

A BUSY LITTLE CITY

Louisville, the Residence of Some of the Most Enterprising Business Men in Cass County

anted. Being a young man of excellent character, and applying himself to the direct practice of dentistry, he is equal, and in many instances, superior to many who have practiced dentistry almost as many years as this young man is in age. Dr. Kaar visits the towns of Union, Manley and Nehawka, one day out of each week, and it is an easy matter to learn from those for whom he has done work, that he is up-to-date in his profession, and always gives satisfaction. His headquarters are established in Weeping Water, where he has fine dental parlors and is building up a practice of which he should feel proud. He is a fine young man, and with his knowledge of dentistry should gain for him a reputation second to no dentist in the state. In our rounds over the section in which he practices, we hear the greatest of praise for Dr. Kaar.

LOUISVILLE

The writer does not prevaricate in the least when he says that Louisville is one of the best towns in Eastern Nebraska. Notwithstanding the great calamity which befell the town last year, all indications of the destructive cyclone have passed away, and many new homes and business houses adorn the sites of those that were destroyed by its ravages. Only the destruction of trees bear evidences that Louisville was ever visited by the destroying elements. She has been blessed by location, which, like a great magnet, draws trade from a large area of the finest country that the Creator ever produced. The everlasting energy of man, who settled on the broad acres, of which Louisville is surrounded, has produced hundreds of beautiful homes and millions of wealth. Nature may offer all, but unaided by man, remains only a beautiful waste. Nature has done much for the country that surrounds Louisville and man has done more. It is true that there are drones here and there as in every community, who live upon the drippings of prosperity that the neighbors permit to drop from their tables; and without individuality they exist to show a contrast to their business rivals that generally proves beneficial to the latter. But let it be said, and truthfully so, to the credit of Louisville, fortunately there are few of this class—fewer, probably, than there can be found in most any other town.

Louisville is situated on the Platte river, eighteen miles northwest of Plattsmouth, the county seat. It was incorporated by a special act of the territorial legislature in February, 1857, having been laid out during the preceding month, and one log cabin built by Gardner Powers. Under this act, however, the town was in reality nothing but a paper city, no further buildings being erected until the construction of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad in 1870. At this time J. T. A. Hoover (now deceased) put up a store building and received a commission as postmaster, being succeeded in the mercantile business in 1871 by B. G. Hoover. In 1872 a second stock of general merchandise was opened by A. B. Fox, the firm shortly resolving itself into the firm of Fox & Glover, and finally to J. V. Glover. In May of 1873, Dr. J. M. Waterman began the practice of his profession and opened a drug store. The next year S. F. Rockwell opened the third general store, and from that date to the present the material progress of Louisville has been rapid, until today, with its magnificent brick store rooms, church edifices and fine school building, beautiful location, generous, progressive and energetic citizens, all combined make it one of the best business points and most desirable little cities in Nebraska in which to permanently locate and establish a home. Her business men are all of that friendly nature that one admires and loves to mingle with. Today the town is more prosperous than ever, simply because her destiny is guided by a class of men who do not wait for one dollar to bring in two, but put their shoulders to the wheel and push the great progressive wagon onward to its proper stopping place amid the live towns of this great and glorious state of Nebraska, the veritable garden spot of the world.

To give the outside world an idea of what kind of people the leading men of Louisville are composed of, we desire to mention one particular incident to illustrate. Several years since the wagon bridge across the Platte river at this point went out with the breaking of the ice and spring floods. An appeal was made to the authorities of Sarpy and Cass counties to rebuild the structure in justice to the town which its going out injured, and the traveling public in general. The appeal was bitterly repulsed by the commissioners of these counties, until the leading business men of the town became disgusted with the manner in which the officials of

Sarpy county were acting in the matter and resolved to have a bridge there at all hazards, knowing full well that such a structure would cause an outlay of thousands of dollars. Consequently a company was organized for its construction, and it was but a short time until enough money was subscribed to construct the same. The structure cost \$20,000 and was made a toll bridge. The shortest route between Lincoln and Omaha is via Louisville and as high as twenty autos in a day have traversed across this bridge going to and from either Lincoln or Omaha. The gentlemen who instigated the enterprise deserve not only the praise of the people of Louisville, but the traveling public without doubt are greatly benefited.

Near Louisville are located the finest and most extensively worked stone quarries in the west. This industry dates back many years, but at periods, like all other public works, have at times shut down. Today, however, the material taken from these quarries find ready sale in all western cities. The quarry business was started years ago by a well known character in those days, whose cognomen was "Boss Stout," who erected a large building fitted up for a penitentiary, with the expectation of working the inmates in these quarries. At this time the boss had such a grip upon the politicians of Nebraska, that he thought he could do most anything. But his plans did not work out to his notion and all that remains in memory of the boss is this structure a picture of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Louisville can boast of excellent shipping facilities, with the great Burlington and Missouri Pacific railroads passing directly through the town and the Rock Island on the opposite side of the Platte river. There are two large elevators, a solid banking institution owned by T. E. Parmele; a large department store owned by Diers Bros.; two other general merchandise stores, two implement houses, two hardware and furniture stores, two millinery establishments, two jewelers, two restaurants and confectioners, one bakery, two barber shops, one dentist, two doctors, one lumber yard, two meat markets, one hotel, two saloons, one livery barn, three blacksmith shops. Also, five churches, a good working commercial club, and the following secret and fraternal societies: Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and one of the best newspapers in the land. The Courier is under the management of G. A. Mayfield and its influence is extensively felt in Louisville and surrounding country. The office is well equipped for doing all manner of work in the printing line, as the material and machinery is all right up-to-date. Below will be found mention of those enterprising business men who believe in keeping in line for the best interests of Louisville. They are of that class who believe that there is nothing too good for their city, and this is why Louisville is forging to the front as one of the best towns in Nebraska.

Bank of Commerce.

This institution does the banking business of Louisville, and amply fills all requirements in this respect.

Well situated on one of the best corners in the town, the bank has a first-class brick building with every modern adjunct for the rapid handling of business. Mr. Thomas E. Parmele, the president and principal stockholder is a man of large means and he takes an especial interest in the Louisville bank, and spends a considerable part of his time in Louisville, overlooking the banks affairs.

The last statement of the bank indicates a very prosperous condition of its affairs.

The loans and discounts aggregated \$103,856.16, items due from other banks \$33,349.94.

The entire resources of the bank are \$146,585.19.

The total deposits of the bank average \$132,574.63, a very flattering exhibit for a town the size of Louisville.

The Bank of Commerce is one of the best of the private banks in the state, and this fact is due largely to the supervision given it by Mr. Parmele himself, who has in past years been through every phase of the business, and is well posted in every detail regarding the same.

Mr. Parmele owns the bank at Manley and is also largely interested in the Bank of Cass County at Plattsmouth.



BANK OF COMMERCE BUILDING

Fred Gorder & Son.

This firm not only has a large business in Louisville, but also one in Weeping Water.

While the style of the firm is the same in both places, the ownership is somewhat different. In Weeping Water, Mrs. Charlotte Gorder, widow of F. Gorder sr., and F. H. Gorder Jr., are owners, while in the Louisville business Mr. August Gorder of Plattsmouth also has an interest.

Mr. Fred H. Gorder of Weeping Water has direct control of the business at that point, while the Louisville business is actively controlled by C. R. Beaver and Harry Minert, while it has the supervision of Fred H. Gorder and August Gorder, who frequently visit Louisville. The business was established first in Weeping Water in 1884, by Fred Gorder, deceased, and has always been owned and controlled by the Gorder family. The Louisville business was established in 1901, handles a full line of harness and agricultural implements of the best kind.

The place at Weeping Water does not carry harness, but has a complete stock of farm implements, buggies, wagons, etc.

Both houses make a specialty of cream separators. The Gorders are agents for the John Deere and Peru factories for farm implements and they are well known the world over.

They also handle the Moline, Weber and Newton make of wagons and there are none better on the market. The Gorders are steady business men and at all times may be depended upon as keeping fully abreast of business conditions in their lines.

Diers Brothers.

This firm operates nine stores in Nebraska and they are all either in charge of one of the six brothers or some intermediate relative.

W. F. Diers, one of the brothers, makes his home in Louisville, and has charge of the general merchandise store under the name of Diers Brothers.

The store is the largest and best in Louisville and this will hold good in all the towns where the Diers brothers have stores.

Mr. W. F. Diers was born in Clayton County, Iowa, and has been in Nebraska since October, 1888. The brothers started their first store in Seward in 1868. Herman, the oldest and a cousin of the Diers Bros., being the one to make that venture. The next store was put in at Ulysses, then at Gresham, then at Fullerton, then at Wolbach, then at Madison, next at Louisville, then at Scotts Bluffs and finally at Humphery. Six of the stores are conducted by six brothers and the other

employed in the Burlington shops as a machinist and also in the train service department for several years. Mr. Burns came to Louisville in the fall of 1889, and tended bar for a few months and in the following spring opened a saloon of his own. Mr. Burns is noted for his gentleman-



LOUISVILLE WAGON BRIDGE

ly proclivities, and the manner in which he carries on the saloon trade. "The Elkhorn," under which name Mr. Burns runs his saloon, is popular with the people who indulge in a good drink of the best liquors or beer, which he always keeps, in connection with the finest brands of cigars on the market. Mr. Burns is an excellent citizen, and keeps an orderly place, and the people of Louisville are fortunate in possessing such a gentleman as proprietor of one of their two saloons. "The Elkhorn" will occupy elegant quarters on East Main street as soon as the new building can be erected.

George Frater.

This gentleman was born in Ohio and came to Nebraska in January 1894.

After spending sometime in various parts of the state he came to Louisville in April, 1899, and bought of Dr. Hasemier the drug store which he now owns. Mr. Frater has pursued the even tenor of his way making friends and yearly adding to the volume of his trade. He carries a full line of the best drugs and compounds prescriptions with the greatest care. Besides drugs, he handles the best grades of wall papers, oils, paints, holiday goods, all kinds of lamps, etc.

In every branch of his business, Mr. Frater makes it a point to have nothing but the best in his stock and this fact has gradually been impressed upon the minds of his customers.

W. F. Diers is highly respected in Louisville, where he is known by all classes as a progressive and wide awake man, foremost in every enterprise undertaken in the interest of Louisville.

John W. Burns, Elkhorn Saloon.

The subject of this sketch was born in Germany in 1854, and departed from his native country to the United States when only 14 years of age. His father was of Scotch descent and his mother German.

He landed in New York City about the first of June, 1870, where he remained until the following March. Then he came westward, stopping at Fairbury, Illinois, where he made his home until the fall of 1878. From there he came to Sherman county, Neb., and with others secured a homestead, which was the result of forming quite a colony in that sparsely settled country. He then came to Plattsmouth, where he was

sed upon the minds of his customers.

He has an exceptional good stock of toilet goods, soaps, brushes, etc., covering the widest range in this department. Mr. Frater enjoys the friendship of a large circle of acquaintances and they all regard themselves as favored by this fact. The store of Mr. Frater adds largely to the desirable character of Louisville's business center.

C. A. Richey.

This gentleman is the lumber dealer at Louisville, and he is a wide awake go ahead business man.

He moved to Louisville 15 years ago from Plattsmouth and went into the lumber business in which he has ever since been engaged.

He handles the best in lumber and building materials and as everything is kept under cover, customers are served always the best of dry and well seasoned lumber.

Mr. Richey is one of Louisville's leading men and foremost in any enterprise which may prove to the advantage of the place.

Mr. Richey is associated with Mr. Tom Parmele in the ownership of the Louisville Stone Company, a concern which adds largely to the solid character of the town, giving employment to a large number of men. The stone includes the celebrated brown sand stone, which is rapidly coming to the front as a building material. It is being used in Omaha in the last few years and gives in every case, great satisfaction to the users.

Mr. Richey owns and occupies a fine home, one of the best in this part of the state.

The gentleman is well thought of in his community by all classes of citizens.

Platte River Bridge Company.

After waiting for several years for the county commissioners of Cass and Sarpy counties to do their duty in the matter of re-constructing the bridge across the Platte river at Louisville, which had been destroyed by floating ice, one of the promoters of the enterprise suggested that they could wait no longer, and without further waiting make a move in that direction that meant success. After a consultation with the leading business

men of the enterprising little city, composed of T. E. Parmele, W. F. Diers, C. A. Richey, James Stander, H. E. Pankonin and others it was deemed advisable to call a meeting of the business men and citizens generally and start the ball to rolling so swift that no moss would be able to grow thereon. The meeting was most harmonious, and it was not many days ere the entire capital of \$20,000 was subscribed. The stockholders follow: W. F. Diers, T. E. Parmele, C. A. Richey, H. E. Pankonin, F. H. Nichols, J. H. Waldron and James Stander. The officers: W. F. Diers, president; E. H. Worthman, vice president; James Stander, secretary, and F. H. Nichols, treasurer.

Herman E. Pankonin.

One of the most popular and energetic business men in Louisville is Herman E. Pankonin. He is in the true sense of the term "a self-made man." The subject of this sketch was born in Germany on the 26th day of August, 1857, and emigrated to America with his parents when only 12 years of age. His parents settled in Michigan, where he remained until he reached the age of twenty years, when he came to Nebraska, first stopping at Lincoln. Here he was in the employ of A. G. Barnes, a leading pump dealer of that city, and here he fitted himself for starting into business for himself at Louisville. After engag-



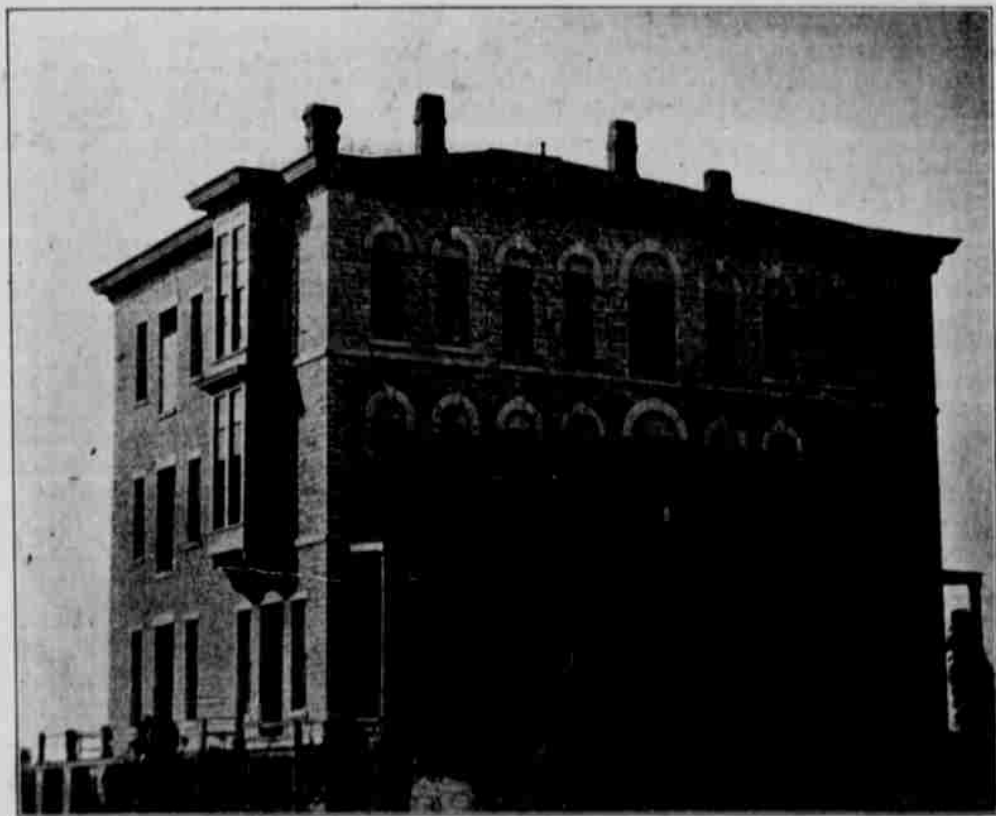
PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING

ing in this particular business for a few years, he branched out into the hardware and implement business, and finally added the harness business. His business increased to such an extent that he was compelled to increase his room also, and he erected a two-story stone building. Soon after another was erected, giving him a 50-foot front on to the desirable character of Louisville's business center.

He always handles the best machinery and also the best lines of harness, saddlery, whips, blankets, etc. He is also prepared to manufacture harness to order and do all kinds of repairing of harness.

Mr. Pankonin takes a great interest in the city affairs and is recognized as one of the leading democrats of his community. He has served several years on the town and school board and has always filled these positions with credit to himself and honor to the city. Mr. Pankonin is now serving as a member of the city board. He is always in favor of any and everything for the betterment of Louisville.

Mr. Pankonin was married in 1884 to Miss May Gabel, a prominent lady of Cass county. They have two sons, who in a business way, are of the same energetic nature as their father. They have beautiful homes in Louisville, and seem thoroughly contented and happy with their lot on this mundane sphere.



THE HISTORICAL STOUT HOUSE