



E. A. MILLER OF KEARNEY
Mr. Miller has been secretary of the state association for eighteen years. A convention would not seem just right without him in his accustomed place.

EFFICIENCY

(By F. B. Tobin of Sidney)

The subject assigned me is indeed a very comprehensive one and as applied to firemen and fire departments and fire companies, "efficiency" ought to be construed as making the most out of the means at your command. Metropolitan cities and villages with organized fire departments generally have the best equipment they can afford. Efficiency then in the sense in which I shall consider it in this paper will have greater dependence upon the firemen them-



C. L. LEITHOFF OF CRAWFORD
Mr. Leithoff is a member of the Crawford fire department and proprietor of the Gate City Hotel, which was local headquarters at the convention.

selves than the facilities or their use in fighting fire. Growing municipalities have a great many things in contemplation at the same time and to make the best out of conditions is always the problem with which a municipal corporation is confronted. True efficiency then is more generally determined by the acts of the men themselves than it is from the excellence of their equipment or from their lack of fire fighting machinery. The true fireman at the call of duty has too clear a conception of what is before him to complain about the



RAY MOSS OF CRAWFORD
Mr. Moss is one of the energetic Crawford firemen who helped make a success of the convention, who proved himself a capital entertainer and who read a paper during the convention.

means at hand to combat the element that is ruthless in its destruction of property and that does not even stop at human lives. He realizes that duty is not a sentiment but with the firemen a principle pervading his life, and that it must exhibit itself in his conduct and action; that duty with him is above all consequences and often at a crisis or difficulty he must disregard consequences. Duty commands the fireman to look neither to the right nor the left, but straight forward.



WM. SHERRILL OF CRAWFORD
Mr. Sherrill is chief of the Crawford fire department and was one of the men who was always on the job.

Never complain about the administration as individuals but if you have a grievance as an organization then seek to have it redressed in the proper way and it is a foregone conclusion that the local fire department speaking through the organization will always be given the fairest consideration. There are situations in which the proper opinions and modes of action are not evident. In such cases we should maturely reflect before we decide; we must ask for the opinions of those wiser and better acquainted with the subject than ourselves; it is too often true that we cannot determine wisely until we have candidly heard both sides.

A growing municipality and its many necessities always presents a very vexatious problem to the administration and to meet and satisfy the demands made upon its officers no matter how deserving they may be is generally out of the question. To be able to do this the average Nebraska municipality must have attained that degree of perfection contemplated in Sir Thomas More's Utopia.

Some distinguished philosopher has said that a good soldier must be prepared to follow as well as lead. Superior officers in a fire department or fire company must be obeyed and the men must work in absolute harmony with them if true efficiency is to be attained. The volunteer fireman's work is very arduous and often very dangerous but there is notwithstanding this condition, a fascination about it, and the average fireman takes great pride in it. It is very often the case that firemen have been associated with the work in their communities for periods ranging from ten to twenty-five years.

When it is considered that the work is entirely a voluntary work and that the men engaged in it often endanger their lives to save the property of others, it is certainly not claiming too much to say that in this work firemen earn the gratitude of the community.

The man who will enter into this work and perform it as only volunteer firemen perform their work is in his very nature so constituted that he is sure to do the very best with the means at hand. With him efficiency means that very thing and he does not stop to complain at the facilities at the service of himself and associates. The efficient fireman and fire company must be content with what they have and they will not be found sighing and wishing for things unattainable. They cheerfully and contentedly accept conditions as they are and when the way is open for improvement they just as cheerfully accept the changed conditions.

After all, is not this the philosophy of success in all of the relations of life? The efficient fireman bends his energies to one point and he goes directly to that point, looking neither to the right nor the left. The true volunteer fireman realizes that it is cowardice to grumble about circumstances and that to overcome one barrier gives him greater ability to overcome the next.

The city or village administration would if in their power provide better facilities for you and they appreciate as keenly as you do the embarrassments under which you have at stake. Remember that efficiency is measured by accomplishment and that zealous, energetic and efficient fireman carries along with him the fact that his example is contagious and compels imitation. He labors for efficiency—with him is that controlling force. He exercises a sort of power which sends a thrill through every fiber that flows into the nature of those about him. His work is always efficient but after all it is his energy in his work that makes him efficient. If you would be efficient then proceed with energy in whatever you undertake. Consider yourself equal to the situation and you will succeed.

FIVE HUNDRED CLUB

Ex-President Graff of Seward Suggests That Work Be Started

Brother Harry Graff of Seward, our ex-president, in a letter to Lloyd, suggests that the boys over the state get busy and boost the Mutual Aid Department of the state association by the organization of a "Five Hundred Club."

Brother Graff's letter follows: "I have a thought—hust—why not organize a "500 club", an effort to get 500 members in the Mutual Aid Department of the state association. I believe there are hundreds of the boys who would take this insurance feature if they would be assured that they could get \$500 of protection. Let's start in every department a campaign for membership with the promise of 500 members or no go. I'll guarantee ten more from Seward than we already have, on this basis. Yes, I'll make it 25."

Boys, Brother Graff has started the ball rolling. Take him up and run the Mutual Aid Department membership up to 500 before the next convention. Keep us posted on what you do.

ORD DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES

Fireboys Entertain Business Men at Smoker and Big Feed

From Ord Weekly Journal, Feb. 24: There were several surprises for the guests of the Ord fire department last Friday evening. It was announced on the invitations that there would be cigars and eats and when the guests were assembled at the I. O. O. F. hall they were invited to play cards, which most of them proceeded to do, and cigars and apples were passed as often as one was out, until about 10 o'clock, when all were invited to join in a grand march to the Bohemian hall. A delightful time was had at the first hall and the guests would have been amply satisfied had the entertainment ended there, but when they arrived at the other hall the first thing that met their eyes as they entered the hall was the splendid decorations and the nicely arranged tables for as fine a banquet as one would care to sit down to. As the party entered the hall the firemen band began a concert, playing several pieces and only stopping when the banquet was served. The refreshments for the inner man were all that could be desired, consisting of oysters, sandwiches and many other good things. Ed Bannister wore the insignia of the office of chief cook, and Mrs. Susie Barnes was on hand to help in the serving of the oysters. The small army of firemen who acted as waiters graced the position and the assembled banqueters testified to the excellence of the repast by the enthusiastic manner in which they partook of the dainties. When all had been satisfied and more Toastmaster H. M. Davis rapped for order and after a few well chosen remarks in which he testified to the high regard in which all hold the members of the fire department, he introduced in turn the victims of the evening. Neither the toastmaster nor the speakers had had an opportunity to prepare, but all acquitted themselves with credit. Bill Wright—was the right man in the right place—and his remarks at the time brought tears to the eyes of his listeners, but they were tears caused from hearty laughter. The other members of the council were in turn called upon and responded at more or less length. Mayor Work proved to be the only charter member of the fire department present and told of the organization twenty-eight years ago. H. B. Van Decar made the longest speech of the evening, and it was good from start to finish and left no doubt in the minds of those present as to where the speaker stood on the matter of a new home for the fire department. Jake Hoffman, president of the state association, spoke along the lines of what had been accomplished by the departments in their annual conventions, and Mr. Kaufman, district pass agent of the Burlington, who was also present, spoke highly of the Ord fire department. He accompanied them on their recent trip to and from Crawford. When Frank Weller was called for and designated by the toastmaster as the only handsome man present it was found that he had slipped out after eating all he wanted, and he was roundly censured for such neglect of duty. Chief Shirley when called upon spoke in his usual happy way. Mr. Haskell was called for and spoke briefly on the matter of the city hall. He admitted that he had been able to do full justice to the eating part of the program, saying that he had been preparing for that by missing a couple of meals at home, but not knowing he was to be asked to speak, had not prepared. It was almost 12 o'clock when this happy party was dismissed. It is very unusual for a stag party of this kind to be held with no questionable stories being told, but Ord is unusual in many ways anyhow.



JOHN W. GUTHRIE OF ALLIANCE
Mr. Guthrie is an exempt member of the Alliance department and was elected second vice president without opposition at the convention.

GORDON DEPARTMENT MEETING

Voters of Neighboring City to Vote on Question of New City Hall

From the Gordon Journal:

Gordon Hose Company No. 1 met in regular monthly session at the city hall Monday evening, and a fair attendance was present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following bills were presented and ordered paid:

The Fair \$2.50

Lloyd H. Jordan 10.00

The secretary was instructed to order fifty certificates that the retired firemen might be properly recognized. The committee on the city hall petition reported that the required number of signers had been secured, the petition presented to the board of trustees and granted.

Thus at the regular spring election there will appear on the official and sample ballots the question for and against the bonding of the village of Gordon in the sum of \$7,500 for the purpose of erecting a new city hall. We have rehearsed so many times our ideas of the need of this im-

provement that it is hardly necessary to make special mention of it, but we are still of the same opinion.

At the meeting Monday night the matter of furnishing the new hall was brought up and as previously stated, the firemen intend to do this part themselves, thus letting every cent of the \$7,000 go into a building of which our people may be justly proud.

This will also give the fire boys an opportunity to have better room for their equipment, a better place for them as well as the city council to meet in and a place where many public gatherings may be held. Gordon will be a city some of these days and we will be ready.

CARD OF THANKS

The Crawford Volunteer Fire Department, the Crawford Chamber of Commerce and the city of Crawford take this means to thank all Crawford citizens, Col. H. G. Slick and his staff of Fort Robinson and the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department for assisting us in making the 1916 State Volunteer Firemen's Association convention a decided success.



It's a Good Plan to Make Comparisons BEFORE BUYING YOUR Suit or Stetson Hat

After you have inspected the suits offered at different stores take the two you like best home "on approval." There, before your own mirror, and away from all outside influences, you and your family can carefully compare the style, quality, workmanship and value of the garment, and make your choice.

WE SUGGEST THIS PLAN BECAUSE WE ARE QUITE POSITIVE YOU WILL CHOOSE THE SUIT FROM THIS STORE.

Whether you pay \$12.50 or \$25 or some price in between, you'll doubtless find just what you want here.

E. G. LAING

"Modern Clothes for Men"

E. G. LAING
"MODERN CLOTHES FOR MEN"
308. BOX BUTTE AVE.
PHONE 4

Men, Young Men and Firemen:-

You want to buy clothes the most real value and save just why you will take advantage.

We want you to consider to call at our store, see and make critical comparisons.

It's the man who is compared, whose business we want a man, it won't be long before we see the comparative advantages in style, at this store.

We're all firemen at Fire Department. We know that a bathing suit to a uniform of the fire department at

Eventually our value we are sure of that. The greater better it will be for your

Don't think that we you call to look. We welcome a locker before he can be

Drop in here as a YOU will be the sole judge interest to buy here. Will



HON. W. S. RIDGELL
"Ridge" is Nebraska State Fire Commissioner and one of the most widely known men in the state. He is always on the job at conventions and is one of the boys.