

# THE FRONTIER

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## THE DAYS OF LONG AGO

### Fifty-Five Years Ago

The Frontier, August 19, 1886  
O'Neill new nasby, Frank Campbell, will take possession the first of September. Tom Campbell, brother of Frank, is now in the postoffice learning the mysteries of the business, that he may take charge when the time comes.

O'Neill people were excited over the possibility of the Union Pacific building a line into this County, coming north from Albion to Neligh and then west and northeast to O'Neill and northwest from here and would cross the Niobrara in the vicinity of Dustin or Grand Rapids. The dream never materialized.

### Fifty Years Ago

The Frontier, August 20, 1891  
O. O. Snyder and Co. of Allen, a station on the Short Line, have purchased the Barnett and Frees lumber yard at this place and will take possession soon.

There is a possibility that Ed. May, the obliging manager of the

Potter, may take charge of a larger and more commodious hotel to be built in O'Neill soon. (And we waited about twenty-five more years for it.)—Editor.

A heavy rain last night and again today will bring on the late corn in good shape.

Fred Gatz is building a large addition to the Hotel Evans.

The mail route between O'Neill and Fort Randall, Van Turner, Sizer and Spencer, has been permanently located and Charles A. Moore awarded the contract. Service will start September 1.

The postoffice at Minneola has been discontinued and the mail will go to Star.

The Item, August 20, 1891

The first populist convention was held in Atkinson last Saturday morning. The senior members of the Item was in attendance and witnessed a real circus. There were about 110 delegates accredited to the convention, and as all precincts except four were represented there was present about 100 delegates and of this number about ninety were candidates for office. After an afternoon and part of night balloting, the work being slow on account of the large list of candidates, the following tickets was nominated: C. M. Smith, Sheriff; J. P. Mullen, treasurer; Conger, County Clerk; William Bowen, County Judge; George W. Lessinger, Clerk of the district Court; John C. Morrow, County Superintendent; Phillips, County Surveyor; H. A. Skeltson, Coroner.

More than one hundred and fifty teachers have enrolled for the institute. More coming next week.

### Forty Years Ago

The Frontier, August 22, 1901  
The Holt County Teachers Institute convened Tuesday. There is an enrollment of eighty.

The woven wire fence enclosing the court house premises is now completed. There are seventy rods of fencing at an estimated cost of \$1.25 a rod for the material.

The First National Bank people have filed articles of incorporation for a bank at Inman.

Mr. Reka, our enterprising cigar manufacturer, is the first O'Neill man to venture an automobile. He has one ordered and is looking for it any day.

Guy M. Green and Miss Eva Lewis were married at Meadow Grove on Monday. They arrived here Tuesday and will make their home in the southern part of the city.

### Thirty Years Ago

The Frontier, August 17, 1911  
The most successful race meet ever held in this city was brought to a close last Saturday afternoon.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at the Catholic Church last Wednesday morning when Rev. Father O'Sullivan performed the ceremony that united Edward Donohoe of Stuart to Miss Nellie Brennan of this city.

Judge Malone issued a marriage license last Wednesday to John W. Walters, of Chambers, and Miss Matilda Liermann, of Amelia.

Conrad C. Reka died at his home in this city last Monday after an illness of two months of paralysis of the throat. He was forty-nine years of age and had been a resident of this city for twelve years.

Work on the addition to St. Mary's Academy is completed. Painters are now busy putting on the finishing touches.

Mrs. E. H. Thompson passed away at her home in this city on August 13, at the age of seventy-three years. She came here with her husband and family in 1873.

### Twenty Years Ago

The Frontier, August 18, 1921  
Miss Florence McCafferty entertained at cards Monday evening, twenty-five guests being present. Miss Mae Hammond won the honors at auction.

State and Federal engineers last week inspected the Whiting bridge site on the Niobrara river between O'Neill and Spencer and are now preparing plans and estimates for a proposed new State Aid structure.

The nomination of Dennis H. Cronin to be United States

Marshal for the district of Nebraska was confirmed by the United States senate last Thursday. He will take office September 1.

Another fine rain visited this County on Friday and again on Monday. A couple of weeks and corn will be safe from frost.

Mike Harriskey has applied for a patent on a new system of finding lost golf balls. Mike paints 'em with luminous paint and then goes out after dark and picks 'em up.

### Ten Years Ago

The Frontier, August 20, 1931  
Col. James Moore has opened a gas filling station on West Douglas street.

John Enright celebrated his ninetieth birthday anniversary last Thursday. He came to Holt County in 1876.

L. C. Walling, district manager of the Interstate Power company left for Chicago this morning on a business trip.

A chronic heart ailment caused the death of F. J. O'Neill at Casper, Wyoming, last Thursday afternoon. He was a son of the late Senator Hugh O'Neill and was born at Leonia, this county. He was thirty-five years of age.



Many letters have been received here asking questions about Albert Engel—the one-man army camp investigating committee. Engel is a member of congress from the State of Michigan. He is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations and also a member of the sub-committee which handles appropriations for the War Department. He saw service with the A. E. F. in France during the last war and he made statistics a hobby. Many members who know him intimately believe he is probably more completely informed regarding the details of expenditures in the War Department than any other member in the House today. He is a Republican, but often consulted by members of both parties. He has confidence of members on both sides of the aisle and they know that no matter what party his statistical information affects, he lets the chips fall where they may.

When the committee began receiving request for huge appropriations for national defense, Engel determined that the waste, and inefficiency of the first world war should not be repeated. When the War Department began building new camps, Engel determined to make a personal investigation. He served notice on his colleagues that he feared the cost-plus program of construction would result in great waste of money and he proceeded to go out and get the facts.

He first requested committee approval of his action and that was promptly accorded. He secured official permission from the Adjutant General to inspect the camps and then he formulated his plans of procedure and started out.

The result has been that he has, without contradiction, developed the fact that out of an expenditure of \$800,000,000 in the building of army camps about \$250,000,000 has been wasted.

Certain changes in plans were made and correction of some of the abuses has been made by legislation. He has made it possible to cut the engineering costs from 11 percent to 7 percent. He has unearthed a wealth of information which has aided the elimination of waste and inefficiency and he is now reporting to Congress those who have profited by commissions on insurance and bonds in connection with the building of these camps. He has shown that the waste in camp construction up to this time amounts nearly the total cost of the entire camp construction program of the first world war. To stop further waste and inefficiency he is continuing his work and is taking the floor of the House frequently to point out constructively how costs can be held down and how efficiency can be promoted.

Engel has not yet submitted his bill to Congress but he has told friends that the entire cost of his investigation is \$248.00. What he has saved the government in exposing useless waste and inefficiency will undoubtedly amount to many millions of dollars. Frequently, leading democrats have come to Engel and praised him for the work he has accomplished.

Following Engel's reports to Congress the Naval Affairs and Military Affairs Committees have started investigations. These will be more expensive but with the foundation laid by Engel, it is believed that additional savings can be accomplished for the benefit of taxpayers.

It must have been quite a surprise to the commanding officers of the various camps when they were suddenly confronted by this lone Congressman and asked to produce the information he required. Engel's procedure was unique. He drove his automobile from Washington in the very early morning and arrived at camps at about 6:30 A. M. After driving around the camp, by himself, until about 9 o'clock, he made his appearance at the office of the commanding officer. By that time he had taken many pictures of the buildings and had counted the trucks and machines going into camp. His first instruction to the commanding officer was to direct the public relations officer to give no publicity to his visit. He then called in the construction engineer, the contractor or his representative and the ordinance officer for a five hours session during which he asked questions. Frequently he had the engineers and contractors alone. Many of his questions related to the recommendations the engineers and contractors had made to the army and he also fully developed the facts about recommendations that the army had rejected.

In eighteen days he had visited thirteen camps and not one word of publicity came out until he had finished his investigation and reported the results on the floor of the House of Representatives. To date his figures have not been disputed. He has shown that there has been waste and that there has been inefficiency and that there have been rackets. Taxpayers will be glad to learn that Congress is listening to these reports and has demanded that the money being expended for national defense be watched more carefully and that we get a dollar's worth of defense for a dollar spent.

Heavy underwear; a heavy dress; two sweaters; shoes and overshoes and a fur coat and a life belt. That is what Miss Marion McGill of Tekamah wore when she was plunged into the icy North Atlantic last June when her ship was torpedoed. Her thrilling adventures are going to be told in exclusive stories soon to be published.

Waitresses in some of the sea food restaurants here make as much as fourteen dollars a day. That, of course includes the big tips which liberal visitors give for special service. Washington is the number one tipping town. No tips—no service. Even clerks in stores say they get liberal tips from customers. It is no longer a question of selling here. Nebraskans get the impression that clerks feel they are doing the customer a favor if they wait on them.

A lot of army fliers that have returned from foreign observation are in town urging Congress to do something about a separate and unified air force. They believe that Germany's success in the air with unified air force should not be ignored by Uncle Sam. Many of the suggestions to alter the established system in the Army and Navy encounter the resistance of generals and admirals.

The "Union Now" advocates are not fooling. They are serious and sincere in their beliefs. The president of the convention of Federal Union, Inc., says: "There is at least a possibility that we are right in believing that we can neither maintain the essentials of our constitutional system even here at home, nor win the war without establishing a provision federal union with the British."

Col. Wedgewood, member of the British Parliament, when he was here said: "From the war in which accounts between Britain and America are now getting somewhat mixed, the step forward to a common army, navy and air force—and taxation to pay for them—is not far distant. We in Great Britain have all to gain from a union, and the invitation must come from America." Those opposing these ideas say that "union now" means renunciation of the Declaration of Independence, and a "shooting" participation in the war by the United States.

Filipino leaders who have fought all moves to extend the protection of the United States over the Philippines after 1946, now say that the invitation to ex-

tend that time must come from the United States.

While soldiers in foreign lands are fighting, great diplomats are developing political strategy behind closed doors. Statements by men in high offices are made only after long conferences in secret diplomatic chambers. What the soldiers do usually follows the decision of these diplomats.

In answer to questions about the interest we pay on our national debt, it can be said that the annual interest payment now is around one billion one hundred and twenty-five million dollars based on a debt of fifty billion dollars. Next July, that indebtedness will be around 62 billion dollars and the annual interest payments must be correspondingly higher.

The vacation of Lord Halifax has not been unexpected in Washington. Some of his critics say that he has not been discreetly tactful with Americans who feel that too many Britishers have talked out of turn and have left the impression of the assumption of superiority and in some cases have tried to tell American officials how to run their business. From now on more diplomacy will be used by the thousands of Britishers here working in close co-ordination with our government.

About 300 new restaurants have opened in town. Thousands of girls have joined the dancers and entertainers who are trying to make the visit of thousands of soldiers to Washington pleasant.

The Federal government is undertaking to discourage Washington's effort to procure conventions this year. There is no room left for conventions. Conventions have been bringing about five million dollars a year to this town and the Board of Trade here is always on the job to get more business. That organization is fighting the decentralization program which has started.

Army maneuvers which started last May, will continue thru to November 30th next. A number of members of the House have been asked to attend some of these maneuvers and stay in

the camps with the soldiers for a week or ten days.

## BRIEFLY STATED

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rooney drove to Spalding, Nebraska, Monday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. John McManamy of Council Bluffs, Iowa, spent the week end here visiting relatives.

Mrs. G. O. Racely returned on Saturday from a vacation trip to the west coast.

Attorney W. H. Whalan of Hastings, Nebraska, was in O'Neill Wednesday on business.

Mrs. H. J. Hammond, daughter, Mary Lois, and Henry Grady made a business trip to Sioux City, Iowa, on last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richter, Jr., announce the birth of a son, James William, on Friday August, 15th.

Miss Ruth Scott of Marti, South Dakota, spent Sunday here visiting at the home of Miss Bernadine Protivinsky.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Swanson, of Herman, arrived the last of the

week to visit Mrs. Swanson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Toy.

F. H. Parkins and son, Bob, returned on Monday evening from a combined business and pleasure trip to Brainard, Minnesota.

Mr. and Mrs. William Martin left on Sunday for the Black Hills of South Dakota, where they will spend a weeks vacation.

Jesse L. Myers is visiting at New Market, Va., while on a motor trip through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Miss Vivian Eidenmiller returned on Friday from Omaha, where she spent several days visiting friends.

## FAMILY OF ELEVEN

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