

LOOKING BACK 36 YEARS

Impeachment of Governor Butler—Election of Senator Hitchcock.

AN EXCITING SESSION OF LEGISLATURE

Father, State Senator in 1871, Son, Governor of Nebraska in 1907.

(By Basil S. Ramsey.)

Many old settlers will remember and not a few younger ones have heard of the great political contest in Nebraska in 1870. Nebraska had been a state less than four years, but the republican party had had undisputed sway in governmental affairs ever since state organization in 1867. David Butler was governor and General John M. Thayer was one of the two United States senators. General Thayer's successor was to be elected as was also Governor Butler's. Both were candidates for re-election, but there was not only pronounced opposition but open revolt against their re-election. This opposition was led by some of the most prominent and leading republicans in the state and in no county in the state was the opposition more intense than in Cass. The other United States senator—Thomas W. Tipton—was on the stump making a special fight against Governor Butler. But in Cass county the political situation was interesting. When the question of state organization was before the voters of Cass county in 1866 there was very strong opposition.

On June 2, 1866, the vote on state organization was taken. Cass county cast 713 votes, of which 480 were against becoming a state. But, by counting the soldier vote at Fort Kearney, of which 134 were for state organization and 34 against, and after throwing out Rock Bluffs precinct, which had given a heavy vote against state organization, the constitution was declared adopted by the small majority of 101. In this contest in Cass county for state organization, party lines were discarded and leading republicans and leading democrats worked together against the scheme. Among those then leading republicans who fought against the new departure were the late Hon. Lawson Sheldon, the late Levi G. Todd and many others. The apparent fraud, perpetrated in declaring the constitution adopted by counting the soldier vote and disfranchising Rock Bluffs, had not been forgotten in 1870.

As before stated, many of those republicans who had opposed state organization, were in open revolt against the re-election of Butler and Thayer. In Cass county, democrats were alive to their interests. For the time being, they coalesced with their political opponents, and a mass convention nominated an independent ticket as follows: State senator, Lawson Sheldon, republican; state senator, Willitt Potter, republican; representatives, James M. Patterson and John Rouse, democrats and Joseph G. Cannon and D. L. Clapp, republicans. Of this ticket, all became members of the legislature of 1871 except Mr. Clapp, who was defeated by the late Frank M. Wolcott of Weeping Water. Mr. Potter had announced himself an independent candidate for state senator for Cass, Sarpy, Saunders and Butler counties sometime before he was nominated by the mass convention. He boldly told the voters why he wanted to be senator. He wanted to help defeat General Thayer's re-election as United States senator. The vote on the election of senator was taken January 18, 1871, which resulted in the defeat of Thayer and the election of Phineas W. Hitchcock, father of Hon. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, editor and proprietor of the World-Herald and recently elected congressman for the Second district of Nebraska. After settling the senatorial question Senator Potter signed and returned to Plattsmouth. He did not remain to take part in the impeachment of Governor Butler, which took place afterward during that session. Many of the charges against Butler, made during the campaign, were revamped and finally put into legal form by a committee of the house of representatives. This committee filed eleven articles of impeachment.

On March 6, 1871, the senate became a High Court of Impeachment. There was a long and tedious trial. Able counsel were employed on both sides, among them being the late Turner M. Marquett formerly of Plattsmouth, who was one of Gov. Butler's counsel. The trial lasted for nearly three months—until June 2, 1871, when the case was finally submitted to the jury—the senate of Nebraska sitting as a High Court of Impeachment. Each specification in each of the eleven articles of impeachment was voted on separately and the accused acquitted on all the charges except those contained in article one. Upon this he

was convicted and then the question arose as to the extent of punishment, whether simply removal and disqualification.

The question of punishment was finally presented to the High Court of Impeachment in the form of an order removing the governor from office, but not extending to disqualification from thereafter holding office. Upon this question Senator Sheldon voted nay, explaining his vote as follows: "I desire to explain my vote as, I understand, that order only removes from office and if it pass, that will be the extent of the judgment. If the governor is a suitable person to hold office hereafter, I do not see why we should remove him at the present time and for that reason I shall vote nay." However, the order was made by the court and the governor only removed from office.

But what a change since thirty-six years ago! Senator Sheldon was then in the prime of life and one of the ablest men in the state and one of the most substantial citizens. Nature had stamped him with some of the very highest attributes of the human mind and heart—honesty, fearlessness, ability and consistency. Although dead for a number of years, yet history now records him as the father of the first native born Nebraska governor—Gov. George Lawson Sheldon. When the father was wrestling with the problems of state government thirty-six years ago—taking part in one of the greatest impeachment trials known in the history of any state—the future governor was then only about a year old, but now one of the strongest and most popular governors in the history of Nebraska.

STRANGE LAD DIES IN IOWA

Young Man Dies Among Strangers and in a Strange Land.

The Griswold, Iowa, authorities have telephoned here in search of parents or relatives of a young lad who died in that place yesterday. The lad gave his name as Chas. Martin, and his age 16 years; he has dark hair and eyes, and is 5 feet 6 inches in height. The lad was an absolute stranger to all parties in Griswold and the authorities are very anxious to ascertain where his parents reside.

W. R. C. Installation of Officers.

At a regular meeting of the Women's Relief Corps, Saturday, January 12, the following officers were installed for the ensuing year:

President, Mrs. Bertha Peterson; Senior Vice-President, Mrs. Elma Kuhney; Junior Vice-President, Mrs. Mary Curry; Treasurer, Mrs. Sarah Kerr; Chaplain, Mrs. Gallagher; Conductor, Mrs. Loretta Ault; Guard, Mrs. Williams; Secretary, Mrs. Jennie Dodge; Musician, Miss Minnie Ault; Patriotic Instructor, Mrs. T. M. Carter; Press Correspondent, Mrs. J. W. Thomas; Assistant Conductor, Mrs. Ellen Hickson; Assistant Guard, Mrs. Frances Hespenthal; Color Bearers, Misses Gertrude Stenner, Daisy Thomas, Celia Matson and Pearl Barker.

Calf Without Eyes or Tail.

There is quite a curious sort of a calf down near Bartlett, Iowa, and the Thurman Times says of it:

"J. E. Baker of Bartlett has a curiosity in the shape of a steer calf at his place which was born into the world without eyes, and without the caudal appendage so useful to the four-footed creatures of the world in fly time.

"The little fellow is entirely without sight, the only suggestion of eyes being two narrow slits grown firmly together. Dozens of people have come to the Baker place to see the calf, which is now four months old and lively as a cricket.

"Despite the great handicap with which nature has endowed him, his calfship has no difficulty in picking his mother out from the herd, nor has he any trouble in finding the front of material comfort when dinner time comes. He therefore is thriving and waxing fat and promises to develop into a choice bit of beef. This, however, will hardly be his fate as he is too much of a curiosity and would make quite a feature for a traveling show."

Commission on Constitution.

A bill will be introduced within a day or two providing for the creation of a constitutional revision commission to prepare a comprehensive set of amendments that will bring the constitution of Nebraska up to date. The suggestion of a constitutional revision commission comes from Victor Rosewater, editor of The Bee, who freely admits that the idea was one of his father's and had been outlined by the latter prior to his death. The commission is to consist of five members—three republicans and two democrats—to be appointed by Governor Sheldon, and will meet in Lincoln within a week after their appointment and proceed to business.

"Pineales" (non-alcoholic) made from resin from our Pine Forests, used for hundreds of years for Bladder and Kidney diseases. Medicine for thirty days, \$1. Guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded. Get our guarantee coupon from Gering & Co.

CHANCES ARE VERY GOOD

We May Be Able to Get a Factory in the Near Future.

M. E. SMITH COMPANY OF OMAHA

Plattsmouth Looks Good to Them as a Site for Another Factory.

While in Omaha yesterday W. W. Coates called on the firm of M. E. Smith & Co., manufacturers of shirts and overalls, and in conversation with them they told Mr. Coates they had fully decided to locate another factory in some town near Omaha, and that, too, in the very near future.

Plattsmouth looked good to them, but the question of power, water and help would be one of the main considerations in selecting a new location. At present they are short of help in their Omaha factory, and are unable to supply the goods they have a demand for, and the second factory has become a necessity.

The question of day electric power in Plattsmouth is one that our people should first consider, as the power proposition will come up when most any kind of a factory is asked to locate in our town. Electricity is the cheapest and requires less attention than any other power today, and all factories, no matter how great or small will seek towns where good electric plants can be found.

If M. E. Smith & Co. be induced to locate their second factory in Plattsmouth, it would mean the employment of a great many people, and is certainly a proposition that our people should make an effort to secure if possible and it looks as though our chances were good.

We understand that there are a number of smaller concerns that are contemplating locating here, one of which may be established in the very near future. Why not go after them now?

Off for Kansas.

A party of seven prominent Cass county farmers and Plattsmouth businessmen departed over the Missouri Pacific last night for Western Kansas, where they go with a view of buying land. The party was composed of T. M. Patterson, Fred G. Egenberger, John Kaffenberger, Wm. Rummel, Wm. Seybert, Chris Tscherrin and Judge H. D. Travis. The party will be gone all this week, and will visit numerous points during that time. A great many Cass county people now hold Kansas farms and seem to be of the opinion that they have made good investments. The western part of the state seems to be preferred considering the price of land.

Some Meteorological Records.

(Contributed)

On the evening of February 15, 1719, a brilliant aurora borealis was observed throughout New England. There was great excitement and fear among the ignorant and superstitious, due to the dark blood-red appearance of aurora.

A severe blizzard swept over the Middle Atlantic States and New England on March 11, 1888. Traffic of all kinds was suspended for several days, and the streets of New York blockaded.

The coldest on record in the United States for January was at Williston, N. D., on January 9, 1888, when the temperature fell to 49 below zero.

The Problem Solved.

Bacteriologists have discovered that the use of the broom is the cause of most of our ills. They have ascertained at this late day that the raising of the dust fills the air and lungs with disease germs. What a God-send this discovery will be to mankind. How we have suffered while our better half has threshed about the house, her head tied up in a dust rag, making everybody uncomfortable in her mad pursuit of dust. We often wonder why it is that so many men are driven to drink. The problem is solved. It is the thirst of the microbes in their lungs.

The Chicken Pie Supper.

The chicken pie supper given by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Presbyterian church last evening was in every particular fully up to the expectations of all. The chicken pie was up to its usual high standard of excellence and the attendance was large. Early in the evening the delicious chicken pie had disappeared, and there were many more hungry persons to come, who were fed by other delicacies. The occasion was a grand success both socially and financially.

"Suffered day and night the torment of itching piles. Nothing helped me until I used Doan's Ointment. It cured me permanently."—Hon. John R. Garrett, mayor, Girard, Ala.

First Sleighing Party.

The first bob-sled sleighing party of the season took place last evening when the clerks at the store E. G. Dovvey & Son went out to the home of B. W. Livingston, three miles southeast of Plattsmouth to spend the evening. The entire party were supplied with tin horns, and the residents along the road were reminded of the fact that "something was doing." A good supply of fresh oysters was taken along, and an excellent supper prepared. Following were those present: Misses Julia Herman, Jessie Dunle, Mamie Koehne, and Grover Dovvey and sister, Miss Florence, Albert Brissey and D. A. Osborn and wife.

NOT ALL FROM MISSOURI

But Congress Must be Shown That Steamboats Can Navigate the Missouri River.

A special from Omaha says: "G. W. Wattles, as president of the Omaha Grain Exchange and promoter of the new steamboat line on the Missouri river, has received from Congressman Kennedy a letter stating that in all probability the \$50,000,000 appropriation for rivers and harbors improvement will pass congress, and that the Missouri river will receive a small portion, and a small portion only, of it.

"It will be necessary for the Missouri river cities to demonstrate that there is actual steamboating in progress on the river before the river can hope to get very much of future appropriations but if this is shown to the satisfaction of congress larger appropriations will not be hard to get. Therefore, it is up to Omaha, Mr. Wattles asserts, to get a steamboat line started at once."

With the assistance of the cities along the river between Omaha and Kansas City, the fact should be easily demonstrated that with the proper assistance from the government the Missouri river can be made so that boats can ply up and down the same with ease. The cities along the lower Missouri have demonstrated this fact between Kansas City and St. Louis, and the same can be done from Kansas City to Omaha. But Omaha people will have to get a move on them.

Parts With Cass County Realty.

According to the Glenwood (Iowa) Tribune, Uncle Joe Cannon has disposed of his farm near Greenwood, to a resident of Mills county. The Tribune says:

"Chas. F. Timmons, the well known farmer living south of Pacific Junction in Lyons township, has bought a farm across the river in Cass county, where they go with a view of buying land. The party was composed of T. M. Patterson, Fred G. Egenberger, John Kaffenberger, Wm. Rummel, Wm. Seybert, Chris Tscherrin and Judge H. D. Travis. The party will be gone all this week, and will visit numerous points during that time. A great many Cass county people now hold Kansas farms and seem to be of the opinion that they have made good investments. The western part of the state seems to be preferred considering the price of land."

Re-Locates in Mills County.

The Glenwood (Iowa) Tribune speaking of a couple of big real estate deals in Mills county, says: "Jonathan F. Haines sold his 160-acre farm one-half mile south of Hillsdale to Henry Rist for \$19,000, or a trifle over \$115 an acre. Mr. Rist formerly lived in Rawles township, but for four years past has been located near Plattsmouth. He recently sold his farm there."

Fifth County.

Of the ninety counties in Nebraska, Cass stands fourth in furnishing the largest number of students in the state university. The five furnishing the largest number are as follows: Lancaster, 1101; Douglas, 159; Gage, 68; Cass, 51, and Saunders, 50.

New Officers.

At the regular meeting of the G. A. R. last Saturday evening, Past Commander Glenn installed the following new officers: Post Commander—J. H. Thrasher; Senior Vice Commander—Wm. Barnhart; Junior Vice Commander—Samuel Parker; Quarter Master—H. J. Straight; Adjutant—T. W. Glenn; Officer of the Day—James Hickson; Chaplain—T. Carter; Guard—N. E. Renner; Delegate—T. Carter.

Death of Mrs. H. E. Mason.

Our citizens were very much surprised and pained to hear the news last Saturday of the death of Mrs. H. E. Mason, which occurred in a South Omaha hospital, the result of a minor operation, and after only a week's confinement in the same. Mr. and Mrs. Mason visited here, coming up from Oklahoma, where they spent several months. From here they went to South Omaha and were the guests of Mrs. Albert B. Ray, a sister of Mrs. Mason where the latter expected to stay while her husband and his father, H. H. Mason, made a business trip to Kansas. When the latter departed they gave no thought of danger, being assured that the operation was not difficult, and the patient was on a fair road to recovery. While near Kansas City last Friday, word was sent them that Mrs. Mason's condition was worse, and they returned home, Mr. Mason reaching South Omaha Saturday morning, and his wife died at one o'clock that day.

Lena Ellen Mason was 31 years old. She was married about four years ago, and they have since resided in Weeping Water, where Mr. Mason was engaged in the hardware business, except for the past few months, when he sold out and they went to Oklahoma.

Mrs. Mason's friends here were numbered by her acquaintance, she was loved by all because she was the same pleasant lady to all, in social circles, always full of joy.

The funeral was held from the residence of Mrs. Ray in South Omaha, Tuesday at one o'clock. Quite a number from Weeping Water were in attendance at the last sad rites—Weeping Water Herald.

W. L. BROWNE PASSES AWAY

Died Suddenly of Heart Trouble at His Home in Lincoln Last Evening.

A FORMER RESIDENT OF PLATTSOMUTH

And Well Known to Many of the Earlier Residents of Cass County.

A telegram reached Mrs. P. P. Peterson of this city last evening from her daughter, Mrs. W. L. Browne, of Lincoln, apprising her of the sad fact that her husband had died suddenly of heart failure about 6 o'clock. The deceased was well known, not only in Plattsmouth, but in many sections of Cass county, where in an early day he was engaged in teaching school. In speaking of Mr. Browne's sudden death, the Lincoln Journal of this morning says:

"William L. Browne, a prominent lawyer of Lincoln, died shortly after 6 o'clock last evening at his residence, 450 North Sixteenth street, of heart disease. He had just returned from Omaha, where he delivered an address the preceding evening before the Western Bees, of the Nebraska branch of the Macabees.

"Mr. Browne got on the North Sixteenth street car on Eleventh street about 6 p.m. He accosted the motorman in his usual jovial mood and said that he had paid his fare only to the south side of S street, where he desired to get off. About Twelfth street he complained that his asthma was getting the better of him. The next block a stop was made, and while the car was standing still, Mr. Browne dropped down on the step of the car with his feet touching the ground. The motorman called to some of the passengers and they lifted him up and carried him from the platform inside the car. The car was then hurried along the line to S street and Mr. Browne was taken into his home. By the time S street was reached Mr. Browne was able to walk, with assistance. He was taken into his home. He laid down on a couch, complaining meanwhile of inability to get his breath. To breathe, he said, it was necessary to lie on his stomach. It was recognized then that he was a very ill man, and he expired before a physician could reach the house.

"Mr. Browne is survived by his wife and seven children. He came to Nebraska from Indiana many years ago, and settled at Plattsmouth, where he taught school for a time, was elected county clerk, and later started the practice of law. He moved to Lincoln about the year 1890, and has resided here ever since. Funeral arrangements have not been completed." The deceased was well known in Plattsmouth, and since his removal from here to Lincoln, has been a frequent visitor, in a legal capacity. He was a large, robust man, genial and jovial, and most generally in a happy mood. For several years he taught the College Hill school, near Louisville, when it was in its most flourishing condition. He was very successful as a teacher, and gave general satisfaction to the patrons.

A Narrow Escape.
Last Saturday Chauncy Gilbert was coming in from the country, bringing a team of horses to the sale that were hitched to the rear of the buggy. Just as he was turning into Chas. Joyce's place, a train came along and the team hitched behind scared, jumped ahead, tipping the buggy over. In the buggy were the whole family, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert and two children, and all were spilled out, Mrs. G. being carried a little farther on account of getting caught in the top of the buggy. They made a short run in the field, knocked a cow down and damaged the buggy considerably, but besides the baby receiving a hard bump and Mr. Gilbert a sprained leg, nothing serious happened, all were glad for their luck.—Weeping Water Herald.

Remedial Legislation.

The work of the legislature has so far been confined to remedial legislation. The first thing was to provide a remedy to protect the virtue of the members against the blandishments of the lobbyists, and now the members are asking to be protected against the people who use simple remedies. Under the laws which are now pending, if a man takes a bath to get rid of the dirt, he is not an offender, but if he takes a hot bath to loosen up a cold, the man who administers the bath is in danger of being pulled up before the medical board for a violation of the law.

Bridge Meeting.

County Attorney Rawls, after consultation with the county commissioners, departed this morning for Papillion, where a meeting is being held today in regard to the Platte river bridge, which has been before the commissioners of both counties for some time.

Break

the