

The North Platte Semi-Weekly Tribune.

SEVENTEENTH YEAR.

NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA APRIL 30, 1901.

NO. 28.



Housecleaning Time

is here, and you will probably find that some pieces of your furniture looks shabby; that they need to be replaced by new. We are here to supply your needs, and we are confident we can suit you. Something here to please every taste; something here to suit every pocket book.

BLUE FLAME WICKLESS OIL STOVES—for cooking. Uses coal oil for fuel.

REFRIGERATORS in several sizes.

WE ARE STILL SELLING MAJESTIC RANGES.

Ginn & Weingand.

JOHN BRATT. E. R. GOODMAN.

JOHN BRATT & CO.,

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance

NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA.

Reference: Any Bank in Nebraska.

JOSEPH HERSHEY,

DEALER IN

Farm Implements, Buggies, Wagons, Windmills, Pumps,

**WINDMILLS & PUMPS
PIPES AND FITTINGS
BARB WIRE**

ROUND AND HALF ROUND STOCK TANKS

LOCUST STREET,
NORTH PLATTE, NEB.

When You Buy Paint Buy Good Paint....

And that means **SHERWIN & WILLIAMS' PAINT.** We have been handling this make for many years and have found that it gives excellent satisfaction in every instance. It may cost a trifle more per gallon than inferior paints, but it's cheapest in the end. It sticks and holds its color longer than other paint.

We can furnish you any color or quantity.

A. F. Streitz, Druggist.

North Platte Flour

Manufactured by North Platte Roller Mills

Used by economical housewives in fifty towns in Nebraska and Wyoming and pronounced the equal of any flour manufactured in Nebraska.

A Trial Sack will Convince you of its Merit

North Platte Roller Mills

C. F. IDDINGS

Early Closing Hours.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTH PLATTE TRIBUNE:

Believing that the public is interested in knowing just what passed between the clerk's union and the other labor organizations and the Wilcox Department Store, we publish their correspondence and our reply in the order in which they were received and answered. In regard to the last communication the president of the clerk's union was told that we had no reply to make.

Yours respectfully,
WILCOX DEPARTMENT STORE.

We, the undersigned merchants of North Platte, hereby enter into an agreement with Local No. 475, Retail Clerk's Protective association, to close our stores on and after March 4, 1901, at 7 o'clock p. m. (central time) every day except Saturdays and pay days and from the 10th of December to the 27th of December.

- Sam Richards
- W. T. Banks
- Hub Grocery Co
- McCullough & Carter
- Geo. T. Buzza
- Harry Dixon
- W. A. Vollmer
- A. L. Davis
- Harrington & Tobin
- Julius Pizer
- Decatur & Beegle
- Mrs. G. S. Huffman
- H. F. Doolittle
- E. B. Warner
- W. F. McGlone & Co
- S. C. Harshfield
- W. M. Baskin
- Ginn & Weingard
- J. Haler
- C. H. Stamp
- C. S. Clinton

To the General Manager Wilcox Department Store, North Platte, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:—The different labor organizations of the city of North Platte, ten in number, desire to place before you certain facts which have come under their observation, and to speak of certain efforts for bettering their condition, which have been made by the Retail Clerk's Protective association, of which they take cognizance.

After the clerks of this city had organized in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Retail Clerk's Protective association, they made a united effort to have the merchants of North Platte close at a certain hour, set forth in the following proposition, viz:

"The merchants of North Platte are hereby requested to enter into an agreement with Local No. 465, Retail Clerk's Protective association, to close their stores at 7 o'clock p. m., central time, every day except Saturday and the evenings of the 10th and 16th of each month, being pay days, and from the 10th to the 27th of December of each year; the clerks on their part agreeing to concede their supper hour till after 7 o'clock p. m., and in every other reasonable way strive to enhance the business of their employers."

This appearing to us to be a fair and reasonable proposition, made as we believe in good faith, and it further appearing that all the merchants, with one exception, were willing to agree to the terms set forth herein, providing that all others would so agree; and it further being made to appear that the Wilcox Department store was the only firm in the city refusing to concur in said agreement, therefore

The various labor organizations of this town, after due deliberation, not wishing to do an injustice to any one, but at the same time desiring that fairness shall be meted out to all, and with a full knowledge of the result to which their concerted action may lead, and hoping that no extreme measures may have to be adopted by the different organizations.

Respectfully ask you to concede to the reasonable request made by the said association, and join with the other merchants in granting to those making the request, that which we ourselves would expect, and probably even demand, if we were placed in like condition with themselves.

The organizations presenting this memorial, representing as

- they do several hundred people, will be pleased at your concurrence, and they trust that you may find it to your advantage to sanction the early closing movement as outlined in this document.
- C. W. Baskins
 - H. W. Bird
 - R. O. Chamberlain
 - B. of L. E.
 - Fred C. Letts
 - S. C. Mecomber
 - J. M. Mooney
 - O. R. C.
 - F. A. Simpson
 - Frank Bretzer
 - Charles Winget
 - B. of L. F.
 - Mrs. J. H. Fonda
 - Mrs. C. A. Dill
 - Mrs. Elizabeth Crusen
 - L. I. A. B. of L. E.
 - Mrs. Magnolia Duke
 - Mrs. Carrie Crockett
 - Mrs. Anna Hosler
 - L. I. A. B. of L. F.
 - William J. Roche
 - Danid A. Russell
 - John A. Dwyer
 - I. A. M.
 - George Smallwood
 - B. Z. Millikan
 - Henry Breternitz
 - B. of B. M. & I. S. B.
 - L. E. Woods
 - E. A. Searle
 - O. K. Peck
 - B. of R. T.
 - Mrs. J. M. Simpson
 - Mrs. J. B. Jeter
 - Mrs. Richard Williams.
 - L. I. A. to O. of R. C.
 - Mrs. W. E. Goodwin
 - Mrs. F. J. Doran
 - Mrs. F. J. Liddell
 - Sarah E. Murphy

North Platte, April 16, 1901.

To the Labor organizations of North Platte:

Having received a communication from you in regard to the early closing movement, and, believing that you are willing to grant that there are two sides to the question, we submit a few reasons why we do not favor closing at 7 o'clock p. m. during the entire year.

North Platte is situated in the center of a territory that draws trade from forty to sixty miles. There are in that territory about 12,000 people, of which we have 3,700 here in North Platte. A great many of the 8,300 people living in that territory outside of North Platte come long distances to trade, taking them all day to reach town with their loads. Not being able to do any trading in the evening makes them late in getting started home the next day and they either drive late into the night or take part of the third day for their trip. This class of customers live as near, and in many cases nearer, other towns that do keep stores open evenings for their accommodation and that pay as much for their farm products as we do in North Platte. We believe that North Platte will lose a considerable portion of this trade, amounting to thousands of dollars annually, by closing at 7. m. the year around, practically saying to the farmers: "We don't care whether we accommodate you or not."

Another thing we are opposed to is waiting until seven o'clock for supper when we have to begin to go to dinner at 11:30 a. m. It may not make any difference to a clerk that boards, but to either a merchant or clerk who keeps house it means that their women folks will have no evening at all as they would not get their work done until 8:30 or 9 o'clock p. m.

We submit another fact: We are the only store in North Platte that has had a regular hour for opening and closing, having for three years closed our store promptly at 9 o'clock p. m. week days and at 9:30 p. m. on Saturdays, and for about two months past have closed at 8 o'clock p. m.

It is not a question of hours with our clerks, as we have no clerk in our employ who is dissatisfied with either the treatment received or the hours worked.

The agitation for early closing appears to have come entirely from help employed by our competitors and their employers who have for the past three years compelled their employes to work from one to two hours longer a day than we have. We further submit, that the clerks of our

competitors admit the fact that our help is the best treated of any in town; in fact, the president of the Clerks' Union said in conversation with us yesterday that he would rather work for the Wilcox Department Store than any firm in North Platte.

It is also a fact that there never has been a proposition submitted to us that was not an ultimatum and of such a nature that the other merchants of the town knew we would not sign it, and their signatures were attached with the understanding on their part that they would close if the Wilcox Department Store would. A considerable number of merchants that signed the agreement were no more in favor of it than we are but try to place the blame on us because they know we have the courage to say and do what we think. We consider it rather inconsistent for merchants in the town who have compelled their clerks to work from one to two hours a day longer than ours have, and part of that time on commission that does not allow of their making good wages, to criticize us through the newspapers and in that way try to pose as the friends of labor. We submit our record for treatment of our help and offer as witnesses the clerks of our competitors.

In a store work is done differently from a trade. If we have a busy day with lots of customers to wait on we do not get our stock work done. If we shorten the hours we work we have to employ more help to do the stock work, as it is not expected that a man can do more business in less time. There are only two ways in which a merchant can employ extra help and maintain his net profits: One by raising the price of what he sells, and the other by reducing the wages of the clerks he employs to pay the additional wages of the additional ones required.

Knowing that there are a great many things to be considered in a question of this kind, and that there has been a great deal of misrepresentation as to our position on the matter, we take this time to set some of them right and at the same time submit a schedule of opening and closing. We believe that this not only concedes everything that a reasonable clerk can ask, but that at the same time shows some consideration for our country trade and is as much as we are willing to do in the matter.

A proposition regarding the opening and closing of business houses in North Platte, submitted by the Wilcox Department Store and which it agrees to sign and enforce if accepted:

1. All business houses to close on central time and no entrance permitted after closing hours.
2. All business houses to remain closed on Sunday.
3. All business houses to close at 9 o'clock a. m., on Decoration Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, and not to open Christmas Day.
4. No delivery orders taken after 6 o'clock shall be delivered until the next day.
5. All clerks whose supper hour naturally comes before closing time shall go to supper on employer's time.
6. All clerks shall be allowed one week's holiday each year on full pay or in lieu thereof, one week's extra pay, provided they remain in employ beyond the year's time. Time for taking vacation to be agreed between the employer and employe.
7. The following schedule shall be used covering hours for opening and closing business houses:

Opening hour.	Month.	Closing hour.
7:45 a m	January	7:00 p m
7:45 a m	February	7:00 p m
7:45 a m	March	7:00 p m
7:30 a m	April	7:30 p m
7:30 a m	May	7:30 p m
7:15 a m	June	8:00 p m
7:15 a m	July	8:00 p m
7:15 a m	August	8:00 p m
7:15 a m	September	8:00 p m
7:30 a m	October	7:30 p m
7:30 a m	November	7:30 p m
7:45 a m	December	7:00 p m

Except, all Saturday's closing hour shall be one hour later, and from Dec. 10th to Dec. 22d closing shall be 9 o'clock p. m. Dec. 23d and 24th hour of closing shall be at any time employer shall see fit.

Violation of this agreement by

any merchant shall release all other merchants from its terms.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Q. WILCOX,
C. O. WILCOX,
D. P. WILCOX,
Directors Wilcox Department Store.

Whereas, We the representatives of the different union labor organizations, in joint meeting, considered a proposition of the Wilcox Department Store, on the evening of April 25th, 1901, and

Whereas, We realize that the plan submitted is not advisable and that the other merchants could not agree to it, therefore be it

Resolved, That we reject the proposition and will sustain the Retail Clerk's Protective Association in their original proposition, and would request that all merchants in North Platte close their places of business on and after May 1st, 1901, also on Sundays, in accordance with the proposition, submitted and signed by them, regardless of any action of the Wilcox Department Store. And all merchants submitting to the proposition will receive our moral and financial support in so doing.

Signed,
S. C. Mecomber, O. R. C.
Wm. J. Roche, I. A. O. M.
V. E. McCarty, B. of L. E.
F. A. Simpson, B. of L. F.
B. Z. Millikan,
B. of B. M. & I. S. B.

Committee representing the following:

- International Association of Machinists.
- Order of Railroad Conductors.
- Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.
- Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.
- Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.
- Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders.
- Ladies' Auxiliary of B. of L. E.
- Ladies' Auxiliary of B. of L. F.
- Ladies' Auxiliary of O. R. C.
- Retail Clerk's International Association.

The oil strike in Spring Valley, Utah, is causing considerable excitement and a number of companies have been organized to develop the properties. This oil is said to be the highest grade ever struck in the world, analyzing ninety-five per cent pure petroleum.

We Are Still Selling Potatoes at 20c a Peck.

We also sell as follows:

- Kerosene Oil per gal.15
- Arbuckles Coffee 2 pkgs.25
- Lion Coffee 2 pkgs.25
- XXXX Coffee 2 pkgs.25
- Yeast Foam 2 pkgs.05
- On Time Yeast 2 pkgs.05
- Vinegar per gal.20
- White Wine Vinegar per gal.25
- Bakers chocolate 18c, 2 pkgs.35
- Walter Bakers Cocoa25
- Bluing Paddles 10c size07
- Bluing Paddles 5c size04
- Searchlight Matches per box.04
- Sulphur Matches per box.01
- Sapolio per cake 9c, 3 for.25
- Pearline per pkg.04
- 4lb pkg Gold Dust.18
- Kingsfords Silver Gloss Starch per pkg.08
- Kingsfords Corn Starch per pkg.08
- Corn Starch per pkg.05
- Argo Gloss Starch per pkg.05
- Dr. Prices Vanilla per bottle.15
- 1-lb pkg Dukes Mixture Tobacco35
- 1 lb pkg Old Style Tobacco.30
- Horse Shoe Tobacco per plug.45
- Star Tobacco per plug.45
- Standard Navy Tobacco per plug.35
- Battle Ax Tobacco per plug.35
- 140-lb Sack Salt. \$1.05

Wilcox Department Store.