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Genuine Munson Last! Best grade wax veal leather, soft and pliable and guaranteed manure and acid proof. Double sewed seams. Double leather insoles. Best wearing leather soles. A rare bargain at our slashed price. Stock up Now while you can.



Order by No. 181

\$1.97
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Order Quick

Sizes 6 to 12

A Snap for Men

Big-4 Combination
All Wool Cap
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all for



99c

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MESSAGES FROM THE SENATORS

To enable Nonpartisan leaguers to get better acquainted with the U. S. senators they have successfully supported for public office, the National Leader has arranged to publish a message from each of them in succeeding issues.

In this issue the Leader gives a brief sketch of Senator-Elect Howell of Nebraska. From it the farmer can see that he is the type of man he has long wished to have in public office. Nebraska farmers worked as well as wished.

You will want to read what Howell, Frazier, Shipstead, Dill, Wheeler, La Follette and others have to say on issues vital to farmers. This is a critical time in our nation's history. Your friends will be as interested in what these big men have to say as you are. Tell them about it.

tated Omaha and attracted the attention of the entire state. R. B. Howell never knew when he was "licked." Defeated once, he tried again; blocked at one point, he found another route. In Omaha's municipal ownership campaign for its water plant, this situation developed time and again through 10 long years; equally it was true in Mr. Howell's efforts, from 1912 to 1921, to force the reduction of Omaha electric light rates.

Meanwhile, in 1891, Mr. Howell discovered that the Missouri river at Omaha was 256 feet below the Platte river at Freemont. This drew, in his engineering-trained mind, the picture of a water-power development that might unloose Omaha and eastern Nebraska from the chains that bound it to coal as the motive power of its industries. He made a survey and convinced many Omaha men of the practicability of the scheme.

At this point, however, Mr. Howell was forced to devote his entire time to the state irrigation work heretofore mentioned and the canal project was dropped. It is noteworthy of his persistence, however, that he revived his plan 20 years later and appeared before successive state legislatures, from 1911 to 1921, with bills to make possible the state ownership and development of water power. This was a plank in his platform when he was the Republican nominee for governor in 1914 and it is still a part of his program for solving the economic problems of the state.

In 1896, Mr. Howell, without solicitation, was offered appointment as city engineer of Omaha, under W. J. Broatch, mayor. He accepted and, by agreement with the state, served for a time as both state and city engineer.

While he was city engineer, the long fight for municipal ownership of the Omaha water plant began. The franchise of the private company was about to expire and application had been made for a new franchise. Mr. Howell advised the mayor to veto the council's ordinance granting the franchise, which he did.

WINS PUBLIC WATER SERVICE CAMPAIGN

Mr. Howell, at about this time, was called back to service in the navy during the war with Spain. He was a lieutenant on the U. S. S. "Prairie" in West Indian waters during that time. When he returned to Omaha he joined with W. A. Carter in an insurance business, which he later operated alone for a number of years.

Once this means of livelihood was established, Mr. Howell returned to the municipal ownership campaign. In 1902 he was elected state senator and introduced, as Senate File No. 1, a bill for the purchase of the Omaha water plant by the city. In 13 days, the bill had been passed by both houses without a dissenting vote, had been signed by the governor and was a law.

Under authority of the bill, the governor appointed six members of the Omaha water board. Howell was not one of them. In 1904 he became a candidate, but failed of nomination. He ran as an independent and was elected. Suit was then brought to declare the water board law unconstitutional; the supreme court finally upheld it. There were delays in the appraisal of the plant and it was not until 1906 that the appraisal was completed. Then again the case went into the court and it was 1911 before the litigation was over. Meanwhile bonds were voted for the purchase price by a majority of 12 to 1 and finally, in 1912, the city assumed management of the plant.

Mr. Howell was made general manager of the plant.

MANAGER OF MOST SUCCESSFUL CITY BUSINESS

Within six months, water rates had been reduced and today the reduction amounts to 52½ per cent of the rate charged the ordinary customer in 1912. That is what municipal ownership of the water plant did for Omaha. It is little wonder that Mark Sullivan, leading political writer of the country, said in last month's "World's Work" that R. B. Howell is manager of what is probably the most successful experiment in municipal ownership in America.

Inspired by this success, Mr. Howell sought authority from the state legislature for the development of a municipal owned electric light and power plant. The legislature passed a bill permitting the people to vote upon the question, but Governor Morehead vetoed it. Again in 1919, Mr. Howell pressed the issue and again in 1921, both times unsuccessfully.

Each time, however, the threat of municipal ownership threw a scare into the private monopoly. The result has been that electric rates have been cut from 14 cents to 5½ cents per kilowatt hour.

In 1917, the legislature authorized the municipal water plant to manufacture and sell ice. As a result, ice is now sold at 36 neighborhood stores at a rate approximately half the old rate charged by private companies. In three years, the entire original cost of the plant—\$287,000—has been paid off and a surplus of \$25,000 has been accumulated.

In the midst of all of this activity the people voted to buy the Omaha gas plant. Although Mr. Howell opposed the appraisal, as being exorbitant, the city council approved it and the plant was then turned over to the water board to be run under Mr. Howell's direction. Fuel, coke and oil supplies were at the peak of wartime prices and a 24 per cent increase in gas rates was found necessary. Since then, in two brief years, the price has been cut 25 per cent to 90 per cent of the consumers and other reductions are anticipated.

Mr. Howell's service as a state