

NORTH PLATTE TRIBUNE

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION.

NORTH PLATTE AND LINCOLN COUNTY

Situated in the Rich and Fertile Valley of the North Platte River.

Irrigation Prevails. Consequently Drouths Never Occur.

North Platte is the Queen of It All

The Home of the Famous Indian Scout, Col. W. F. Cody, Better Known as "Buffalo Bill"

The City is Possessed of Good Schools, Churches and Two Solid Banking Institutions.

After Visiting Our City and County an Iowa Editor Gives a Brief Review of Them and Our Most Enterprising Citizens.

(Written by Geo. T. Williams) Introduction.

In presenting this article to the public it is the writer's object to give a plain and truthful statement of the advantages of North Platte and Lincoln county, situated in the south western part of the best state in the union. Nothing has been exaggerated, and no attempt has been made to occasion the county and city to appear better than they really are. It is not the intention of the writer to attempt to give all the details of the early settlement, nor is it expected, for by right that falls to the lot of the historian. Our aim has been to give a clear and concise resume of county, city and inhabitants, in the hope of aiding those who may be looking for an acceptable place in which to locate a home, to direct their steps towards Lincoln county, where they may dwell in the midst of wealth, culture and refinement.

Transformation. The transformation, growth and development of this part of Nebraska was the product of the Omnipotent. But yesterday an unbounded wilderness—a vast unknown expanse—the abode of the bison—the happy hunting ground of the Nomads of the plains, who reigned in peace supreme. The world is familiar with the phenomenal rapid growth of the west. In one brief generation we have looked with amazement at the flight of vast herds of wild game; and the advancing caravans of the immigrant; saw the locomotive climb chamois-like over cliffs and scale the very crest of the Rocky mountains; have seen a web of steel spread over the wilderness by the great spider of commerce; the tribes of the Indians swept away to make room for the factory, church and school house, and the trail of the "Digger" marked by the decaying bones of both man and beast.

The Soil. The soil closely resembles the loamy deposit in the valley of the Egyptian Nile, or in the Yazoo Valley of Mississippi—famous the world over for their richness. It is, however, somewhat mixed with sand and contains traces of alkali.

Irrigation. Many people are possessed of the erroneous notion that western Nebraska is a barren plain. It is true that before irrigating ditches became so plentiful much of the land was unused for crops. Now, however, every man makes his own rain, and turning the flow onto his land whenever moisture is needed, obviates the possibility of drouth and insures an abundant harvest, although the average rainfall per annum is 20 inches.

Crops. Corn is king and the average yield is forty bushels per acre and of a very good quality. It never fails. Oats are superior to any grown in Illinois, Wisconsin or Iowa, and yield from forty to eighty bushels per acre. They are a sure crop and pay well. Wheat, barley, rye and potatoes are also sure crops and are largely grown. Sugar beets do exceptionally well in this soil, and are extensively cultivated. Crops of all kinds this season were simply immense, and the oldest settler has never seen a failure. Everything the farmer plants and properly cultivates—don't care whether it is a hill of beans or a thousand acres of alfalfa it is going to yield a good harvest; or anything he attempts to raise in the way of live stock—don't care whether it is a brood of chicks or a herd of Short-Horn cat-

tle, he is going to receive good returns if they are given half a chance. Yes, this is a paradise for the farmer, the stockman and the fruitman. Nature intended it to be.

It is an established fact that Lincoln county soil will produce anything and everything grown in a diversified farming country, and the writer can cite the reader to numerous farmers who came here at an early day with no capital at all and were renters for several years, but to-day own large well improved farms and besides have snug little fortunes to their credit in the local bank.

Of course there are farmers who will always be renters, no matter how productive the soil or what opportunities may be afforded them in the country in which they may locate, but farmers who have the necessary "grip-and-gittativeness" in them, and who are endowed with a reasonable amount of frugality and thrift, cannot help but succeed here.

Stock Raising. Lincoln county is known far and wide as an extensive stock raising country, and at one time contained more cattle

near the center of Lincoln county about half a mile from the Platte river. Its population numbers 3,500 souls. Those who gazed over the desolate looking prairies a few years since and beheld the site where the city now stands would never have supposed that in so short a time there would arise a place of such magnificence; its growth, while magic and marvelous has been of a substantial and enduring nature, and the beautiful blocks of stone and brick buildings of fine architectural designs, its costly public structures, its hand-

some and stately residences, all bespeak the enterprise and public spirit possessed by the people who reside in North Platte.

Public Schools. North Platte has one large three-story brick school building that cost \$25,000, the other five school rooms are contained in frame buildings. The school's this season are in charge of Prof. Wm. Ebright as superintendent, who is assisted by nineteen competent instructors.

Prof. Ebright was born in Penn. and educated at the Carthage, Illinois, college. In 1881 he began as an instructor, and has met with flattering success. For two years Prof. Ebright served as superintendent of the Nebraska State Institution for the Blind. Two years ago, shortly before he came to take

charge of the North Platte schools, Prof. Ebright was vested with the degree of A. M. Since his advent as superintendent our schools have reached a proficiency never before attained—which is more than a passing compliment to the man in charge of them. During his residence in North Platte, Prof. Ebright has made many warm friends socially as well as professionally who will rejoice at his marked success.

The school board is composed of intelligent, conservative business men, under whose directions a successful

and satisfactory school management is assured. About 1,000 pupils are enrolled although the district contains many more children of legal school age. Scholars graduating from the schools are eligible to enter normal college without further examination. As no town or city in Nebraska presumes for a minute to have existence without a public school, so North Platte appreciating the inestimable advantages accruing from this source, has fully provided all the facilities demanded by its youth for educational purposes. The city certainly has good reason to feel a laudable pride in her public schools.

Churches. North Platte seems inspired with the same laudable ambition in spiritual as in educational matters. The Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic denominations are represented by creditable edifices where godly sized congregations each Sabbath assemble to hear the holy scriptures expounded, and pay their tribute of homage and praise to Almighty God.

The Record. Seven years ago the Record plant under the management of John W. Elingham, editor and proprietor, was established in North Platte. It has the distinction of being the only democratic newspaper west of Kearney. The paper has a large subscription list and its job office is well patronized.

The Telegraph. H. W. Hill, proprietor of the Telegraph, has been a "quill pusher" all his life. Seven years ago he became

connected with the weekly Telegraph, and in March, 1896, established a daily. Both sheets are creditable productions in whose columns the business portion of the city is largely represented.

Independent Era. This sheet is independent in name only, as its tendencies are decidedly Populist. James W. Cheyney has been the owner of this six column quarto for two years.

The Tribune. Ira L. Bare has been on the staff of the Tribune of which he is now the

owner, ever since it came into existence in January, 1885. The Tribune, a seven column folio, is printed on a Campbell paper press. In politics it is the most popular republican paper in the district. The job work turned out by the Tribune compares favorably with that produced by any printing house in the state.

Railway Facilities. The first railway across the plains from Omaha towards the coast was that built by the Union Pacific Company; and the first train that in the year 1867, came puffing and steaming into

the North Platte station was over that road. As North Platte is a division station the lands and buildings occupied by the company are on an extensive scale. Ten acres of ground are covered by buildings, tracks and a network of rails. The round house contains twenty five stalls where its monstrous iron horses are groomed and housed when not on duty. In the yards may be seen empty freight cars by the score, awaiting their turn to be called into requisition. It is here that the company have erected an ice house with a capacity of 10,000 tons, and this season are adding to this a building wherein 3,000 tons more may be stored.

As all the refrigerator cars that pass through laden with western fruit or eastern meat have to be replenished from the ice stored in these houses, it necessitates that a large amount be placed in storage. As fully three hundred men are employed at this division station it means that each month some \$20,000 finds its way from the Union Pacific paymaster's funds into pockets of North Platte residents, to be distributed by them throughout the business portion of the city for the necessities of life. The division section then, is a source of inestimable benefit to the community in which it is located. Something of the freight traffic the Union Pacific road handles may be understood from the statement that during the busy season—which is about two thirds of the year—twenty four freight trains pass through the city of North Platte each day of twenty four hours—one freight train an hour. The passenger traffic is afforded expeditious service by the two elegantly equipped trains bound east and west each day. E. L. Lomax of Omaha is the general passenger agent.

W. L. Park, the division superintendent, is perhaps one of the busiest men in the railway service. In 1870 he became a resident of North Platte, and five years later became associated with the Union Pacific people in his present capacity. No better recommendation of his faithful adherence to duty can be given at our hands than the mere fact of his having held the position so long. He is always attentive and obliging, and ever on the alert to serve both the public and the company in the best possible manner. Mr. Park is the possessor of a well improved 500-acre farm, thirty acres of which is covered by bearing fruit trees. He was born in Michigan, and is the son of Col. J. B. Park, whose regiment, the 4th Michigan Cavalry, captured Jeff Davis. Col. Park was for years government surveyor, and drove the corner stakes for nearly every section of land in this part of Nebraska. The name of W. L. Park has been identified with every enterprise that promised the welfare of the public as its fulfillment ever since the time of his arrival here thirty years ago, and we trust his efforts are as highly appreciated as they deserve to be.

From U. B. Olds, superintendent of the freight department, we learn that about 700 cars of stock, grain, hay, seeds and flour are shipped from this station every year. F. T. Redmond is billing and ticket clerk, having access to both the freight and passenger office. These latter three gentlemen are very trustworthy officials and thoroughly competent to perform the duties entrusted to their care.

Taken in its entirety the Union Pacific division station at North Platte is an immense concern in whose possession the city may well take pride.

Pacific Express Company. The cheapest and safest way in which to send money is undoubtedly by express money order. The express company that has a greater proportionate share of business than any other in the state, is the one above mentioned. Eight years ago J. D. McGovern took charge of the office at this point and has had the satisfaction of seeing its volume of business steadily increase under his management, until now he issues to points in every corner of the globe orders amounting to \$35,000 annually. Mr. McGovern removed to Nebraska from Iowa, the state of his nativity, fifteen years ago; and so favorably has this locality impressed him that he has decided to make it his future home. This will be welcome news to the many friends acquired during his residence here.

Union Pacific Repair Shop. Like all other machinery, that used by railway companies is susceptible to breakage, and facilities for its repair must therefore be adopted. This necessitates a store where supplies are kept and a storekeeper to check them out. J. L. Minor has spent five years here as dispenser of repairs. The stock over which he has control amounts to over \$12,000, and about \$8,000 worth are required every month. He is thus compelled to ship several thousand dollars' worth monthly from the general supply headquarters at Omaha. Two men—one of whom does nothing else but attend to the oil house customers—are required as assistants in this department, which is quite an enterprise of itself.

U. P. Y. M. C. A. Something that is highly appreciated by a membership of 300 Union Pacific employes, is the Union Pacific Young Men's Christian Association, and the 1,800 volume library it maintains, not to mention the periodicals and daily

papers that cover the tables of its reading room. We learned from F. B. Hollingworth, the secretary, that during the three years since its organization this association had been a wonderful power for good in the community.

City Water Works. Without possible exception North Platte has as fine a system of water works as any other city of its size in the state. It is of the elevated tank system. There are now several miles of mains in the city. The water is obtained from deep wells and is of a fine quality.

A Fire Department. Of forty two members with Joe Hart as chief is another city enterprise that has proven of great importance to the community. The department has a fine hose cart with a large amount of

hose and also has a well equipped hook and ladder truck and every other modern convenience for successfully subduing fire.

Lloyd's Opera House. North Platte has a very creditable opera house under the above title. The house cost \$7,000 and will seat nearly one thousand people. The stage and dressing rooms are large and the scenery both expensive and attractive. As the floor is excellent for dancing purposes, balls are frequently held in the opera house.

Warren Lloyd the proprietor and manager was a railway engineer thirty seven years, but has quit the road and is now depot policeman. His home is one of the most beautiful in North Platte. Mr. Lloyd owns the lake one mile west of town that bears his name and which is used in winter as a skating rink. Every one knows and has a kind word to say for Warren Lloyd.

City Officials. No city of equal population in Nebraska can boast of being in better financial condition than North Platte. The present official staff is composed of the following citizens, and they are among the leading and most representative business men of the city:

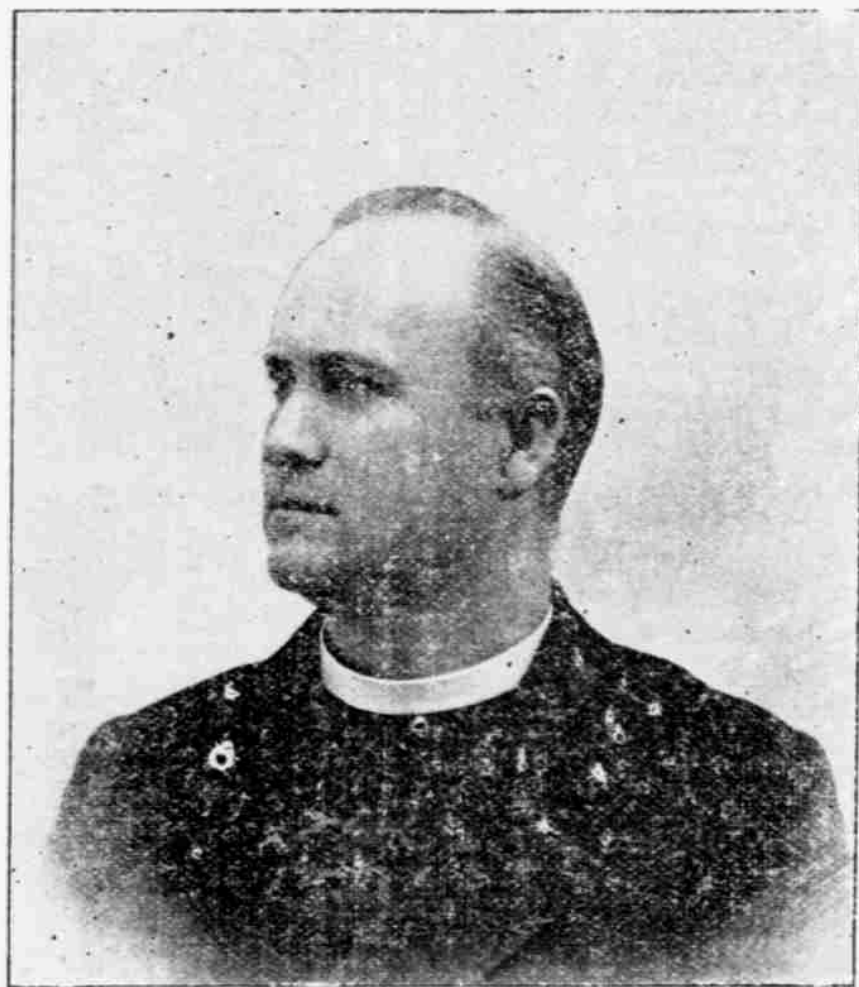
R. D. Thomson, chairman of council; Joseph Cunningham, Dr. Scott, Joseph Shutes, Herbert Evans, Frank Tracey, members of council; Fred R. Ginn, clerk; John Sorrenson, treasurer; W. R. Morgan, Marshal.

Postmaster. M. V. Clair, who is giving such good satisfaction while serving his first term as postmaster, has been a resident of the state of Nebraska since 1866 and was formerly western passenger agent for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad. His present position as postmaster attests the respect and high

esteem in which he is held by the residents of the town which has been his home for 30 many years.

Justice of the Peace. The oldest resident of North Platte today is Judge W. S. Peniston, who came here early in 1866, and erected the first dwelling ever dotting the landscape whereon this city with its many hundred homes now stands. In the early days his occupation of stage driver took him a distance of 1,857 miles—from Independence, Missouri to Salt Lake City, after the war. One of the most trying ordeals being the trip made to carry the first mail through Salt Lake City after the Mormon war. Judge Peniston is an interesting narrator and has plenty of material to hold one's attention for hours. He has several times previous to this held the office of Justice of the Peace and has been both county judge and county treasurer. Judge Peniston is the owner of considerable business property and a home in the city.

(Continued on Second Page.)



REV. FATHER HEALEY



STREET SCENE IN NORTH PLATTE.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. W. F. CODY.



PROF. WM. EBRIGHT.



CHARLES THORP, M. D.