

THE FRONTIER

D. H. Cronin, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE DAYS OF LONG AGO

Fifty-Five Years Ago

The Frontier, December 4, 1884

On the 25th of last month the county commissioners leased of the O'Neill State Bank the entire upper story of the new building consisting of seven rooms and a fire-proof vault of sufficient size to accommodate all the records of the county. The lease calls for the payment of \$900 in claims against the county and runs for one year, the county reserving the privilege of five, the owners of the building to pay insurance and taxes. It would at first appear that the amount of the rent was high but when we consider the depreciated value of the county claims, the security afforded the records, the convenience to the officers, etc., we do not know that it is much out of the way. We trust the county will be able to provide a building of its own, however, so that this rent may cease. The O'Neill State Bank mentioned above is now the First National bank building.—D. H. C.

Fifty Years Ago

The Frontier, December 4, 1889

The fine weather of the first days of December would indicate a warm winter, but we may get our share of the cold and snow. There is nothing like the Nebraska falls, however, for fine weather.

Con Keys has moved in a house and barn onto a lot in the west part of town and will make his home among us.

Thanksgiving day witnessed the marriage nuptials of one of O'Neill's former citizens and a sister of the Hershiser boys. W. T. Shively, son of Mr. Shively east of town and familiarly known to everybody as "Tom" Shively, and Miss Rose Hershiser were quietly married at the home of the latter in Waterloo, Iowa. The happy couple came to O'Neill Sunday night and visited friends here until Tuesday evening, when they went to Chadron where they will reside, Mr. Shively being in the employ of the railroad company.

Forty Years Ago

The Frontier, December 7, 1899

William Krotter was down from Stuart Tuesday and left a few "bucks" on subscription.

Thirty Years Ago

The Frontier, December 9, 1909

The past week has been the severest so far this winter. The mercury has been around 10 below every night, though it warms up considerably during the day. The week has been especially severe on cattle, but so far we have not heard of any losses.

The funeral of George Weingartner was held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The services were held at the residence and were conducted by Rev. George of Neligh.

Twenty Years Ago

The Frontier, December 4, 1919

William Froelich returned to Creighton university, Omaha Sunday, after spending Thanksgiving at home.

Homer and John Mullen, John Gilligan and Thomas Brennan returned to the university at Lincoln Sunday morning after spending Thanksgiving with the home folks.

This section and in fact the entire western half of the United States, has been experiencing some real winter weather the past week. Snow started falling last Wednesday, in fact fell all day, and it has been snowing intermittently since. The thermometer dropped Monday night to 11 below zero and 9 below Tuesday night. All day Thursday it was very cold, the warmest being one below zero.

Ten Years Ago

The Frontier, December 5, 1929

A son weighing nine and three-fourths pounds, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brennan at the Gilligan & Brown hospital Tuesday.

The country home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Murray burned to the ground on Saturday, November 23. We understand there was no insurance.

THE NEBRASKA SCENE

(By The Lowell Service)

Lincoln—Irrigation crusaders, after a pilgrimage to Hastings last week, returned to their homes discouraged and discontented. Disappointment concerning the speech of J. M. Carmody, federal works administrator, was expressed by many irrigation and public power district boosters.

The spearhead of the column of militant conservation forces came from the Republican valley and from the region included in the old Fifth congressional district which sent George W. Norris to congress more than 35 years ago.

At the initial session, C. E. Alter of Alma, reviewed the disastrous flood that in 1935 inundated the Republican valley, cost a hundred lives, and destroyed millions in property. He told of the abandoned farms in the valley and the prolonged drought.

"Despite this long series of losses," Mr. Alter declared, "not a dime has been allotted to the Republican valley from the outside. We have given consistent support to those in public office. Maybe that is what's the matter! Perhaps, we had better mix in a little vinegar!"

President E. E. Placek declared that Mr. Carmody had "a real message" and would give the farmers some definite suggestions as to what could be done.

At the afternoon session, Mr. Carmody read a paper which consisted entirely of generalities. He reviewed briefly the history of the hydros and described the efforts of Senator Norris to secure irrigation and cheap power. This reference was applauded.

Listening intently for the "message of hope" predicted by President Placek, the farmers were startled by the following statement: "It is important for all of us to bear in mind that if these projects (the hydros) are to be called successful, and open the way for other such projects here and elsewhere, they must pay back the loans they have secured from the public works administration. It is to everyone's advantage that these projects be so managed as to pay back every cent they have borrowed."

Mr. Carmody declared that Senator Norris was the only member of the Nebraska congressional delegation who supported favorable legislation.

After several generalities about conservation, Mr. Carmody concluded his address without further display of factual material.

Dr. Clark Foreman, director, power division, Public Works Administration, contented himself by saying that the central section of the map of Nebraska was a source of frequent headaches to him. He said, "the boss could do the talking." He alluded to Mr. Carmody, who had already spoken.

Editor J. E. Lawrence of the Lincoln Star did not come to the meeting. Dr. D. W. Kingsley, president of the Tri-County, and Ernest V. Sjogren, president of the Nebraska Association of Rural Public Power districts, addressed the farmers on aspects of their projects. State Engineer Tilley told the delegates about some of the pitfalls of irrigation programs, and how the mistakes might be avoided.

By this time, delegates realized that Mr. Carmody and Dr. Foreman had left the meeting. Representatives of several projects then learned that a "sub rosa session of the inner circle" had been held at the Clarke hotel in Hastings on the Sunday evening preceding the meeting. George E. Johnson, general manager of Tri-County, was reported to be the host, with M. L. Bowman as the executive element. Besides officials of the hydros, Governor Cochran, C. A. Sorensen and several other "distinguished guests" were invited. The farmers heard that there had been a "desire to curtail power development and irrigation in Nebraska until established projects proved their worth."

A hastily formed committee attempted to contact Mr. Carmody but reported that their efforts fail-

ed. The delegates expressed considerable apprehension over the published reports that Governor Cochran's state planning board would be engaged in an intensive study of the public school system and could not help the farmers plan irrigation works. Another report indicated that an agreement not to loan any more Nebraska projects had been secretly made when contracts for energy had been signed with private companies. There was, also, a report that both hydros and private companies were fighting the extension of the national grid to Nebraska.

"Such a decision," declared a Republican valley booster, referring to the Carmody statement, "has no justice in law or equity. For any relief, after all these years of work and worry, we must look to the directors of the Sutherland, the Loup River and the Tri-County projects. If their engineers and managers fall down, we are out of luck. There are funds available. We have ascertained that fact."

"Mr. Carmody is talking to the wrong people, if he thinks he can put anything like this over without a protest. I am in favor of taking this matter up with the entire Nebraska delegation. As for secret banquets at hotels, we thought we had discredited that sort of thing when the hydros were chartered."

At Omaha where he was a guest of the Chamber of Commerce Mr. Carmody said: "After seeing crop and moisture conditions in Nebraska, anyone can see that any state planning done in Nebraska—whether it involves roads or schools or whatever—must first of all consider irrigation."

"Nebraska should irrigate as much land as it can support economically. A plan that doesn't include this main factor has no vitality for Nebraska."

"What good will it do to build schools or fine auditoriums if the people must move away because they can't make a living? A large part of Nebraska needs at least some irrigation to be farmed successfully."

Mr. Carmody's Omaha allusion to state planning evidently resulted from criticisms which reached him after the Hastings banquet. Farmers averred that the state planning board should aid them in setting up irrigation projects. An "inspired source" in Omaha made the following statement of the state planning board's aims: "Their report, when finally approved by the planning board as a whole, will constitute the state's first survey of its educational resources, the first attempt to blueprint a course of future development of these resources."

"It will be based upon a monumental set of findings and recommendations representing nine months of delving into questionnaires and statistics by nearly a hundred educators who served on sub-committees, by planning Engineer W. H. Mengel and the board's WPA staff of clerks and statisticians, by educational experts brought in as advisers."

"The five men who must boil down a mass of facts and recommendations into a set of proposals for immediate action are Gene Huse of Norfolk, chairman; J. G. Motherhead of Scottsbluff, Arthur Melville of Broken Bow, State Tax Commissioner William H. Smith,

and Carl H. Swanson of Culbertson. The planning board delegated these five of its 14 members to conduct the educational survey."

From Washington comes word that the private power companies in Nebraska, the hydros and the forces of Governor Cochran have united to oppose the national grid idea proposed by Secretary Ickes and his National Power Policy committee on national defense. A hearing on the question will take place in Washington December 5. The plan contemplates linking public projects, municipalities and private companies together for generation and distribution of power.

Governor Cochran, at this writing, is still vacillating on the matter of a special session of the legislature for old age assistance. The governor contacted the legislative council after Senator Amos Thomas of Omaha opposed any effort to bring about relief. Eleven of the fifteen members of the council favor a special session.

Clifford L. Rein, one of the attorneys retained to test the legality of the appropriation bill, announced that "concessions had been secured" and the suit would not be filed.

Monday, December 11, has been set as the date for the formal opening and dedication of the new bridge at Brownville which is the terminus of State Highway No. 3, and which connects Nebraska and Missouri, replacing the old ferry. The state champion American Legion drum and bugle corps from Auburn and other bands from both states will furnish the music for the ceremony, and the chief addresses are to be given by Governor Cochran of Nebraska and Governor Lloyd Stark of Missouri. Other invited speakers are Senator E. R. Burke of Nebraska and Senators Clark and Truman of Missouri, State Engineer A. C. Tilley and other members of the state highway department. The program is scheduled to begin at 1 p. m.

The approval by the state board of educational lands and funds of (Continued on Page 5)

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