

Sporting Gossip and Comment

The Nebraska Wesleyan basketball games, tentatively scheduled for February 28 and March 1, have been definitely canceled, and for the first time in several years the ancient rivals will not meet on the indoor court.

The two-game series was originally arranged with the understanding that the Husker authorities might cancel at any time, if developments in the Missouri valley race made it necessary. Just such developments now face Nebraska.

March 5 and 6 Nebraska plays Kansas on the Lawrence floor. March 7 and 8 the Huskers jump over to Manhattan for a brace of contests with the Kaggies. Nebraska has an outside chance at the conference championship, but to win she must make a clean sweep of four games with the southern teams. The Cornhuskers are the lightest team in the conference, and incapable of going at top speed for even two games in succession. It will be a miracle if they are able to grab four games in a row.

To keep the best possible condition for the big quartet, Dr. Stewart decided he could take no chances with Wesleyan four days before the first Kansas game. The conference title is worth too much to Nebraska to toss away any chances on a non-conference team.

Paul Schissler, Coyote tutor, was dead anxious for a chance at the Huskers, but the games had been only tentatively scheduled. He made no protest. It will be remembered that the Nebraska officials made every effort to change the date of either the Kansas or Kansas Aggie games before the Wesleyan team from the schedule. The Coyotes have no reason to feel slighted.

Jess Willard already has begun light training for his July bout with Jack Dempsey, he said today. Promoter Tex Rickard, at Fort Worth, for a conference with the champion, said an announcement as to the site of the big row may be possible within three weeks.

"There are a number of big cities after the fight," he said, "but their offers will have to be considered confidential for the time. There have been no definite developments in the last few days."

Rickard was noncommittally interested in the tribulations of Nevada's boxing bill. He will go to New York within a few days. Willard expects to remain in the oil region.

Lincoln's victory over Omaha Saturday night makes the Beckmen's chances in the state tournament look like a cool million. The lads from Salt Creek were not compelled to extend themselves to win from the Muliganites, exhibiting a startling reversal of their early season form. A few weeks ago Lincoln won from Omaha by a close score, and it was the unprejudiced opinion of spectators that Omaha should have won except for the superior fighting qualities of the Lincoln lads. Saturday night, however, Lincoln was clearly Omaha's superior and there was no question from the first whistle to the last of the final outcome. If there is a team in the state which has an advance rating higher than Lincoln it has not yet presented its claims.

The Grand Island school basketball team was defeated at Beatrice Saturday evening by the Beatrice five by the score of 21 to 18. The Grand Island boys were in the lead up to the last three minutes of play.

At a meeting of members of the Beatrice driving park association, it was decided to send Frank W. Mumford to Fremont Tuesday to represent the association at the meeting of the state circuit. Beatrice plans to hold a race meeting the coming summer, and the association will be reorganized in the near future.

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. But that has nothing whatever to do with "Pop" Geers deserting his historic cigar for a 1919 model meerschmump pipe.

The veteran reinsman is smoking a pipe these days—the first pipe he has ever smoked, and on January 25 he turned his sixty-eighth milestone in life's journey.

None of Geer's intimates at the famous old Billings race course in Memphis, Tenn., where the grand old one, which does his off-season training, can account for "Pop's" sudden and ruthless desertion of the big black cigar, which has furnished a picturesque touch to his appearance on hundreds of race tracks in this country. Perhaps it was the war. Or maybe some mean old tobacco magnate has monopolized all of "Pop's" favorite weed. At any rate, the venerable driver has succumbed to the pipe.

Incidentally, Ed F. Geers, which is "Pop's" complete name, is training another promising looking string of trotters and pacers at the southern track, which he plans to bring north early next summer for another season's training on the big line. It will be his forty-eighth year as a professional driver.

Eight states have enacted physical education laws—namely: Illinois, New York, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, California, Maryland, and Delaware.

This here Jack Dempsey fellow is going to be a popular champion providing, of course, he can pin the old man on Jess Willard. And a lot of people think he can.

Dempsey has everything a fighter needs, height, weight, reach and the wallop, and then something else. The something else is personality. Willard has none. Jeffries had none, and Fitz had a little but of the brusque variety. Dempsey is just bubbling over with it. Raised in New York, Jack might have been a political leader. He knows how to meet and greet men, he can become interested in any subject under discussion, and he laughs and jokes about things which are considered foreign to the interests of the ordinary ring fighter. In short, Dempsey is intelligent.

His language is not of the collegiate variety, but he makes few grammatical "breaks" in his conversation. He's as breezy in everything he does or says as a school kid with an extra holiday.

What strikes one forcibly in meeting Dempsey is his remarkable memory. He knows the names of men he has met but once, and he grasps their hands with a cheery, up-to-the-moment remark, a different one for each, that is pleasing to those with whom he mingles.

At the New York meeting his mind

was centered in his coming fight with Willard. He acted as if he didn't believe the thing was true. "Free!" he said at one point. "July 4! It's a long way off, isn't it? And those articles of agreement! They say I have to be on the spot. Rickard selects sixty days before that to train. I don't need that much training, do I? I can get in shape for Willard or anybody else in ten days. I know what I'll do. I'll go fishing and hunting, or something like that, for about fifty days and then start training."

When it is remembered that Willard trained conscientiously a year for his fight with Johnson, Dempsey's idea of preparation for a championship fight is unique.

"What do you think of me getting \$27,500 out of this fight?" Dempsey asked.

"That's more than some of the old boys got for winning, isn't it," he added. "Guess I'm not a lucky guy, eh?"

Jack was reminded of the fact that in the old days the fighters themselves each put up a side bet something like \$10,000 and the winner got it all.

"Things have changed a lot, haven't they?" was his comment on this.

Any observing man (and we rise to remark that most men are observing in such matters) walking the streets of town or city these days cannot help but get the impression that being a muskrat is a dangerous business. It is for the number of muskrats killed every year for the American fur trade that it has become a deadly business.

That muskrat fur is popular is due to several reasons other than the degree of Dame Fashion, and, like skunk fur, it is beginning to get the appreciation it deserves—when a fur is sold under its own name instead of as this or that kind of "mink," "sable," or "seal," its reputation is established.

Just to show how the muskrat hangs on and multiplies: A few pairs were introduced into Bay State in 1893. They bred, and one district reported ten specimens in 1911, 300 in 1913 and 1,000 in 1916, and this increase was in spite of an active, year around warfare of extermination against them. Apparently the Germans are no more efficient in exterminating rats than they are in annihilating the French race.

Muskrat fur is at its best in the early spring, and local fur dealers expect to pay from \$1.80 to \$2 each for "spring rats," making trapping a profitable occupation. The seasons in nearby states close as follows: Illinois and Indiana, March 31; Wisconsin, April 10; Michigan and Iowa, March 15. The Nebraska season will close March 15, if a bill now before the legislature is passed.

There are two ways to trap muskrats; the right way and the wrong way. The wrong way is to do it with traps, such as making land sets and then neglecting to visit the traps. This is not only needlessly cruel but it often results in lost fur—sometimes the rat will twist off his foot and leave it in the trap or warimints or trap robbers will "lift" the fur. A cruel man never has good luck and he doesn't deserve it. If you must make land sets use a trap that kills the victim instantly, but water sets pay best in the long run.

Dario Resta, the Italian speed boy, winner of the 1916 300-mile race at Indianapolis, and second to DePalma in the 500-mile race of 1916, may be an entrant in the 1919 motor speedway class.

Theodore Myers, manager of the course, is not making this positive announcement, but has a hunch that the call of the racing track will have Resta and his car ready when the entrants start on May 31.

Resta is now consulting engineer for an automobile company, and interested professionally and as a sportsman, in continuing the study of auto engineering problems that racing permits.

Last year Resta raced some, the big star wherever races were held, but war time races did not have the vim nor the interest that they will have this year or they had in pre-war years.

However, with auto racing "coming back" like the other sports after the war, Myers expects Resta to take his place among the elite of the racing world. In fact, Resta, a few days ago, wrote Myers regarding the possibility of securing parts with which to put his racing car into condition for the summer campaign. Resta's car is built on the same lines of the racing cars which the speedway company had, a manufacturing company build and the company made a big supply of parts for future service.

"Resta is a wonderful driver," said Myers, "a great student of the sport—a student from the standpoint of the auto engineer as well as the race competitor."

"When his car is right, he's satisfied, but when it is right, he knows it and he's not bothered in the continued inspection of it preceding the big race."

Why, at the Indianapolis speedway, when he won the 300-mile race in 1916, he put the car in shape ten days before the event and then put the car away, letting it rest and himself rest, and then, a good stiff trial before the event to satisfy him that everything was ready, and then he lined up for the start, cool and collected, fit to give

him all he had and get all the car could give.

Seward and Milford high schools split a double leader on the Seward floor last week, the Seward boys winning 6 to 8, and the Milford girls winning the other 17 to 15. The Seward boys' team has gone thru the season with only one defeat—an early season reverse at Havelock when Seward lost by one point. Both Seward and Milford expect to enter the tournament, asking for about Class C rating.

Ravenna high school, which had one of the best teams in the state last year even tho it couldn't win anything higher than class D championship, thru an error in classification, is going good again this year. Last week Ravenna won from Ansley by a 37 to 26 score, and Ansley has one of the best small town aggregations in that section of the state. Earlier in the week Ansley defeated Broken Bow by a 31 to 7 score on the Ansley floor.

The Food Relief Bill.
(Minneapolis Tribune.)
After much noise in opposition the senate approved the \$100,000,000 food relief bill by a vote of 53 to 18. Assailants of the measure on its merits did not, we are sure, reflect the great preponderance of American sentiment, but they served some good in calling attention once more to the president's policy of committing the nation on important matters without deigning to consult the lawmaking branch of congress.

It is unfortunate that a perfectly natural resentment of the administration's stupid failure to take congress into its confidence in the working out of a program vitally affecting the nation's interests should have disclosed itself over a bill of this kind. President Wilson might at least have consulted with congress before committing the government to this joint contribution of allied powers for the relief of war victims. He acted first on his own motion, however, and then referred the question back to those who must make good his word with legislative action. Congress had no recourse but to yield its consent. The country's honor had been pledged for it.

The American people are disposed to liberality and progress in helping avert deadly famines among the enemies of Germany. Their action to that end during the war was predicted largely on the serving of their own safety, but an acute sense of the humanitarianism entered into it. They have not lost that sense, now that hostilities are ended. They may disapprove of the way the president went at this relief step, but they do approve the altruistic purpose involved.

Cards engraved, State Journal Co.

President Wilson Ch.ing Ladder to Inspect Billets of Our Boys in France



President Wilson has shown a decided interest in the conditions under which our boys fought and lived in France. In this picture he is seen inspecting the billets of the men of the 102nd Infantry, Twenty-sixth Division (Yankee Division). The 102nd formerly was the Second Missouri with detachments of the First New Hampshire and the Eighth Massachusetts. The division was billeted at Mandres les-Negre in the Marne sector.

Officers Winking At Violators of Law

A Discussion of Nebraska's Anti-Cigarette Law and the Effects of its Non-Enforcement.

Crop Reports from Various Sections of the State.
How to Keep Your Gas Engine Running.
Five Farmers Tell How They Care for Early Hatched Chicks.
At What Age is a Dairy Cow Not Profitable?
Why Are Cattle Values "Flicking"?
What 28,394 Members of Nebraska's Boys' and Girls' Clubs Do. Organized Agriculture Program.

Every question referred to in this announcement can be found more fully explained in the February 15th number of NEBRASKA RURALIST.

Inside Workings Of The State Legislature

As Seen By a Member of the House.

Farmer Makes More Money from Hogs Than Cattle, Before Fattening Young Cattle, Examine Their Teeth.
A Good Substitute for Alfalfa Hay as a Hog Feed.
Future Outlook for Co-operative Banks and Elevators.
How to Prepare Hogs for Market so They Will Weigh More.
Are Farmers as Democratic as They Should Be?
Government to Foot Loss on 1919 Wheat Crop.

Every issue of the NEBRASKA RURALIST contains "editorials by farmers for farmers." Stiff-collared, desk-bound, dry-tongued thoughts are not solicited.

Oleo 14 Times More Profitable Than Butter

Cream Producers, What Does This Signify?
Oleomargarine Manufacturers Make Profit of 31.0%
Butter Manufacturers Make Profit of 2.2

Can Farmers Trade at Their Own Price, and With Whom They Wish?
Effects of "Borrow and Buy" Policy with Liberty Bonds.
Does the Future Point to Heavy Income Taxes?
How to Keep Boys and Girls on the Farm.
Taking Care of Undesirable Aliens.
Farming to Bridge the Labor Situation.
Was Food Administration Unjust to Livestock Growers?

The many questions that farmers ask us have given the management of NEBRASKA RURALIST an outline on which to build each issue.

BROWN COUNTY IS SOAKED
Four Inches of Snow, Followed by Warm Weather, Crop Aid.

AINSWORTH, Neb., Feb. 24.—Four inches of snow fell early last week. The ground is thoroly soaked with moisture. Cloudy, foggy weather followed.

"Quality is Economy"

Armstrong's

Confidence Satisfaction

Another Thing about this Big After Inventory

Stock Adjustment Sale

of Hart Schaffner & Marx Suits and Overcoats at reduced prices is—

They did not have to be marked down to look attractive.

If you need a suit or overcoat—don't you think it a good plan to consider Hart Schaffner & Marx \$50 all-wool suits and overcoats at

33.75

Many of these fine suits are medium weight and will make very desirable suits for spring wear.

Men's Munsing union suits (Second) 33 1/3% Discounted... \$1.59

Men's Ribbed Union Suits, \$2.00 values... \$1.59

Men's Sweater Coats Discounted... 20% \$3.50 values... \$2.95

Your Sedan Carpets and Upholstery or any other upholstery or rugs can be cleaned by our Auto Vacuum Cleaner at our plant or at your home.

LINCOLN RUG FACTORY

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Armstrong Clothing Co

Nebraska's Largest Exclusive Men's and Boys' Apparel Store.

Exempting of Farm Improvements from Taxes

What Will Be the Effect? Will the Number of Tenant Farmers Be Decreased?

Makes \$2 Per Hen From Farm Flock.
Dairymen Tell How They Keep Up Milk Flow in Winter.
Pool Hall, the Third or Fourth Station on the Down Hill Road.
Farmers Are Like Cat That Pulled Chestnuts Out of the Fire.
How to Encourage Children to Plant a Garden.
Mother, Father and Child—Partners Three.
Directions for Organizing Co-operative Bull Associations.

You will find every number of the NEBRASKA RURALIST "crowded with practical help," discussions of needed reforms, and "new ideas told in easy language."

Beet Farmers not Getting Their Share of Sugar Profits

Facts About Beet Sugar Industry in Western Nebraska.
Why Does the Sugar Consumer Pay \$800 for what the Farmer Sells for \$227?

Proof that Good Foundation Stock is Profitable.
Chickens More Profitable Than Anything on Farm.
The Kind of Milk Cow Most in Demand in Northern Nebraska.
Weather Conditions and the Wheat Crop.
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Again Threatens.
Trapping During Breeding Season Does Not Pay.
Rented Farm Land in Great Demand.

More than sixty men, women, and children—journalists, educators and farmers have helped to make the February 15th number of NEBRASKA RURALIST supreme in quality reading matter.

How to Plan The Home Garden

What to Plant and When and How to Plant.

Does the Home Garden Pay?
Way to Lengthen Plant Growth Season by Two Months.
Use of the Hot Bed and Cold Frame.
Good Plan for a Farm Garden.
Simple Building Specifications for Best Types of Hot-Beds.

Readers of NEBRASKA RURALIST "Nebraska's Livestock-Farm Paper," find every number just as interesting and just as instructive as the one outlined herein.

Really, What Is A Bolshevik?

And How Can a Farmer Become a Bolshevik?

Among the Breeders—Sale Dates—Breeders' Directory.
For Children—H. H. Club—Puzzles—Experience Stories.
For Women—Patterns—Dishpan Whisperings—Home Mappenings.
Driftwood by Doc Bixby. Editorials by Fama Folka.
"A Paper of Many Departments"—Solicits Rural Subscriptions."

Semi-Monthly Nebraska Ruralist

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