

PLATTSMOUTH HIGHLY HONORED IN THE STATE DEBATE AT YORK

Miss Marie Douglas Captures First Prize Which Can Hardly be Termed a Surprise to Her Many Friends.

Plattsmouth people were greatly pleased this morning when they heard that Miss Marie Douglas of this city had carried off the honors at the State High School debating meet at York and that she is the champion for the 1909-1910 school year. They were not surprised for everyone of them had great faith in Miss Douglas. Her superior talents and ability are so well known in this community that when she was selected as the standard bearer for this district, all knew they had one in whom they could really rely, hence they were prepared for the pleasant news which came to them.

The debate was held at York and was very largely attended. It was distinguished from all previous gatherings by a marked superiority of the contestants and their arguments and the victory went to Miss Douglas over nine of the ablest debaters in the state. The third annual contest of the debating league found ten contestants, all of whom represented the flower of the schools of their respective districts. In these several districts forty-four debaters were held, the final winner in each district being chosen to represent that district in the state contest. The schools which were represented included Alliance, Ashland, Beaver City, Geneva, Hastings, Kearney, Plattsmouth, Valentine and Wymore, these being ranked among the best schools in the state and having the flower of Nebraska's sons and daughters in attendance. This makes all for the honor of Miss Douglas, the winner.

The debate was judged by three able, distinguished and impartial judges, two of whom, Judges C. B. Letton and S. B. Sedgwick are on the supreme bench in this state, and the third, Judge Frost of Lincoln, being on the district bench. These men all have had excellent opportunities to form a correct estimate of debaters and orators.

The debate was presided over by Prof. M. M. Fogg of the University of Nebraska, president of the state league while Supt. W. W. Stoner of York kept time. The question under debate was "Resolved, That labor unions are, on the whole, beneficial" and each of the contestants had nine minutes in which to present their side of the argument with four minutes in rebuttal. The instructions contained in the league's constitution touching the debate which were to assist the judges in arriving at a conclusion were:

"The judges shall judge the contest as debate, voting on the merits of the debate irrespective of the merits of the question. In deciding who has done the most effective debating, the judges shall give equal weight to (1) presentation (English and delivery), (2) direct argument and refutation, (3) rebuttal."

The judges easily voted the honors of the debate to Miss Douglas while second honors went to Van Webster of Hastings and the third fell to Jessie Ertel of Geneva. Those who participated in the debate were: Affirmative—Wayne Soper, Broken Bow, west central district; E. Floy Lewis, Wymore, southwest district; Jessie Ertel, Geneva, central district; Lloyd Worley, Ashland, east central district; Van Webster, Hastings, southern district.

Negative—Edith Marie Christensen, northern district; Clarence A. Davis, Beaver City, southwestern district; Marie Douglas, Plattsmouth, eastern district; Joseph Fitzgerald, Kearney, western district; Ethel James, Alliance, northwestern district.

The judges could have made no more popular decision in this contest so far as this section is concerned that they did. Miss Douglas has lived in this city and its vicinity all her life and is a young lady of great popularity. She is talented and able and has great ability, particularly in the line of argumentation and oratory. She is also endowed with a winning personality and great charm of manner and has an easy and effective stage presence. All who know her will unite in congratulations to her for the merited honor which she won and they doubtless will take occasion to make their appreciation of her abilities shown in a more effective manner.

Miss Douglas and Prof. Gamble returned this afternoon on train No. 92 from York and were greeted at the Burlington station by a very large and enthusiastic crowd of Miss Douglas' fellow students. Led by Prof. Harrison they gave her a hearty welcome and the school cry resounded at the top of their voices. Miss Douglas plainly showed the pleasure she experienced in being able to return home a victor and Prof. Gamble had a smile on him which amply demonstrated his pride in the achievements of the young lady.

From the latter it is learned that Miss Douglas' preparations for the debate were not completed until 4:30 p. m., yesterday. When this was done both Miss Douglas and Prof. Gamble who had personally supervised her preparation for the big contest, entered into it with some apprehension. Prof. Gamble states, however, as the debate proceeded, his apprehension gave way to a feeling of confidence and when the young lady had closed he entertained no feeling of doubt as to her victory. Therefore he was not surprised at the decision but he admits frankly that he was deeply gratified.

The judges were unanimous in their decision and not only that, but they stated that they never saw any

question in their minds as to who the winner was. Miss Douglas easily outclassed her competitors and swept all before her. The contest between the winners of second and third places was close but neither were within reaching distance of the first place. The victory of Miss Douglas brings to the Plattsmouth High school a handsome cup, the prize for the school producing the winner, Miss Douglas receiving no prize save that of honor.

Miss Douglas is a young lady of seventeen years of age. Her entire schooling has been in the public schools in this city and from the start she has shown marked histrionic ability. Last year she carried away the gold medal for the district oratorical championship and in the state oratorical contest she won second place. She has the added distinction of being the first girl to ever win the debating championship in this state and that she should do so by so wide a margin speaks volumes for her ability. Her preparation for this debate was in the hands of Prof. Gamble who had the main supervision of her work, and Prof. Harrison who assisted him in the preparation. Her brilliant success reflects great credit upon both of these gentlemen, especially the former, who was untiring in his efforts to strengthen her arguments and who remained with her constantly until victory perched on her banner.

Prof. Gamble calls attention to the splendid advertisement which Miss Douglas' victory is to the city. He states that there were many cities in the state who sent large delegations to the meeting, several schools sending automobile parties from their towns to cheer on their candidate. In one instance one city raised a fund of \$100 to pay the expenses of their candidate. That the result of the victory has been to boom Plattsmouth and its excellent schools cannot be questioned and this city is under great obligations to Miss Douglas for bringing the championship to it. That some substantial testimonial should be given Miss Douglas for her grand achievement is without question as she certainly deserves it.

An additional compliment is paid Miss Douglas and the local schools in the shape of a challenge from the Lincoln high schools to a debate with them. It has not yet been decided whether the challenge will be accepted or not but if it is, Plattsmouth will succeed. It is a high honor to have a challenge from a city the size of Lincoln as they seldom go outside cities of their own classes for debates.

Enjoyed the Occasion.

Canon H. B. Burgess of St. Luke's church, returned last evening from Omaha where he has been spending several days in attendance at the council of the church. The Canon attended two banquets while in the metropolis, one given by the Episcopalians and the other by the Masons of which body he is a prominent member. He expressed himself this morning as being greatly pleased with the gathering and also as feeling like a new man since then. He says that he greatly enjoys getting out among the boys and that it makes him feel like a young man again. The myriad of friends of the good rector will be delighted to hear of his feeling so good and trust he will continue to do so for many years to come.

Will Refer in Trouble.

W. C. Benfer, formerly of this city but who for several years past has been editing and publishing a socialist daily paper in Lead, S. D.—the Black Hills Register—was yesterday indicted by the United States grand jury at Deadwood, on the charge of sending obscene matter through the mails. The matter complained of consisted of an indecent version of the Ten Commandments. Benfer was placed under arrest and arraigned. He pled not guilty and was admitted to bail, which he gave. The arrest seems to be an outgrowth of the Homestead strike, as great efforts are being made in the Hills to suppress the socialists who have been especially strong in that locality and who endorsed the strike.

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WAVE ALLEN COM-MITS SUICIDE

Mentally Unbalanced for Years He Finally Kills Himself.

The tragedy ending of a complaint for insanity took place yesterday noon at Weeping Water when Waverly T. Allen, a citizen of that place and for many years a resident of Saunders and Cass counties, ended his life by shooting. A complaint had been filed with the commissioners of insanity against Allen by a resident of Weeping Water and Sheriff Quinton had gone there to take him into custody and bring him to this city for examination by the board. According to many of the residents of that city Allen had the population completely overawed and scared and had at times threatened to kill a number of people in the city and thereabouts. His actions were such as to cause the filing of the complaint which hastened his end.

Allen had been in the asylum before, having a number of years ago become so violent that his family feared for their safety and sought his incarceration. At that time he lived at Ashland and his troubles were many owing to his erratic behavior. After serving some time in the asylum he was discharged and removed to Weeping Water where he had gotten along nicely until within the past several years when his idiot-syncrasies returned with redoubled violence as told above.

The complaint was filed against Allen several days ago in the office of Clerk of the Court Robertson and the warrant for his arrest was not delivered to the sheriff for service until a day or so later owing to the absence of the officer from the city on business. Yesterday morning Sheriff Quinton went to Weeping Water with the intention of taking Allen into custody and when he arrived there he found the latter ready to go with him. He greeted the sheriff in a friendly manner as the latter came to his house and asked time to straighten up things at the house before leaving. He took some household belongings which were airing on the porch of the house while his little five year old son Stewart, who was living with him ran down to the barn where he had some chickens and others things to look after before they left with the sheriff.

After some desultory conversation with the sheriff, that official and Allen entered the house and the latter began preparations for the journey to this city. At no time did he exhibit any unusual excitement and he seemed perfectly willing and even anxious to get things straightened up and to leave with the officer. He had a pair of pants laid out in the sitting room or parlor where he and Sheriff Quinton went and these he remarked to the sheriff "ought to do." Incidentally, and before this he had told the sheriff that he had made a will the day before disposing of his property and that he had named Messrs. Jos. Shrader, John Burke and John Tighe, all prominent and well known citizens of that section as executors of the instrument.

After picking up the pants in the room Allen asked the sheriff's permission to step into an adjoining room and "slop them on and then I'm ready." This permission Mr. Quinton cheerfully granted as Allen had not displayed any indications of violence or of an intention to do himself or anyone else any damage.

Allen stepped into the room which was separated from the room in which the sheriff was by a sliding door, and pulled or slid the door to closing it. The sheriff heard him take off his shoes by the sound of their being dropped on the floor and then the next thing he heard was the muffled report of the gun which ended the unfortunate man's life. At once the sheriff rushed to the door and threw it back, finding Allen sitting in a chair partially disrobed and blood flowing in a stream from a hole in his head midway between the ear and the right eye and about an inch above. His hand grasped the revolver with which he had fired the fatal shot. Life was extinct when the sheriff reached his side, the bullet having done its work quickly and most effectively.

From the position Allen occupied it was evident he had fired the shot on a sudden impulse. An open trunk stood at one side of the room from which the clothes had been taken which he intended to wear on his journey to this city. The vest and pants which he had taken off were lying on the bed under which the feet of the unfortunate man were thrust, the room in which the tragedy occurred being a small one and the chair in which he was sitting being along side the bed. It was evident to the sheriff that Allen must have been seized with the suicidal impulse after opening the trunk and removing the clothes and the sheriff's theory

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is that he saw the revolver with which he done the awful deed lying in the trunk and could not resist the temptation to use it. The revolver was a .38 calibre, center fire, Smith & Wesson and a most deadly weapon.

After discovering the suicide and realizing that no good would come of keeping the house open for the inspection of a morbid public, Sheriff Quinton closed and locked the house while he notified the coroner at Elmwood of the affair. Previous to this the sheriff had gone through a most trying ordeal, having to meet the little five year old son of the dead man and keep him from seeing his father. This he did; taking the little lad to a neighbor's where he was taken care of.

Coroner Clements being notified, arrived at Weeping Water on the 3:40 train, and at once viewed the body which was left by Sheriff Quinton in the identical position in which it was found by him. After looking over the premises and examining into the cause of the suicide as far as it appeared upon the surface, Coroner Clements expressed himself as believing an inquest unnecessary. A number of the townspeople who had visited the house at this time—probably several dozen—suggested the inquest as family troubles had existed for some time, it might be advisable for the relief of the family to hold and inquest, and the coroner at once selected the jury of six of the prominent citizens of Weeping Water and its vicinity. These gentlemen with the coroner, then viewed the body which was then taken to the undertaking establishment of E. Ratnour, for burial. After viewing the body the jury adjourned down town where they completed the inquest, finding the deceased came to his death at his own hands, and exonerating Sheriff Quinton from any blame in the matter. The funeral of the deceased will probably take place at Weeping Water tomorrow.

Waverly T. Allen, the deceased, was quite well known in this city. He had been a resident of Nebraska for many years and at one time was a well to do man of Ashland. He had been in business at that point and had made a success of it, until family troubles brought on what it was troubles, brought on it is believed, by approaching insanity, wrecked his home and his business. He was married twice and had four children by his first wife and nine by the second. Of these several are dead. Lately he and his wife have been living apart, the later making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Ronne, near Weeping Water. A number of the daughters of the deceased are married and living most happily, the youngest daughter is said to be in a Catholic school

or convent at Nebraska City. Personally when the deceased was in his right mind, he was a kind, loving and indulgent father. When his erratic spells were upon him he is said to have exhibited marked traits of brutality.

Those who knew him in this city have long expressed the greatest sympathy for him in his misfortune. He was a bright, genial gentleman when his mind was clear and possessed quite a wealth of information on various topics. When his reason was clouded much of this brightness left him and he was avoided whenever possible by acquaintances. The news of his death was received generally with deep sorrow.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

(State of Nebraska), ss.
Cass County,)
In County Court,
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF JOHN GEORGE HANSEN, DE-
CEASED.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said deceased will meet the administrator of said estate, before me, county judge of Cass county, Nebraska, at the county court room in Plattsmouth, in said county, on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1910, and on the 15th of December, 1910, at 9 o'clock a. m., each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance.

Six months are allowed for the creditors of said deceased to present their claims, and one year and six months for the administrator to settle and estate from the 15th day of June, A. D. 1910.

Witness my hand and seal of said county court, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, this 9th day of May, A. D. 1910.

(Seal) Allen J. Besson,
County Judge.
William C. Ramsey, Attorney.

Legal Notice.

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES AND NON-RESIDENT DEPENDANTS.

To the unknown heirs and devisees of Lewis Johnson, deceased; the unknown heirs and devisees of Margaret Johnson, deceased; the unknown heirs and devisees of Seth Johnson, deceased; the unknown heirs and devisees of John G. Johnson, deceased; and to Solomon Bohrer, Mrs. W. B. Leach, Mrs. William Johnson, Frederick L. Eaton, William T. Eaton, Simeon F. Eaton, G. R. Henry, Greensberry R. Henry, A. Laseby, Ambrose Laseby and Mrs. Ambrose Laseby, non-resident dependants:

You will take notice that on the 12th day of April, 1910, George M. Porter, plaintiff, filed his petition in the district court of Cass county, Nebraska, in which you with others were named as defendants.

The object and prayer of said petition is to quiet title in said plaintiff in and to lots ten (10) and eleven (11) in block thirty-eight (38) of the city of Plattsmouth in Cass county, Nebraska, and to exclude the defendants from any interest therein.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 25th day of May, 1910.

George M. Porter,
By Burkett, Wilson & Brown and E. F. Snavely,
His Attorneys.

John Kraeger, the well known Mt. Pleasant precinct farmer, is spending the day in the city on business, driving in this morning from his farm.

C. D. Clapp of Elmwood was in the city last evening, coming in on the evening M. P. train from his home and registered at the Hotel Riley.

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