

The Plattsmouth Daily Herald.

VOL. 1.

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1883.

NO. 180

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CHICAGO is happy after an absence of some twenty years that old fashioned city is to have a State Fair.

The other day, when in attendance upon the republican convention at Weeping Water, we were pained to learn of the very serious illness of our old fellow citizen Mr. W. H. Reed, father of Hon. E. L. Reed, of Weeping Water. Mr. Reed came to Nebraska many years ago, and was one of the early settlers of Cass Co.; he is now in his seventy-fourth year, and has been in failing health during the summer. Dr. Livingston was summoned to visit him a few mornings since, but was unable to leave some critical cases he had upon his hands at the time.

The HERALD sincerely hopes to learn that father Reed is better, and that his recovery is among the things to be reasonably hoped for.

THE HERALD notices that the authorities of Nebraska city have submitted a proposition to fund the floating indebtedness of that city in the amount of \$50,000; which will be voted upon by the electors of our neighbor at an early day. The proposition is to vote funding bonds running twenty years with a low rate of interest; this is right and shows the authorities of Nebraska City are awake to the importance of placing the affairs of that city in good shape for the future.

THE HERALD has upon many occasions suggested and urged upon the authorities of Plattsmouth to take similar steps in regard to our floating indebtedness, and we understand a committee of our council are now in New York city making arrangements for the adjustment of our High School indebtedness, and that very favorable terms have been offered the city by the holders of those securities, for a compromise of the indebtedness and issue of new bonds to take the place of those in litigation.

As the indebtedness of Plattsmouth city is slight, outside of these bonds, such an adjustment will most assuredly be of great advantage to our city.

ANDERSONVILLE SECRETS.

Richardson's Record
To the Editor of The Inter Ocean.

Ottawa, Ill., Sept. 29. It is with considerable feeling that I read the letter of D. M. Richardson in the Sunday Inter Ocean of the 16th inst., regarding the Providence or miracle spring of Andersonville Prison and the "Martyr, Captain Wirz." As an Andersonville survivor I feel that it would be gross injustice to let such a letter go on record without a prompt protest being filed.

I remember well the night of the 18th day of August, 1864, when, with fifteen others of my companions, we tried to shield ourselves from the terrible storm with a single rubber poncho stuck up on sticks I remember when the storm came how Archie Campbell, of my company, C, of the fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, tried to cheer us up with the songs which had made him popular as the first clown in old John Robinson's circus in years passed. McEory in quoting his song, "Old Uncle Ned," makes the error of crediting him to a New York Regiment. When the night came Archie's songs were hushed, and chilled to the bone, suffering only as those who were there can know, we awaited the coming of the dawn of day to stretch our benumbed limbs. When it came and we commenced to move about, I vividly recollect how clean and white looked the morning sacrifice of dead.

My attention was early called to the stream of water passing through the stockade and finding its way along the stockade and the dead line. Realizing its value, the prisoners had gathered round near the dead line, while the rebel guards with cocked muskets stood watching them. First, I think a ditch was dug to send the stream under the dead line. Shortly after rough troughs were made and it was conducted over the dead line. There was no tank or barrel placed at the end, but the prisoners caught the precious fluid as it flowed from the end of the trough. Soon the crowd grew so great that our men placed some policemen on duty there, who compelled the prisoners to fall in line and await their turn. The flow seemed to me to be equal to about fifty gallons a minute and the water was pure and cool. As we stood and talked of the new wonder I remember a prisoner a devout man after taking a deep draught, said, "It is the gift of God," and that is the view generally taken by prisoners to this day. Whether the earth was rent and the water came forth, or whether the fountain sprang spontaneously from the hillside is something the prisoners in the stockade could not decide. It is merely a technical question, and on this point Richardson may be right. When Mo-

either ignorantly or wilfully wrong. Whether the spring came through the interposition of Providence or not, it did not come by rainfalls or Wirz, but it was a God-send to the perishing thousands. R. A. CONOON.

The above communications to the Inter Ocean from the pen of Andersonville prisoners, were called forth by a letter written by one Richardson in Sunday's Inter Ocean of the 16th inst. This man Richardson is a defender of Wirz and very properly calls down the just indignation of the old soldiers upon his head. The letters we publish will be of interest to those of our readers who have experienced the cruelties of the "Andersonville Pen."

Republican State Convention.
The republican electors of the State of Nebraska are hereby called to send delegates from the several counties to meet in State Convention at Lincoln, Wednesday, September 26, A. D. 1883, at 5 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of placing in nomination candidates for the following named offices, to-wit: One Justice of the Supreme Court. One Secretary of the University. One University Agent to fill vacancy.

Some of the boys used to think it a pretty mean thing for a Yankee to be a party to such a robbery. Such an intense spirit of speculation has rarely been seen as can be discerned in the above list. Potatoes and onions came very high. The reason was that they were a sure cure for scurvy, from which many prisoners were dying.

Now, as to Captain Wirz direct responsibility a commander of the interior of the prison, we have this to say: He might have allowed us to go in squads to the great pine woods about us to get wood and pine boughs from which we could have made comparatively good shelter. He could have had the rebel cook house moved from above the prison, on the only stream that supplied us with water. He could have seen that the corn bread was cooked through. He could have checked the rebel guards and prevented their shooting Yanks for fun.

The testimony of the rebel surgeon examined in his trial was that he would not allow them to take vegetables into the hospital. He could have prevented prisoners being torn by the hounds. When Richardson says that the charges of cruelty against him are false he knows that he calls in question the sworn testimony of 150 Union prisoners, which covers 2,000 pages of manuscript.

It will take some one beside a sutler partner of the late Wirz to pull the wool over the eyes of the Andersonville prisoners. E. A. NATTINGER.
Late private Company C, Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, and detachment No. 82, Andersonville Prison.

Kentland, Ind., Sept. 17.—I was astonished at the article in last Sunday's issue by one D. M. Richardson. Not surprised at his defense of the infernal scoundrel, Wirz, so much as his descriptions of the origin of Providence Spring in Andersonville prison. His statement that that spring was the result of heavy rains in August, 1864, washing a gully in the hillside between the dead line and stockade is absolutely false. It is equally false that Wirz or any one else built a reservoir at the mouth of the spring. It is equally false that Wirz laid mains to the mouth of the spring, or in any way had aught to do with it.

Now to return to the subject of the spring. The rains did not at any time wash a gully in the side of the hill. There was never a gully made or washed in the side of the hill. The hill had been dotted with pine and scrub oak, and it had never been cut off, and aside from this, that hill where the spring was located was in a state of nature between the dead line and the stockade. The fact is that for some distance up the hill the ground was damp and marshy like, there being a heap of water-saturated earth. After it burst on, as it did burst out without human help or aid the prisoners made a board trough and ran up to the mouth of the spring, under the dead line, and down that trough into our buckets, canteens, and tin cups it poured its limpid waters, and thus was the camp furnished with the blessed, cooling, draught. I know these things are so for I was there, and many a time I waited my turn at the spout for half an hour.

Richardson may defend Wirz if he thinks it best, but he shall not with my consent, pervert the story of and facts concerning that spring. I know he is

Counties	Del.	Counties	Del.
Adair	1	Johnson	1
Antelope	1	Kearney	1
Bartholomew	1	Lincoln	1
Butler	1	Lancaster	1
Burt	1	Lincoln	1
Brown	1	Loup	1
Cass	1	Madison	1
Cedar	1	Merrick	1
Cheyenne	1	Nemaha	1
Clay	1	Nuckolls	1
Colfax	1	Osage	1
Conkling	1	Pawnee	1
Crawford	1	Phelps	1
Custer	1	Platte	1
Dakota	1	Polk	1
Dawson	1	Red Willow	1
Dodge	1	Richardson	1
Dundy	1	Saline	1
Finney	1	Sarpy	1
Franklin	1	Sheldon	1
Frontier	1	Seward	1
Gage	1	Sheppard	1
Gardner	1	Sioux	1
Gosport	1	St. Louis	1
Grant	1	Union	1
Harlan	1	Wabasha	1
Harrison	1	Washington	1
Hickock	1	Wayne	1
Holmes	1	Webster	1
Howard	1	York	1
		Total	211

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