

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION—EIGHT PAGES

VOLUME XXVIII

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1909

NO. 193

## SATTLER OPPOSES DONAHOE BILL

### Sends Reply to Telegram From Omaha World-Herald

The passage of the Donahoe bill by the state senate to take the power from cities to regulate their public utilities concerns, has aroused considerable lively comment over the state and a great deal of opposition is being expressed to the bill. Strong efforts are being made from many quarters to prevent the passage of the bill by the house as it is charged the bill is drawn in the interest of the public service corporations of the cities who desire to have the rates and franchises placed under control of a body remote from the scene of operation. The World-Herald last Sunday opened a heavy fire upon the proposed bill and sent out telegrams to the mayors of nearly all the cities of the state, asking their views on the matter.

Acting Mayor Sattler received a message which read as follows:

Omaha, Neb., 27.  
To The Mayor,  
Plattsmouth, Neb.

What do you think of the Donahoe bill which has passed the Nebraska senate. It takes away from all cities and towns the right to regulate their franchised corporations and places the power exclusively with the state Railway Commission. Wire fifty words at our expense.

The World-Herald.

Acting mayor Sattler after investigating the bill from such sources as were available came to the conclusion that it was a piece of bad legislation and one calculated to take away from the people who might suffer from injustice from the hands of corporations, their rights, wired the World-Herald his opposition as follows:

Plattsmouth, Neb., March 27, 1909.  
World-Herald,  
Omaha, Neb.

Am opposed to Donahoe bill. Believe the people should have the right to regulate the corporations in their cities. The closer the corporations are to the people the better they can be regulated. Railroad commission stands too far from the scene of operation to know facts. Defeat the bill.

John P. Sattler.

That Mayor Sattler represents the views of the great majority of the people on this subject is to be believed. As this city has trouble on hand right now regulating the rates for gas and as the water question is coming up within a very few years for settlement, the people are vitally interested in the passage of this bill. The enactment of this measure into law will mean that reduction in gas rates and a reduction in water rentals is only to be obtained after a long fight before the commission and a heavy expense to the city. The plan seems on its face to be a clever scheme on the part of the public service corporations to get their plants safely beyond the reach of local regulation. One of the worst features of the bill is that which eliminates any possible competition with a company already in the field. No franchise can be

granted for public service corporations except by the state commission. Take this city for instance, the local light company and the local water company would be in complete possession of the field and the people would have to pay their price or go without light or water. The bill aims to make the railroad commission the sole arbiter of all charges for water, light and heat and all that would be for the corporations to control the commission and then their rates—no matter how outrageous—would be sustained.

Acting Mayor Sattler does not believe the people want to separate themselves from control over their public utilities but is a believer in the right of the people to control them in their own interest. The failure of the two cent fare law in Missouri and a return to the old three cent rate shows how easily it is for the people to lose when the body deciding the question is far away from them. It is not necessarily a reflection upon either of the local companies to say that they might take advantage of the law to push their rates, already high, still higher but if Mr. Sattler has any voice in preventing it, his voice will speak that way as he has shown. He is a consistent friend of the people and demands that they be allowed to control the public service corporations.

Speaking to the people through The Journal Mayor Sattler said: I believe that the power is rightly placed in the hands of the people to regulate the corporations which furnish gas, electric light, heat and water. To take this power away and put it in the hands of a commission situated miles away and with no knowledge of conditions as they exist in this city, would be wrong. The people who pay the bills are the ones to say what is reasonable and fair charges. Another thing which I oppose is the perpetual franchise idea which it seems to mean under an "indeterminate permit" guise. I do not believe in giving any corporation an indeterminate permit to do business and then hedge it about with a provision which requires any competing company to go to the commission situated miles from the scene of operations and ask for permission to compete with the corporation already in the field.

Another feature of the bill is that it provides that the fixing of rates shall be upon a basis of the physical valuation of the plant which would be arrived at by taking into account the capitalization and allowing a fixed rate of interest on the valuation as determined by the commission. In many cases it would be practically impossible to fix the real valuation and the result would be that the people would have to pay enormous rates for their utilities in order to yield the projected rate of interest. As the people pay the bills they ought to have the say about whether they are right and reasonable or not. I hope the house defeats the bill.

#### In District Court.

Last Saturday afternoon Judge Travis held a brief session of court for the purpose of hearing motions and for other small matters which might come before him. The principal business was the argument on the motion for a new trial of the case of the State vs. Ossenkop. Attorney Matthew Gering appeared and argued the motion for the defendant while County Attorney Ramsey represented the state. The argument was confined to attacks upon the instructions of the court to the jury during the trial of the case and other minor questions. County Attorney Ramsey ably represented the state and argued in favor of sustaining the instructions and rulings of the court. Judge Travis took the matter under advisement until Saturday, April 3rd when he will pass upon the motion and if the same be overruled, he will probably pass sentence upon the defendant.

In the case of the Plattsmouth Loan & Building Association vs. Copeland et al, the sheriff was ordered to execute a deed upon payment of costs therefor and of his

action. Several other minor matters came up and were disposed of but nothing of any practical value or consequence.

Judge Travis will return for a brief session of court on Friday evening next at 7:30.

#### The Egg Was Good.

Sunday afternoon the members of the "Hikers" club decided to walk to the neighboring suburb of Mynard, and led by their popular instructor swept down on the unsuspecting little village. After visiting several hours the members returned via the Missouri Pacific. The only incident to mar the occasion was the unfortunate breaking of an egg in the pocket of one of the young men who has since lost all desire for hen fruit.

C. K. Bestor who has been working at Louisville for Gorder's for some time past, returned yesterday to the city and is once more in his old place at the local implement house of Mr. Gorder's.

#### ANGEL OF DEATH CLAIMS MRS. JOHN WATERMAN.

##### Estimable Lady Passes Away This Morning After Long Illness.

Died—Waterman. Mrs. Margaret Ann, at her home in Plattsmouth, Neb., on March 29, 1909, aged 68 years, 7 months and 29 days. Funeral from the home at 10 o'clock a. m. Tuesday, March 30, 1909. Revs. J. T. Baird and J. H. Salsbury officiating. Interment at Oak Hill cemetery.

From Monday's Daily.

After an illness covering many months and after much suffering death at an early hour this morning claimed Mrs. Margaret Ann, the beloved wife of John Waterman. The visitation of the Grim Destroyer was not unexpected, the final summons having been awaited for several days past as it was known that there was no escape and the end was inevitable. Gathered about bedside when the end came was her sorrowing husband and her children, their hearts stricken at the loss of one who had been so good a wife and a mother to them. In their great grief at losing her who was to them the best friend in all hours who was their constant comfort over life's stony way, they have the profound sympathy of the entire community. Living here for so many years, Mrs. Waterman had become known and loved in many households as one of the best women—true, noble and lovable and in her passing the hearts of all are full of a deep and lasting sorrow.

Margaret Ann Black was born in Springfield, Ohio, on July 30, 1840, and here her early life was principally spent. At the age of twenty-one practically or on June 26, 1861, she was united in marriage at Ottawa, Ill., to John Waterman who survives her. Of this union which has covered almost fifty years or within a few short years of it, there was born two children Mrs. Ida Wagner of Worcester, Mass., and Miss Alma Waterman of this city, both of whom were present when the dread summons came this morning.

A grandson C. E. Wagner also survives her as does her sister Sarah Black who has been in Florida for some time but who was expected to be in the city today.

After the marriage to Mr. Waterman the couple removed to this city in the year 1870 and for nearly thirty nine years they have been among the city's most honored and respected residents.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon from the home at one o'clock p. m., services being under the direction of Rev. John T. Baird and Rev. J. H. Salsbury, pastor of the Presbyterian church, of which deceased was a lifelong member. For the benefit of those who wish to call, the casket will be open between the hours of 9:30 and 11 o'clock tomorrow (Tuesday) morning.

Interment will be made at Oak Hill cemetery near this city.

In her lifetime Mrs. Waterman was an exemplification of the true Christian lady. Her whole life was as spotless and noble as the lily and when the last sleep closed her eyelids, the spirit which went out was of a true, grand woman.

#### Prof. Brooks to Leave.

Prof. W. C. Brooks for two years past, principal of the public schools here, has just received notice of his election as superintendent of the Fairmont high schools, and in consequence, finds it impossible to accept the position of principal here which had been tendered him by the school board. Prof. Brooks during time he has been in this city has made himself an enviable record as an educator and his place will be quite hard to fill. He is a careful, well educated, polished and refined gentleman and the people of Fairmont are to be congratulated upon securing his services. While regretting having to leave this city, the promotion is such that he considers it a duty to accept. His friends, who are many here, regret the loss of so able a man but congratulate the people of Fairmont on his selection.

#### Hand is Crushed.

G. A. Roman, employed on the 700 level of the Homestake met with a painful accident about 9:30 o'clock this morning. His right hand was crushed between a car and post and several fingers seriously hurt.—Black Hills Register.

The G. A. Roman mentioned above is a son of Gus Roman of this city and is quite well known here, having only recently been a visitor in the city. His many friends here trust that his injury is not severe and that he suffers no loss of members.

#### Loses Part of a Finger.

While assisting Ab. Murdock in sawing wood on Monday John Rough had the misfortune to lose the end of a finger of his left hand.

He with a number of others were handling a very large log and in some way his mitten caught and being unable to extricate his hand, the whole weight of the log fell on the finger, completely mashing the end. Dr. Walker fixed up the injured digit and John will take an enforced lay-off.—Nehawka Register.

#### PAYS A VISIT TO THE TEXAS EXHIBIT CAR.

##### Journal Representative Finds Fine Exhibit of Texas Products Shown.

A Journal representative several days ago visited the car containing the exhibit from Anderson County Texas, which stands just north of the Burlington station. Everyone who has not visited this car should do so at once as it will be here but a very short time. You will find some very accommodating gentlemen on hand and they will explain in detail the many good points of Eastern Texas or in fact, of the entire state and that it is a region of great promise and full of many good things, the exhibit amply proves.

The specimens of Texas agriculture and horticulture which are arranged in the car prove that the claims of being the greatest and most versatile state in the Union are well founded. The fruit exhibit is something marvelous. If you want to see giant specimens of apples, pears, plums, oranges, lemons, grape fruit, grapes, gooseberries, in fact anything which grows in the fruit line, visit this exhibit. And the fact is, these things are grown in Texas. The writer has seen with his own eyes the marvels which these people show, growing on the hills and prairies of this great commonwealth. Then comes the grains—corn the equal of any grown in this wonderful corn state of Nebraska growing on fields as productive as our own and destined in time to have an equal value in the land markets of the world although now selling very cheap. Then there is wheat—grain as fine and hard as the best of the northern countries. Tax, than which no better is raised in the world, hemp also of the finest grade. Barley and oats which flourish and thrive on the prairies of the Lone Star state are in evidence on every hand.

But it is useless to try and state the many products which this wonderful exhibit contains. The exhibit of nuts raised in the state is a fine one and well worth investigation by the public. In fact, there is nothing seemingly which the state does not produce and one who has been there can testify that these things are all grown down there. Real Bermuda onions which experts say beat the original Bermudas are shown and they are fine and inviting in their glass prisons. If you enjoy seeing fine specimens of fruit, grains, nuts, garden and farm products visit this car before it leaves. It will change your opinion of Texas if you ever had the idea that it is a barren region.

The principal object of running this car, which is sent out by the Giant Construction Company, is to boom the town of New Chicago, a new town situated in Anderson county, Texas, within a few miles of the city of Palestine. Palestine is one of the best cities in the big state. It has some 12,000 or 15,000 inhabitants and is the headquarters of the I. & G. N. railroad "The Texas Road" as it is known. This road maintains large shops there and has its general offices and a fine hospital there also. It seems strange to people up here that a county with a so large a city in it and one which has been settled for so many years, could have much cheap land left in it but Anderson county has. And the land is good also. No better soil in the country is to be found than the black soil of Texas. It is richer than even fertile Iowa or Nebraska for there is no limit to the depth which this black soil goes to. Then the climate is ideal—no long, hard winters with many degrees of frost and many feet of snow, but a winter climate superior to California.

One who has been in Texas from the north can see the vast possibilities which are being opened up and those who get in now and take advantage of the opportunities will be the winners in the end. It is truly the land of sunshine and flowers and will be the greatest granary of the world when northern push and enterprise gets to work and makes the soil yield its treasures to man.

The car will be here but a few

days longer and already many have visited it. If you have not done so, do so at once for it repays the time taken many times over.

#### THE MISSOURI PACIFIC HAS A COSTLY WRECK.

##### North Bound Freight Train Derailed Few Miles North of Murray.

From Monday's Daily.

The Missouri Pacific last night suffered a disastrous wreck a few miles north of Murray. A north bound freight train was derailed at the foot of the hill three miles this side of Murray and twelve loaded cars were piled up in a tangled mass of iron and wood, the contents mostly coal and lumber, being scattered all over the right of way. The train was in charge of Conductor McQuown with Engineer Abbott at the throttle. The train was making fast time down the hill gaining momentum for the rising grade toward Mynard and just as the bottom of the grade was reached the third car from the engine was derailed presumably by the breaking of a brake hanger. The engine and the two front cars remained upon the rails and ran ahead while the derailed car was hurled from the track and carried the remaining eleven cars with it.

Fortunately the wreck which will be a costly one, did not destroy any lives—at least none of the train crew, and is not believed there were any tramps in the freight cars which were destroyed although this is not absolutely certain at this writing, the work of clearing the wreck being just started. The trainmen were in the caboose and escaped while the engine and crew of course, were with the engine which as stated was not derailed. The engine with Conductor McQuown came to this city immediately after the wreck, this being the first station where telegraph service was obtainable and a report of the wreck made. The south bound passenger No. 106 was already out of Omaha when the wreck happened and nothing could be done to turn it back until it reached this city. As soon as it got in, orders were given to return to Omaha and the train was detoured via Louisville and Weeping Water to Union. The north bound train and the south bound train this morning were also detoured the same route, giving no service today over the road.

The Omaha wrecker was ordered to the scene of the wreck and it came down this morning at four o'clock and worked on clearing up the track was commenced. The company hoped to have the debris sufficiently set aside to permit the running of trains by 5 o'clock this evening although from the nature of the wreck their expectations are rather sanguine.

The property loss will be very heavy as the cars were all loaded and the contents of them will be almost a total loss except what salvage there may be in the coal and lumber. It is probable the loss roughly estimated will equal \$10,000.

#### A Birthday Party.

Last Sunday afternoon a few of the youthful friends of Elmer Rummel gathered at his home and helped him celebrate his seventh birthday. The afternoon was very pleasantly spent everyone finding something to do which served to make the afternoon pass all too soon. There were some dainty refreshments served just such as could be expected at the Rummel household where refreshments of the finest kind are always in evidence, and when the folks came to depart they were not backward in expressing their pleasure at the pleasant time they had had and all wished the young man many more anniversaries.

Those attending were Florence and Joe Scheutz, Mabel and Louise Rummel, William and Emil Parkening, William and Fred Fornoff, Mr. John Melsinger, Mr. Adam Fornoff and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Scheutz.

L. D. Hiatt returned yesterday morning from Havelock where he spent several days making a raid on the geese and ducks which infested the lake northeast of that place. In company with C. W. Holmes he killed some forty birds altogether and today was distributing the spoils among his many friends in this city.

Mrs. Henry McCune of Joliet, Ill., departed for her home yesterday afternoon on the mail train, being accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Ward who has been visiting in the city with her daughter, Mrs. L. B. Egenberger for several weeks past. Mrs. Egenberger accompanied them as far as Omaha.

#### FUNERAL OF THE LATE ZERAH W. COLE.

##### Held From Late Residence South of This City Yesterday Afternoon.

From Tuesday's Daily.

The funeral of the late Zerah Wilbur Cole was held yesterday afternoon from his late residence south of this city, the services being conducted by Rev. F. W. Brink of the United Brethren church. There was a very large attendance of old friends and neighbors of this most estimable man and all were impressed with the sermon of Rev. Brink, he dwelling upon the many virtues which deceased had in his lifetime so strikingly exemplified. The many Christian virtues and the long and upright life which Mr. Cole had led served Rev. Brink in good stead as he dwelt upon them and drew many lessons from the noble life of deceased by which those left behind might profit. Interment was had at Horning cemetery, the pall bearers being Louis Crabtree, Wm. Murray, sr., Jos. Adams, Wm. Gillespie, L. C. Huffer and Charles Jean, all old friends and acquaintances of deceased.

Zerah Wilbur Cole was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, on October 10, 1848, and was 60 years, 5 months and 17 days of age when the Grim Destroyer claimed him. When but two years of age or in the year 1850 Mr. Cole's parents removed to Iowa settling near the present city of Ft. Madison where they lived until the year 1857 when they came to Nebraska settling in this section where the remainder of the life of deceased was spent.

In the year 1884 Mr. Cole was united in marriage with Miss Eva Christina Rheinfrank who preceded him to the Better Land in the year 1889. To this union came one child, a daughter Gertrude Viola.

In the year 1892 deceased was married to Miss Ida Margaret Rheinfrank who survives him. One child blessed this union, a son Lee Atlee.

In addition to those named above who survive him, there were also three sisters and three brothers surviving all of whom were present yesterday at the last sad rites save Ransom M. Cole who resides at Alberta, Canada, and who was unable to make the trip in time, and Mrs. Mary E. Eccles who also lived at so great a distance as to preclude her getting here in time for the funeral, she living in New Mexico.

In the loss of Mr. Cole the community loses one of its best citizens, a man of exemplary habits, an upright, sterling gentleman and such a man as nature had marked a nobleman. In common with the general public the Journal extends its sincere condolence to the stricken family.

#### Shot While Cleaning Rifle.

A man named Claud Morgan living in the bottoms between the big bridge and Pacific Junction yesterday sustained an injury which may prove fatal while cleaning a rifle. Morgan, it appears was engaged in cleaning the rifle and was sitting down with the muzzle pressed against his groin while his wife was engaged in trying to extract a shell from the gun. The rifle was a 22 calibre one. In some manner the cartridge was discharged and the bullet entered the groin lodging in the bowels. The injured man was at once placed in bed by his wife and Dr. Bacon summoned from Pacific Junction. Upon his arrival he saw at once that the patient was in great danger and he hurriedly summoned assistance from this city, a prominent surgeon going over this morning. After consultation, it was decided that the only chance for the injured man was to have him taken to a hospital at Omaha which was done this afternoon, he going up from Pacific Junction on No. 3. His condition is critical but it is hoped that he may be saved by prompt treatment and good care at the hospital.

#### Wageworkers Incorporate

The Wageworkers' Investment Company of Havelock will file articles of incorporation April 2. The capital stock will be \$24,000. One hundred Havelock men will be allowed to join and pay in \$10 a month for 14 months. The cash will be invested in Havelock real estate. It is reported that the Burlington will greatly enlarge the shops. E. S. Wenger, W. F. Ackerman, O. C. Cory, A. A. Myers, C. W. Holmes, A. E. Fogerty, Fred Kroehler, H. W. Hedges and O. M. Perry are the incorporators.

W. F. Ackerman will return to the Havelock shops and assume control April 2. He is now making a tour of the Havelock shops.—Lincoln Star.