

THE PONTOON BRIDGE.

Mr. S. N. Stewart Tells the People the Advantages of a Pontoon Bridge.

Facts Concerning Plattsmouth's Welfare.

Pontoon Bridges and Water Power.

Editor of THE HERALD:—I have been assuming that the bonds were a matter of course. They having been unanimously recommended by the heavy tax-payers and others who attended the board of trade meetings, it was natural to assume that nearly every one else would vote for them. But the opponents of a bridge have been getting in their work until many citizens have received erroneous impressions.

The bonds are for the man or company that will put in a bridge for lowest tolls. I offer to reduce tolls to one-third present rates. Some one else may offer still better when you advertise, but not likely. There are pontoon bridges at Prairie du Chien and Reed's Landing, upper Mississippi, upon which estimates can be based.

If the bonds were for a bridge without toll reductions the opposition might have an argument, though even in that case it would pay the town. But the fact is that tolls are to be reduced lower than any one expected.

People say the ferry receipts are \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year, and that a bridge would treble them and take \$6,000 a year, forgetting that trebled receipts mean nothing but \$2,000 to the bridge company, for they reduce to one-third present rates. But trebled receipts mean much for Plattsmouth. Nearly all who use the ferry now are transients. The farmers on the other side rarely cross.

WATER POWER.

We do not expect tolls and \$2,000 a year bonus to pay a bridge, for the decay of a pontoon bridge is rapid. We expect to make our profit on water power, and this would be worth more to Plattsmouth than a bridge. A bridge is a base on which to place apparatus to transmit power to factories on shore. By advertising extensively we expect to induce manufacturers to come and take power at one-half to one-fourth cost of steam. Hundreds of mills and factories in Europe are now run by power taken from the current without the construction of dams. Some keep the ice cut away; some use steam during the two or three coldest months. The river being unusually narrow at the B. & M. bridge, and the shores protected from cutting, it is one of the best points on the river to obtain power. The Missouri is one of the best, if not the very best, power river in the world. Rapid current and plenty of water nearly all the year, for when the rains are done the sun pressing the breasts of the mountains makes them yield to the Missouri their milk-white snow.

The time will come when scores of cities will produce their light, pump their water and operate their factories by its water power.

At a fall water can be used but once. Current can be used over and over by wheels being placed tandem, because in a large river the current, forced by the whole stream, quickly regains its normal velocity and is ready to work again.

Water power is steady night and day, without engineer, fireman or danger of explosion. Hence low insurance.

We do not appreciate the rolling river because it is so near and has been there so long. Had it commenced flowing but today, we would hasten to harness it. The running stream is an endless driving belt, reeled out by Nature from the hollow of her hand. Current motors placed in gear with it revolve till worn away. They enslave the giant of the raging river, chain him to their tasks and make of him a patient drudge, as long as waters flow. He works days without murmur, nights without sleep and sundays without sin, with Nature for his only driver.

There is talk about the great profits I would make from the bridge and water power. Let those who thus talk come in and take stock when the company is formed and thus get the profit themselves. I don't want to eat the world up; I have constantly said that I am willing to sell the stock at par, and be satisfied with my profit on building. I shall charge the company \$20,000 for a bridge. My profit as constructor and inventor will be three or four thousand dollars, but on a work of risk like this, any engineer or contractor will say that a man could have a whiskey profit—100% I don't believe you can get another engineer in this country to put in a bridge here for less than \$30,000.

PLENTY OF MEN.

Some say there are plenty of men ready to start enterprises on bonds. Are there really so many? How many have you had this year? And is this a good year for them? Well, when they come along and offer to enhance your real estate value \$150,000 and bring 3,500 more people here to trade, my advice would be to close with them as fast as they come. If you get ten for one let them make all they can out of it. In any case give their propositions due consideration, keep down spite, and ask them to call again.

Bridge builders and boat builders in St. Louis and elsewhere have been written to; but I was the only one who would make any offer at all.

REAL ESTATE PURCHASES.

I took options on certain real estate for selection. All was relinquished except Dashner \$350, F. S. White \$375, H. Johnson \$700. Total \$1,425. This will be enhanced by a bridge. As I stated from the beginning, I bought this to offer to the Bridge company at cost, as an additional inducement for them to take stock. While I am willing to hold all the stock, I would rather not, as I reside so far away. This disposes of the exaggerations concerning my large purchases, and the wealth I was to gather out of real estate alone, and of the argument that I am bound to build the bridge even without a bonus, in order to enhance my reality.

ADVANTAGES OF BRIDGE.

Those who have examined the subject believe that a bridge to Iowa will help Plattsmouth more than any one thing that ever happened to her, except the B. & M. railway and shops. The board of trade was unanimous.

A bridge with one-third present toll to bring people from Iowa means at least a few more clerks in stores here, more blacksmiths, shoemakers and other workmen. These need houses, and if a bridge only brought the trade of one-half the 2,800 people in the two townships opposite, it would enhance real estate values at the very least five percent. That is to say, the man who now asks \$900 for his lot would then ask \$950. The probability is he would ask \$1150. But say \$950; that trifling enhancement means a total of \$150,000 in Plattsmouth—a good return for \$10,000 in a bridge.

But this is only one of the gains. When the rich lands opposite are linked to Plattsmouth they will help keep down the price of wood, hay, chickens, eggs, butter, etc. The effect may not be great, but it will be something, and an advantage to every citizen of Plattsmouth.

The tax-payer owning a \$300 lot pays only twenty cents a year to the bridge (principal and interest), and for five years only, when the bridge is expected to be self-sustaining. He will get his money back over and over in many ways.

A bridge will be a strong inducement to a packing house to establish here, because they can then get hogs from both sides, and it will induce farmers on the other side to put their corn into hogs and drive them to Plattsmouth.

A bridge will encourage progressive men and stimulate other improvements which it would occupy too much space to discuss now. I have perhaps said enough to show how plain a tale will overthrow the arguments of those worthy citizens who have lived here thirty years without a bridge, and feel that they can still get along as well without one.

We speak of two townships opposite Plattsmouth, but the two beyond—citizens of Glenwood and Pacific Junction, and farmers—will of course trade here more or less, for it is a long established fact that people prefer to trade at the largest town within reach. They find larger assortments and either get or imagine, (no matter which,) lower prices. Many people opposite Plattsmouth go clear to Council Bluffs.

A bridge means much more than is apparent at first thought. The bridge company will advertise it thirty miles around, with hand bills to farmers and signs on roads. They will give a grand opening, permitting everybody and empty wagons to cross free, to get acquainted with Plattsmouth people and examine the low prices Plattsmouth merchants will offer on goods.

The city will give them a big dinner and Mr. F. S. White and I will jointly give every Iowa child a half pound of candy. This is serious and business. I pledge myself to it for myself and Mr. White.

We are pushers, and when we put \$17,000 into a bridge, we leave nothing undone that will draw traffic to it. If Plattsmouth merchants don't sell goods as low as Council Bluffs we'll put in a mammoth stock and do it ourselves.

And when Pacific Junction and Glenwood pays as much for grain as Plattsmouth I will forfeit claim to the bonds if I don't permit grain crossed free. And it would be to my interest to do so in order to win the farmer's affection and keep him in the habit of coming here.

And if he don't get more for his grain here we'll see to it that the money he receives for it shall buy more here than at Glenwood or Pacific Junction.

It almost knocked me down (the astonishment of it) when I was informed that some intelligent citizens opposed the bridge.

PLATTSMOUTH IS OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY.

to try a bridge and water power at less cost than any citizen ever conjectured. If it is a failure the city loses nothing. Engineers in cities on and near the Missouri and river-men, (including Mr. Peterson,) say if we place our pontoons on the bosom of the mad Missouri she will hurl us on the shore and throw our pontoons at us. How sad that will be when she shakes us from her name!—Fricke & Co., druggist, Plattsmouth

capital gone (good-bye John), engineering reputation injured, steamboatmen and ferrymen clapping hands and conservatives all hands round—jubilant and rampant.

COST OF A BRIDGE.

Some of your citizens have figured on the cost and think it will be less than I estimate. Let them put in a bid, or let the city build it and pay me a fair sum for my inventions and superintendence. I will make any reasonable arrangement, and you need not pay me a dollar till the bridge has stood the floods.

But to estimating cost it would be well to include all the parts—boats, chains, couplings, hinges, windlasses, iron railings, cribs, piles, flexible gangways,

dykes on shore to the high of 1881 flood, slides, putting in place &c.

But if I could wave my hand and make a bridge rise out of the flood without any cost whatever, you ought to be willing to pay \$10,000 for something worth \$150,000 to your town.

What a strange creature is man! Never satisfied. Offer to pave the city free and many would oppose you.

A MORE BEAUTIFUL INSTANCE OF CONSERVATION.

was never seen than has been just shown right here on the subject of street naming. I did not intend to introduce this in this country till next year, but seeing you and Nebraska City so sadly in need of system, (having no name-signs upon your streets,) I was impelled to offer it. In Nebraska City it was adopted without a dissenting voice, and with many thanks. Here it has been opposed as if it were a job. It is a simple thing. There is nothing smart about it. A child could have invented it, but it is a great advantage to a town in many ways which I would tire you in mentioning.

As to a bridge, when we consider all the points it is astounding that there should be any question about submitting the matter to the people, and astounding to what extent some underestimate the importance of a bridge.

THE PEOPLE WILL VOTE IT.

Some claim the people will not vote. Give them a chance and if they don't rise up and strike a blow for their town I will pay cost of election. As I have to wait two or three months for the removal of the transfer boats at Nebraska City, I would rather put in a bridge here now than any other time. It may be many years before I can make you another bid. The world is wide and Plattsmouth is but a speck (a pretty speck) upon its surface. Hundreds of cities are anxious for bridges, and I will show you letters from mayors and boards of trade offering to pay our fares and expenses to and from their cities, just to talk it over.

DISADVANTAGES OF A FERRY.

Always more or less delay in crossing and can't cross after dark. Farmers fear them. Liable to fire, explosion and snagging. (Two at least have been sunk right here,—one steam ferry and one scow.) Often unlawfully manned by incompetent and unlicensed persons.

Compelled to charge high rates. A ferry large enough to accommodate the morning and evening trade in the busy season is too large to pay at other seasons. Hence small ferries are used, and crossers must in the busy season wait hours or days for their turn. In the dullest season can't afford to keep up steam, and crossers often wait hours for steam; or if river be falling or rising may wait half a day for ferryman to prepare a new landing. Farmer may cross, then on attempting return find ferry wind-bound or undergoing repair. Hence the farmer curses the ferry—it's high rates and its poor service, and we see wood and hay selling \$3 higher here than on the other shore, for the river rolls between.

There is not a housekeeper in Plattsmouth but pays almost every day for vegetables, butter, eggs, chickens or something, at least a little higher price than he would need pay, if the farmers opposite could get at you, yet men will argue against a bridge for mere love of argument.

The ferryman talks of running to Main street. Why don't he do it? Because in high water the current is too swift, and in low water the sand-bar gets its back up.

It would be far better for Plattsmouth to give \$2,000 a year and get low tolls than to have the bridge run at present rates of toll without any bonus.

S. N. STEWART.

Buckler's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt, rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and postive cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

51-ly.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas county, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, County and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE. FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of April, A.D. '86. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucus surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.

50 Sold by Druggists, 75 cents

Itch, Prairie Mange, and Scratches of every kind cured in 30 minutes by Woolford's Sanitary Lotion. A sure cure and perfectly harmless. Warranted by F. G. Fricke & Co., druggist, Plattsmouth

Our Fire Department.

The Plattsmouth Fire Department last year selected from among their number a running team, and named the same the "Neville Running team." This team took part in the tournament held at Kearney, Neb., and by their efficient work and good conduct while at said tournament won for themselves the admiration of the State Association, and convinced many people of the State of Nebraska that there was a city somewhere in said State by the name of Plattsmouth. The boys tell a story like this: That one Kearney man said to his neighbor, "Where did these Neville boys come from?" and received the reply, "Plattsmouth," whereupon he said, "Oh, yes, I know, that is some place between Omaha and St. Louis." And the boys, feeling that the reputation of a good town as there was in the west was lost unless something was done, —and done quickly, commenced to tell where Plattsmouth was, and in fact there seemed to be a strife which one could earn the name of "Elf" first; and before they came home they succeeded in establishing, not only the exact location of Plattsmouth, but also the number and nature of the residents; and so well was the same done that when the Association selected a place to hold their annual convention, Plattsmouth was the choice, and the convention, when assembled, was the largest one ever held in the State. Each and every man that came here went home feeling that Plattsmouth was a good, live town to come to, and as Mr. Dibble, of York, expressed it, "I have been through here several times, but only saw one street, and did not believe you had much of a town, but it is a good town and a large one." This was the opinion that was prevalent with them all. And we venture to say that of all the money expended last year in advertising the city, that doing the most good and yielding the best results was the money furnished the fire laddies for the two purposes named. And as appeared in last evening's HERALD the boys are on hand again this year, and have already started the ball in motion by announcing that they will commemorate the last year's celebration, then held the fifth day of May by holding a celebration upon the eleventh day of May this year, and that on said day the entire Fire Department will turn out in parade, and with races between the several teams for prizes, and that they will conclude the day with a grand dance the proceeds to be given to the "Neville Running Team," to be used by them to assist in defraying expenses at the next Tournament, which is to be held in Beatrice. We would ask and deem such request proper, that each and every one of our citizens will help the boys in their project and make the same perfect success. As an advertisement this will be worth many dollars. To Plattsmouth it is the constant dropping that wears away the stone." In the past it was the old fogmoss and pull backism that has always kept Plattsmouth at a stand still. "Let her drop." The fire boys will do their part to pull forward.

Firemen's Parade and Ball.

From Thursday's Daily.

The committee appointed by the fire department to make arrangements in regard to the second annual celebration of the opening of our new water system, met last night at the council chamber. It was decided to hold the celebration Thursday, May 10th, and the ball at the opera house in the evening. The admission tickets to the floor are placed at \$1 and to the gallery 25 cts, the same as last year. And by the way the fire boys netted about \$140 by their ball last year, and we hope our citizens will respond liberally in the way of purchasing tickets when the boys approach them this year.

Committees were appointed on printing, J. O'Neil, Guy Livingston and Jas. Patterson; supper, Henry Herald, T. C. Clifford and G. C. Smith; and the finance committee, consisting of Hon. F. M. Richey, T. E. White and Wm. Neville, were requested to at once proceed to raise funds to assist in making the celebration a success equal to that of last year. Invitations will be issued to all the surrounding cities, and Plattsmouth will again have paid for a good advertisement. A full meeting of the fire department will be called for Monday, April 30, at the council chamber, at which time the detail and line of March and program will all be arranged. Let everyone give a helping hand to the boys in their undertaking.

The Odd Fellows at Crete.

CRETE, Neb., April 20. The celebration of the anniversary of the establishment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was a grand success. The city was filled with strangers and brethren of the order from early morning. There was a constant string of people coming and going to and from the assembly grounds during the greater portion of the day. The city has a holiday appearance, many of the stores and dwelling houses throughout the city being beautifully and tastefully decorated with flags and bunting. There was between six and seven hundred persons in the line of the procession, which marched through the principal streets headed by Prof. Vase's cornet band. By order of Mayor Miller, all of the streets were thoroughly cleaned. The different lodges in the county were represented by over five hundred members. On behalf of the people of Crete and Crete Lodge, ex-Governor Dawes welcomed the brethren in a few well chosen words, after which W. H. Woodyard of Lincoln, delivered a brilliant address lasting over an hour. In the evening a grand ball was given at Band's Opera House, which proved a social and financial success.

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