



## Addresses at Annual Meeting 1941

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BAYARD H. PAINE  
Justice of Nebraska Supreme Court

# The Future of Nebraska

BAYARD H. PAINE, LINCOLN\*

My subject this evening is "The Future of Nebraska." It's glorious, and I hope to give you reasons why it will be wise to stand by Nebraska.

We have lately had a few years of drouth over a large part of this state, but that wouldn't have surprised people of 1840. A geography published just one hundred years ago, which was about the size of the little old Webster's Spelling Book and was used by my grandmother in Ohio, contained uncolored outline maps. On one of them was shown the Missouri River, and a little creek trickled a few miles west where the Platte River is now. Printed across the territory that is now Nebraska were the words, "The Great American Desert." It was explained that an arid mantle of sand stretched over thousands of square miles just west of the Missouri River, and that in time perhaps permanent habitations would approach it from the east or come back towards it from the Rocky Mountains, but it could not be hoped that human beings would ever be content to live in this sandy waste. The further reason was given by that author of 1840 that the super-heated air arising from this parched and lifeless Western Sahara withered the verdure and stifled living creatures around its very border. Yet this "Great American Desert," by the hard work of pioneers from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, as well as from Germany, Denmark and Sweden, was tamed and conquered.

Some of you remember when corn sold for ten cents a bushel, milk at five cents a quart; when the butcher gave away liver and soup-bones, and treated the kids to bologna.

How those original homesteaders in Nebraska existed through hard times, we can scarcely understand now. The experience of Mr. and Mrs. James Brissenden, pioneers of Dundy County, is perhaps typical. They told me that when they took their home-

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\*Address at Annual Meeting, State Historical Society, September 27, 1941.

stead they first built a sod house, with the help of good neighbors, and the next year they raised six acres of wheat. This they harvested with a cradle, threshed it with a flail, the chaff blowing off in the wind, and then took the crop forty or fifty miles overland to the closest mill at Champion, waited while it was ground into flour, then brought it back home.

Then they harvested their first crop of corn. They had planted it by chopping holes in the sod with an axe, putting a few kernels of corn into each and stamping it down. When the nubbins were ripe in the fall they found there was no market for their nubbins, but only for shelled corn. But they weren't licked. The husband and wife took turns putting one ear at a time through a one-hole hand sheller, and by turning that little crank for several days they shelled nearly a wagonbox full of corn. They hauled it many miles to market, and finally got ten cents a bushel in trade for coal and brought back enough to keep warm on blizzard days. These were all the crops they had to live on during their first year. But they were much more fortunate than some of the neighbors who lost all their crops to the grasshoppers.

We have seen the value of farm land go from \$1.25 to \$200 an acre, and now we have seen it drop back to \$10 or \$15 an acre or less, while some ranch land sold a few years ago for \$500 to \$1,000 a section. What a change from prosperity to unending drouth! In a boarding house they say the tenderest part of the chicken is the gravy, but Nebraska has not had much gravy in the last eight years.

Another evidence of the fact that our citizens have become discouraged is shown by a study of the last census report on population. On April 1, 1940, Nebraska had a population of 1,315,834 — a loss of 62,129, or 4.5 percent in the last ten years.

The urban population living in the thirty-six cities of over 2,500 population was 514,148, or a gain of 28,041. But the rural population was 801,686, showing that the 61 percent of our population not living in cities lost 90,170 during the ten years.

One reason for this is doubtless the decreasing birth rate shown in farm families, as well as the fact that fewer farm hands are needed. There are 70,316 tractors in use; and with machine farming, even though the farm unit is getting larger less help is required. Some have moved to get work elsewhere, especially

in the last year to work on government projects.

Dr. H. C. Filley, economist at the Nebraska School of Agriculture, in a thought-provoking paper on "Population Trends" which he recently delivered, says that the cost of the contribution which farming people have made to the prosperity of the cities is greater than is commonly recognized. If it cost \$2,000 to \$2,500 to rear and educate the average child on American farms to the age of fifteen, which covers cost of food, clothing, medical services and education, then the migration of 6,300,000 persons from the farms to the cities between 1920 and 1930 represents a contribution of over fourteen billion dollars to the cities. This is far greater than the value of the wheat crop raised during that ten-year period, plus the value of half of the cotton crop grown in the same period.

Then again, when the farmer and his wife die the estate is divided among the children. During the decade of 1920 to 1930, one-fifth of the farmers and their wives died, and their estates were distributed to their children. But more than one-third of all the children had moved from the farms to the cities, and those children who remained had to mortgage the farms to pay the shares of the estate owing to their brothers and sisters who had moved to the cities. A rough estimate of this is between three and four billion dollars which was drained from the farms to the cities in that ten-year period.

In addition, it is estimated that seven and a half billion dollars in interest was paid to insurance and other corporations and individuals in cities, and that the rent paid to city dwellers from their farms was another ten billion, making thirty-four and a half billion dollars from the farms of our nation sent to the cities in the ten prosperous years from 1920 to 1930.

While no definite facts can be obtained on all these items for our own state, yet we know that money went from farms to cities on all these items in the same proportion that our population and wealth bear to the general average.

The total income of Nebraska from agriculture and stock-raising has diminished from 496 million dollars in 1930 to 230 million in 1940.

Nebraska has been kept afloat in these last years by the large sums received from the federal government. Money received from

the United States Treasury is divided into two classes: First, loans, repayable when and if possible; second, outright grants.

In the first class of loans we find that the Home Owners Loan Corporation alone loaned over 22 million dollars in Nebraska in 1934, and large sums were loaned by the Federal Credit Corporation and the Farm Security Administration. To cities, for part of the cost of constructing municipal projects, outright grants were made for the cost of labor and loans were made for the balance by the Public Works Administration. Adding these to the total of eight other government loaning agencies in the seven years from 1933 to 1939, we find that the loans to Nebraska cities and citizens reached a total of \$326,596,000.

The outright grants during the same seven years were \$401,276,000, the largest of the twenty-nine items included being that from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of \$123,641,275 paid to the farmers of Nebraska. Another large item was approximately \$32,000,000 for our public roads. Total, \$727,872,000 sent to Nebraska.

With this glance at present-day conditions, how can Nebraska expect to fare any better than other states after the war?

In driving through a half-dozen southern states this summer and seeing the acres of buildings erected for army camps, and in going by the munitions plants in Indiana, Illinois and eastern Iowa, it staggers one to think of the mushroom growth of all those buildings because of present-day war activities. In town after town and city after city, great additions of houses have been built (in many cases hundreds of them just alike) under government lending plans. When the danger of war is over and the army camps are used no more and the munitions plants are valueless, hundreds of overbuilt towns will look like ghost towns. Nebraska, having just one little bomber assembling plant near Omaha at the present time, will not have the great reaction which will strike all of these other cities. We believe Nebraska can move along and meet the reconstruction days ahead without panic and crash and continue to raise beef and foodstuffs for all that need them.

We are interested in what will happen after the war ends. If Hitler wins, we know what will happen. A large part of the world will be under the same state of slavery that existed in the

days of the Roman Empire, for Hitler would treat the subject people in a manner very little different from that suffered by the Roman slaves, and he would control all conditions of manufacture, trade and agriculture among the nations of the earth.

If Hitler goes down, then Britain and America will have to face the question of whether they can afford to rehabilitate the world. Will the United States now be in a position to assist in rebuilding the countries of Europe to the same extent as we helped them after the last war?

To answer this question, we must make a very brief examination of what our own conditions will be at the close of the war. The lend-lease appropriations and authorizations now amount to fifty-three billion dollars, and if the war should end soon these appropriations, added to the existing national debt of fifty billion, would make a national debt of over one hundred billion dollars. This means a debt of about three thousand dollars against every family in the United States, or seven hundred dollars on every man, woman and child.

Let us look at it in another way. The total amount now on deposit in the fifteen thousand banks of the United States, both state and national, is about seventy-six billion dollars. So, if the war ends soon, the national debt will exceed all of the deposits in all of our banks.

Again, the Census Bureau reports show that the assessed value of all the real estate in the United States is about one hundred ten billion dollars, so the national debt with interest for a few years would exceed the full value of all of the land in the United States.

A few days ago the President signed a new tax bill of \$3,580,000,000, and Mr. Kiplinger of Washington says another tax bill will be in Congress within sixty days, placing additional taxes in many places. Millions will pay income taxes this year who have never paid them before, for the exemptions will be dropped to \$750 for an individual and \$1,500 for married couples. We will have federal taxes on many things never before taxed.

Senator Reynolds of North Carolina also gives us a glance at other facts in the address he made at the annual convention of the Iowa Bankers Association early this month. He said there are six million unemployed today in the United States, in spite

of the largest defense program ever undertaken by any nation.

There are still a million on the WPA rolls, 169,000 young men in CCC camps, 1,580,000 men already in the army, 340,000 in the navy, and in the service of the federal government and the forty-eight state governments there are four million civilian employees.

We are shocked to learn that by the first of the year between five and six thousand plants and factories will have to be closed by reason of priority materials taken over by the government, and this will throw another million men out of employment.

It is planned that by January 1, 1944, there will be twenty-three million workers in defense industries in the United States and three and a half million in the army and navy. If the war closes then, twenty-six and a half million will be thrown out of employment more or less rapidly, and the national debt (if the war runs to 1944) will be from one hundred fifty to two hundred billion dollars. Will America be able to survive such an enormous debt and such an enormous number of unemployed? These problems cannot wait for solution to the date that the war is over, but the best brains of the nation must be working on them now, to the end that our system of government shall endure.

The next question is, will capital and labor survive? A fair answer to that question is this—that capital and labor cannot survive these things which we know will happen at the end of the war without making, on both sides, sacrifices so gigantic that they have never yet been contemplated. Only by forgetting self and laying all on the altar of freedom can the country we love stand in the great emergency which will strike us if and when the democracies win the war.

Raymond Moley says, "War produces super-government in all the countries which participate." We may admit that that is true, but we still doubt very much whether super-governments produce super-men. There is proof to show that Mussolini and Hitler and Stalin are just ordinary men placed upon extraordinary pinnacles of power. If America does take on the form of a super-government, we sincerely trust that as soon as the war is over it may become what it was in the time of our forefathers—not a government of officials and powerful representatives, but "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."



For this government has been unique from its very beginning in that supreme power was not lodged in its courts, nor in its President, nor yet in its Congress, but absolutely in the people.

How will Nebraska stand up under inflation, unemployment and heavy taxation? Answer: As well as any state in the Union.

### Irrigation

Charles F. Kettering, vice-president of General Motors, says that at Antioch College they were working on the problem of why grass is green, and what chlorophyl is, and Kettering said, "The only good answer I ever got was from a fellow who takes care of a golf course in Arizona. He said, 'I don't know what makes grass green in your country, but out here *it is just plain water.*'"

We early learned that it was possible to pump water out of small streams, and many a farmer with a very cheap pumping system has irrigated ten to twenty acres by such a method; but in the last few years unfortunately many of our streams have gone dry.

In addition to an almost unlimited extension of pump irrigation, there is the Republican Valley project. The Republican Valley is a long, narrow valley, with about the richest and most fertile soil in Nebraska. In the valley of the Republican and the streams tributary to it occurred the famous buffalo hunt of the Russian Grand Duke Alexis with Buffalo Bill in Hayes County, Nebraska, in January 1872, as well as many other buffalo hunts in the early seventies.\* This was for the reason that the gramma grass which grew there provided the best feeding ground for buffalo, and both the Sioux and Pawnee tribes made annual pilgrimages to this rich valley to lay in their winter stock of food and robes; and here the last battle between two Indian tribes occurred near Trenton in the summer of 1873. After the buffalo disappeared the thrifty farmers of the Republican Valley raised wonderful crops until the terrible flood in June 1935 destroyed millions of dollars' worth of property and wiped out over a hundred lives. That flood must never be repeated. Small dams upon the Medicine, the Willow, and the Frenchman

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\* The story of this hunt is told in chapter 20 of Judge Paine's book on *Pioneers, Indians and Buffaloes*.

ivers, together with the large dam upon the Republican near Republican City, will store up the flood waters, and instead of becoming a danger to life and property they can be used to irrigate thousands of acres in that valley. If we had not been compelled to spend billions of dollars in war preparations, this Republican River project, which has been favorably reported upon by government engineers, would have been started many months ago.

Time does not permit me to discuss the Tri-County, Sutherland and Columbus projects, which were the subject of Mr. Boslaugh's address today, but after years of planning and many reports by engineers, the federal government was convinced that it was worth while to put twenty-five to thirty million dollars in these three great public power projects. As a result we have the Kingsley Dam, the second greatest earthen dam in the world. It is said that when all of these present irrigating projects have reached their maximum efficiency we can irrigate three million acres of land in Nebraska. California has only about that acreage under irrigation, and it has brought millions to that state from land which without irrigation was generally worthless.

Other projects are nearing completion upon the North Loup and the Middle Loup, and thousands of acres of land adjoining the Loup rivers will soon be under intensive cultivation. We have seen what irrigation will do to one county by the growth of Scotts Bluff County from a population of 8,355 in the census of 1910 to 33,917 in 1940, with its five sugar factories, and a family living on nearly every twenty acres of irrigated land.

In an address delivered by J. E. Lawrence, editor of the *Lincoln Star*, at the dedication of the Kingsley Dam this summer, he pictured the effect of the irrigation upon Nebraska, and then quoted a remark by the late Dan Stephens in reference to the future:

"This is a great vision. Some day this land will bloom, these farm homes will again revel in new dresses of paint, the bins and cribs will again be filled with corn, and the pens and yards will be filled with chickens, hogs and cattle. God intended this country to be peopled with families protected against adversities."

Yesterday I had a conference with Dr. A. L. Lugin, professor of geology, at his office in Morrill Hall. I was anxious to know what the future of Nebraska is as to water. He gave me

several articles which he had written, and explained to me some things that I never knew and that possibly may be of interest to some here tonight.

The total annual rainfall of Nebraska is about ninety-seven million acre feet. The ground storage under Nebraska, due to the remarkable porosity of the gravel beds and rocks, will hold ten times the annual rainfall. The sandhill region alone in central Nebraska may contain as much as six hundred million acre feet of water under the sand bed on top, for nearly all the water which falls upon the sandhills of Nebraska goes into the ground.

The log of one test well drilling near Hyannis in Grant County showed first thirty feet of sand, and then porous, permeable tertiary sandstone to a depth of 1,270 feet before reaching the Brule clay. A well at North Platte showed 460 feet of sand and gravel and sandstone, all saturated with water. Down in the Platte Valley, in the gravel bed averaging 100 feet thick all the way from North Platte to Columbus, there is an area of at least 15 million acre feet of underground water, so that in nearly all parts of Nebraska there is abundance of water in storage and practically all of it can be reached by pump irrigation. One well recently completed in Box Butte County is 400 feet deep, with more than 300 feet of water standing in it.

Water-bearing materials will give up from one-fifth to two-thirds of the contained water. After describing how the underground water from about 10,000 square miles of the sandhills region travels beneath the mantle of sand towards the Platte Valley and then south into the Republican and the Blue, Dr. Lugn summarizes by saying that there are 2,400,000 acres of land in the fourteen counties, to wit, Phelps, Kearney, Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, York, Polk, Seward, Franklin, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer and Saline, which may be given at least one acre foot of water a year by pump irrigation.

So in addition to the three great power and irrigation projects in the Platte Valley we have, as a result of these careful studies made by Dr. Lugn on the underground hydrology of our state, facts which prove that there is a gravel bed full of water which goes down to a depth of one hundred feet in many locations and forms an almost inexhaustible reservoir of water. Tapping this reservoir, there are now hundreds of large pumps powered

by gasoline or electric motors which in time will irrigate thousands of acres of land. This plan for utilization of the underground reservoir of water by pump irrigation was explained fully to members of the Nebraska Historical Society in the excellent address of Senator Gantz of Alliance upon the subject at your last annual dinner.

Congressman Buckley has recently expressed the greatest interest in pump irrigation, and says that possibly at no far distant date federal funds may be available for farmers to install pumps and place part of their land under irrigation. Farmers who in the past have pioneered in this pump irrigation are now raising 75 to 100 bushels of corn per acre, 15 to 20 tons of beets, and 200 to 400 bushels of potatoes in the past two or three years.

The accessibility of these great bodies of subterranean water for pump irrigation will doubtless result in the passage of a law by our unicameral legislature for organizing well irrigation districts, and doubtless such laws will give prior rights to those who have pioneered in this field.

The Supreme Court of our state had before it a case involving subterranean waters as affecting their use in a deep gravel pit, and in the case of *Olson v. City of Wahoo* (124 Neb. 802) the court held:

The owner of land is entitled to appropriate waters found under his land, but his use thereof must be reasonable, and not injurious to others who have substantial rights in such waters.

Doubtless legislation will soon provide for regulation of pump irrigation to make it available to the largest number of farmers possible, and in localities having but shallow gravel beds filled with water one man will not be allowed to exhaust the local supply if it adversely affects an adjoining farmer.

#### **Electricity Brought to the Farms**

At first an automobile was a luxury. Today it is a necessity — or is it?

For years large farm organizations had sought in vain to have electricity made available to individual farms as the necessity which it is.

At last our own Senator George W. Norris, leader of the Public Power movement in the United States, wrote and secured

passage of the federal Rural Electrification Act authorizing the government to loan money to rural public power districts and cooperatives. This makes electricity available to thousands of farms and even to army camps. It empowers the government to finance construction of rural electric lines, which agree to pay off the loans in twenty-five years. Nebraska has pioneered the way, and we have now over twenty Rural Public Power Districts which buy electricity at wholesale and sell it at retail to farmers. They are scattered all over the state, from Lancaster County to Scottsbluff and from Dakota County to McCook, reaching thousands of farms and small towns in forty-four counties of our state. Hundreds of young men will be needed to install, operate and keep in repair these electric lines reaching the farms of Nebraska.

To build these lines in Nebraska, the REA advanced a total of \$5,227,090 during the first four years, as follows:

In 1936.....	\$ 10,000
1937.....	1,009,463
1938.....	2,703,850
1939.....	1,503,777
	\$5,227,090

C. A. Sorenson of Lincoln, who is attorney for many of these Rural Public Power Districts, tells me that for a minimum charge of \$3.50 per month per farm, electricity is furnished for light for the house and farm buildings; also for a washing-machine, churn, radio, toaster, vacuum cleaner, electric iron, and sewing machine. By paying an additional dollar per month the farmer may also have current for an electric refrigerator, the demand for which is large.

All agree that electricity raises the standard of living on the farm. Through recent purchases by Public Power Districts, nearly four-fifths of all electric lines and generating equipment in Nebraska are now publicly owned and operated.

The government reports claim that of the thousands of farms served, 90 percent have electric irons, 85 percent have radios, 77 percent have washing machines, and 40 percent have electric refrigerators.

This reminds me of a joke. The story goes that a teacher was trying to impress her children with the marvelous growth of

science and invention. So she asked the question: "What is here today, and is important, that was not here fifty years ago?" Quick as a flash a bright little girl replied: "Me, teacher, me!"

### Cooperative Organizations

The raising of a crop on a farm may be the result of independent effort of a farm family, but in the selling and distribution of that crop a single farmer is always at a disadvantage. Cooperative organizations have their origin in Nebraska in a shipping association at Superior, formed as early as 1882, where cattle were brought together and shipped in carload lots.

One of the earliest farmers' insurance companies was organized by some thrifty German farmers in Grand Island in 1894, and is still running, with no officials receiving fabulous salaries.

A farmers' cooperative ditch company was organized at Kearney in 1896 and a grain association at Arapahoe in 1903, and in 1911 the Nebraska legislature enacted a cooperative law providing for the payment of patronage dividends or earnings. Under that law the Farmers Union has been flourishing since 1911. The Farmers Equity Union was organized in 1916.

Nebraska dairy business is looking up, for what was the simple matter of a farmer milking a few cows and trying to sell the product has become a well-organized business. With great corporations like the Beatrice Creamery Company and the Fairmont Creamery Company competing for business with large cooperatives, farmers are being better paid for their milk and cream.

The Farmers Union cooperative runs plants at Superior, Fairbury, Aurora and Fairmont, has ten thousand stockholders and \$200,000 cash reserve, and made millions of pounds of butter last year. Of nearly equal size is the Equity Creamery at Orleans, where Ole Hanson, that booster for southwest Nebraska, claims to have the largest single cooperative creamery in the world.

In the last year cooperative credit associations have been organized on every hand. They say there are more than twenty of them in Lincoln: one formed by the employees of universities, another by public school teachers, another by Roberts Dairy em-

ployees; and these cooperative credit associations loan to their own members at very attractive rates. Eighty-five bankless towns in Nebraska have cooperative credit associations which in many ways supply the needs for a bank in a town where it is impossible to organize one under the present legal restrictions.

Other state cooperatives are the Nebraska Certified Potato Growers Association of Scottsbluff and Alliance, shipping seed potatoes to many southern states. The Northwest Nebraska Alfalfa Seed Growers Association is one of the leaders in this line.

These few cooperatives I have mentioned give farmers a feeling of security in the distribution of all farm products.

### Turkey Raising

In the '70s great roosts of wild turkeys were found in Frontier County and elsewhere but were soon destroyed by hunters from the outside. There was no market for the poultry, but feathers brought a price and for that price these splendid birds were slaughtered by the thousands, leaving a feast for equally greedy vultures.

Turkey raising is one of the newest and most popular industries. It has doubled each year for the last ten years. Three large cooperative companies dress and pack them under government grades and ship to the eastern markets.

The Midwest Growers Association of Deshler shipped carloads last year worth over \$100,000. There are also the Republican Valley Turkey Growers Association of Red Cloud and the North Platte Cooperative Marketing Association.

In the whole state there will be shipped this fall a million and half turkeys which will bring back to Nebraska between three and four million dollars.

Prof. F. E. Mussehl of the Nebraska College of Agriculture says the turkeys make the most profitable use of grain sorghum and turn it into fine profits.

He also calls attention to the demand for egg powder or dried eggs for shipment to England. With their present equipment, two Omaha companies can dry in a day two carloads of 400 cases of eggs, 30 dozen to the case.

#### 4-H Clubs

Another development in Nebraska is the 4-H Club movement. I have attended several of their camps this summer and it is amazing how many farm problems these up-to-date young men and women have mastered.

At recent State Fairs the close rivalry in the fattening of baby beeves has brought state-wide attention to what has been done in this line. However, Pig Clubs and Poultry Clubs have developed in our youth an independence of spirit that is heartening.

An essay winning high-school award recently spoke of new frontiers to be scaled with new crops, new methods, new machinery. Today's youth is a challenge on the farm and in the town.

Not alone are farm youth facing the problems of Nebraska with confidence, but the young men of the towns and cities are taking a greater interest in our future than ever before, as is shown by the thousands of young men joining the Junior Chambers of Commerce.

Minnesota has led in this Junior Chamber work, which includes young men between the ages of 21 and 35. In the last Minnesota election its governor, lieutenant-governor, speaker of the house and many of its state legislators were prominent members of the fifty-one chapters of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

In many cities the Jay-Cees have elected their own mayor or a majority of the members of the council. This, taken in connection with the wide-spread interest in 4-H Clubs, is a fine indication that the young men in city and country alike will be awake to the needs of Nebraska after the war ends.

Youth in Nebraska are not mournful Hamlets crying, "The world is out of joint — oh, cursed spite that ever I was born to set it right." They are more like the independent little mountain girl of Georgia who, when asked "What did Santa bring you for Christmas?" replied, "I don't need no Santa; I've got my own self."

Nebraska's future does not depend on poetry or fairy tales. Hard-headed, stout-hearted men and women came to Ne-



braska with all its faults. Rattlesnakes and cyclones did not discourage them. They got a full night's sleep in spite of sand fleas, coyotes and hoot-owls.

They let grasshoppers have two crops and they existed for three years on one crop. Drought years were expected.

They established one-room schools in sod houses and heated them with buffalo chips, but the sturdy youth got a public school education and with it a high regard for the rights of their fellowmen.

Sunday-schools were held in the school-houses, and with a knowledge of the Bible came a desire to follow the Ten Commandments.

In my opinion it is the part of wisdom to stay by Nebraska. No matter what the future may bring, Nebraska holds out possibilities few states can equal.

# Nebraska's Greatest Contribution to the World

DR. JOHN M. PHILLIPS, OMAHA\*

Only a mind brushed with omniscience could tell accurately the greatest contribution Nebraska has made or is making to the world. Yet any man can have an opinion, his own judgment, and my opinion I now offer you.

Shall we find this gift in the field of Politics? There was William Jennings Bryan, one of the greatest orators the nation has brought forth. He won a name for himself before the radio, the amplifying system and the movies gave wings to fame. He lived in a day when men wrote their own speeches, and by the unaided power of their voices (his a voice of incomparable beauty) must weave the spell of their convictions over the multitude.

Or what of Senator George Norris? Here again is a national figure. Whatever some sections of Nebraska may think of him, here is a man known for his intellect and his humanitarian spirit from coast to coast. Agree or disagree with him as you will, he is of national reputation.

Or shall we say that our Unicameral Legislature, still in the experimental period, may prove to be Nebraska's greatest contribution? Here is an attempt to make legislation efficient, prompt and in the interest of the community. By removing delay and graft and expediting the business of the state it may mark a turning point in state government.

Shall we find this greatest contribution in the wide fields of Agriculture? The "cattle feeding on a thousand hills," pigs, sheep, chickens and sandhill turkeys, butter and dairy products all going to sections which cannot feed themselves and making it possible for men to work in mines and mills and offices and

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\*Address at Annual Meeting, State Historical Society, September 27, 1941.

forests to carry on our majestic national economy — is this the gift of gifts that Nebraska makes?

Shall we find this gift in Education? We are justly proud of our State University, with its many departments widespread over the fields of modern knowledge. We are proud too of the smaller colleges scattered over the vast reaches of Nebraska. All of them are preparing our youth for the business of earning a living and the art of living a life. The early pioneers with vision founded these schools that the citizens of their new state might not lag behind the eastern states in education.

Shall we find this gift in the field of Architecture? There is the Plymouth Church here in Lincoln with its Roman basilica type of building, as dignified and beautiful as any church anywhere. There is the University of Omaha with adaptation of the New England Georgian architecture to the needs of education — one of the loveliest college buildings in America. And there is the nobility of our State Capitol, pure American or Nebraskan in its conception. It will in time free all the states from the stereotyped and horrible buildings which copyists blind to beauty foisted on the sovereign commonwealths as seats of government.

But I would say not in Politics, nor Agriculture, nor Education nor Architecture do I find the greatest contribution of our state, but in its Human Resources. There has been no great wealth in Nebraska, wealth "that accumulates while men decay." There have been the hard struggle for life; the battle when rain was withheld; the constant vagaries of weather: summer heat and winter cold, and always the winds, to stand against. And out of this has come a generation clear-eyed, courageous, industrious, hoping and dreaming.

These qualities shine forth most clearly in our young people. I have seen them from the North Loup to the Missouri — boys and girls, young men and young women. I am confident that no state or nation can give to the future finer human stuff. Coal, lumber, wheat, iron and gold are valuable gifts, but the greatest contribution any state can make to the commonwealth and to the future is Men and Women, acquainted with toil, supping with ideals, their horizons broadened by education, their foreheads touched with the light and mercy of heaven.

# The Pike-Pawnee Village Site

FRANK J. MUNDAY, RED CLOUD\*

The people of Nebraska are interested in the history of their state and its original inhabitants. This fact is shown by the associations and societies formed to erect monuments commemorating these early peoples. This is as it should be. When people from the Middle West travel in the Atlantic States they are much impressed and interested in the markers and monuments found there.

In 1806 Lieutenant Pike, with twenty-two soldiers and with the assistance of Lieutenant Wilkinson, ascended the Missouri and Osage rivers into what is the present state of Kansas and thence northwest across Smoky Hill, Saline and Solomon rivers to the village of the Republican Pawnee Indians, situated on the Republican River between Red Cloud and Guide Rock, Nebraska.

The exact location of this village was not determined until recently, when, by the untiring efforts of A. T. Hill, Director of Archeology and of the Historical Society Museum, and with the able assistance of Dr. A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent of the Historical Society, it was definitely identified.

It is important, while our country is yet in its infancy, to determine the exact location of this village in order that future generations may know the place so intimately connected with our early history. It was at this village on September 29, 1806, that Pike by means of his tact and bravery persuaded Sharitarish, the Indian Chief of the village, to haul down the Spanish Flag that had been erected by the Spaniards from New Spain, a short time before the arrival of Pike, and to raise the Stars and Stripes which has never been taken down. This act completed the downfall of Spanish authority in Nebraska and the plains of the Central West, which were a part of the Louisiana Purchase then recently acquired from France.

The Republican Pawnee were an agricultural people. Com-

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\*Address at Annual Meeting, September 27, 1941.

pared with many other tribes, they were a home-loving people. Our citizens, and especially the boys and girls of our schools, should know the history of these early inhabitants of Nebraska.

Pike states that the village had about forty-four lodges or houses made by dirt piled over logs covering an excavation about four feet deep; that there were caches in which to store their grain; that the Indians had guns, bows and arrows; that there were about 1,618 persons in the village. He also states many times that the Spaniards and English had given the Indians medals. Traders visited the Indian village and the Indians had some stone and metal tools and also paints of different colors, and were supplied with pottery.

In this village there have been found pottery, rude stone and metal implements, beads, arrows, arrow-points cut by the Indian from metal hoes, colored paint, Spanish bridle bit, battle axes, stone clubs, grain grinders, and many other articles used by the Indians when passing from a stone to a metal stage of development. The number of the ruins of lodges found indicates that it was a large village.

There is evidence that this was the Pawnee village visited by the Spaniard, Colonel Malgares, shortly before Pike was there. Many English and Spanish medals and coins were found. One of these, a Spanish peace medal dated 1797, with the effigy of Charles III of Spain on it, was found in an Indian grave. A medal of General Washington was also found. These facts indicate the prominence of the Pawnee.

Here it was that the last emblem of Spanish authority was removed from the plains of Nebraska and the flag of the young Republic erected in its place to stand for liberty and justice forever.

The formation of a Pike-Pawnee Society for the purpose of securing a monument to the Pawnee is being considered. The site of this village on the Republican River between Red Cloud and Guide Rock could be reached easily by tourists and those interested, as it is near highways No. 3 and No. 281. Superintendent Sheldon and Director Hill approve such an undertaking.

# County Historical Societies in Nebraska

THEO LOWE, JR., NORTH PLATTE\*

The various counties have been rather backward in organizing historical societies or in keeping a record of the early history of which our State has so much. Our old settlers and pioneers and those that made history are passing, and if we do not preserve this history a great deal of it will be lost forever.

Every county in the state should have an organization to safeguard its history and mark its historic spots. We hope patriotic members in every county will take it upon themselves to form such an organization before it is too late. If every county would erect a monument commemorating some historic place or trail, a great deal would be accomplished.

In the Missouri Valley, the Republican, Loup, Niobrara, Dismal — in fact, in the valleys surrounding all streams, we found that the first inhabitants had a history all their own.

I am glad to report that the following counties in Nebraska are very active in this work and are holding meetings. During the past year Burt County held a celebration and picnic. Cherry and Furnas counties are compiling history. Lancaster County is also compiling a history and giving prominence to the great blizzard of 1888. Otoe County erected a bronze plaque to Russell, Majors & Waddell, who were early freighters and founders of the Pony Express. They also erected a bronze plaque at the Nebraska City Public Library in honor of the early pioneers. Pawnee County is making a history and Pierce County patriots have erected a bronze plaque at two of their cemeteries and are also making a county history. I wish to commend these organizations, as I know how hard it is to get people interested and it usually falls upon one or two to keep such societies going.

The Great Platte Valley running the length of the State, with rough land on one side and sandhills on the other, made this the

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\*Address at Annual Meeting, State Historical Society, September 27, 1941.

natural road across the continent. As early as 1830 Sublette took this route for the first wagon train into the West to bring back furs.

Fremont's party, the Mormons, the Forty-Niners, the Pony Express, the Oregon Trail, the United States Government line of forts, the Pike's Peak Route, the Creighton Telegraph Line, the Union Pacific, the Lincoln Highway, the American Telegraph and Cable Company's first line of cable, and the United Air Lines — all used this route through the valley.

The adventures of the pioneers with the Indians, the cholera and other sickness, that made a graveyard out of a valley, the establishment of forts, homes, cities — all have a history that is intensely interesting and should be preserved. As these memorable events took place in many counties, monuments should be erected for the permanent marking of all such historic trails.

We have a very good start in Lincoln County. We have erected five Oregon Trail markers along the old trail, four Pony Express markers at their various relay stations; a soldiers' monument to those who served at Fort McPherson, and an Indian monument on top of Sioux Lookout — one of the highest hills along the Oregon Trail and from which the Indians signaled the approach of wagon trains. A Mormon marker was erected on one of their old camp sites. Last year we moved and preserved the official Government marker of the One Hundredth Meridian. This spring the D. A. R. erected a bronze plaque on the site of the first schoolhouse in Lincoln County. All of these trail markers are made of concrete, six feet high, two feet wide and eighteen inches thick, are reinforced, and have a bronze plaque giving a little history of the location. They should still be there when we are all gone.

We have many more places to mark when funds are available. Some of these are Fremont's Camp, Grand Duke Alexis' Camp, Old Burke Bridge to Fort McPherson, and a monument to Buffalo Bill. While we are making slow progress, I believe we are ahead of most of the counties and we expect to continue this lead.

Things which happened in the ordinary way of life, years ago, are history today, and we are now collecting stories from the older

people. It is good to know that when it is forever too late to secure them, we shall have in our safe keeping these important chapters of frontier history from original sources.

Lincoln County offers a challenge to other counties in Nebraska to lead us in the preservation of its history and its historic spots.

## The National Defense and Business

MARVIN HURLEY, LINCOLN\*

Under a program of national defense there can be no "business as usual." Modern war is total war. It is not merely a war of guns and men but civilian war as well. All-out effort becomes a necessity. We are in a titanic production job for which we now realize that the plant was unsuited, the materials short, and the organization inadequate. We are a peace-loving nation, and for the cause of peace we had allowed the machinery for wartime production to become obsolete.

The situation brings new problems of increasing intensity to business. In this one great country of freedom, Labor has the obligation to keep the wheels turning, that this freedom may remain clear of every "ism" except Americanism. Industry must provide the tools for defense. To Agriculture comes the responsibility to raise the food to feed the millions of workers in industry, on the training field and among the armed forces. Capital must provide the motor power to keep industry going at full speed, forgetting the profit and remembering only the cause.

Business has an important place in this entire program. It touches the daily lives of every one of us: the very food we eat, the houses that shelter us, the cars we drive; and the guns, the planes and the tanks we build to protect our traditional liberties. The problems of Business range from aeronautics to water resources, from agriculture to municipal construction, embracing

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\*Address at Annual Meeting, State Historical Society, September 27, 1941. At that time Mr. Hurley was General Manager of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. He is now in the Intelligence Service of the Engineering Corps, U. S. A.



literally scores of subjects. Fundamentally, business is confronted with the immediate and urgent problem of forwarding the defense program and the long-range problem of preparing the national economy to withstand the stresses and strains of the crucial post-war period. Business seeks to expand production to meet defense requirements as well as the normal needs of our people.

In general, business advocates the curtailment of many non-essential governmental activities during the present emergency. It recommends the adoption of sound policies of taxation and borrowing to finance the tremendous defense program, and continues its implicit belief in the American free enterprise system as opposed to the totalitarian system. Business realizes that representative democracy must demonstrate to the world that a free people, by means of voluntary cooperation, can defend themselves and their way of life against any people controlled by a dictatorship.

Business realizes that additional controls are a necessity in wartime operations, that the *temporary* sacrifice of economic and civil liberties is one of the penalties of war which the public, if it is convinced of the justice and necessity of war, will gladly pay. Wartime control is designed to replace, not entirely but in large part, the regulation of business by conscious, coordinated control. The job of this plan of control is to see that industry turns out the necessary supply of munitions, airplanes, tanks and other defense needs without creating undue hardship for the civilian population, and to make sure that the "burdens of profits" of the war are distributed as equitably as possible. But the *temporary* character of the war regime must be steadily kept in mind. For if, in order to win a war, we permanently fasten on ourselves a fascist government, then the result will be not victory but defeat.

Production for defense challenges the resourcefulness and capacities of American enterprise. Defense production is being given the "right of way" all down the line. Our fleet and merchant marine are being enlarged with all possible speed. The equipping and training of an adequate army is proceeding without delay. Our air forces in the army and navy are being expanded to protect against any contingency, and our outlying naval and air bases are being equipped and manned with all dispatch. The nation's business men are striving to meet the challenge.

To carry out the national defense program, the American manner of life and labor is undergoing a serious transformation. During the past eighteen months, business and industry have paved the way with sensational adjustments of their great forces and resources to the nation's need. There have been trials and tribulations. There have been bottlenecks and there are problems of priorities. There are price fluctuations, new taxes, price controls and other regulations. But none of these can minimize the fact that there have been vast accomplishments. By all odds, national defense constitutes the primary and most dominant force in business and industry today.

In the final analysis, however, it takes more than soldiers to defend a nation. It takes more than warships and flying fortresses — more than factories equipped to make planes, tanks and guns. Behind all these must stand the spirit of defense, the determination of people united in a common purpose. Without this spirit, soldiers, warships, dive bombers and factories are of no avail.

France had factories and warships, millions of soldiers and the Maginot Line. But behind that line was a people divided against itself. Arguments and dissensions slowed preparedness and sowed the seeds of hopelessness and futility. The spirit of defense was not there.

It is for all of us — Business, Labor, Industry, Agriculture, Capital, Transportation and all — to dedicate our energies to the task ahead. It is for us to build as well as we can and as fast as we can, submerging our personal differences and desires in our common cause. It is for us to stand shoulder to shoulder to preserve our inalienable rights and the liberties of a free people, that this nation, by the grace of God, shall remain perpetually a land of the free and a home of the brave.