

LOOKING BACKWARD SOME FORTY YEARS

State Organization in 1866—Historic Debate Between the Late Levi G. Todd and the Late Gen. John M. Thayer.

AT OLD MT. PLEASANT SCHOOL HOUSE

(By Basil S. Ramsey.)

The historic and somewhat dramatic scene the writer is about to sketch, occurred in the old Mount Pleasant school house nearly forty years ago. This old school house occupied a position on the southeast corner of the old Mount Pleasant town site, not far from the present flourishing city of Nehawka. This then (town site) adjoined the farm just north of the old William D. Gage farm. William D. Gage was one of the early pioneers of Cass county. He was one of the leading teachers and preachers of the early days and became familiarly known as "Parson Gage." At one time he was an efficient Probate Judge of Cass county, but he is more generally remembered as one of the most earnest, leading and successful preachers of the Methodist Episcopal church. But it is to a historic meeting—non-political in character, in that old Mount Pleasant school house, in the latter part of May 1866, that we call attention. It was during the closing of the great campaign for statehood for Nebraska Territory. The election was to follow on June 2, 1866, on the adoption of the constitution, submitted to the voters of the then territory of Nebraska. A large majority of the voters of Cass county were opposed to state organization at that time, believing that the time had not yet arrived for the change. The great civil war had only recently terminated in victory for the Union cause. General Robert E. Lee had surrendered Richmond and capitulated with Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. The late General John M. Thayer had but a short time before, returned from the war. He had bravely, gallantly served under General Grant at Corinth, Vicksburg, Pittsburgh Landing and Fair Oaks. With the admission of Nebraska as a state, General Thayer was a prospective candidate for United States Senator.

Well this meeting to which the writer refers was one appointed in the interest of state organization. General Thayer was the leading character advertised as the principal speaker on behalf of state organization. Supposedly the speaking would all be for state organization and adoption of the proposed constitution.

All that community, far and near Old Mount Pleasant, was stirred up. We had heard of noble-hearted, brave and gallant General Thayer, and we all wanted to see him and hear him give reasons for state organization. That night the old Mount Pleasant school house was jammed with pioneers from far and near. The writer recalls the names of a number who were present: Hon. Samuel M. Kirkpatrick, Charles H. Winslow, William H. Hobson, John Ramsey, Joshua Stroud, Stephen B. Hobson, Joseph H. Upton, John C. Bear, Isaac Pollard, John Murdoch, John F. Buck, George F. Schriber, Frank Z. Linville, Levi G. Todd, Daniel M. Raimy, William W. Wolf, E. A. Kirkpatrick, William J. Lynch, Stephen A. Davis and there were many others whose names the writer cannot now recall. General Thayer was promptly on time, and while the sentiment concerning statehood was against him, yet no public speaker anywhere ever received more respectful attention than did the General. His argument was plausible so far as giving a particular prominence to statehood over simply a territorial organization was concerned. General Thayer was an interesting speaker. His prominence as a soldier under General Grant; his most genial personality and affability commanded our respect—even admiration, regardless of party predilections. At that time there were only about thirteen democrats in old Mount Pleasant precinct, while there were about 145 republican majority. But we were with one or two exceptions all against organization. There was one man in that audience whom everybody knew could answer General Thayer. That man was the late Hon. Levi G. Todd. General Thayer had come from his home in Omaha and dressed up in the style that became an aspirant for United States Senator. That dress and style were far above and beyond such as any of our old pioneers thought we could afford. But after General Thayer finished his speech a kind of "rebel yell" was heard for Levi G. Todd to answer the General's speech. Todd had just come from his now famous farm, near Buck's Grove—where for a number of years he had toiled to make it one of the best improved and most productive in Cass county. He had not taken time to array himself in wearing apparel presumably indispensable to the public speaker, but had come from his cornfield, dressed in cowhide boots, overalls, coatless, vestless and with one

suspender to keep his overalls from crawling into his boot legs. But we know that Levi G. Todd was prepared to argue the question of state organization. Like a gladiator in the arena, he promptly took the rostrum in the old school house. Even his step to the platform was cheered to the echo. But on the platform the contrast became striking. General Thayer, scholarly and somewhat dandy in dress; Levi G. Todd in the garb of a pioneer! Both ardent, radical republicans of that day! But Todd's speech tore to pieces every argument made by Thayer. He traced the history of the formation of Nebraska territory from the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill in congress—through all the vicissitudes and changes since then. He told of the many privations of frontier life in the effort to reclaim this portion of the Great American Desert. How the general government at Washington paid from the national treasury, the expenses of territorial organization and government—even the members of the territorial legislature, which amounted to about \$45,000.00 per annum. That in the event of state organization at that time, the then pioneer settlers would have to be taxed to support state government, and that the principal result would be to elect David Butler or J. Sterling Morton governor and General John M. Thayer and Thomas W. Tipton United States senators. Todd's speech was not only argumentative; it was masterful and powerful. At times it was tinged with biting, stinging sarcasm; then again it went into the regions of idealism, with pictures of Thayer and Tipton seated in the Senate chamber at Washington and the pioneer settlers of Nebraska paying the bill.

Throughout and during that speech, Todd was most heartily cheered by the audience and at its close, received an ovation. And no one, more heartily shook the hand of Levi G. Todd than did General Thayer—the soldier of the Union army shaking the hand of the pioneer-soldier of Cass county, as it were, across the bloodless chasm of state organization, forty years ago.

The soldier of the Union army now sleeps beneath vine and rose near Lincoln, Nebraska. The soldier-pioneer, now sleeps beneath the oak and evergreen—near Union, Cass county, Nebraska, and near the monument to his memory he commenced to build a half century ago—the Todd farm, near Buck's Grove.

COULD NOT DO WITHOUT IT

A Letter From an Old Cass County Boy, Living in the State of Oregon.

FLORA, OREGON, MARCH 28, '06.
EDITOR PLATTSOUTH JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR:—Please find enclosed a postoffice order for \$3.00 to square me up and for one year ahead. I am an old Cass county boy, coming to Nebraska in 1856, lived there until 1900, and have taken the Journal all through its life. During that time it has changed about some, until now it has got to be one of the first-class county papers of Nebraska, and we cannot do without it even in Oregon. It is like talking with my old friends and neighbors when we get it to read.

I do not know its editor only by the paper. I am getting very well acquainted with him—enough so, however, to scratch a few lines and tell him that we have a fine country out here. We are located in the north-east corner of Oregon, forty-five miles from Lewiston, Idaho, which is our trading point. We are on the mountain top, 2,700 feet above sea level. We have no storms nor high winds, and raise fine crops of wheat, averaging 25 bushels per acre; oats 35; barley 20, and potatoes, all you want to dig, from an acre.

Land is cheap. It runs from five to fifteen dollars per acre. There are some homesteads left yet. I think this is one of the finest countries to live in there is in the world. We have 640 acres of our own and have leased about that much more. Have plenty of stock to eat all the grass from this land. Cattle are cheap—two-year-old steers, \$18 per head; one-year-olds, \$10 per head; cows from \$15 to \$20 per head, and hogs \$4.25. Hogs never die out here.

This is a fine stock and farming country. We now have our horses and cattle out on the green grass and they look fine. I commenced feeding my stock December 3, and now have them on grass. Some of my neighbors turned out their stock six weeks ago, and we will have plenty of fat cattle by the first of June. That is something that Old Cass cannot do. We have a good market for everything we raise here.

Well, I will close by asking you to excuse me for writing with a pencil, as I am down in the canyon, setting on a big rock. It is called Cortney Canyon. You just ask Dr. G. H. Gilmore, of Murray, and he will tell you all about it. I remain

Yours Truly,
J. Q. CONNALLY.

All smart up-to-date women of today, know how to bake, wash, sing and to play; Without these talents a wife is N. G. Unless she takes Rocky Mountain Tea. Sold by Gering & Co.

A GRAFTER SURE ENOUGH

The Young Woman Who Was Here Yesterday Soliciting Money.

NO HOSPITAL TO BE LOCATED AT AURORA

Word Comes From the Authorities at Aurora, Nebraska, to That Effect.

Every move the lady who was here yesterday soliciting money to aid in the erection of a hospital at Aurora, Neb., demonstrates more fully that she is a fraud. At Murray yesterday afternoon she succeeded in raising \$10 or \$12 and returned to this city, remained over night and took the morning train for Union. This movement, within itself, is enough to throw out suspicion that her mission is not altogether right. Why did she want to return to Plattsmouth and then go south again?

Some of those who gave her various sums of money became suspicious, and Mr. Underwood, a prominent business man of Murray, being acquainted with one of the bankers at Aurora, telephoned there in regard to her movements, and word came back that no one knew of any hospital in the course of erection, or even in contemplation. Now this looks like there was "something rotten in Denmark."

We understand from Union she expects to go to Weeping Water, and we would advise our friends over that way to question her very closely before they aid her in the least. If she is honest in her efforts, she should bear some credentials from responsible parties who are known. There is too much of this sort of swindling being done these days, and frauds take advantage of the "charity dodge" to make money for themselves.

Scarcity of Hogs.

The high prices of hogs which have recently prevailed, and the ravages of the cholera during the winter have resulted in reducing the supply of good hogs in Cass county very materially. A farmer friend yesterday said the farmers most generally have shown a disposition to market everything that was marketable on the high prices, and these have disposed of many hogs that would not ordinarily have been sold yet had prices ruled lower. Many of them are lean and could be made to put on considerable more weight if they were kept at home longer. For this reason probably fewer hogs will be carried over by farmers in the surrounding territory than has been customary during recent years. At the same time every farmer, who raised hogs last year, is planning to raise just as many more this year as he did last if not more. All the brood sows and gilts are being kept and next year the farmers will have hogs aplenty.

Weak and Sissyified.

Henry R. Gering was re-elected mayor of Plattsmouth over his republican opponent, Judge Newell. The result was not a repudiation of Judge Newell but an endorsement of Mr. Gering's splendid record of the past two years. Judge Newell was handicapped in this race by not having a newspaper to support him while Mr. Gering had the vigorous support of a strong, active paper—the Journal. The news—the paper which supported Judge Newell, is so weak and sissyified that its influence does not reach beyond the circle of the office boy and the devil.—Lincoln Herald.

They Flip Coin for Office.

A special from Nebraska City, under date of yesterday, says: "At the recent city election John Steinhardt, democrat, and F. L. Koepfel, republican, candidates for councilman, each received 170 votes. Last evening they went before the council, sitting at a canvassing board, and flipped a coin for the office. Mr. Koepfel winning. The new city officers and council took their offices this morning and Mayor John W. Steinhardt announced that next Monday evening he would make his appointments and deliver his address, telling what the policy of the administration for the next two years would be. He has given out sufficient to be understood that he will put the lid on here Sundays and stop not only the saloons but the drug stores and restaurants from selling intoxicants. He has informed the sporting fraternity that he will allow no gambling and all gambling houses are to be closed."

The Original.

Foley & Co., Chicago, originated Honey and Tar as a throat and lung remedy, and on account of the great merit and popularity of Foley's Honey and Tar many imitations are offered for the genuine. These worthless imitations have similar sounding names. Beware of them. The genuine Foley's Honey and Tar is in a yellow package. Ask for it and refuse any substitute. It is the best remedy for coughs and colds. Sold by F. G. Fricke & Co.

Letter From Ben Elson.

HOTEL ADAMS,
SAN FRANCISCO, April 7, 1906.

MY DEAR BOB:—

As you wanted to hear from me on my trip to California. It is now 10 p. m. We have just returned to the hotel from the busy mart of market street. The streets are crowded with elegant gowned ladies and gentlemen. It is light as day by the many electric signs and window displays. San Francisco is a beautiful city of 300,000 inhabitants and we have been here now two days. Yesterday we went to Cliff House and seen the seals sporting on the rocks. It was also a grand sight to see the large breakers from the Pacific ocean send their spray several feet in the air on the beach. We also visited the Suto Gardens and bath house, the flowers and roses were in full bloom, it was truly a magnificent sight. (California indeed is the garden spot of the earth.) The bath house is enclosed on all sides with glass; the roof is of glass in various colors.

We also visited the Palace hotel, one of the most magnificent hotels I ever saw in all my travels. In the rotunda in which you can see up eight stories. Every story had its Palm trees and flowers. It is indeed rightly named the Palace. Today we took a trip on the ocean and went on the deck of the bull dog of the American navy, as the sailors call her and of which every American can be proud (the Oregon). She leaves again tomorrow for Washington state.

We also visited the Presido, a most beautiful spot, where 5,000 soldiers are at present encamped. We also visited several theatres and seen "Miss Trinity," a new opera, which was finely rendered to a crowded house. We also stopped at Denver, went all over the city in a special car with a large sign on top "Seeing Denver." At Salt Lake City we visited the Mormon tabernacle, but the Holy of Holies, the Temple, a most grand and imposing building we were only allowed to see the outside.

The Royal gorge and the grand cañon on the scenic route to the west, must be seen, as pen cannot do its grandeur justice. We leave San Francisco Monday for our destination, Los Angeles. With kindest regards,
Very truly yours,
BEN. ELSON.

THE RIVER ON A RAMPAGE

Gangs of Men Rush to the Scene, and Work All Night in an Endeavor to Check the Hungry Waters.

The river has been steadily rising and it seems almost impossible as yet to turn it from its course of destruction. Several gangs of men are employed by the Burlington in an endeavor to protect the large bridge at this point. Where there was a 40-acre farm before the river began cutting, there is only twenty or twenty-five acres left this afternoon. For several miles back from the scene of the present cutting, the soil is sandy and since the river started on its rampage, the banks are melting away into the river and it is with difficulty that the riprap work is carried on. The present force of fifty men worked all night, and about one o'clock this morning were compelled to use alfalfa hay, as a sufficient supply of willows could not be secured. Ed. Fitzgerald has a contract to furnish thirty car loads of willows, and has two gangs of men busy cutting and loading them. Geo. Poisal has transferred a force of men to Atwood & Newell's stone quarries in order to rush car loads of stone to the ripraping force.

It is feared by railroad authorities that the river may cut through this sandy strip of land and leave their expensive bridge at this place over a dry river bed.

A Wise Guy.

There was a man in our town and he was wondrous wise, he marked a silver dollar and gave it all to Lize; she went to see the butcher and she blew the dollar in—it wasn't long before the coin came back again to him. He took it to the merchant and bought a dress for Jane—before the week had finished back came the plunk again; he spent the coin in town full fifty times or more but always got it back again and spent it o'er and o'er, but when he sent the dollar to some big mail order house, 'twas gone for good, forever, and he never saw it more.

A Man of Business.

Henry Gering of Plattsmouth, was re-elected mayor. It is another instance of the choice of the people being a man of business, an active worker at all times for the city of Plattsmouth, and a rattling good fellow anywhere and time you meet him.—Weeping Water Herald.

Nothing will relieve indigestion that is not a thorough digestant. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure digests what you eat, and allows the stomach to recuperate—grows strong again. A few doses of Kodol after meals will soon restore the stomach and digestive organs to a full performance of their functions naturally. Sold by F. G. Fricke & Co., Gering & Co.

CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZES

The Officials Elected Take Oath of Office and Confirm Appointments Made by Mayor Gering.

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OF POLICE

John D. McBride Asked to Accept Position, and the People Hope He Will.

The council held a special session Tuesday night and installed the newly elected members: Lutz, Schlutz, Dodge, Steimker and Tippens, who together with the other city officials: Elster, Archer and Clement, elected at the recent city election, were administered the oath of office by Mayor Gering. John Bajeck also took the oath of office and was duly installed as councilman from the Third ward. The bond given by the mayor was read by Clerk Elster and approved by the council.

The appointments by the mayor of John Janda as street commissioner, H. D. Travis as city attorney, J. H. Hall as city physician, Adam Kurtz as sexton and John D. McBride as chief of police were unanimously approved by the council. The appointment of Joe Fitzgerald as night police was confirmed by the council, Steimker dissenting.

Councilman Sattler was elected president of the new council over Steimker by a vote of six to four. The following councilmen were assigned to the various committees:

Finance—Lutz, Ballance, Steimker, Judiciary—Steimker, Sattler and Tippens.

Fire and Water—Vondran, Dodge and White.

License—Sattler, Steimker and Lutz, Streets, Alleys and Bridges—Tippens, Sattler and White.

Police—Dodge, Tippens and Ballance.

Lighting—Ballance, Vondran and Bajeck.

Hospital—Bajeck, Schlutz, Dodge, Cemetery—Schlutz, Lutz, Bajeck.

For Sale!

A 135 acre farm two and one-half east of LaPlatte, in Sarpy county, on the Missouri bottom. 120 acres in cultivation, 15 acres in timber and tame grass pasture. The improvements are a three-room house, a splendid cement cave, corn-crib and granary, fine well of water, fenced and cross fenced. Land lays perfectly level and there is no better corn land in the state. Cash price \$4,000. For further particulars write or call on Falter & Tate, Plattsmouth, Neb.

Is the Moon Inhabited.

Science has proven that the moon has an atmosphere, which makes life in some form possible on that satellite; but not for human beings, who have a hard enough time on this earth of ours; especially those who don't know that Electric Bitters cure Headache, Biliousness, Malaria, Chills and Fever, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Dizziness, Torpid Liver, Kidney complaints, General Debility and Female weaknesses. Unequaled as a general Tonic and Appetizer for weak persons and especially for the aged. It induces sound sleep. Fully guaranteed by F. G. Fricke & Co., druggist. Price only 50c.

A Familiar Face.

M. Archer took possession of the office of police judge this morning. Up to two years ago Judge Archer had held the office for many years, and his countenance had become quite familiar to evil doers. Last night he was inducted into his old office again by taking the oath and will hereafter be found at the council chamber to transact all business coming before him. It was not the proper thing to do when he was defeated two years ago, but circumstances would have it just that way. Those circumstances have passed and gone glimmering among the things that were, and we hope that nothing of the kind will ever appear again. The judge will do his duty under all circumstances, and his friends are proud to see him back in the office to which he properly belongs.

Cured Hemorrhages of the Lungs.

"Several years since my lungs were so badly affected that I had many hemorrhages," writes A. M. Ake, of Wood, Ind. "I took treatment with several physicians without any benefit. I then started to take Foley's Honey and Tar, and my lungs are now as sound as a bullet. I recommend it in advanced stages of lung trouble." Foley's Honey and Tar stops the cough and heals the lungs, and prevents serious results from a cold. Refuse substitutes. Sold by F. G. Fricke & Co.

For Sale.

Good timothy and clover hay, (balled) at \$8 per ton at my farm.
R. R. NICKELS.

Death of Mrs. Swallenberg.

The sad intelligence was received by Judge Archer yesterday afternoon from his wife, containing the news of the death of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Swallenberg, which occurred at South Omaha yesterday afternoon.

She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Broughman, the latter now being Mrs. Archer of this city, and was born near Council Bluffs about thirty-three years ago. After her marriage to Mr. Swallenberg, they moved to South Omaha where they have since resided. She leaves a daughter, son and husband to mourn her loss. The deceased had been afflicted with the fatal disease consumption, for nearly a year until death has finally claimed her as its own and relieved her of her suffering.

The funeral will occur tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon at 2 o'clock and interment will be in Albright as that was the request of the deceased.

Agitate! Agitate!

As soon as the new city officials and councilmen get acquainted with each other, then will be the time to strike hard for Plattsmouth, and do it in a way that the echo will resound for miles and miles around. There should be several big crowd-gatherings here this summer. Don't get back on your oars and act independent and wise and say we don't want anything of the kind—for we do—and you know it. Screw up your courage and do your best to help us move out of the rut, but we may "keep up with the procession" in its onward march "to get up and do something that will bring more people here to trade. We need it in our business. Make a move then in the proper direction. First, let's have a whooping Fourth of July celebration to begin with and start the ball to rolling for several other drawing entertainments during the summer and fall season. Agitate! Agitate!

In County Court.

In the matter of the estate of Wm. McD. Houseworth, deceased, a hearing was had before the court and final settlement entered.

In the hearing on petition for revocation of letters of guardianship of Nellie Bell Drum, a minor, the court appointed Thomas Murrie guardian.

The hearing on the petition to probate the will of Henry Wolfe, deceased, was continued until Saturday, April 14th.

HERE AT HOME.

Plattsmouth Citizens Gladly Testify and Confidently Recommend Doan's Kidney Pills.

It is testimony like the following that has placed "the old Quaker Remedy" so far above competitors. When people right here at home raise their voice in praise there is no room left for doubt. Read the public statement of a Plattsmouth citizen. Fred Bange, of the firm of Kunsman & Range, butchers, of Main street, residing on Lincoln avenue, says: "Mrs. Range was annoyed for some time with a dull aching in the small of her back. When in the acute stage it hurt to stoop or lift anything and if she even walked a little farther than usual or over exerted herself by bringing the least strain on the muscles of the back greater suffering was sure to follow. Obtaining Doan's Kidney pills from Gering & Co.'s drug store, she used them and the backache ceased."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50c Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

"The Girl From Sweden."

Fred W. Falkner will present his new play, "The Girl From Sweden" at the Parmele, Tuesday, April 17, 1906. Mr. Falkner has engaged a strong company for his new play headed by Miss Madie DeLang, who without a doubt, is the cleverest Swedish dialect comedienne on the American stage today. So different from all the rest—every word she utters is perfectly understood by the audience. This is the kind of comedy drama that shows the honest, noble-hearted people of the Swedish race. The play itself is purely American from the pen of Charles Neuman. Many excellent specialties are introduced during the action of the play by members of the company.

Devil's Island Torture

is no worse than the terrible case of Piles that afflicted me 10 years. Then I was advised to apply Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and less than a box permanently cured me, writes L. S. Napier, of Rugles, Ky. Heals all wounds, Burns and Sores like magic. 25c at F. G. Fricke & Co.'s, druggist.

Rheumatism Makes Life Miserable.

A happy home is the most valuable possession that is within the reach of mankind, but you cannot enjoy its comforts if you are suffering from rheumatism. You throw aside business cares when you enter your home and you can be relieved from those rheumatic pains also by applying some Chamberlain's Pain Balm. One application will give you relief and its continued use for a short time will bring about a permanent cure. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co., and A. T. Fried.