

IMPEACHMENT ECHO

NEBRASKA CONTRIBUTED TO LIST OF IMPEACHED GOVERNORS.

GOSSIP FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources and Presented in Condensed Form to Our Readers.

Impeachment of Governor Sulzer by the New York legislature recalls Nebraska's contribution to the record of other governors of American states who have been impeached.

David Butler, first governor of the state, was impeached by the lower house of the legislature, March 1, 1871, found guilty by the senate June 1, and removed from office.

Curiously enough, Kansas and Nebraska were the only states north of the old Mason Dixon line, until the present, which had impeached their governors.

As in the case of Governor Sulzer, the troubles of Governor Butler were house impeached him on several counts. One charged misappropriation of \$16,000 of state funds and on this alone was he found guilty.

The house preferred its charges on March 1, 1871. The senate convened as a court of impeachment March 6 and cited Governor Butler to appear March 7. Managers of the case for the house were J. C. Myers, J. E. Doom and DeForest Porter.

After six weeks dreary testimony, the senate found Governor Butler guilty of misappropriating the \$16,000 of state funds, the vote being 9 to 3. It was declared that he had taken this amount out of funds from the sale of public lands and had used it in the construction of a \$20,000 mansion in the outskirts of Lincoln.

Plans for allowing the Western Union Telegraph company to make a three to six months' trial of the universal day rate provided for in the Stebbins bill of the last legislature, were talked over at a conference here by the railway commission and Attorney Brogan of the company.

Albert Edwards in his admirable book on Panama thus describes the beginning of the tragedy of de Lesseps and his company: "The digging of the Suez canal was the accomplishment of his life."

The Hastings asylum under Superintendent Baxter, spent \$9 less for each of the 1,099 patients than under the administration of Dr. Kearn for the first half of the year 1912.

The Middle Loup as a possible factor in the development of water power, leaped into prominence when Thomas Pratt and John Hoge of this city and H. R. Geurig of Omaha filed an application for 440 cubic second feet of water to be taken from that stream.

The company was launched with many banquets, florid speeches by le grand Francals, and champagne without end. And all the time those who were on the inside were playing the market from both ends, sending the stocks tumbling down the steps of the bourse on a manufactured report that the United States was again waving the Monroe Doctrine, shooting them up again with a misquotation from the president's message to the effect that we were enthusiastic in favor of the French enterprise.

The Genoa Indian school band will assist in furnishing music for the state fair, Sept. 1-5. In addition, the Geneva girls' industrial school band, the Nebraska state band, the Nelson concert band and the Ord concert band, will play. Liberator's band, assisted by ten grand opera stars, will give three free concerts each day in the auditorium and play a concert before the grand stand at 7 o'clock each night.

The Hastings Chautauqua is up against a deficit of nearly \$2,500.

A Dream of the Centuries



DE LESSEPS PALACE

Colon, C. Z.—"The engineer's dream of the centuries has been realized. Everyone who writes of the Panama canal feels bound to use that phrase, and though it is trite, it is no less true."

Possibly when Balboa first stood on the "Peak of Darien" and gazed entranced at the waters of what he called the Southern sea the thought of cutting through the isthmus came to him. Certainly, within three years after his great discovery or in 1516, he had transported two ships, in pieces, across from the Atlantic to the Pacific and there put them together.

It could not have been very much later that the idea of an isthmian canal was born, for during the reign of Philip II. of Spain (1556-1598) the Inquisition declared that any such project to alter the face of the earth was impious, and the Spanish ruler forbade its further discussion. The ban of the church was effective for some time, but in 1699 a Scotchman of the name of Patterson revived the scheme, established a colony on the shores of the isthmus and even made a crude survey of the proposed route. Caledonian bay, on the north shore of Panama, alone preserves the memory of that attempt. French scientists in 1735 advocated a Nicaragua canal, fifty years later the Spanish government ordered a survey of the Darien route, and early in the nineteenth century von Humboldt declared a canal was practicable. In 1825, immediately after Latin America had freed itself from Spain, the Central American and United States Atlantic and Pacific Canal company was organized, and one of the directors of the concern with the high-sounding name was DeWitt Clinton. Various schemes were started and fell through, and in 1835 the United States senate voted for the building of a Nicaragua canal. An expedition was sent to that country and reported that the canal could be constructed at a cost of \$25,000,000.

After the Civil war there was much negotiating by our government for a canal concession, but when the Nicaragua route seemed to be the favorite the Bogota government became impatient and gave the concession for a Panama canal to Lucien Napoleon Bonaparte Wyse, a French lieutenant. He made some maps and organized a company which sold out to the financiers with whom Ferdinand de Lesseps had associated himself.

Albert Edwards in his admirable book on Panama thus describes the beginning of the tragedy of de Lesseps and his company: "The digging of the Suez canal was the accomplishment of his life. All his vigor and energy had gone into it. He came back to Paris literally carried on the shoulders of his nation. The government made him a comte and the people called him 'le grand Francals.' But he fell among thieves. The old man tumbled blindly into the trap of speculators, who foresaw a rich harvest in the drawing together of his great name and the shady concession of Lieutenant Wyse. They set the stage by summoning the scientists of the world to a great congress to discuss an Atlantic-Pacific canal. Although it was called a 'scientific' congress, most of its 136 members were speculators and politicians. Only forty-two were engineers or geographers. They elected Count de Lesseps, railroaded through a resolution that the Panama route was the only practicable one, and formed the Universal Inter-oceanic Canal company by buying the Wyse concession for 10,000,000 francs, before the bona fide members of the congress knew what had happened and in the face of much protest. There can be little doubt that the congress was packed like a ward caucus, but there is no evidence that de Lesseps realized that it was."

"The company was launched with many banquets, florid speeches by le grand Francals, and champagne without end. And all the time those who were on the inside were playing the market from both ends, sending the stocks tumbling down the steps of the bourse on a manufactured report that the United States was again waving the Monroe Doctrine, shooting them up again with a misquotation from the president's message to the effect that we were enthusiastic in favor of the French enterprise. A sorrier exhibition of conscienceless finance has seldom been seen."

Old de Lesseps, however, was in earnest. He sent over engineers who discovered that Wyse's maps were inaccurate and that yellow fever was deadly. Then in December, 1879, the count himself, with his wife and three children, arrived from France. After receptions and speech-making in Colon he crossed to Panama, and there, on January 1, 1880, the formal opening of the canal was performed with elaborate ceremony. Mlle. Ferdinande de Lesseps struck the first blow of a pickaxe at the point where the canal was to enter the Pacific, each of the party followed with a blow, and there was a vast quantity of applause and champagne.

From the very first the French company was beset with troubles. As the canal was not a government undertaking the work had to be let out to contractors, and many of these proved to be dishonest. They would take out the soft dirt, collect the stipulated price per cubic yard, and then go into bankruptcy. At Bogota the politicians not only exacted the usual blackmail, but annoyed the company with all manner of litigation, the native courts invariably ruling against the French. Worst of all, perhaps, were the yellow fever and malaria, which killed off the engineers and laborers by the thousand. In the last three months of 1884 the death rate per thousand was nearly 100, and in September, 1885, it reached 176.97. Sanitary science had not yet learned how to cope with these diseases, and there is every reason to believe that their ravages alone would have been enough to insure the failure of de Lesseps' enterprise, without the gross extravagance and the dishonesty that characterized the work.

"The crash came in 1888," says Mr. Edwards. "After eight years of as brave a fight as man had ever made against nature, the bubble burst. It is estimated that stock had been issued to the value of two hundred and fifty million dollars. It is doubtful if half this sum ever got near enough to Panama to be expended on actual work. Most of this paper was held by French peasants and people of moderate means. They had been led into it by the great name of de Lesseps. You may be sure that none of the original promoters were caught with stock on their hands when the final break came. The scandal was immense. Many government officials were involved. The shame of it drove the old man—le Grand Francals—insane. He died a few years later in an asylum."

The company went into the hands of a receiver who organized the New French Canal company, and this concern sold, all its rights and property to the United States in 1902. Many of its buildings, ranging in size from de Lesseps' palace in Cristobal to houses for laborers, were found worth preserving and have been used by the Americans. The hospital buildings at Ancon and Colon were nearly all erected by the French.

When Uncle Sam took hold of the canal work, the jungle all along the route across the isthmus was found full of expensive machinery abandoned to the ravages of rust and decay. Much of this was recovered and used in the earlier years of the American regime, and even now French dredges and locomotives may be seen at work there. Nearly all the old French equipment, however, has been sold to a Chicago wrecking concern which has been piling it up in orderly heaps and disposing of it as scrap.



STATUE OF COLUMBUS AT CRISTOBAL

Two parts of the actual work done on the canal by the French have proved of great help to the Americans. These were the dredging at the Atlantic entrance and the dry excavation in the Culbra cut.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR AUGUST 24.

THE BREAD OF HEAVEN.

LESSON TEXT—Ex. 16:2-3. GOLDEN TEXT—"Jesus saith unto them, I am the bread of life."—John 6:35.

The Psalm of praise (Ex. 15) is followed by the sorrows of sin. After leaving the bitter waters of Marah (15:23-26) the Israelites encamped for a time at Elim (v. 27). They then entered the wilderness of sin (16:1). This name is certainly suggestive for it was the sin of unbelief that lay behind their murmurings.

I. Despair, vv. 2, 3. We sometimes censure the Israelites for their complaining within a month after their miraculous deliverance from the Red Sea, but if we examine ourselves closely we will not be surprised at their lack of faith nor at the Savior's delight when he discovered faith (Luke 7:9). Their song, Chapter 15, of deliverance has scarcely died on their lips when a new danger confronts them, viz., that of privation. How many today fail at just this point, and think only of the "fish-pots." They complained more over the privations of God's service than over the slavery of Pharaoh, though as a matter of fact the man in Egypt does not have "bread to the full" (John 4:13). Eccl. 1:8. Truly Moses and Aaron had a task on their hands for "the whole congregation murmured." They had to bear the brunt of it all for they were God's visible representatives (Ps. 69:9; Rom. 15:3). Human nature is ever the same. Rather to die by the hand of Pharaoh with a full stomach than to live in a freedom which was accomplished by any privations. The trouble was that having everything done for them they lacked that moral backbone, that fixedness of purpose, which a great principle inspires and moves men to suffer and to overcome. The life of slavery in Egypt had made the Israelites craven.

God's Answer.

II. Deliverance, vv. 4-10. God answered their grumbling with a most gracious promise. He met their bitter cry with a bounteous provision of bread. That they might know it was he who provided, God said "I will rain bread from heaven." But to guard against oriental improvidence or excess, they were directed to gather a day's portion for the day (v. 4 marg.) This provision was also to be a test to see if they would obey him, "walk in my law, or no." Some of them failed at the very first, and that which they attempted to keep over spoiled, see vv. 19, 20. To hoard is to lose, to use is to increase, Prov. 11:24, 25. To hoard wealth, whether it be temporal or spiritual, is to distrust God, and it was this very distrust which God was combating. It was a supernatural gift and was a type of Christ, John 6:31-33, 35. The manna sustained life for a day at a time; he, Christ, sustains forever, John 6:58. Notice, God did not place the manna in their mouths, each must gather, appropriate, for himself, so also must they who feed on the bread of life, Christ Jesus, and as they were to gather daily, so also must we feed anew each day on Jesus, Matt. 6:11.

Visible Proof.

That the Israelites might realize fully that Moses and Aaron were not working some trick of necromancy, or taking advantage of some botanical or ornithological knowledge of the country, God revealed to all, at the break of day, his glory, v. 10; and that their descendants might see and know of God's marvelous goodness and deliverance, they were commanded to fill a vessel with manna as a visible convincing proof (v. 32). Nor did this supply fail as long as it was needful, v. 35, Phil. 4:19.

III. Delight, vv. 11-16. What emotions must have filled the hearts of the Israelites when at evening they beheld the quails and in the morning the manna. The mighty God who brought them out of Egypt has again shown his power. The manna was to teach them that "man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord," Deut. 8:2, 3. Do not lose time speculating upon what the manna was like, simply read vv. 14-17 and Num. 11:7, 8. Strangely enough not all were satisfied with the bread from heaven (Num. 21:5) but they had to eat it or die. Some cried out for the food of Egypt, (Num. 11:5, 6) even as today some who profess to be Christians are not satisfied with Christ. As against these feelings of delight there must have been a sense of rebuke (v. 9) when God through Aaron commanded the Israelites to "come near before the Lord."

IV. The Teaching. The gift of the manna taught the Israelites that they must depend upon God. Man not only needs spiritual relationship but material sustenance for the maintenance of his life.

The words of the golden text were spoken in connection with our Lord's feeding the multitude. He is able to provide for the physical, and also to satisfy the deepest spiritual needs of all who put their trust in him. "It is usually not so much the greatness of our trouble as the littleness of our spirits which makes us complain."—Jeremy Taylor.

Desperate Remedy.

From the roof of a building the stranger looked down upon a park whose spare grass, scraggy shrubbery and stunted trees were almost trampled out of sight by a human mob that surged round a speaker's platform in the middle of the park.

"What's up?" said the stranger. "A suffragist riot?" "Worse than that," said the guide. "The park grass has been in a bad way for several months, and a local politician has called a mass meeting of the citizens to discuss plans for saving it."

He Had Observed. The teacher was giving a test on the value of foreign money in America. When it was little Harry's turn, she asked: "Harry, how much is a guinea worth in this country?"

Harry smiled and answered: "A dollar and a half a day."—Everybody's Magazine.

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In New York. Howard—Here's a man who says that happiness depends on the cook. Coward—In more cases it depends on the delicatessen shop.—Judge.

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Plea for More Hygienic Gravy.

"Stray Shots," the weekly paper issued by the inmates of the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, offers this mild suggestion to the cook: "If the gentleman intrusted with the task of making brown gravy to accompany the T-bone steaks served at this great culinary center, will take the trouble to read a few lines in any old cook book he will discover that it is impossible to use hot water and produce lumpless gravy. If he has any spark of sympathy in his soul he will realize that uncooked flour is the bosom friend of indigestion. A little regard for the great regiment that feasts here should furnish comfort in the consciousness of duty well performed."

Impossible.

Startled he looked about him. "My legs are comfortable," he muttered. "My knees aren't cramped. I can get the kinks out of my calves and even lean back a little. My line of sight is unobstructed. Why, not only can I see everything, I can also hear everything! I can retire to the foyer without disturbing 16 people, or even one, but—I'm so comfortable sitting here that I'd rather stay just where I am. These lights—the music—the scenery—all look real, yes, they strongly suggest reality—but it's impossible. Whoever heard of a comfortable theater? I must be dreaming."

Whisper to yourself when you have occasion to speak of others' faults.

AN OLD NURSE

Persuaded Doctor to Drink Postum.

An old faithful nurse and an experienced doctor, are a pretty strong combination in favor of Postum, instead of tea and coffee.

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