

IOWA'S FIGHT FOR A CAPITAL

History of the Struggle for the State Building at Des Moines.

WAGED IN THREE SUCCESSIVE ASSEMBLIES

A Contest that Called into Action the Best Speakers and Parliamentarians in the State—A Duty Well Done.

The January number of the Annals of Iowa reproduces the history of the fight for the new capitol, prepared by Hon. John A. Kasson several years ago, but revised by the author for the present publication.

The famous contest for the erection of our present state capitol began in 1858, in the Twelfth general assembly, and continued through the Thirteenth and Fourteenth assemblies covering a period of seven years.

Beginning of the Campaign.

Such was the condition when the Twelfth general assembly met at Des Moines, Iowa, in 1858. Then Polk county was a senator, in the second half of his term.

John Russell of Jones county was elected speaker. The hastily erected structure in which the assembly was convened had already suffered from the ravages of time and weather.

On February 1 that committee reported "an act to provide for the erection of a state house," limiting the cost at \$1,000,000. When the bill was taken up on March 3 Charles Dudley of Wapello offered a dilatory substitute, which was antagonized by all the friends of the bill.

After amendments of detail, including a remarkable and purely selfish one from Clinton county, that no contract for stone or lime should be made until a reasonably direct railroad transportation could be had between the Northwestern railroad and Des Moines, the bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time the next day.

A Change of Scene.

In the senate the auspices changed. A few memorials had been presented there against the measure, but the bill, notably from Buchanan and Webster counties. The house bill reached the senate on the day of its passage by the house, and went to the proper senate committee, of which George E. Griffith of Warren was chairman.

and providing for the repair of the old state house, was offered by Senator G. G. Bennett, and adopted by a vote of 27 to 20. Then, under the leadership of Senator Marcus Tuttle this amendment was reconsidered by a vote of 25 to 22, and the bill and amendments were referred back to the committee on public buildings.

At the end of the Twelfth general assembly, the new capitol, instead of being really born, was only authorized to be born in case the next general assembly should permit it.

The Second Battle.

To the next general assembly Polk county sent B. P. Allen to the senate. He was then a prosperous and influential banker, widely known in the state, and an old settler.

Of our old and irreconcilable enemies, J. W. Traer of Benton, Charles Dudley of Wapello, Joel Brown of Van Buren were all back again, and were now strongly reinforced by a new and able leader, M. E. Cutts of Mahaska, who loved opposition and a fight for his own sake and for the fun of it.

In the consideration of the capitol bill principles were abandoned by nearly one-fourth of the members of the house, whose votes were guided by their fears and not by their deliberate judgment.

There was also another interest adverse to us. Our state institutions were widely scattered over the state. Every representative of a county where one of these was situated was eager for a large appropriation for his particular institution and feared that an annual appropriation for a new capitol would reduce the amount available for the other institutions.

Such was the condition in the house when the new bill was taken up for discussion. A. R. Cotton of Clinton was speaker and Samuel Murluck of Clayton was chairman of the building committee.

In the Twelfth general assembly we had introduced the capitol bill first in the house, passed it by a good majority and sent it to the senate, where it was sadly mutilated and then slaughtered.

This strongly approved by the senate it came over to the house. But the house seemed to have changed after two years as well as the senate, only in the reverse way. Not changed, I think, in its real opinion, but in the courage of its convictions.

Conditions Reversed.

On March 3 that committee reported "an act to provide for the erection of a state house," limiting the cost at \$1,000,000. When the bill was taken up on March 3 Charles Dudley of Wapello offered a dilatory substitute, which was antagonized by all the friends of the bill.

build a new capitol in consideration of the valuable grants of lands and pecuniary sacrifices made by the people of this country should be fulfilled.

On March 8, after a preliminary skirmish over an amendment, the most exciting debate of all the sessions came on. C. C. Applegate of Scott opened on our side with a short and very sensible speech, giving his reasons for supporting the bill.

Batteries in Action.

On March 8, after a preliminary skirmish over an amendment, the most exciting debate of all the sessions came on. C. C. Applegate of Scott opened on our side with a short and very sensible speech, giving his reasons for supporting the bill.

The Final Vote.

In the meantime both sides were vigilant and active. The enemies of the measure created some further intimidation by throwing out intimations of attempted bribery. His friends, however, were not intimidated.

Kasson's Argument.

Still, it remained for me to take up the debate in support of the bill. I honestly believed that the character and reputation of my state was depreciated by its mean and narrow housing of its governing bodies.

A Battered Job.

The selection of the commissioners of the building was not left, as it should have been, to the responsibility of the governor, nor even to the earnest friends of the new capitol.

Conditions Reversed.

On March 3 that committee reported "an act to provide for the erection of a state house," limiting the cost at \$1,000,000. When the bill was taken up on March 3 Charles Dudley of Wapello offered a dilatory substitute, which was antagonized by all the friends of the bill.

A HARD LUCK TOWN.

Ham Fattis—I suppose I can have a full orchestra in the opera house tonight. Native—Not unless you pay 'em in advance. That band ain't got twenty cents among 'em!

bee, Charles Bearley, Samuel H. Fairall, Robert Lowry, Joseph Dyarr, Samuel Nutt, George W. Bemis, J. H. Merrill, B. B. Richards, Jacob G. Vail, G. R. Willett, and other good and able men.

The political assembly likes nothing better than an investigation of a fraud or a misdeed. The senate had now some reason for its fears, and started early on this line to discover whatever was wrong in the suspected foundation and suspicious contracts for materials.

The Final Contest.

The third and last important contest over the erection of the new capitol was now inaugurated upon the report of the house committee on public buildings, of which William Butler was chairman.

The Final Vote.

In the meantime both sides were vigilant and active. The enemies of the measure created some further intimidation by throwing out intimations of attempted bribery. His friends, however, were not intimidated.

The Final Vote.

In the meantime both sides were vigilant and active. The enemies of the measure created some further intimidation by throwing out intimations of attempted bribery. His friends, however, were not intimidated.

Work on the Building.

The long fight for a capitol worthy of the state, protracted through three general assemblies and covering a period of five years, was now finished.

A Battered Job.

The selection of the commissioners of the building was not left, as it should have been, to the responsibility of the governor, nor even to the earnest friends of the new capitol.

Conditions Reversed.

On March 3 that committee reported "an act to provide for the erection of a state house," limiting the cost at \$1,000,000. When the bill was taken up on March 3 Charles Dudley of Wapello offered a dilatory substitute, which was antagonized by all the friends of the bill.

A HARD LUCK TOWN.

Ham Fattis—I suppose I can have a full orchestra in the opera house tonight. Native—Not unless you pay 'em in advance. That band ain't got twenty cents among 'em!

President McKinley

will be renominated at Philadelphia June 19 next.

The campaign for his re-election promises to be one of the most hotly waged political battles in the history of our country.

Are You a Loyal Republican?

If so you will want to keep informed of the progress of the contest and you can keep abreast of the events in no way so well as by reading The Bee from day to day.

Do You Want McKinley and Prosperity?

If so, you owe it to yourself and your party to do what you can to strengthen his cause. You can strengthen the republican cause no better than by disseminating good republican literature in the form of a daily or weekly newspaper like The Bee, which will carry republican principles to the home and fireside.

Do You Know Any Doubtful Voters?

If so, get them to subscribe for The Bee and thus inspire them with republican doctrine. The Bee's editorial discussions treat of every day topics in an intelligible and convincing manner from the republican standpoint.

Do You Want Nebraska Redeemed?

That is what The Bee is working for day by day. It is exerting itself in every direction to reinforce the party organization and bring the state again into the republican column.

A TONIC BLATZ MALT-VIVINE (Non-Intoxicant) should be in every home. It makes the body strong and the nerves sound. For Stomach troubles, Insomnia, etc. Doctors prescribe it for the nursing mother. ALL DRUGGISTS VAL. BLATZ BREWING CO., MILWAUKEE

President McKinley

will be renominated at Philadelphia June 19 next.

The campaign for his re-election promises to be one of the most hotly waged political battles in the history of our country.

Are You a Loyal Republican?

If so you will want to keep informed of the progress of the contest and you can keep abreast of the events in no way so well as by reading The Bee from day to day.

Do You Want McKinley and Prosperity?

If so, you owe it to yourself and your party to do what you can to strengthen his cause. You can strengthen the republican cause no better than by disseminating good republican literature in the form of a daily or weekly newspaper like The Bee, which will carry republican principles to the home and fireside.

Do You Know Any Doubtful Voters?

If so, get them to subscribe for The Bee and thus inspire them with republican doctrine. The Bee's editorial discussions treat of every day topics in an intelligible and convincing manner from the republican standpoint.

Do You Want Nebraska Redeemed?

That is what The Bee is working for day by day. It is exerting itself in every direction to reinforce the party organization and bring the state again into the republican column.

Do You Read The Bee Regularly? If Not, Why Not? The Bee Daily, Sunday and Illustrated \$8.00 Sunday and Illustrated \$2.00 Weekly and Illustrated \$1.75 Weekly 65c The Bee Publishing Co., Omaha, Nebraska