

THE NEBRASKA EDITORS.

Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Press Association.

MOST SUCCESSFUL OF ALL

The Quill Drivers Listen to Able Addresses, a Characteristic Poem, Elect Officers, Transact Other Business and Enjoy a Banquet.

The twentieth annual meeting of the Nebraska Press association held at Fremont, January 28th and 29th, was in all respects the most successful...

The first session convened at 4 o'clock on Friday, the 28th, when new members were enrolled. The president made his annual address and the secretary and treasurer submitted their reports...

The evening program was carried out at the auditorium of the beautiful temple of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The exercises were of a public nature and a large audience was present...

Ed. A. Fry, of the Niobrara Pioneer, read a historical sketch which was full of interest. It gave many facts relative to the history of newspaper work of early days in north Nebraska...

M. A. Brown, of the Kearney Hub, delivered the annual oration, which was an effort of great merit. His theme was the relation of the press to the upbuilding of the state...

A. L. Bixby, of the Columbus Sentinel, read the annual poem, which proved a treat to the audience. It was prefaced by some droll remarks by the author...

Mrs. Fred Nye rendered two beautiful solos, with Professor Roy Smith accompanist, and Miss Nellie McPherson, Fremont's talented elocutionist...

The second day's session opened with a business meeting at 9 o'clock. Among the business transacted was the adoption of the following resolutions...

Resolved, That the Nebraska Press association is hereby in favor of having Nebraska make such an exhibit at the world's fair as will fitly set forth before the world her advantages...

Resolved, That we request the ready-print and plate houses supplying Nebraska papers to maintain a special department devoted to promotion of the interests of the Nebraska exhibit...

Papers were read by F. O. Edgcombe, of the Falls City Journal, on "Business Methods," by S. P. Mobley, of the Grand Island Independent...

Officers of the association for the ensuing year were chosen as follows: President—F. G. Simmons, Seward Reporter.

Secretary and Treasurer—Ross L. Hammond, Fremont Tribune. Vice Presidents—C. M. Hubner, Nebraska City News; Edgar Howard, Papillon Times; M. H. Barber, Fullerton Journal...

Delegates to the national association, whose next meeting is to be held at San Francisco, May 17, were chosen as follows: T. E. Sedgwick, York Times; J. G. P. Hildebrand, St. Paul Press; R. B. Wahlquist, Hastings Democrat...

The proverbial hospitality of the people of Fremont was more than sustained by the handsome manner in which they entertained the editors. Everything was at the disposal of their guests...

The entire delegation of newspaper men were entertained at the Eno hotel, and Messrs. Smith and Collins, the proprietors, were congratulated by all for the excellent attention given to their guests.

lege was visited and the delegates shown through the structure by its president, W. H. Clemmaka. This is one of the leading educational institutions of the west and has had a phenomenal growth. Its present term enrollment is about 500 pupils...

The hospitality of Fremont culminated in an elaborate banquet for the editors at Masonic Temple Friday night.

EDITOR BIXBY'S POEM.

To be a thrifty husbandman, And till the virgin soil, And make an honest living In the field of honest toil...

Add to these the country poet— Who, when some dear friend is dead, Sends a lengthy contribution...

ADDRESS OF M. A. BROWN.

NEBRASKA: AND THE DUTY AND OPPORTUNITY OF THE PRESS.

There is scarce an editor in this state who has not a lofty conception of the duties and obligations of the press. He does not regard journalism as a calling, but as a profession...

These among us who have spent twenty years in Nebraska know how wonderful has been the development of the state, how rapid its increase in population...

Nebraska can maintain a population of 10,000,000, because there is, comparatively speaking, scarce an acre of waste land in the state...

Nebraska is the great central state of the Union, and is bisected by the teeming thoroughfare over which passes the main stream of travel between Castle Garden and the Golden Gate...

Nebraska—an empire in extent, a giant in energy, a Croesus in natural and undeveloped wealth—needs two things: 1. Greater capital for the development of her resources...

There are two ways to secure capital—by borrowing and by inducing the holder to invest it. We can borrow it only by treating it as a friend...

The press of Nebraska should be the inspiration of the people to renewed and more earnest and intelligent efforts in rearing a commonwealth prosperous in material things and conspicuous for the progressiveness and courage of its people...

Nebraska is favorably situated to solve it for her own advantage. The trunk lines between the east and west do not offer the solution. To the northeast, a less distance than to Chicago...

As for the "transportation problem," Nebraska is favorably situated to solve it for her own advantage. The trunk lines between the east and west do not offer the solution...

There is no need that Nebraska should be purely an agricultural state, and it will not long be so. Agriculture, manufacturing and commerce will form the three golden links of our future prosperity...

There is no need that Nebraska should be purely an agricultural state, and it will not long be so. Agriculture, manufacturing and commerce will form the three golden links of our future prosperity...

There is no need that Nebraska should be purely an agricultural state, and it will not long be so. Agriculture, manufacturing and commerce will form the three golden links of our future prosperity...

There is no need that Nebraska should be purely an agricultural state, and it will not long be so. Agriculture, manufacturing and commerce will form the three golden links of our future prosperity...

There is no need that Nebraska should be purely an agricultural state, and it will not long be so. Agriculture, manufacturing and commerce will form the three golden links of our future prosperity...

is a magnificent example of the results produced from this union of agriculture and manufacturing industry. Manufacturers, allied with agriculture, create commerce, and commerce maintains the steady flow of the financial current...

Nebraska City finds prosperity in pork-packing, and that prosperity is added to by a variety of lesser industries. Beatrice manufactures paper, starch, oatmeal, canned goods, pumps, wind-mills, paving bricks...

Grand Island and Norfolk are noted for their great beet sugar factories, which are the foundation of prosperity for both city and country.

Keareney's great cotton mill is nearing completion, an oat mill has just been opened, a large plow factory is in course of erection, canned goods and pressed brick are manufactured...

Lincoln, the state capital, while not yet a manufacturing city, is pushing out in that direction, and may demonstrate before industrial conditions are settled in this state...

Smaller cities are working on this same line, and there is abundant reason to believe that the state is entering upon a period of remarkable industrial development.

You are probably asking yourselves, mentally, what all this has to do with the press of Nebraska, and what business your orator (so-called) has to dismount from his Pegasus...

Now suppose a case: Suppose, for instance, that every newspaper in Nebraska, daily and weekly, large and small, was to talk politics less, eschew personal controversy, let the country at large assume the responsibility of saving itself...

Suppose that the newspapers of Nebraska were talking constantly and in unison for the state in general and each one for its own locality in particular. Imagine a state where every newspaper is engaged in an educational work of this character...

The Nebraska Press association cannot do a better thing than to make this subject a special topic and urge upon every newspaper in the state the importance of a zealous and united movement of this character.

It is said that "the Lord helps those who help themselves." We build up the state, and every citizen is benefited. We help the growth of our own community, build up its industries...

When Nebraska becomes the great state that it may become—when agriculture shall have reached the highest stage of development, when manufactures shall dot our towns and cities, when our avenues of commerce shall radiate toward every point of the compass...

When higher education and art shall be within the reach of all, and our present population shall be multiplied by three, and four, and five, the problems that now confront the Nebraska newspaper man will be problems no longer.

I see before me comrades of the press who have grown and are growing gray in the treadmill of shop and sanctum. They stand in the presence of the stern today, surrounded by difficulties, beset by discouragements, and with hands that have not yet grasped the reward...

Today we meet. Tomorrow we part. The lessons of yesterday are sared upon our brains. The duties of today sink deep into our hearts. And we turn our eyes toward the bright tomorrow with fresh resolves, with higher hopes, with sanctified and silent prayer for the uplifting of the press of this our noble state.

O thou tomorrow! never yet was born In earth's dull atmosphere a thing so fair. Never yet tripped, with footsteps light as air, So glad a vision o'er the hills of morn!

Fresh as the radiant dawn, all unweaned By the lightest touch of sorrow or of care. Thou dost glory of the morning star; By snowy wings of hope and faith upborne!

O, fair Tomorrow! what our souls have missed Art thou not keeping for us somewhere still! The buds of promise that have never blown. The tender lips that we have never kissed.

The song whose high, sweet strain eludes our skill. The one white pearl that life hath never known!

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

BY SETH P. MOBLEY. In the lead of leaders stands the independent paper—the paper that knows no higher law than conscience; the paper that seeks the right according to its best judgment, and that has the world map to speak for it, though all the world map is on the opposite side of the paper that strives to mold instead of being molded by public opinion...

Independent press? I answer that it knows no narrow confines, but its field is as broad as the world itself; it reaches everywhere, it pervades everything. The independent paper should be a faithful reflex of the individuality of its editor. It should be his conscience-thermometer and morality barometer.

It should aim at originality of ideas, as well as originality in style of expressing them. No matter to what political party principles it adheres, it should not become a mere echo of party, and certainly never so against conscience, as all parties sometimes go wrong and no party should ever claim the right to enslave conscience.

It should be a living, breathing, thinking thing, with individual responsibility; recognizing no law higher than the law of conscience, and having no aim above that of absolute truth; and, falling into error, as all papers sometimes will, it should be brave enough to acknowledge error and make amends.

It should aim to stand at the front as an educator, independent of all text books except the text book of truth, and at its own sweet will becoming sponsor for languages never thought of in colleges or laid down in the text books. It should claim the exclusive right to coin and use new words to express new or old ideas, and safely rely upon the fact that families, colleges, text books and worlds, will eventually appropriate the coinage in the future as they have done in the past.

In its news department the independent paper will seek to give only the facts as they are portrayed upon the panorama of the world's actual events, without coloring of party prejudice, personal pique, or vanity, and will studiously seek to avoid sensationalism having the selfish aim of increased sales, remembering that a fake factory is not a necessary adjunct to a newspaper office, but that it invariably proves detrimental to progress in the legitimate newspaper field.

Necessarily depending upon others for sources of information, all papers will sometimes be imposed upon, and thus unintentionally impose upon their readers, but immediately upon the discovery of such imposition, correction should be made and attention called thereto, as nothing will destroy confidence so speedily as recklessness in regard to statement of facts.

The independent paper true to itself and true to its real mission will scorn to do a political opponent, or any one else, an injustice, and will not seek unfair advantage in any direction to gain a temporary success, because it must realize that success thus achieved is really the worst kind of defeat. The paper that prizes respect for truthfulness, candor and fair dealing above any success dishonestly obtained, will prove a lasting tower of strength and the real bulwark of the press. Guarded by such papers the power of the press will ever increase.

In this age, when a man, if given a thousand years to live, could not hope to read all that is printed, it is pertinent to inquire what one should read, but whatever else one may omit, if he desires to keep posted on current events of the age in which he lives, he never even thinks of omitting from his list-lect of the newspaper, which is first and foremost in everybody's list, to such an extent that one would almost as soon think of doing without his daily physical food. Everybody reads the newspaper, which, more than any other dozen agencies, has made this a reading age, and most people respect and honor an honest paper upon which is impressed the individuality of an honest man, bent upon doing, in his exalted position, what seems best for mankind.

Considering all that has been written upon the subject of the press, it may seem presumptuous in me to attempt to add anything new, and yet so wedded am I to the subject, and so accustomed to military, that duty assigned means an attempt at least to perform it, leaving you to be the sufferers for any lack of wisdom in the detail made by your officers.

It is true that if one had all that has been written upon the subject of the press since Gutenberg or Coster racked their brains to discover a method by which movable characters might be transferred to paper to express ideas, or since Franklin discovered the means whereby the pressman might "pull the devil's tail" and thereby transform blank paper as if by magic into a medium for the diffusion of knowledge of important as well as unimportant events, he would have paper enough to reach to the North pole and wrap it to an anti-freezing depth. And yet I am still bold enough to claim that the subject has not been completely exhausted, but that on the contrary enough might still be written to require paper sufficient to wrap up the sun, moon and stars and fill all the space surrounding our entire planetary system. But be not alarmed, I shall not attempt to exhaust the subject at this time, and as a matter of fact there seems to be no necessity, as it has already come to pass that the press is universally acknowledged as a power without a peer in the civilized world.

The power of the press has been truly marvelous in its growth and influence, surpassing almost human credulity as to possibility, and the art preservative is the acknowledged chief of chiefs—the absolute essential of all arts and all sciences, so that the world would as soon think of attempting to get along without the elements of fire and water as without the medium of the press, and when we stop to think we are led to wonder how the world managed to get along at all in the slow-going old way ante-dating the birth of the press.

Only little more than a century ago the pulpit and the rostrum were the recognized powers in control of governments, but that period speedily sped away when the press was born, and in the short space of a hundred years, rostrum, pulpit and people have been taught the fact that the only power higher than the power of the press is that power which keeps this little ball of earth which we temporarily inhabit in its proper position in space.

Time has indeed wrought a wonderful change, so that one asked to give, in their order today, the chief agencies for the advancement of civilization, progress, education, morality, and general enlightenment, would be required, out of respect for truth, to name them as follows: The press, the public schools, the railways, the pulpit, and the rostrum. Thus it is, that in this short space of time the recognized head has passed down to the foot and the foot without dispute passed up to the head of the class, and the press become an irresistible force which recognizes no immovable obstacle. It sways armies, shapes governments, and makes and un-makes men at will, and sometimes makes a great man out of very scant material.

and receives little thanks from, or for its creation, and is itself ashamed of its progeny. Whatever the resistance may be, the power of a combined press may be safely depended upon to conquer, with not even a possibility of failure. The only foe man worthy of its steel is itself. It has only itself to fear. Power abused and misused becomes a source of weakness; a means of self destruction, and if the reigning influence of the press is ever weakened, it will be only by the act of the press itself. Strong—Samson-like, indeed—when in the right, it may yet totter and fall when in error, and hence it should ever be carefully on guard against its only dangerous foe—itsself. Let us see to it that the power we possess be not abused. Proper use of power but adds to its strength, while abuse of power is but the certain ultimate destruction of it.

The main strength of the press lies in the confidence of the people—destroy that confidence, and by that destructive your influence vanishes, and all power is gone, and instead of a respected leader you become a pitiable object of contempt, scorn and ridicule.

Today the press is the recognized leader of advanced thought in every avenue of human progress—the leader in every enterprise calculated to benefit mankind, morally, socially and commercially. Let no act of its own hurt it from the pre-eminence it occupies by the common consent of all enlightened people, but let it strive to remain a power worthy of confidence and respect. Give none cause to fear except those who are in the wrong.

It is undoubtedly true that the same energy, and the same ability, applied to any other calling, would bring richer reward, but as the girl said in regard to kissing, "There may be sweeter things on earth, but, if so, I have never happened to taste them," so with the newspaper business there appears to be something so fascinating and satisfying about it that we almost unconsciously stick to it, and as a matter of fact there is no other field so fertile for usefulness to humanity.

As nothing in nature is quite perfect, not even the independent press, it might be proper to mention one of its chief weaknesses, one of its besetting sins, if you please, which is its seeming inherent disposition to fight itself, to cripple its own influence through jealousy. The man who declared that women, some women, were given to jealousy, probably never closely observed the predictions of the press in that direction. Touch the topic of its circulation with even insinuation of doubt in regard to the strict veracity of its circulation liar, and you touch it to the heart, and inaugurate a war even in advance of a declaration of war.

It must be said to its discredit that there is no other calling in which so much attention is given to tearing itself to pieces; to weakening its own influence. There is no other calling that could stand so much internal strife without toppling over. We spend by odds too much time in fighting each other and trying to prove to the world that the press is a fraud. The same effort directed toward the upbuilding of the material interest of the localities in which the papers are published, would result not only in greater good to the community, but would prove both strengthening, and enabling to the press, and give the people far greater confidence in it.

One trouble is, that, with most of us, hate is a stronger passion than love, and we permit it to move us to greater extremes. * * * This is not as it should be, and good results would follow a more careful cultivation of the crop of love for our fellow men, and from absolute neglect of the crop of the spirit of hate, in the hope that it may eventually be choked out by nobler and better thoughts.

Let us encourage confidence in our calling, and, wherever we can, assist each other, and realize the fact that the hurling of a stone through our neighbor's window, in reality but shatters our own glass. If we would, every time we feel an inclination to attack our neighbor, turn our attention to saying something good of our locality, we would soon cure our worst chronic complaint, and become altogether lovely without the aid of any other physician. This internal strife may be edifying to a certain element in society, but it is death to the combatants. If we must go to battle, let us not turn our guns upon ourselves, but upon our enemies.

Brethren of the quill, I ask you to draw the blue pencil of your mind through this matter, brush out the chaff, and ask the devil to consign it to the hell-bowl and preserve the grain, if any you find, in the galley of live matter, and permit me with a brief classification of the press to press this paper to a period. We have the monthly press, the weekly press, the daily press, the religious press, the secular press, the society press, the morning press, and the evening press, the Sunday morning press and the Sunday evening press, and of all these permit me to say that the Sunday evening press is the press of my choice, as it requires no string measure, entails no outlay for type setting, and there is no galley slave to satisfy, but only the first syllable of the first part of it. Try it, lock your front tight, stick to the press, wait no matter, and rely upon it your business is all right.

In Spurgeon's Tabernacle. LONDON, Feb. 2.—Two special services were held at Dr. Spurgeon's tabernacle, at each of which the audience numbered several thousand. The pulpit and platform were draped in black. The deepest grief was manifested, and the simplest ceremonies were of the most solemn and affecting character. At a meeting of the deacons of the tabernacle it was decided to leave the funeral arrangements entirely to the widow, the only thing insisted upon being that the interment should take place on English soil. In his remarks at the evening service Dr. Pierson, the American minister who has occupied the pulpit during Dr. Spurgeon's illness, mentioned the fact that the great preacher had sent word recently that he would like to have a day set apart for prayers for the abatement of the influenza.

Christopher Columbus Celebration. ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 2.—In the Assembly Mr. Hitt offered a resolution which was referred to the committee on ways and means authorizing the board of managers to prepare for the state representation on October 12, 1892, at the Christopher Columbus celebration in New York by the Spanish and Italian peoples and to invite the original thirteen states to participate with the state commemoration of the event.