

CORNERSTONE IS LAID

Exercises Largely Attended by the People of This Community.

STIRRING ADDRESS BY BISHOP

Church Dignitaries, Laity and General Public Partisipate.—Some Parish History.

The 4th of August, 1909, was a grand and glorious day in O'Neill where the business houses were all closed and the business places and homes were decorated with American, Irish and papal flags and it was a red letter day for St. Patrick's church and parish where and when the corner stone of the future grand Romanesque church was laid by the Right Rev. J. J. Keane, the great and good bishop of Cheyenne, Wyo., assisted by twenty-five other clergymen.

The day was suitably fitted to the occasion and was as beautiful as could be found in the world, not barring the plains of Lombardy. Monday's rains cleared the atmosphere and the morning of Wednesday ushered in a day of golden sunshine and blue sky, peculiarly Nebraskan, and people came to O'Neill from all the surrounding country and towns by rail auto, buggy horse, and on foot and O'Neill city outstripped her former self in hospitality, color and dress and was aglow in smiles and new clothes. All creeds and races were merged in one solid body of citizens who vied with each other to do suitable honor to the occasion and visiting clergy. Mass was said in the old church every hour from 6 to 10 and at 10:30 O'Neill witnessed her first pontifical or *coram episcopo* mass with Rev. Moriarty of North Bend celebrant; Father Loecker of Atkinson, deacon; Father D. W. Moriarty of Omaha, sub deacon; and Father Stenson of Creighton university, master of ceremonies. At the close of the mass Bishop Keane imparted the blessing and the people repaired to the K. of C. hall where the matrons and ladies of St. Patrick's parish served a substantial dinner, the proceeds of which go into the building fund.

The bishop of the dioceses, Right Rev. R. Scannell, was to be here and take an active part in the ceremony, but was unavoidably detained at home by the presence of Cardinal Gibbons in his metropolitan city.

The main ceremony was the laying of the corner stone and blessing the great undertaking. At 3:30 the procession, headed by the old soldiers or survivors of the civil war, followed by the boys and girls, K. of C. and then by the people of the parish who wended their way south to Everet street, thence east to Fourth street and north on that street to the church where on the temporary floor over the basement, on the new building, bowries for the speakers and seats for the audience were provided.

After the blessing of the foundation and laying of the corner stone, with contents, the bishop and assistant priests chanted a suitable hymn in which Fathers Reising and Brass, Muenich, Moriarty and Brougeist took leading parts. The Right Rev. J. J. Keane of the dioceses of Cheyenne, Wyo., delivered the sermon of the day and took his text from the first book of Moses in Genesis where Jacob sacrificed his time in that noted journey in the desert, on his way to Mesopotamia, by piling stones in honor and to the glory of his God and after the manifestation of God's presence even in that wilderness Jacob immortalized himself in the minds of the human race by exclaiming:

Nichols Carnival Co.

On the Streets of O'NEILL
Six Big Days and Nights
ONE WEEK
August 9th to 14th

10 High Class Shows
and 5 Big Free Acts
Big up-to-date Merry-Go-Round, free band concert afternoon and night by Prof. Ricci and his solo musicians. Grand Balloon Ascension and Parachute Leap every afternoon during the Carnival.

"God was in this place and I knew it not." He dwelled on the important essentiality of building temples of worship to the ever living God, and to the utility of prayer and sacrifice, but showed that what Jacob did in the desert was more than done here in O'Neill, today by my good friend Dean Cassidy and his people, for while Jacob sacrificed his time in his poverty you have consecrated the corner stone of this future temple of divine worship in the sacrifice of your means embalm in the endurance of your undying faith in the great Jehova and in His only begotten son, the God-man, Jesus Christ, and in sanctifying grace of the Holy Ghost that gave to the early fathers of Christendom the fortifying grace and power to carry down the stream of time in tradition and otherwise His holy gospel and divine law. He said faith was the greatest of all motive powers when we were prompted by natural instincts and by the supernatural grace of God.

But it would be an act of presumption on my part to strive to even describe his sermon which was superbly grand and culminated in a sublime couplet in which he held up to the admiration of his audience the American flag—Old Glory—the stars and stripes on whose escutcheon there is not a single blotch or stain and entwined it with that other flag—the sunburst of Erin—with its glories and sorrows commingled, with its cross and round towers and the hybrosal tides weeping copious tears on her sea-beaten shores, where for the last two hundred years the exile of Erin departed heart-broken and dejected to find a new home and country under the protecting folds of Columbia's starry banner, which has protected and sheltered the worthy exiles from all lands. He then pictured the two great wars in which these two flags were carried side by side in the interest of liberty and humanity by the progeny of Uncle Sam in which the fighting race of Kelly, Burke and Shay are merged, culminating in the total rout and defeat of perfidious Albion, the pirate and robber nation of the world and the trailing of the Union Jack in the dust.

The good bishop and gifted orator held his audience spell-bound and transfixed to their seats for about an hour, which only seemed a few minutes, but he was the right man in the right place. He is a great orator, had a great subject and preached a great sermon to what he called a great

people doing a noble work. The bishop has paid several visits to the emerald-tinted city of O'Neill, where he has many loving friends, but every time he comes he finds a new and deeper resting place in the love and affectionate regards of O'Neill people. Father McNamara was cross bearer at the laying of the corner stone and Father Flanagan at the high mass.

A committee composed of Frank Campbell, Joe Mann and P. J. McManus then took up a collection which amounted to \$400, which went into the building fund, after which St. Patrick's choir sang a suitable hymn and the Very Reverend and brilliant bishop imparted the papal benediction.

Judge J. J. Harrington was marshal of the day and was mounted on a milk-white steed, and both looked and acted well. He was aided by Col. Neil Brennan, Major M. H. McCarthy and Senator Frank Campbell.

The following clergyman were here: Rt. Rev. J. J. Keane, Cheyenne; Rev. P. McCarthy, Jackson; Rev. J. Reising, West Point; Rev. D. W. Moriarty, Benson; Rev. J. T. Smith, Omaha; Rev. H. Loecker, Atkinson; Rev. E. S. Muenich, Coleridge; Rev. W. L. McNamara, Alliance; Rev. J. G. McNamara, Bloomfield; Rev. T. S. Moriarty, North Bend; Rev. W. Kroupa, Ord; Rev. J. W. Stenson, Omaha; Rev. C. Stratman, Butte; Rev. A. Brass, Howells; Rev. J. Hutner, Stuart; Rev. J. Buckley, Norfolk; Rev. J. Crowley, Albion; Rev. B. Lordeman, Spencer; Rev. C. Petlach, Verdigris; Rev. J. Rose, Ewing; Rev. P. A. Flanagan, Benson; Rev. L. Blare, Valentine; Rev. M. Dolan, Chadron; Rev. M. Bronsgest, S. J., Creighton University, Omaha; Rev. M. F. Cassidy, Rev. W. J. O'Sullivan, O'Neill.

Historical Sketch.

St. Patrick's parish was founded in 1877 by the O'Neill colony who belonged to the old faith; in fact it be said that the church was founded in 1874 when the colony reached O'Neill on the 12th of May. O'Neill's first mass was celebrated in the early fall of 1874 and read by Father Bedard of Frenchtown, where a colony of French Canadian Catholics had founded a colony in 1871. This colony came from Kankakee, Ill., and settled in the northwest part of Antelope county and on the north bank of the Elkhorn. Father Bedard was the only Catholic priest between West Point, Nebraska, and Butte, Mont. His first mass in Holt county was

said in the sod house of Thomas Cain, in the presence of the said T. Cain and wife, John Fallon and wife, John Reddy and wife, James Ryan and wife, Michael McGrath, and wife, Pat Murray and wife, Joe Kresser and wife, John Grady, Tim Connor, R. J. Hayes, and T. N. J. Hynes and Ann Fallon. Tom Hynes served that mass and most of Father Bedard's other masses in O'Neill for he came here at intervals of two or three months and services were usually held at Cain's and at John Fallon's.

In the spring of 1877 the colonists hauled lumber from Yankton, Dakota, mostly with ox teams, and built a little church 18 x 36 which was completed in July and its first mass was said by a Father Smith of Council Bluffs who was sent here for the purpose and in his sermon he said he brought the glad tidings that we were going to get a resident pastor.

In September of that year (1877) Father John T. Smith was installed as O'Neill's first Catholic priest and St. Patrick's parish was temporarily organized with the said Father Smith as pastor and Patrick Hagerty and John McBride the two lay trustees. The land was then public domain and the virgin prairies, unbroken and unclaimed, lay invitingly awaiting the approach of the homesteader who soon came in, entered claims and established homes so that Father Smith soon found his ever increasing congregation out grew the seating capacity of his 18x36 church. He started to collect money to build a new and larger church but his people were as short of funds as his church was of seating capacity and he finally succeeded in raising the money and building the church moved away to make room for the new and handsome Romanesque structure about to take its place and in all probability destined to become a Cathedral at some future day. It was an arduous task that the good Father Smith set before himself as it sometimes seemed we would never have any use for a larger church as one disaster after another followed each other in rapid succession. First grasshoppers, followed by electric storms and protracted droughts. The first money collected for the new church, built by Father Smith, came from a bequest of John Hughes, a bachelor, who died here and willed his property to St. Patrick's church—several thousand dollars in notes, on parties in Iowa, but for various causes Father Smith realized only seven or eight hundred dollars on them.

O'Neill's second church was a frame building 40x1000 with brick and stone basement heated with furnace, but had neither tower nor bell, and cost \$6,000 and was finished in 1882. Bishop O'Connor visited the parish for the first time in 1880 and confirmed a class of ninety-one persons. Said confirmation took place in the old 18x36 church, which was moved away in 1881 to make room for church number two, which now, in the course of events, makes way for church number three. When moved away church number one became O'Neill's first public school building and continued as such until 1884 when school district seven built the present brick school house.

St. Patrick's first assistant priest was Rev. T. Cullen and its second was Rev. P. Brophy, now a designing inventor. Both served under Father Smith and lived with him in the old parish house (now Mrs. Dykeman's.)

In July, 1886, Father Smith was transferred to Cheyenne, Wyo., and was succeeded in the pastorage of St. Patrick's by the present incumbent, Rev. Dean M. F. Cassidy, who attached a ninety-foot tower to the church in which he hung a five ton McShane

bell, whose tolling of the morning, noon and night Angelus is as pleasing to the ear of an O'Neillite as was the sounds of the bells of Shandon to the ear of Father Prout. These improvements were made in 1886: Tower, cost \$1,125 00, and bell \$594.

November 9, 1896, St. Patrick's church was duly incorporated under the laws of Nebraska with Rt. Rev. Bishop James O'Connor, president; Rev. Michael F. Cassidy, pastor and treasurer; Patrick Hagerty, secretary and John McBride and Very Rev. R. A. Shaffel, incorporators.

In the summer of 1887 Bishop O'Connor again visited St. Patrick's and confirmed a class of 172 Catholic children, which took place in church number two.

The parish erected a new parochial residence at a cost of \$3,500, in 1888, being a frame house with stone basement. The house is 45x54, two full stories, with porch and attic. In 1896 John McBride ceased to be a trustee and John J. McCafferty was appointed in his place, who acted as said trustee with Patrick Hagerty up to 1905, and with John B. Donohoe, who succeeded Hagerty, in that year, up to January, 1909, when Neil Brennan and O. F. Biglin became trustees.

In 1888 St. Patrick's parish attained its largest number of people. Then it had an enrollment of over 200 Catholic families and at that time the parishoners built a Catholic or convent school, 45x75 feet, two full stories with basement and attic, of brick and stone, but the building was burned to the ground just as it was being completed, entailing a loss of over \$14,000. But as God wills everything for the best that pile of ruins was replaced in 1900 by the present beautiful Franciscan convent school, second to none in the state, where over twenty teaching sisters of that order are day by day imparting a good moral and intellectual training to 300 happy children.

June 28, 1891, Rt. Rev. Bishop Scannell visited the parish for the first time and confirmed a class of 172, and again on June 8, 1897, he came and confirmed St. Patrick's greatest class of 213.

The parish is the mother of other parishes as it had charge of many outside missions from time to time. Some of those missions have been detached and are now prosperous and independent parishes themselves.

(Continued on fifth page.)

REMINDER OF CHAMPIONS

Unprofessionals Playing Professional Base Ball.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TO FRONT

Basset Lads Shut Out, Locals Run Three Scores, In Fast and Interesting Game.

Attorney Carlon of Basset arrived in town last Sunday morning at the head of the Basset ball team and that afternoon, with the High School team as opponents, they pulled off one of the nicest games seen on the O'Neill diamond this season. Although the Basset boys were given nine successive goose eggs, while the High School boys were making the rounds three times, the game was a dandy from every point of view. Sanford Parker was an interested spectator and said the game reminded him of the champion contests pulled off by the O'Neill Champions last year and the year before. Hugh Coyne was on the firing line for the High School and twirled his usual classy game, holding the boys from the west down to two measly hits, the first of which came in the sixth inning. His support was very classy at all times, the only semblance of a bobble coming in the eighth inning, but at that it came near proving disastrous. In this inning the first man up connected for a single, the second of the game, the next up sent a slow one to Foreman who fielded it and tossed it to Kane who was covering second, in the hopes of making a double. It got away from Kane and both were safe. The next man up sent one into short left, which was fielded by the short stop who went to throw to third for an out, but that base was not covered and the bases were dripping and none down. Then Coyne tightened up and forced the next man to hit him to him and he nailed the man at the plate. The next man up was retired the same way and the third out was easy, second to first. This was the only time during the game any where near making the acquaintance of the home plate. In addition to holding them to two hits Coyne whiffed six of them. Stockwell was on the mound for Basset and is some pitcher himself. He held the High School boys down to seven hits, three of which were given the locals by the slowness of the Basset third baseman in coming in after bunts, they being able to beat the throw out. He also caused ten of the locals to lay down the willow after trying vainly three times to connect with the ball. The score:

O'Neill.....0 2 0 0 0 0 1 0—3
 Basset.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0

The Plainview News picked this up some place: The Burlington has let contracts for the building of a new line from Kirby, Wyo., to a point west of Shoshoni. This is said to be a move to give the Burlington a second road to the Pacific. This move taken in connection with the ballasting of the O'Neill line is taken to mean that long proposed extension from O'Neill to Alliance is very liable to become a fact. It is well known that this piece of road would give the Burlington the shortest line into the great northwest. The deal looks good on paper, but the officials seem slow to give out any definite information.

The Great Shoe and Furnishing goods at Sullivan's is where you can buy goods at the sight price. Come and see for yourself. 7-3



NEW ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Races

and

CARNIVAL

Next Week!

Fast Horses, Good Shows and Something Interesting all the time.

Shows all week, starting Monday. Races Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 11-12-13.