra pages to the Bee Keeper for 1896 and putting in an entire new department, we expect extra effort on the part of our subscribers that they will aid us in securing new subscribers, also patronize our advertisers.



The Nebraska Bee  
Keeper  
AND IRRIGATOR  
ONE YEAR  
50 CTS.



## IRRIGATION.

Officers of the State Irrigation Association:—President, A. G. Wolfenbarger, Lincoln; Vice President, H. E. Babcock, Ord; Treasurer, R. S. Oberfelder, Sidney; Secretary, James L. McIntosh, Sidney; State Lecturer, I. A. Fort, North Platte. Next meeting will be held at Lexington, Neb.

WITH this issue, we begin another department. The drouths and crop failures of the past have taught the people of Nebraska, as well as many of our sister states that farming must be conducted in a different manner and on different lines, or it will only be a question of time, when instead of the farmer being the most independent of all men, he will, of all men be the poorest. In the past we have been depending upon one or two crops, with which to raise money to pay our debts, as well as to buy much of the living of the family. Too often have the farmers of Nebraska bent their entire energies and spent their whole time in raising corn. When crops were good he could buy his flour, fruit, honey and groceries, but when the hot winds dried up the corn, there was nothing to buy with, and having raised nothing but corn stalks, very little left to feed stock with.

He, who is wise, will heed the lessons of the past, and diversify his crops so as to have some, at least, secured before the hot winds of July and August shall again scorch every green plant. We do not think it wise for every one who has only raised corn all his life, to drop that all once and rush into some other style of farming of which he knows nothing, but study well the work he contemplates. Commence with a small garden, where he can irrigate it and tend it well, then, as he learns how, extend his work along lines most to his pleasure.

During the past two years, there have been acre gardens under irrigation which have produced almost enough to support the family. Will you try a small garden patch this year?

Some may ask how will bee keeping and irrigation hitch in, we reply, first-rate, for if you begin to irrigate, you will soon have alfalfa and sweet clover growing, instead of dog fennel and sunflowers.

### Nebraska and Her Possibilities.

The friends of civilization everywhere are watching with keen interest the development and progress of our state. Favored with soil and climatic conditions, except moisture, as no other scope of territory of equal extent on this continent, if indeed in the whole world. We had in the first twenty-five years of our existence as a state made such progress as to challenge the admiration of the nation. Then came disaster, and from the necessities of these four years of dearth, is springing a new



era of our state's history and development. So long as we could raise wheat and corn and ship eastward, we were robbing our soil, and following old lines of slipshod farming, and only the few were studying the subject of greater diversity of farm products. It was only the few who had studied the possibilities of our soil, properly watered. These few were so far in advance of the masses in their ideas that they were often spoken of as finical and visionary. When the drouths came, the masses were compelled to come to a halt, and study untried plans. Then came the practical part of irrigation. It was tried very sparingly at first; success came with each well conducted experiment, and people wondered, and soon catching the enthusiasm of success, went to work and now after three years of practical work, not less than one million acres of Nebraska land, once considered an absolute desert waste, has been reclaimed, and is today the home of prosperity.

A million dollars has been expended in this work in the past, and has added over ten million dollars to the property. The estimated work now in hand for this year is over one and a half million acres, which will add more than twenty million dollars to our property as all our property & all our works are now being constructed more economically than at first.

The greatest good from irrigation to our state is not in the combination of capital, and building large ditches, but in the employment of labor and some capital and building smaller plants away from streams, on the broad prairies, on the 80 or 160 acre farm, building up happy homes for our people, surrounded by fruit and forest tress, flowers and gardens with people contented, educated and happy because of prosperity.

Peculiar circumstances have not only affected the citizens of our state but the nation as well, for the past few years. The eastern cities are crowded with idle laborers; their banks are loaded with idle capital, waiting for profitable investment. Nebraska today has, in round numbers, a million inhabitants. We have room for ten million more willing workers. We have a soil capable of producing food for twice that many. We have the water to produce anything, everything, in the line of food. It takes money capital, it takes labor capital, it takes brains to intelligently combine the two kinds of capital.

How can Nebraska people best illustrate to the overcrowded east the possibilities of our state? Is there not some way by which we can show to them that a combination of their idle labor and capital with our soil and water would be an advantage to all.

It was thought by many that when the Government had disposed of all the lands subject to homestead entry here, that our state needed



no more imigrants. Today, under the newer systems of culture, we have room for ten times as many homes as Uncle Sam ever gave away.

The greatest single remedy for hard times will be "Find land for the landless, homes for the homeless, labor for the laborer".

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### Are you intending to Irrigate?

Water put onto the ground this winter is worth more to your next season's crop, than it would be to wait until the crop began to dry up and shrivel for the want of rain. Ditch irrigation cannot be practiced in the cold winter weather to as good advantage as when there is no frost, but with the wind mill and pond system, it can be carried on the year round and in that way, more than double the land can be covered by the plant, than to wait until spring.

Very many people have only thought it possible to do any water farming, except along the streams, where the water could be carried to the land by the ditch system. This system is all right for those who can take advantage of such locations; but with the present styles of pumps and windmills, more happy families can be provided for along the table lands of our state, away from the streams, taking the water from the underflow, and putting it just where we want it, and where we need it, without the worry and the trouble of the ditch system, and the user will be a great deal more independent.

"If irrigation is practiced by all, where can we sell our produce?" was asked us not long since. Do not worry about the markets until your family and my family and every other family in Nebraska, has fruits, vegetables, honey, bread, and meat in abundance, and even then you will have a shiftless neighbor, who will not irrigate and you can sell to him. Will you go to work now to irrigate some this season.

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At a Farmer's Institute not long since, one question for discussion was this, "Emigration or Irrigation, which shall it be?" Better stay where you are, if you have a home, and irrigate. There is an abundance of water all over the state to do it with, and if you will send us 50 cts. for this paper one year, we will try and tell you how to get it out of the ground.

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It is estimated that a milion and a half acres of Nebraska land will be irrigated this year. If water in abundance adds only \$10 to each acre of land, this will add the snug sum of fifteen millions dollars, actual wealth to those who choose to use water.



## IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA.

The third annual Nebraska state irrigation convention opened at Sidney, Nebraska under magnificent auspices, with nearly 1,000 delegates and visitors. —Dec. 18.

We take from the Secretary's report the following: "No regular printed report of the last convention has ever been made, for the reason that no funds whatever were at hand to defray the expenses. Many calls have been made for copies of the official report, but aside from condensed newspaper sketches of the convention, the demand has remained unsupplied. Such literature as has been furnished has been distributed at my own expense. Every letter of inquiry has been answered during the year, and no week has passed without correspondence. All expenses for postage, telegrams, stationery, etc., have been paid by the secretary, except only such stationery and postage as has been furnished by the convention committee in connection with preparations for this meeting. \* \* \*

"It would not be strange, under existing circumstances, if little had been accomplished during the year's administration just closed. But fidelity to history requires that a few things be set down to show the effort that has been put forth. The president, Hon. I. A. Fort, has carried on an agitational and educational campaign, extending over every congressional district in this state, and has gone forth as a missionary for the cause of irrigation to Illinois, Indiana and other states. He has kept the public press alive with irrigation information and interviews on the progress of the movement at home and abroad. \* \* \*

"Under the new code of irrigation law, pronounced by eminent critics to be one of the most carefully framed and practically adapted statutes of recent years in irrigation development, the face of our state has been changed in many places as if by the hand of a master magician. Before one year has passed since the law went into effect, forty-five counties have irrigation works of some kind under operation, and before the spring seed time has come again, the record will most certainly show the scientific application of water to the soil in more than sixty of our eighty counties of the state

"Somewhere between 800 and 900 persons have filed their claims to the public waters of the state with the State Board of Irrigation and the coming year will show a large increase over this number. Over 900,000 acres of Nebraska productive soil have been placed under ditch, reservoir or windmill irrigation. The cost already constructed amounts to nearly \$1,500,000. \* \* The result has been a large increase in the value of land brought under the new systems. Careful estimators now place the increase in land values already apparent about ten million. \* \*"



## The Expert Report of the Exact Condition of the Milford Gold Fields.

The Nebraska State Journal received the original draft of the report of Prof. Bartlett on the condition of the gold-fields near Milford, Neb., and gives it just as it was written, and reads as follows:

Gentlemen.—Some time since I came here in accordance with an agreement made with Mr. Taylor to assume temporary control of your gravel deposit, and inspect and test the same. This I have now completed and am therefore rendering a report.

Upon my arrival here I found that the information received of these vast treasure vaults had been erroneous, instead of a ledge deposit, as one expert had put it, I found a gravel gold bearing claim miles in extent and much of it fabulously rich, and taking it altogether it equals in extent, vaster in depth and richer in value than any similar deposit in the world; indeed there have been but two similar ones known the great middle field of Australia, from which the owner cleared two millions and over, the one in Honduras that I equipped for the late Thomas Parrott was the other, and in regard to deposit was similar to this one. This Honduras mine added millions to its already Princely wealthy owner. Neither of these mines named were in point of value anything like this one; the Australian gave from \$1.25 to \$2.90 per ton, the Honduras was worth ten cents per cubic yard—equal to a ton. This later was worked very cheaply, using from three to six giants; the dump was the ocean shore and the out-going tide left the dump entirely bare.

The vast number of tests made from every part of this two mile square have been truly marvelous. They have not only been by me, but are the results of

many hands, some of them truly eminent ones. There has been results running as high as \$200 and as low as \$3; my own have not varied so widely, going as low as \$3 and as high as \$90. The test was obtained from a sand and I am sure that it would have been pronounced of no value by almost anyone. We got very high value from a strata of deeply iron stand sand two feet from the surface. These tests have been carefully made and conservatively judged, and viewing this deposit from the standpoint of a lifetime of experience, I pronounce it of fabulous value. Shafts and test holes have been sunk and value established and now remains to do but to adopt some plans or means whereby this gold can be gotten out cheaply and quickly. There has been some talk of mills, rockers, etc., but if either of them were adopted, the day of judgement would be here before the last of this body would be treated. In the light of future experience both of my own, and others equally varied, water is the only means of reclaiming this enormous value. In considering the two systems named above, the cost of installing the plants would be fully two thousand dollars for the mill; its capacity 15 tons per day, and outside of the fuel, the labor would amount to ten dollars per day. The rockers would of themselves cost but little, but to make any impression on this body, an army of men would be a necessity and the cost very great; on the other hand, after water has been gotten, this entire mass can be treated for a price not to exceed 25 cts. per ton and two giants would take up one-half to one acre per day.

How shall we get this water? The Blue river is near, but the water is so low in the channel, that to get it is an impossibility, and if a pump was resorted to, the mill interests along the river would demand all the water, and so this puts it out of the question.



So we come back to the only resource left, artesian wells. Two 8 in. wells located just across the water shed apex sloping toward the Blue would reach this entire gold producing deposit, and after this was out, they would be a first class commercial investment as they will solve the problem for the American farmer. Artesian wells are no longer an experiment; the Muozaic rock no matter where it is found always gives water in abundance. From a water level run in this country during the location of the Union Pacific railroad, located this rock at from 700 to 800 below the surface. The boring of this depth will be of but little expense of providing the same, and as nothing compared with what water usually costs to work gravel mines.

It is a fair test to measure ourselves by others, and from this standpoint, we are fairly sure of success, as at Beaver Crossing are fifty wells all flowing and doing good work; this is less than fifteen miles from Milford. At Niobrara City is one 8 in. well that is 650 feet, natural flow, under ninety-five pounds is eighty feet high. It is used to run a roller mill by day and an electric light plant by night. New York, Ohio, Canada, Illinois, and the Dakotas are all in line in artesian wells, and the prosperity of this semi-arid belt as well as the gold output of this locality depends upon these wells.

Finally, permit me to congratulate the owners of this property upon their rare good fortune in securing this prize.—Huber Bartlett, Mining Engineer.

### Late Literary News.

No one ever thought of introducing so expensive a feature as lithographic color work in the days when the leading magazines sold for \$4.00 a year and 35 cents a copy. But times change, and the magazines change with them. It has remained for the *Cosmopolitan*,

sold at one dollar per year, to put in an extensive lithographic plant capable of printing 320,000 pages per day (one color). The January issue presents as a frontispiece a water-color drawing by Eric Pope, illustrating the last story by R. L. Stevenson, which has probably never been excelled even in the pages of the finest dollar French periodicals. The cover of *The Cosmopolitan* is also changed, a drawing of page length by the famous Paris artist Rossi, in lithographic colors on white paper takes the place of the manilla back with its red stripe. Hereafter the cover is to be a fresh surprise each month.

With the New Year, the *American Gardening* will be published weekly. The price remains the same, \$1.00 per year. This paper has in the past been one of the "standards" for the fruit and flower grower. If you are not a subscriber, you should be. Send for a sample copy. Address, *American Gardening*, Rhinelander Building, New York.

We urge upon our readers the necessity of purchasing good seeds. Among those with whom we have had good seeds and satisfactory results are James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y., and W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. We have dealt with these gentlemen for several years, and to say that we are pleased with their dealings hardly expresses our appreciation of them. See their advertisements on page 20 of this issue. We heartily recommend these firms to all who want good seeds and fair treatment.

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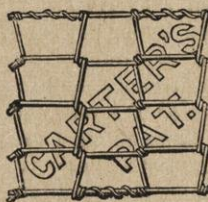
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We are in receipt of "Burpee's Farm Annual," published by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. It is a handsomely illustrated book about Seeds, etc. Several paintings from nature, also a birds-eye view of Fordhook Farm, are produced. The book is free to intending purchasers.

**Worth Having.**

A new and unique book, entitled "Our Family," is now coming from the press of the Word and Works Publishing Company, St. Louis. It contains a new and novel form of family record, the invention of Rev. Irl R. Hicks. A number of bright essays by young people on "The Ideal Young Man," and "The Ideal Young Woman" make up a part of the book. The book is well illustrated, the frontispiece, entitled "Unto the Third and Fourth Generation," being a triumph of art. This book should be in every family. It is bound in full cloth with gold embossed design on cover. Price, \$1.50.

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