

BOWEN WAS IN OMAHA

Account of Well Known Scottsbluff Man Who Saw Tornado in Omaha.

SAYS REPORTS ARE NOT EXAGGERATED.

A western Nebraska man who was in Omaha during the cyclone was A. L. Bowen, of the First National Bank of Scottsbluff. Mr. Bowen and Mr. Fred Wright, of Scottsbluff, were stopping at the Paxton over Sunday. They were on their way back to Scottsbluff Tuesday when Mr. Bowen was interviewed by a Herald reporter. His account of the storm is as follows:

"I was eating supper about six o'clock at the Paxton. It was before sundown. We had been having some wind but you know that we people from western Nebraska don't think anything of a little wind and I did not know that anything unusual had happened until I finished supper and walked out into the hotel lobby, when I noticed groups of people talking. I walked out west, saw a street, and on looking west, saw a great glow in the sky. This was caused by the many fires which followed in the path of the cyclone. The sky did not seem particularly cloudy downtown. Within a very few minutes automobiles and cars began to arrive at the hotel with dying and injured people. People down town then began to realize that something serious had happened and we, with many others, started west on Farnam street. Mr. Wright and I walked west as far as 40th and Farnam, where we were in the midst of the wreckage. I cannot describe the scene in words. The accounts in the newspapers do not show the horrors of the scenes—words cannot tell what we saw. We arrived at the scene of the disaster about eight o'clock.

"By the time we got to the path of the storm it was pitch dark. There were no electric lights as all the light wires had been torn down by the storm. People did not dare to light matches and lamps on account of the escaping gas, which hung like a cloud over the scenes of the wreckage. I saw whole blocks, which had been thickly covered with big residences, swept as clean as a floor. It was hard to believe that houses had been where the bare foundations were, only a couple of hours before. People were running about everywhere, trying to find lost relatives. Firemen were trying to put out fires but in most places had no way to get their hose to them on account of the streets being filled with trees, wires, telephone poles and wreckage of all kinds. We walked along the path of the storm until about midnight. When we got back downtown refugees were crowding there by the thousands, the hotels were full, and injured people were being carried on doors, planks, and whatever had come handy. It was an awful scene. I offered to give up my room but it was not needed.

"Monday morning we again walked out to the scene of the storm. The papers had gotten out extras by nine o'clock Sunday evening telling what they knew of the storm but their stories were very meagre and the people of Omaha did not begin to realize the extent of the disaster until Monday. The soldiers at Ft. Omaha were ordered out a couple of hours after the disaster and patrolled the district during the night. Monday more troops were called out and the district was placed under martial law. It required a pass to get thru the lines. I secured a pass and was among the ruins a large part of the day. I saw many strange sights and scenes. Witnessed the taking out of 11 bodies from the negro pool hall.

"I saw a costly limousine automobile on its side with a heavy two by six timber driven clear through it. I saw an umbrella driven four inches into a telephone pole. The force of the storm must have been terrific. Great phone poles were torn and twisted as though they were straws. One of the oddest sights was to see a house or two sitting, apparently unharmed, in the midst of others which had been entirely torn to pieces. Houses were cut in two as clean as though with a gigantic knife. Houses were sitting on top of each other as though built that way. I saw a monster tree driven entirely through one house, branches first.

"Omaha was crowded to the limit Monday night. Special trains were bringing in soldiers, members of the state legislature, and people who were hunting for relatives as well as thousands of sight-seers. We were certainly glad to get away, although I can never forget the awful scenes I witnessed there."

Order and System Rapidly Brought Out of Omaha Chaos.

Omaha, Neb., April 8.—Never in the history of disasters has one been handled with the organization as that which characterized the Omaha tornado. Hardly had the tornado done its work than the Citizens Relief Committee was organized and started its relief work. Order and system were brought out of the chaos and in less than 48 hours relief was being given the stricken in systematic distribution.

No sooner had this been accomplished than plans were set going to restore and rehabilitate the stricken district. The first order was for a general clean-up day and volunteers were called on. On April 5 and 6 more than 5000 able bodied men responded to the call and like a seeming miracle, the traces and evidences of the terrific storm were eliminated.

These volunteers were divided into squads and assigned to districts under competent foremen. Boys, middle aged men and even old men answered the call and worked with a spirit showing that brotherly love is the chiefest asset of the American people.

The restoration work is the big problem now. This is being accomplished as fast as the gathering of facts will permit. The intention is

How Buildings Were Wrecked In Omaha.



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This picture was made within a few hours after Omaha had been wrecked by the tornado. It shows the appearance of Lake street at the intersection of Twenty-fourth. Not a building was left here with its roof intact, and many walls were blown down.

to put every sufferer on his feet again and the accomplishments in this respect so far have been most gratifying.

Though the property loss is gigantic, running well over the \$5,000,000 mark, the restoration and relief committees will be able to finance the work satisfactorily. Of the 1,777 houses damaged or totally destroyed repair work had begun on 573 in less than seven days. Within 60 days it is estimated that every evidence of the storm will be eliminated. Some vacant lots will be all that will be left in many instances but they will be in ship condition and Omaha will start on a new era of better construction.

Instead of being known as "Omaha, the tornado stricken city," Omaha will be known as the wonder of the west—destroyed in a night, rebuilt in a day—the city that turned calamity into an era of prosperity.

Omaha Extends Thanks to Generous Hearted Nebraska.

To the People of Nebraska:

Omaha, through its Citizens Relief Committee, takes this method of extending its sincerest thanks to the people of Nebraska for their prompt and generous assistance in the time of need.

Never have tenders of assistance come with such generous promptings as those from the people of Nebraska. Hardly had the echoes of the tornado passed away before tenders of aid were received from Nebraska cities and people.

Omaha will never forget the kindness of Nebraska people and while hoping that there will never be occasion for recrocation in this particular, should such condition arise, Omaha will be the first to respond to the call.

Citizens Relief Committee,
By T. J. Mahoney, Chairman,
C. C. Rosewater, Sec'y.

No Changes in Plans for Editors' Annual Meeting.

Omaha, Neb., April 8.—Despite the tornado, the Nebraska Press Association's Annual meeting will be carried out as per schedule.

No change will be made in the plans and the program will be carried out as originally planned. Details of the arrangements and entertainment will be announced later. Secretary Johns has the program all but completed.

FREAK OF THE TORNADO

Robinson Will Bring Strange Relic of Tornado to Alliance.

HAS ATTRACTED THOUSANDS.

W. M. Robinson, manager of the piano department of Orkin Brothers, who was in the city the first of the week, has on exhibition in the display windows of the big Orkin Brothers department store in Omaha a freak of the tornado that is attracting thousands of people to see it. It is a piano which was in the home of Fred Stevens, at the corner of 38th and Chicago streets in Omaha, when the tornado struck, completely wrecking the house.

A piece of lumber, known as a 2x4, was driven through the side of the house and into the end of the piano a distance of about twelve inches. The force which drove the piece of lumber completely through the side of the house and this distance into the end of the piano must have been beyond imagination, for a bullet would hardly pierce the tough layers of wood composing the end of the piano. The 2x4 is driven into the piano as neatly as though inserted by a carpenter. The piano was badly damaged by the tornado.

After several days of negotiations Mr. Robinson succeeded in purchasing this piano from the owner on Friday. It will be shipped to Alliance very soon and placed on exhibition in Orkin Brothers store here. About sixty pianos were brought into Orkin Brothers store in Omaha from the tornado district for repairs.

BIG JOB PRINTING.

The Herald's job department turned out a good sized batch of laundry slips for the Alliance Steam Laundry this week. A total of 18,000 slips were printed in one job. Alliance business men know that when they want job printing done quickly and properly the place to go is The Herald.

Wrecked Residence Section In Omaha.



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This shows North Twentieth street and the Boulevard, a residence section that suffered heavily in the Omaha tornado. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Bigelow were killed here.

Omaha Moving Picture Show Wrecked.



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This photograph shows what was left of the Diamond moving picture theater after the storm had passed through Omaha. The loss of lives here was heavy. Many bodies were not recovered for days because of the delay due to a snowstorm.

Section of Stricken Omaha.



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Here is what is left of Idlewild hall, the center of the negro section of Omaha. The tornado played havoc here, a dozen negroes being killed in the ruins of this building.

Wise Ones Watch Want Ads

SHORT MESSAGE STICKS TO TARIFF

President Wilson Advises the Extra Session.

URGENT NEED OF REFORMS

Chief Executive Says Recent Elections Laid a Duty Upon the Democratic Party, Which Must Lighten the Burden of the People—Says It Would Be Unwise to Move Forward Headlong or With Reckless Haste; That Business Must Be Encouraged, Not Destroyed, but That Everything That Has a Semblance of Privilege Must Be Abolished—Promises Special Message Dealing With Needed Banking and Currency Laws.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have called the congress together in extraordinary session because a duty was laid upon the party now in power at the recent elections which ought to be performed promptly in order that the burden carried by the people under existing law may be lightened as soon as possible and in order, also, that the business interests of the country may not be kept too long in suspense as to what the fiscal changes



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PRESIDENT WILSON.

are to be to which they will be required to adjust themselves. It is clear to the whole country that the tariff duties must be altered. They must be changed to meet the radical alteration in the conditions of our economic life which the country has witnessed within the last generation. While the whole face and method of our industrial and commercial life were being changed beyond recognition, the tariff schedules have remained what they were before the change began or have moved in the direction they were given when no large circumstance of our industrial development was what it is today. Our task is to square them with the actual facts. The sooner that is done the sooner we shall escape from suffering from the facts and the sooner our men of business will be free to thrive by the law of nature, the nature of free business, instead of by the law of legislation and artificial arrangement.

How Tariff Has Grown.

We have seen tariff legislation wander very far afield in our day—very far indeed from the field in which our prosperity might have had a normal growth and stimulation. No one who looks the facts squarely in the face or knows anything that lies beneath the surface of action can fail to perceive the principles upon which recent tariff legislation has been based. We long ago passed beyond the modest notion of "protecting" the industries of the country and moved boldly forward to the idea that they were entitled to the direct patronage of the government. For a long time—a time so long that the men now active in public policy hardly remember the conditions that preceded it—we have sought in our tariff schedules to give each group of manufacturers or producers what they themselves thought that they needed in order to maintain a practically exclusive market as against the rest of the world. Consciously or unconsciously we have built up a set of privileges and exemptions from competition behind which it was easy by any, even the crudest, forms of combination to organize monopoly, until at last nothing is normal, nothing is obliged to stand the tests of efficiency and economy, in our world of big business, but everything thrives by concerted arrangement. Only new principles of action will save us from a final hard crystallization of monopoly and a complete loss of the influences that quicken enterprise and keep independent energy alive.

Must Abolish Privilege.

It is plain what these principles must be. We must abolish everything that bears even the semblance of privilege or of any kind of artificial advantage and put our business men and pro-

ducers under the stimulation of a constant necessity to be efficient, economical and enterprising, masters of competitive supremacy, better workers and merchants than any in the world. Aside from the duties laid upon articles which we do not and probably cannot produce, therefore, and the duties laid upon luxuries and merely for the sake of the revenues they yield, the object of the tariff duties henceforth laid must be effective competition, the whetting of American wits by contest with the wits of the rest of the world.

It would be unwise to move toward this end headlong, with reckless haste or with strokes that cut at the very roots of what has grown up among us by long process and at our own invitation. It does not alter a thing to upset it and break it and deprive it of a chance to change. It destroys it. We must make changes in our fiscal laws, in our fiscal system, whose object is development, a more free and wholesome development, not revolution or upset or confusion. We must build up trade, especially foreign trade. We need the outlet and the enlarged field of energy more than we ever did before. We must build up industry as well and must adopt freedom in the place of artificial stimulation only so far as it will build, not pull down. In dealing with the tariff the method by which this may be done will be a matter of judgment, exercised item by item. To some not accustomed to the excitements and responsibilities of greater freedom our methods may in some respects and at some points seem heroic, but remedies may be heroic and yet be remedies. It is our business to make sure that they are genuine remedies. Our object is clear. If our motive is above just challenge and only an occasional error of judgment is chargeable against us we shall be fortunate.

Thorough, but Moderate.

We are called upon to render the country a great service in more matters than one. Our responsibility should be met, and our methods should be thorough, as thorough as moderate and well considered, based upon the facts as they are, and not worked out as if we were beginners. We are to deal with the facts of our own day, with the facts of no other, and to make laws which square with those facts. It is best—indeed, it is necessary—to begin with the tariff. I will urge nothing upon you now at the opening of your session which can obscure that first object or divert our energies from that clearly defined duty. At a later time I may take the liberty of calling your attention to reforms which should press close upon the heels of the tariff changes, if not accompany them, of which the chief is the reform of our banking and currency laws, but just now I refrain. For the present I put these matters on one side and think only of this one thing—of the changes in our fiscal system which may best serve to open once more the free channels of prosperity to a great people whom we would serve to the utmost and throughout both rank and file.

WOODROW WILSON
The White House, April 8, 1913.

INTEREST IN THE SESSION.

For the First Time in Many Years Democrats Control.

Elements in the extra session of congress are unusual. President Wilson has called the great body together at a time when his party has absolute control of every branch of the government relating to legislation.

This has not been the case before in twenty years. During that period of long ago when the Democrats were in power President Cleveland called an extra session, but the conditions were vastly different from now.

The extra session under President Wilson is remarkable because the lawmakers to a large extent are men of comparatively recent rise to prominence. Because of the fact that the Democratic party is providing a change from Republican rule for the first time in sixteen years great interest is centered upon the doings of congress.

Virtually a new generation of legislators has sprung up. With but a very few exceptions there are no men who figured in congressional doings of twenty years ago who are sharing the responsibilities of the body now.

Of only one thing has the public been absolutely certain, and that is that the tariff would be first and foremost among the subjects for work by the legislators, and that revision downward would be the purpose. The legislators themselves have not known just how the revision is to be managed, and it has been well understood that they would not all be pleased over all the details of the ultimate changes. The subject has been thrashed over so often and earnestly that its intricacies have become feared.

The ways and means committee, which has had the task of drafting the tentative form of the new tariff measure, has been unable to announce completion of its work in advance of the extra session, but the probability is that the measure will be taken up schedule by schedule.

The public has been led to expect that after the tariff is disposed of congress will consider currency, the income tax, Philippine independence and the Panama toll questions. Much publicity has been given to the proposed national income tax. The tax will probably apply only to incomes of over \$5,000 annually. Certain members of congress hold that this sort of levy would be confined to but a comparatively small proportion of the public and that the revenue would not be sufficient. They argue that an inheritance tax should be added to insure the needed revenue.