

TYPE OF RUGGED PIONEER

Nelson H. Loomis of Omaha Typical of Kansas' Strong Men.

PRODUCT OF EXPERIENCE SCHOOL

Never Went to College, but Well Educated in Little Red School House and the Academy of Life.

In an interesting address before the old settlers at the "dug-outs" week at Salina, Kan., Wednesday, Nelson H. Loomis, now general attorney for the Union Pacific railroad, told of his experience as a boy on a farm in Saline county, in the '70s, says the Kansas City Star.

It was the story of the typical life of the pioneers in Kansas, and the successful career of Mr. Loomis is typical of the men such a life produced.

As Mr. Loomis told the story, one forgot that the great lawyer of today was speaking of himself, but imagined only that he was relating the narrative upon a past day and disclosing the founders of Kansas at work again in laying the foundation of that splendid state.

As a boy of 16 Mr. Loomis came to Kansas with his parents in the '70s. They "settled" upon a claim in the northwestern part of Saline county, and the locality was only meagerly inhabited by families who, like the Loomises, lived in "dug-outs" and sod houses.

Father a Stone Mason.

The father was a stone mason and worked at his trade to support the family while the boy was left to break the sod and "put in" a crop. They arrived in the summer and the first crop was a few acres of wheat. The wheat came up and promised well until late in the spring, but when the drought and the hot winds came it withered. But "what was wheat" in that day, and the family needed bread. So the poor wheat crop was harvested with an old mowing machine, raked by hand and stacked at night because the wind blew so hard during the day that stacking was impossible. When the wheat was threshed it was found that the bill for threshing exceeded the value of the wheat by many dollars.

That was the experience of the early pioneer, not once, but in many years. There was no money in circulation in those days. When the men worked for their neighbors they did not receive money for their wages. Their neighbors merely came over and worked for them to balance the account, or else they "took it out" in fruit or in something one family had that the other did not have. When they hauled produce to town they received no cash for it. Groceries were traded for corn and wheat and eggs.

Problem to Get the Dollars.

When young Loomis wanted to teach school he was discouraged to find that it required a dollar as a fee for taking the teacher's examination. It was a serious problem in the family for weeks as to how that dollar should be raised. A younger brother worked two days in a harvest field for a strictly cash consideration and received the coveted dollar for his total wage for the two days. It was a happy day in the Loomis household when that big financial problem was solved.

When he received his certificate and taught school he received \$20 a month and paid his board out of that, but it was a princely salary. The whole neighborhood envied him his riches.

The only form of amusement was at the Mulberry schoolhouse, several miles from the Loomis home. But there was Sunday school every Sunday and preaching once a month and a literary society one night in every week during the winter months at which there were debates and dialogues and recitations, a régal of entertainment.

Training in Forensics.

"I have heard many able men in debate since that day," said Mr. Loomis, "but I received from none of them such an education as I received from the debates in the old Mulberry schoolhouse."

In the winter time there were blizzards and snow, but the work must go on, and the boys would have frozen feet until they could not wear their boots, but wrapped their feet in gummy sacks and lived in agony—but they worked all the time.

In such adversity the men who "made Kansas a good place to live in" laid the foundation of the state.

"I did not receive a college education which I coveted," said Mr. Loomis, "but I was going to school every day in the school of experience which we all attended in that day. And I am sending my boys to college now to learn the things we were forced to learn then by actual contact with the world."

But that was the life that turned out graduates who made good, as the careers of men like Mr. Loomis and thousands of others testify.

Parents Vote Not to Change Name of Vinton School

Residents of Vinton school district, in a referendum vote conducted by the Board of Education, went on record as emphatically against changing the name of Vinton school in Deer Park school. Several residents had petitioned for the change, saying Vinton was associated with unpleasant memories. The question read: "Do you wish the name of Vinton school changed to Deer Park school?"

Only parents voted. The vote stood 120 for the change and 223 against it. Two said they were indifferent to the matter. The report was received at Superintendent E. U. Graff's office and referred to the buildings and grounds committee.

Irwin Bros. Will Show at Rourke Park on Sunday

Irwin Brothers' big wild west show will play at Rourke park Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. This is being done in order to give the business men of the city an opportunity to see this great show. Because of the enormous amount of business brought to the city this week the men could not leave their places of business, consequently the board of governors have come to their rescue. However, anybody may attend the show Sunday and popular prices of 25 and 50 cents will prevail.

An American King

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New Books

Fiction. WESTWAYS. By A. W. Mitchell. 329 Pp. \$1.40. The Century company.

Dr. Mitchell has used the background of the civil war for the latest novel, which is a chronicle of human passion and frailty. Domestic tragedy arises from the division in political sentiment existing between the two heads of a family. In this case the "Squire," James Penhallow, leading citizen of Westways, is northern in his sympathies. He votes for Fremont rather than Buchanan, for Lincoln instead of Douglas, although before slavery became an issue in national politics he had counted himself with the democratic party. The squire's wife, however, is a southerner by birth and her sympathies remain heartily on the side of her family and its traditions. As sectional animosities grow in intensity the intellectual differences between the squire and Ann Penhallow become more formidable. United to each other by the strongest bonds of marital affection, they tacitly agree to avoid any allusion to the momentous questions of the day, with the inevitable estrangement that results from this course of action.

War between north and south is declared. The little village of Westways responds to the enthusiasm of the country at large. Squire Penhallow, who is a graduate of West Point, cannot escape the contagious patriotism with which he is surrounded. He accepts the command of a regiment, goes to the seat of war, performs notable services, and is finally returned home seriously disabled from a head wound received at Gettysburg. Until the conclusion of the war and Lincoln's assassination he suffers from a brain trouble that quite dims his mental faculties and threatens to reach a fatal termination. In the meantime his wife, moved by his weakness, becomes more closely united to him and their complete restoration to each other is secured with his return to health. The hero and heroine of the book are John Penhallow and Letta Gray, cousins by marriage, who live with their uncle and aunt. Of the great historical characters of the civil war Dr. Mitchell is discreetly sparing in attempts at direct portraiture. There is enough, however, to give the reader the impression that he has come into personal contact with those whose names and deeds have become their countrymen's richest heritage.

THE PIONEERS! By Willis Gilbert Cather. 209 Pp. \$1.25. Houghton Mifflin company.

A stirring romance of our own Nebraska prairies, telling of the struggles of Swedish and Bohemian pioneers, of hardships endured, of final achievement. The interest centers in two women of widely different character—not rivals, but friends—and Alexandra Bergson is typical of her time, and of many of the descendants of that sturdy race. Miss Cather is a Nebraska girl, and has written her story among familiar scenes.

THE IRON TRAIL. By Rex Beach. 281 Pp. \$1.50. Harper & Brothers.

The scene is laid in Alaska and the hero is Murray O'Neill, a contractor on an immense scale, a man who undertakes to build bridges and railroads in places where ordinary mortals maintain their construction to be altogether impossible. Three forces oppose O'Neill: the glaciers, the trust, which is constructing a line from Kyal, and Curtis Gordon, an unscrupulous, imaginative, inexhaustible, plausible promoter. There is a love story, of course, which ends most happily, but the two great powers in the book are Murray O'Neill and the wilderness he was determined to conquer for civilization.

MURDER IN ANY DEGREE. By Owen Johnson. 250 Pp. \$1.25. The Century company.

These nine tales: "Murder in Any Degree," "One Hundred in the Dark," "A Comedy for Wives," "The Lies," "Even Threats," "A Man of No Imagination," "Larry Moore," "The Surprises of the Lottery," "My Wife's Wedding Presents," touch many phases of life, and are written with the author's usual charm.

Javelite. THE HANDY BOY. By A. Neely Hall. 264 Pp. \$1.25. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company.

This book tells how to do things handily. There is woodworking, electrical and mechanical tool-making, scoutercraft and other forms of indoor and outdoor handicraft and the author presents many ways of using the things at hand.

THE GIRL FROM ARIZONA. By Nina Rhoades. 224 Pp. \$1. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company.

Marjorie Graham has grown to be 14 without knowing more of the world than can be seen from a lonely Arizona ranch. So when an uncle takes her for a winter in New York, to be with her cousin of the same age at a fashionable apart-

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HARMONY WINS. By Millicent Olinsted. 225 Pp. \$1. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company.

Harmony Hale is related to that brave patriot-spy, Nathan Hale, and through this fact there is an interesting historical touch added to the fascination of the unraveling of the plot.

UNCLE DAVID'S BOYS. By Edna A. Brown. 34 Pp. \$1. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company.

The story tells how some young people whom circumstances brought together in a little mountain village spent a summer vacation, full of good times, but with some unexpected and rather mysterious occurrences.

THE BOY SAILORS OF 1812. By Everett T. Tomlinson. 309 Pp. \$1.25. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company.

The story does not glorify war, but shows that the qualities displayed by Commodore Perry in time of war are just as much needed today in problems of a different nature but equally threatening.

JEAN CABOT IN THE BRITISH ISLES. By Gertrude Fisher Scott. 327 Pp. \$1.00. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company.

This is a college story, although dealing with a summer vacation, and full of college spirit. It begins with a Yale-Harvard boat race at New London. Soon Jean and her roommate sail for Great

Britain under the chaperonage of a favorite member of the faculty of Ashton college. Their trip is a delight, and the humorous touches of realism add to the interest of the book.

BETTY TUCKER'S AMBITION. By Angeline W. Wray. 207 Pp. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company.

Betty has an ambition to win distinction as a writer, and in the face of discouragement actually does secure a place on the local paper, where her bright ideas come to be recognized as having genuine business value.

THE AIRSHIP BOYS AS DETECTIVES. By H. L. Sawyer. 250 Pp. 75 cents. Reilly & Britton company.

A gigantic plot for the wholesale coupling of Chinamen into this country, coupled with the fact that Red Manning, chief of the conspirators, is wanted by the government, warrants the use of the famous airship boys and their latest aeroplane in what proves to be a most complicated case.

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