

Editors Who Flourish in Southwestern Iowa

THE newspaper men have always played an important part in the public affairs of southwestern Iowa. No section of the west has a more inviting field for good newspaper work on the rural press, for the people are intelligent, appreciative and well-to-do. The newspaper men have appreciated their opportunity and their papers fittingly represent the progress, intelligence and public spirit of the thriving towns. The suggestion that only four states in the union have more newspapers than Iowa may emphasize the important relation which the weekly paper bears to Hawkeyedom. New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio are the four states that lead Iowa and each has from two to three times the population of this state.

In paying this little tribute to the newspaper men, whose work does so much to mould views, opinions and tastes of southwest Iowa, it is fair to begin with those of Creston, the hosts of the present gathering. A town of 10,000 Creston has three lively dailies, all edited by men of statewide prominence. Paul Maclean, owner and editor of the Gazette, republican, is the most brilliant and caustic polemical writer in Iowa. This may seem high praise, but those who have followed his work, in his own paper or reflected in the press, will hardly dissent. Allan Dawson of the Des Moines Leader has dubbed him the "Harry Hotspur of Iowa journalism" and the characterization is excellent. No man in Iowa can remove the hide from an opponent with so deft, clever and withal polite a touch. He is postmaster of Creston and always a factor in state political gatherings.

S. A. Brewster of the Creston Advertiser is an uncompromising democrat, a student of economic problems, a strong writer and one of the most devoted friends of Mr. Bryan in the state. He is an excellent all-around newspaper worker, far above the average in business ability. He has been a candidate for congress on the democratic ticket in the Eighth district, as has also W. H. Robb, editor of the Creston American, populist. Mr. Robb is one of the prominent populists of the country and like his two competitors is a fighter. In fact there isn't a town in the state where a livelier article of newspaper warfare can be supplied on demand than is to be had in Creston.

Lafe Young's Life Work.

And while the southwestern editors are under discussion, no man is better entitled to place among them than Lafe Young, the clever editor and owner of the Des Moines Capital. Mr. Young for years conducted the Atlantic Telegraph, and, despite the limitations of the field for a daily, made himself a power. When he went to the state senate from the district that then included Cass and Union counties he was the youngest member of the upper house. He made a place at once as orator and publicist. He afterward went to Des Moines and bought the Capital when it seemed a hopeless proposition. The revolution in the paper is the best evidence of his abilities. His long suit is after-dinner oratory, in which he is conceded the pre-eminence in Iowa, in or out of newspaperdom. He was for years president of the Iowa State Editorial association, now extinct, or at least moribund; no gathering of Iowa editors is considered in good standing unless the Depew of Iowa is on the bill of fare. Lafe always does original things. He went to Cuba to report the Spanish war for his paper, and his lecture, after he got home, on the capture of Santiago was one of the most beautiful works of imagination ever dished up from a platform.

The Red Oak Express would have to be put in a list of the half dozen best all-around weeklies in Iowa. T. D. Murphy is now at the head of the paper, which is a third of a century old, and in connection with which has grown up the calendar and art printing business, whose contribution to Red Oak's fame has been second

only to that made by Ballard the Bard. Mr. Murphy conducts a strictly republican paper. Six years ago a junior party paper was put in, the Republican, by Montgomery & Sheffer, which is a worthy competitor of its longer established rival. The Sun, democratic, by Boll & Clark, is a quarter of a century old. All the Red Oak newspapers are in the hands of thorough newspaper men and their contribution has done much to give Red Oak the prominence in state politics indicated by the fact that it is the home of United States Judge McPherson, who recently resigned from congress to go on the bench, Supreme Justice Horace E. Deemer, Senator J. M. Junkin and other men of almost equal note.

One of an Editorial Family.

Paul S. Junkin, editor of the Corning Union-Republican, is entitled by inheritance and by his own service as well to rank as a pioneer. He is one of the Junkins of Fairfield, a family that has produced more newspaper men than any other in Iowa and all good ones. W. W. Junkin, the patriarch, has been over half a century at the head of the Fairfield Ledger, his service with one paper being the longest ever credited to any man in the state. His son, C. M. Junkin, now actively conducts the paper; another son is editor of the Rock Rapids Reporter and Paul S. Junkin of Corning is the third. His is one of four papers in Adams county—the least number of papers in any Iowa county—and is excellent in proportion to the field, having one of the largest weekly circulations in the state. The Free Press (democrat) and the Gazette (republican) by W. H. Hoxie are the other Corning papers. Mr. Hoxie is one of the oldest southwest Iowa editors. His paper was started in 1867 and he has conducted it most of the time.

Howard Tedford of Mount Ayr, state binder and one of the rising young men of Iowa newspaperdom, is associated with his father, J. H. Tedford, in the ownership and conduct of the Mount Ayr Record. This is another landmark of southwestern journalism, dating from 1865. Father Tedford writes the page of strong editorial, which always occupies the entire first page, and makes it one of the most popular weeklies. Howard Tedford has done newspaper work in Washington, before he became state binder, of a quality that attracted much attention.

Success Founded on Merit.

Among the notable newspaper successes is the Mount Ayr Twice-A-Week News, by Walter H. Beall. Though not yet 30 years old, Mr. Beall has built up much the largest circulation in his county by making a newspaper that is entitled to rank among the best. It is a weekly paper run on daily principles. The Mount Ayr Journal, by J. S. Shepherd and son, is the democratic paper of Ringgold's capital and has high rank in the county. Ringgold, indeed, is a county of newspapers. H. E. Perkins Kellerton Globe, the Sentinel at Knowlton, by P. B. Wilson; the Vindicator at Tingley, by Dr. D. W. Watsabaugh; Bert Myrick's alliterative Redding Rustler, and Charles Wroughton's Diagonal Progress are all good papers with district circulations. It is claimed on behalf of Ringgold county that it has more weekly newspaper circulation than any other in the Eighth district.

J. Knox Hall has made in the Star-Enterprise at Afton a paper that is in many ways remarkable. Typographically and in its news and literary qualities it ranks very high. Afton was formerly county seat of Union county, before Creston won away that distinction, and Mr. Hall has profited by the rivalry between the two towns. His paper is of the independent democratic cast. The Afton Tribune, by W. E. Adair, is a recent venture and has made a creditable showing.

In a town of 3,000 John J. Clark has made a signal success of the conduct of a daily. The Bedford Republican is a bright little evening paper, the weekly edition of which is the Times-Republican. Mr. Clark is

postmaster at Bedford and is possessed of that square of qualities which must be represented in a man who can succeed as he has done. He is a politician, a business man, an editor, a good reporter, and, although only a young man, has been eminently successful. The Bedford Free Press, by H. E. Moores, is democratic and, while making no such ambitious effort as the conduct of a daily, is an excellent weekly. Mr. Moores devotes himself especially to the promotion of his news interests

petition interesting since they started in business. They run a republican paper, with considerable leanings to independence. The Clarinda Democrat is A. B. Robinson's paper and serves the party with a good article of political doctrine, as well as a good newspaper.

Shenandoah, however, is entitled to rate as the best newspaper town in southwest Iowa. The Sentinel, twice a week, has the largest circulation credited to a weekly in this section. C. N. Marvin, its proprietor

conducts the republican Gazette, and to his credit be it said that he keeps the field to himself, despite that Coin is the seat of one of the most enthusiastic colonies of free silverites on earth. Nat. Miller's Essex Independent is properly named, and its editor makes a good paper in a town of 700.

Where Politics Flourish.

Accurate statistics indicate that there is more politics to the square foot in Fremont county than in any other place on earth outside of Ohio. Free silver sentiment ran riot in this county when that movement was at its height, and the newspaper men of both parties proved themselves capable advocates. At Sidney is the democratic Herald, by G. M. Waterman. Mr. Waterman claims the largest circulation accorded to any democratic paper in the southwest, and while he gets an argument occasionally nobody denies him a position in the front row. The Sidney Sun, by Randall & McKee, is republican and a good paper. At Hamburg, Fremont county, Miller & Campbell conduct the Democrat, and they give Waterman a strong fight for the lead in circulation. The Reporter of Fremont is the republican paper; it is conducted by a stock company. O. H. Tibbetts' Hamburg Sunbeam is a silver republican paper, and Tibbetts' 16 to 1 arguments have been quite famous in his section of the state. At Riverton, where the free silver enthusiasts of Fremont county hold annual picnics for four or five days and have national speakers, joint debates and a regular camp meeting, salvation-is-free jollification, H. H. Crenshaw runs the Independent, and without sacrificing his claim that his title is descriptive the paper keeps on excellent terms with the silver picnics when they come to town.

The Mills County Tribune is conducted by N. C. Field at Glenwood. It reflects the democratic opinions of its owner, who last fall was his party's candidate for state senate in the district composed of Mills and Montgomery, and made a good run in a hopelessly republican district against Senator Junkin, one of the strongest men in the state. The Opinion is the republican paper at Glenwood, and is conducted by William F. Broadfield. It is a good paper, with a circulation covering the entire county. Edward Brown's Malvern Leader, republican, and the Southwest Iowan, democratic, by C. M. Rice, are a pair of excellent papers at Malvern.

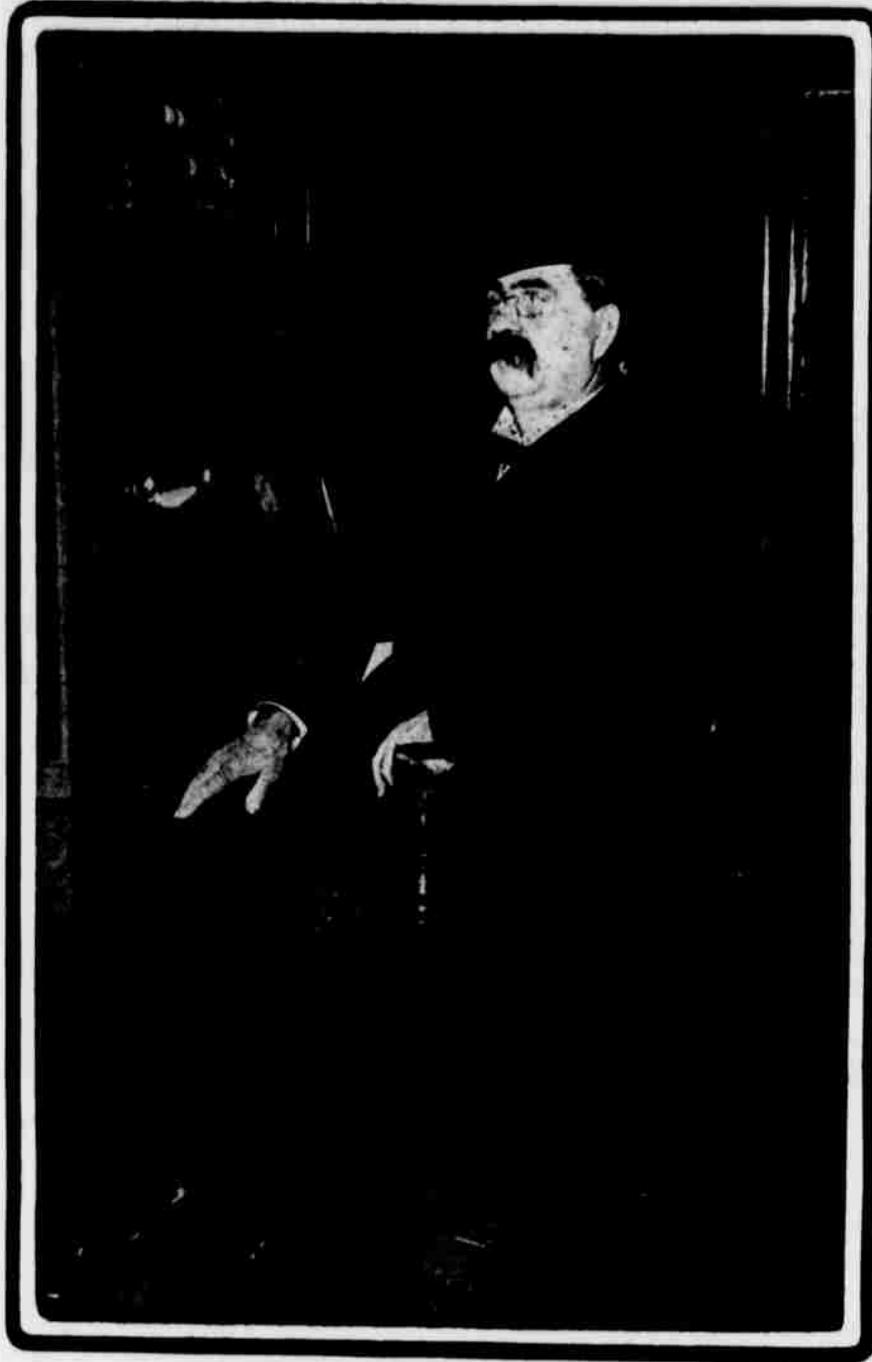
Rivalry Helps Some.

At Villisca, Montgomery county, E. O. Gardner conducts the Letter, democratic, and the Review, republican, is edited by C. K. Kennedy. They have a good field, which they fill well. Villisca is a rival of Red Oak in Montgomery county, and the east side papers at Villisca conduct a constant crusade to maintain the political and commercial independence of their part of the county. The rivalry helps the Villisca papers, which in times of especially strained relations humiliates the county seat by alluding to it as "Redoak" and "Ballardville."

In F. L. Guches' success with the Osceola, (Clarke county) Sentinel, is to be found an illustration of what hustling will accomplish. Mr. Guches got the paper when it was badly run down. He has made himself, it is said, independently rich. He is currently credited with being worth \$30,000; he owns houses in town and lands in the country; his paper is full of business and subscribers, and Mr. Guches is little past 30 years of age. He runs an excellent county paper, filled with the best quality of local news and correspondence. The Clipper, by H. W. Robinson, is the junior republican paper; the Democrat, by Sherman & Richards, represents its paper at the county seat. They are both breezy and interesting sheets.

Millard Stookey's Leon Journal is the leading republican paper of Decatur county. Mr. Stookey is Leon's postmaster, and one of the most prominent factors in its politics. He is credited with running the best line of county news to be found in any

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LAFAYETTE YOUNG, EDITOR—Photo by Bostwick.

throughout the county, having all sections well represented.

Veteran of the Guild.

The weekly paper that gets above 2,000 circulation in an Iowa county is something of a wonder, yet there are two of them in Clarinda, the Herald, by C. A. Lisle, one of the veterans of this section. The paper is over forty years old and has made Mr. Lisle considerably more than well-to-do. He is postmaster—which contains the assurance that he is a republican—and is one of the strong men of the Eighth district in politics; his paper is the home representative of Congressman Hepburn and has done good party service in that not always easy position. The Clarinda Journal, J. P. Keane and Ed C. Lane, is the youngest paper in the town and a hustler. Its editors are young men, who know their business and have made com-

and editor, has a capacity for making people want his newspaper that would make a success in any place on earth. Shenandoah is on the line between Page and Fremont counties and Mr. Marvin makes a paper for both counties. Brown Bros. have taken advantage of the same conditions in building up their Shenandoah World, also a semi-weekly, with a big circulation and business. The Post at Shenandoah is conducted by Ben Clare and calls itself independent, which his friends say means that it would be democratic if democracy were more popular. Mr. Clare runs a thoroughly good paper, the best testimony to which fact is that he makes money in so well ploughed a field as that of Page county.

George McCormick at College Springs runs a high-class college town weekly in the Current Press; at Coin, W. A. Adair



MEETING OF SOUTHWESTERN IOWA PRESS ASSOCIATION, CRESTON, Ia.—Flash light by Louis R. Bostwick.