



PLATE IX

1. Restored pot, Cornish Site. Height, 5 inches; greatest diameter, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
2. Restored pot, Cornish Site. Height, about $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches; greatest diameter, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Foreword

By Addison E. Sheldon

The founders of the State Historical Society named as one of its purposes the "complete scientific exploration and survey" of aboriginal evidences in Nebraska.

This issue of *Nebraska History Magazine* is an evidence of the present work upon the plan set forth sixty years ago. It is the third magazine since 1932 devoted chiefly to the discoveries of prehistoric man in Nebraska, as made by the State Historical Society.

Under the present plan, each year one magazine issue will be given to Prehistoric Nebraska. Three will be devoted to Nebraska and Great Plains history and biography. From time to time a bound volume will appear, containing the more important historical articles.

It is important that readers of the *Nebraska History Magazine* should secure a clear idea of the main features of the Nebraska explorations in the prehistoric field. In a general way it may be stated that the object of these explorations is to secure the best possible idea of the customs and daily life of prehistoric people who lived in this region. The best available evidence of these people is found in their houses and their graves. Both of these are buried in Nebraska soil, varying from a few inches to several feet in depth.

Painstaking excavation and examination have thus far furnished us with the size, shape and structure of these houses. Articles found in the houses show different types of pottery: flint, stone and shell items which exhibit the workmanship of the people who lived there; charcoal, ashes, and occasional fragments of wood indi-

cate the method of construction and also disclose the kind of food eaten by the people who lived in those houses.

The evidence so far indicates considerable variation in the habits and customs and the implements of people who lived in Nebraska prior to the coming of white explorers. As the process of exploration goes on, more material is secured upon which reasoning may be done and the probabilities established.

Every new field of knowledge explored builds up a word list of its own. This vocabulary may arise by taking familiar English words and giving them new meanings. It may be built up by borrowing significant words from some language like the Greek or Latin languages. It may be built up by inventing new combinations to express our conception of the articles found and the processes which have occurred.

The studies of every science, therefore, bring into use old words with new meanings and new words with fresh meanings. At first these uses are limited to a few special students. Popular interest and knowledge bring the word list into general use.

Archeology is a good example of growing knowledge of words. In the transition period it is a help to have its vocabulary briefly defined for the average reader. Such a word list for this magazine is found on page 357.

No subject has more general popular interest than the study of prehistoric life on this planet. The origin and life of man in any region is of fundamental interest to the people living there. In Nebraska these explorations and studies have grown with great strides—both in importance and public interest. This third issue of the *Nebraska History Magazine* devoted to the story of Prehistoric Nebraska marks another long forward step in this field.