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"NATIONAL PROGRESS," SUBJECT OF ADDRESS BY RUE H. FRANS, SALUTATORIAN

The Expansion of the United States and Its Progress, From the Colonial, Down to the Present Time, Discussed Before the Class of 1912 of the Plattsmouth High School.

One hundred and thirty-eight years ago the thirteen American colonies began their bloody struggle for independence. Some of these colonists had come to the new country, America, to secure freedom of religion, some to get out of prison and still others to gain riches. Time will not permit me to recall to your minds the trials and tribulations of the planting of the colonies, but you all know of their successes. As the colonies grew in wealth the restrictions of the mother country became more galling. The dominating power or "special interests" of England oppressed them until such grievances as: Taxation without representation, trial without jury, unrestricted searches and seizures, sugar and stamp tax and restrictions on trade, became unbearable and our forefathers struck the blow for independence, not only from English rule, but also from "special interest" oppression.

The signing of the treaty of peace began the life of a new nation. One whose progress is the most remarkable which history records. The Constitution was written by the far-sighted patriots, adopted by the convention and submitted to the colonies for ratification by September, 1787, but not until 1790 did all the states ratify it. The Constitution was a series of compromises. On account of the jealousy between the colonies, notable compromises were necessary. One great dispute arose over the number of representatives to congress, which was settled by allowing equal representation in the United States senate. The second dispute was a controversy as to whether slaves should be counted as population or not, and was settled by the three-fifth rule. And a third dealt with the commercial and planting states in regard to the navigation and importation laws.

Under the new Constitution, a president had to be selected, and when the ballots of the electors were counted it was found that everyone had given his vote to General Washington for first president of the new nation. He rightly deserved this high honor, for his labors had been strenuous and without ceasing for his country. His greatest qualities were his rugged manliness which gave him the respect and confidence even of his enemies. Though he was at the head of a military force, nobody ever for a moment thought or believed he would use it to secure power for himself. During his eight years in office the nation made rapid progress and grew in strength with great strides. Conditions improved, population increased, the bad effects of the war disappeared and our energetic nation began to expand.

The first forward step in territorial expansion became an accomplished fact December 17, 1803, when the Stars and Stripes, instead of the tri-color, floated over the city of New Orleans. With this act our nation extended its western boundary to the Rocky mountains and paved the way for future pre-eminence among the nations of the world. Even today the giant stride thus taken staggers our imagination. To each one who played a part in securing for his country this, its first and greatest acquisition, known as the Louisiana purchase, belongs imperishable fame, and especially must tribute be paid to the memory of Thomas Jefferson, the national chief executive, who, discarding all political and partisan prejudices, gave consent to pay France \$15,000,000 for this land and by so doing rendered his noblest work to posterity. But for this act the United States today would not extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the gulf. From 1803 to the present day what a wonder-

ful progress. The great American desert, a barbaric land without an inhabitant except the untutored savage, transformed as by magic, into the great west, with all her wealth, prosperity and thousands of industrious people. You all know the great state of Nebraska is a small part of that immense purchase. Nebraska, with all its magnificent grandeur, with its thriving cities and towns, its well cultivated farms and immense herds of domestic animals, is such a contrast with this territory of 1803 that it hardly seems a reality, but more like a dream of some fairy land. Nebraska alone today is worth more than was paid for the whole of the Louisiana territory.

Our nation progressed in size, wealth and learning. New industries sprang up; there were many discoveries and inventions. New states were admitted into the Union until our country was large enough to be known as the North, the South, the East and the West. Slavery and slave trade became an important factor in politics. Most of the history of the United States up to the time of the civil war, consisted of the struggles over slavery and its development. Those depending on slave and cotton power had perfect control of the southern states and some of the northern ones. Such opposition to slavery had divided the Union into the free and slaves states. Matters grew worse until in December, 1860, secession of the slave states began.

This marks the greatest epoch in our history, the life of the Union was at stake. The fruits of our independence and freedom from English rule, the power and prominence of the new-born nation were about to be shattered and the republic divided into two nations. In the history of mankind many republics have arisen, have flourished for less or greater time, and have fallen because their citizens lost the power of governing themselves. The "interests" predominated in the slave states, but at the head of the federal government was a man of great ability, a man of courage, a patriot and statesman of the first degree.

"We must have a government of the people and for the people," said the immortal Lincoln. "No state can leave the Union, and therefore none has left it." He issued a call for 75,000 men to save the Union, and by July, 1861, there were 183,000 "boys in blue" under arms and present for duty. The civil war, in loss of lives and material resources, is one of the most clamorous episodes of history.

At the end of the war the country was billions of dollars poorer than at the beginning. And it has taken many years to outlive the disasters of that terrible struggle. Today we delight to honor those men in the years from '61 to '65 bore on their shoulders the burden of saving the Union. They did not choose an easy task. They did not shirk the difficult duty. They bore the heaviest burden that any generation of American citizens ever had to bear, and because they did this, they have won such proud joy, as it has fallen to the lot of no other men to win, and have written their names on the golden honor roll of the nation. After the nation began to recover from the effects of this war we progressed even faster than before. Slavery had been abolished and the union of the states guaranteed.

Having mentioned the birth of this splendid nation, its expansion and preservation, let us for a few moments compare the United States then, with that of today. We started with thirteen small and jealous states, while today we have forty-eight united under one flag; our states today are really one; they are the United States of America.

If you were to see the acts passed by legislatures of the states between 1808 and 1812 you would find that very many of them were charters for iron works, paper mills, thread works, factories for making cotton and woolen goods, boots, shoes and rope. These were known as the infant manufactures; what a contrast with our great industries of today. They have grown from infant to gigantic industries, such as the steel trust, sugar trust, oil trust, meat trust, tobacco trust, railroad systems and many other smaller combines. This great progress has taken place since 1812, only 100 years ago.

Our government has always been a representative one to a certain extent, but during our progress in other lines, we have also progressed in politics. Many cities throughout the United States have the commission form of government, several states have direct primaries for nominating presidents, and all state and county officers. Several have the election of the United States senators by the people. We also have the initiative, referendum and recall, of which you will hear more this evening.

Can you imagine the difference of the cities of today with those of Washington's time? What a strange world he would find himself in if he could come back and visit an American city of today. He never heard a factory whistle, no fire alarm. He never saw a building twenty-five stories high, nor an elevator, nor a gas jet, nor an electric light. He never saw a hot air furnace, nor entered a room warmed by steam. Imagine President Washington being whisked about the city in an automobile. In the shop windows would be scores of articles unknown to him. He never saw a sewing machine, nor a revolver, nor a rubber coat, rubber shoes, steel pen, nor a piece of blotting paper, nor a typewriter, bicycle, nor motor cycle. Fancy him trying to read theatrical posters and other signs on the bill boards. He never saw a street car, nor a railroad. Imagine him taking a flight in one of Wright brothers' airplanes. He never talked through a telephone, nor sent a telegram. Government postoffice would be a strange word to him. These are only a few of the millions of articles unknown to Washington. It is hardly possible to compare a city of his time with a city of today, the progress being so great.

The progress of the American farmer has probably been the most neglected. The poor farmer has nothing in which to live except large, handsome houses; nothing for furniture but up-to-date fixings, with pianos on the side; no way to talk to their neighbors except by phone; no way to get mail except by daily rural delivery; no way to come to town except in rubber-tired buggies and automobiles; no way to take a bath except in a porcelain bath tub; no way to get money except by selling some of the alfalfa, wheat or live stock on hand; no way to heat their dwelling except by furnaces, and no way to educate their children except in the district school, High school and state university, with free tuition throughout the entire course.

The progress of the United States proves the superiority and genius of the American people. It has taken great statesmanship to accomplish these great achievements. But in the future it will require even greater statesmen to study the intricate internal problems of our nation.

This has drawn the north and south in closer union. Rapid progress and prosperity have united the west with the east, and we are one people, who are marching under the Star Spangled Banner, a flag which has never known defeat.

Posts and Wood for Sale.

A quantity of good bur oak posts, and a large supply of good block wood for sale. For further particulars see Bower & Kinomen, one mile south and one and one-half miles west of Cullom. 5-20-1mo-wkly.

J. L. Smith of Nehawka is in the city paying a visit to his brother, W. P. Smith.

FREIGHT HANDLERS STRIKE IS PROBLEM

Companies Are Now Advertising for Men to Handle Business East of the River.

The freight handlers' strike east of the river is becoming a real problem to the railroads. The managers do not look for it to spread west of the river to an extent that will hamper the handling of business. Men in the employ of freight departments west of the river are not organized and the call for a strike over all lines west and southwest of Chicago will not have an appreciable effect this far west. At least that is what railway managers hold. The men say that it will not be a difficult task to organize the freight handlers at every important center on western roads and that the men are now looking for organizers to show up any day.

The railroads are now advertising for freight handlers in Nebraska papers, and these men are wanted for service east of the river. Temporary board will be offered these men and they will be cared for until the strike is broken.

Delay to freight affects only less than carload shipments. Where cars are loaded at Chicago and other loading stations near there for the west they are not loaded in station order, and the difficulty of delivering shipments without loss of time is increased. For instance, it is reported that a great deal of freight has arrived at Omaha for stations east of the river in Iowa and Illinois. This freight must be reloaded and re-shipped to reach its destination.

The freight handlers say the wage paid by the roads is insufficient. The railroads say that demands for more money from every organization has greatly increased the cost of transportation, while the interstate and state commissions have persistently refused applications of the companies to raise freight rates to cover the increased cost of transportation. They have reached the stopping point.

Here From Avoca.

From Friday's Daily.

The Journal was agreeably surprised this morning to receive a visit from the following gentlemen from Avoca: Joseph Zimmerer, cashier of the bank; Peter B. Jorgenson, stock buyer, and Henry Wulf, a prominent farmer. They were accompanied by Will Theile of Berlin and J. F. Behrens of Nehawka, the latter a brother of Henry Behrens, who recently passed away at his home in Avoca. These gentlemen were here on business connected with the estate of the late Mr. Behrens, of which Mr. Zimmerer has been appointed special administrator. The deceased was half owner of the general store at Avoca owned by Behrens & Maseman, and Mr. Theile has purchased the deceased's interest therein. To say that we were glad to meet these gentlemen but half expresses it, as Avoca people have a warm place in our heart, and we are always ready to extend the glad hand to anyone from that enterprising little city. They came over in Mr. Zimmerer's car, and departed as soon as they had finished their business here for Louisville, where they expected to arrive in time for lunch.

Corn Looks Well.

From Friday's Daily.

L. G. Meisinger of near Myrard came to town yesterday to do some trading and to visit with friends for a short time. Mr. Meisinger has finished his corn planting and the most of it has come up fine. A small piece was planted before the last rain and the dirt formed a crust over the young corn plants too hard for them to come through.

George P. Heil and daughters, Louise and Katie, of Cedar Creek, were visitors in this city yesterday. While here Mr. Heil called at this office and renewed his subscription to this paper for another year and ordered a copy of the Semi-Weekly Journal sent to his son, H. E. Heil, at Weeping Water.

GRADUATING EXERCISES HELD LAST EVENING AT THE PARMELE THEATRE

Large Audience Grets the Young People on the Occasion of Their Graduating—Eloquent Address Delivered by Dr. Northrup of Lincoln—Program Is Excellent in Every Way

From Friday's Daily.

The graduating exercises of the large class of '12 was greeted by a large audience when the curtain went up at the Parmele last night and disclosed the class seated upon the stage. The year "'12" was emblazoned above the class in electric lights of sufficient brilliancy to light the auditorium. Secretary Wescott and the class orator, Doctor Northrup, came upon the stage as soon as the curtain arose, followed by Superintendent Abbott and Rev. A. L. Zink, who delivered the invocation. Rev. Zink was followed by a piano duet by Misses Anna Henrich and Mollye Godwin. The salutatory address was delivered by Rue H. Frans, who discussed in a happy manner the subject of "National Progress." Without any display of oratorical flourish, Mr. Frans delved into his theme, beginning at the organization of the government, and reviewed the growth of the nation to the present. The Journal hopes to produce the oration in full tomorrow, as the address is a splendid resume of the development of the nation.

A very pretty solo, "The Haunt of the Witches," was sung by Miss Barbara Clement, and was enthusiastically applauded by the audience.

The valedictory oration was then delivered by John Elmer Hallstrom from the subject of "Oregon and Popular Government." Mr. Hallstrom has much native ability as an orator and reviewed the political history of Oregon from years ago to the present time, elaborating on the period when the state was controlled by the interests and coming on down through the period when the people threw off the yoke of the political machine and secured the initiative and referendum privilege. The address of the valedictorian was well received and we expect to print it in full Monday if the manuscript can be obtained.

The piano numbers by Miss Dorothy Britt were played in an artistic way, winning for Miss Britt the approval of the audience and a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Mr. Wescott, secretary of the school board, introduced the orator of the evening in a few well chosen words, referring to Doctor Northrup's ripe scholarship and fine oratorical powers, and requested the class to give heed to the wisdom which it was about to listen to.

The Reverend Doctor then arose, addressing the secretary, the class of '12, the faculty, the school board and the audience as preliminary to the oration, congratulating the people of Plattsmouth on the beauty of the city and surroundings, and the community on the fine array of young men and women on the stage. The large class of bright, intelligent

students recalled the period many years ago when the speaker himself graduated from the High school, back in Ohio. On that occasion there were three graduates, the speaker and two young ladies, and he was in doubt whether the class before him would come up to the class in which he graduated. The subject of the oration, "The Market Place," aroused the interest of the audience, which was curious to know just how it could be made to fit into the commencement of life by the thirty-three young people most interested in the exercises of the evening.

Dr. Northrup stated that the three market centers of the world were Wall street, New York; Liverpool, England, and the Bourse, Paris. And in substance said that society had long ago outgrown its primitive stage and the era of corporations had come. Since there must be corporations, there were of necessity stocks and bonds representing the capital of the corporations; these necessitated some place where the stocks and bonds could be sold. He then passed along in the thread of his discourse, describing scenes in the pit on Wall street and on the Bourse, where men had their property for sale "on the market" and were wildly gesticulating, shouting and jumping about, all striving to fix a value on the stocks offered or purchased. The speaker called the attention of his audience to the fact that all communities centered about the market place. In every city there was a place where values were fixed, and that this was true in every phase of life. In the battle of life the individuals of society had their interests collected about the market places, where values were fixed. The Doctor adjured the class to think not lightly of a "good name;" that to lose this priceless thing meant ruin. He insisted that there was more to a man than the chemical elements of the body, and that to lose sight of the best part of man, the spiritual being, was to miss the purpose of life. The address was one of the best which has ever been delivered to a class graduating from the Plattsmouth school, and every thinking person who was fortunate enough to hear the class oration was more than repaid for the effort put forth to be present.

On the conclusion of the address the class filed past Superintendent Abbott and Principal Larson and received their diplomas. Mr. Abbott made a splendid talk to the students in presenting the certificates. The honors of the class and a scholarship good in any of the colleges of Nebraska was won by Everett Alfred Ward, who, by his diligence in study, acquired the necessary markings entitling him to the coveted prize. The following is the list of graduates:

Golda May Noble.
Florence C. Rummel.
Dorothy Livingston Britt.
Lester B. Dalton.
Major A. Arries.
John Elmer Hallstrom.
Dean B. Cummins.
Ralph R. Larson.
Opal M. Fitzgerald.
Rue H. Frans.
Guy H. Wiles.
Willa Nell Moore.
Mildred Stewart.
Anna Henrich.
Charles M. Gradoville.
Adelia B. White.

Buenita Porter.
Sophie C. Siczkowski.
Mary Edna Shopp.
Sarah Mildred Cook.
Mildred Brown Johnson.
Alma C. Holly.
Kathryn M. Foster.
Mollye Levina Godwin.
Everett Alfred Ward.
Edwin Vance Todd.
Kathryn Isabelle Speck.
A. Wayne Propst.
J. Conrad Schlater.
Emma Elizabeth Campbell.
Frank F. Hiber.
Elmer W. Frans.
Barbara Ellen Clement.

Murt in Runaway.

William Clineburg sustained some severe bruises last Thursday by jumping from the wagon after his team became unmanageable and ran away. The bit in one of the animal's mouth was broken, hence Mr. Clineburg lost

control. He has a sore arm and lame leg from the effects of his hasty exit from the vehicle. The team was stopped near the Tecumseh mill, but not until they straddled a telephone pole and broke the harness.—Tecumseh Tribunal-Journal.