

The Plattsmouth Journal.

Nebr. State Historical Soc.

SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION—EIGHT PAGES

VOLUME XXX

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, MONDAY MARCH 13, 1911

NO 21

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB'S BANQUET PROVES A ROUSING SUCCESS

One Hundred and Sixty-five Persons Enjoy the Banquet and Enjoy the Eloquent Speeches of the Evening.

From Friday's Daily.

At one of the largest and generally attended banquets ever given in the city the Plattsmouth Commercial club last evening celebrated the opening of the new gasoline engine factory, which the club had made possible by raising funds to erect the building.

The function was a very swell affair and covers were laid for 165, and almost every holder of a ticket was present and participated in the elegant spread prepared by the Presbyterian Ladies' Auxiliary society. Seldom have banquets in this city sat down to such a feast, and for five hours the revellers lingered at the banquet board, cheered by the "feast of reason and flow of soul" furnished by the program of toasts.

Judge Travis had been invited by the committee to act as toastmaster, and the judge filled the position with dignity and eminent satisfaction to all concerned.

After the bill of fare had been dispatched and before beginning the program the toastmaster called for a vote of thanks from the club to the ladies of the Presbyterian church for the bountiful repast and their artistic manner of serving the same, of which they had just partaken. The vote was unanimous.

The list of toasts was long and a few of the eloquent speakers had to cut their remarks short in order that all could be heard. Each man on the program was given an appropriate introduction by the toastmaster, and Judge Travis showed himself an artistic gentleman in that line.

Judge A. J. Beeson was called upon to give a "Dream of Plattsmouth Ten Years Hence," and responded to the toast in a neat speech.

Father Shine, whose name appeared next on the program, was unable to be present and his toast, "Optimism," was responded to by Attorney D. O. Dwyer. In his remarks Mr. Dwyer drew the distinction between the optimist and the pessimist, the toast being well received and given applause.

Mr. A. E. Pribble was next called on to answer for the "Country Newspaper." He told his listeners of the requirements of a country newspaper twenty years ago, and also recounted some of the difficulties encountered by himself and brother in resurrecting the News-Herald from a "junk heap" to the blooming periodical that it is today, with a payroll of six people with an average salary of \$18 per week.

Attorney C. A. Rawls discoursed on "Opportunity" and made a ringing speech along the line of improvement by being ready for any emergency and making the most of circumstances.

Mr. Chopieska was then introduced by Judge Travis as the cause of the festivities of the evening, and asked to make a few remarks, with which request Mr. Chopieska complied with grace and eloquence saying, among other things, that he expected to make the engine factory a success, and commended the spirit of the club in looking out for new enterprises.

The toastmaster then called on Mr. A. L. Tidd to talk on "The City Beautiful." Mr. Tidd responded with many suggestions and criticisms of some of the more glaring defects apparent to the observer. The dumping of refuse on the bar and the gutting of the sides of Main street up the High school hill and the sidding of the slopes and borders of the streets by the property owners were all mentioned by the speaker. Mr. Tidd thought it would add to the city's beauty if some of the "light-wads" could be jarred loose from their cots and the same used in beautifying their homes.

Colonel M. A. Bates of the Journal was then introduced by the toastmaster, to speak to the subject, "The Public Press." Colonel Bates related some of his experiences in early newspaperdom, stating that he began the business in 1854, or 57 years ago, and ever since that time, excepting the three years he was in the army, he has been in the business. From 1865 to 1882 he started no less than 18 newspapers in Illinois. The Colonel said that it did not require the capital then that it does

now to buy a plant of this kind. He told of the struggle that the Journal had gone through and his experience in bringing it out of the kinks from a weekly to the rank of one of the best papers in the state outside of Omaha and Lincoln.

Ben Baker of Omaha was the next orator introduced, and after a few minutes of witticisms, Judge Baker talked on the subject of "Commission Form of Government for Cities the Size of Plattsmouth," taking the position that three commissioners elected from the city at large would transact the business of the city in a business-like way, much as the corporations organized for private gain handle their business. The principal of recall also should go with the commission form so that at any time a respectable per cent should sign a request for the recall of one of its officers the matter should be placed before the people for their votes.

Judge Baker was followed by R. B. Windham on the subject of "Legislation," and the speaker said he would touch on the subject as it related to state and city affairs. He then discussed the bill which has been offered in the legislature conferring on cities of 4,000 or more the commission form of government, and spoke of the different phases of the law and its effect on our own city. Mr. Windham took occasion to raise his protest against the city purchasing or owning its water plant, and did not like the suggestion of finding its value, as Mr. Bond had suggested to the mayor, by each of the interested parties selecting an appraiser and they to pick the third. Mr. Windham said his plan for handling the water franchise question was to have a competent engineer make an estimate on the physical valuation of the plant and take that valuation as a basis upon which the city should contract to pay reasonable return upon to the owners of the plant, and then make a contract on the part of the city with the owners of the plant extending their lease or franchise for another term of five or ten years. Mr. Windham called the club's attention to the condition Omaha is in on account of trying to own its plant, with \$8,000,000 of debt saddled upon the city.

Rev. W. L. Austin was then introduced by Judge Travis and given the toast, "The Knockers." Rev. Austin spoke for some minutes on the theme and made some telling points, illustrating his views with an anecdote and story. His remarks were vigorously applauded.

Dr. Groeder was the next name appearing on the toastmaster's list, but the doctor being absent, Judge Travis invited Dr. Ransom to respond. He spoke for a few minutes, expressing his pleasure in being given a place on the program on this auspicious occasion.

Superintendent N. C. Abbott was then called upon for a toast, but at first excused himself because the hour was growing late. After one or two other toasts were given Judge Travis again called upon Mr. Abbott, who proved to be the ablest postprandial orator in the room and kept the banquet hall roaring with laughter and applause for fifteen minutes.

Mayor Sattler was then called upon for a toast, and responded gracefully, giving the merchants and business men of the city some sound advice on advertising their town.

Demie Hiatt, proprietor of the Olson Photo Card factory, made a splendid talk, in which he detailed some of the articles made at his factory.

Mr. William Baird was down for a toast, but was unavoidably absent. Attorney J. M. Leyda was invited to speak by the toastmaster, but declined.

Mr. T. H. Pollock, president of the Commercial club, was the last speaker on the program, and it was after 12 o'clock before his name was reached. Mr. Pollock gave a sound, logical talk of a few minutes, winding up with the following verses:

When the Plattsmouth postoffice is complete,
When our rifle range is landed,
When the wagon bridge is built

across the Platte,
When the jail we thought was stranded
Stands upon the court house square,
I guess we will be going some at that.

When Choppie's busy selling engines,
From early morn till night,
When the Burlington adds another hundred men,
When a hundred modern houses are built within our midst,
We must not even think of stopping then.

When Plattsmouth buys the water plant
And water's free as air,
When the city sells us gas and light
And to collect the bills don't dare,
When Neuman cuts the taxes down,
Plattsmouth will be a pretty darned good town.

LOYAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS CLOSE CONTEST

From Thursday's Daily.

The combined classes of Loyal Sons and Daughters of the Christian Sunday school closed their Blue and Red contest March 5. About three months ago the class was equally divided and a contest entered into, each side striving to increase the attendance. It has resulted in quite an increase of the membership, over fifty being present last Sunday. Everett Ward, with Jesse Perry as assistant, was leader of the Reds, and Eleanor Todd, with Celia Taylor as assistant, was leader of the Blues. The leaders were well matched and the contest has been a close one, the Blues winning by only a few points. The generous enthusiasm of the leaders and the fine spirit of good fellowship that has prevailed in the class during the contest is worthy of commendation. This class is taught by Rev. Ratcliffe, with Miss Edith Buzzell as assistant. The young people find in Rev. Ratcliffe an able instructor and a sympathetic friend. As a fitting close to the contest the class will give a banquet at the home of Rev. Ratcliffe Friday evening, March 10. The only penalty attached to the defeat will be the donning of aprons and caps and serving the victors first. A good program has been prepared and a general good time is anticipated. Every member of the Loyal Sons and Daughters class is cordially invited.

MISSSES GARNET AND FLORENCE COREY ENTERTAIN

From Thursday's Daily.

The Kensington girls were entertained by Misses Garnet and Florence Cory in the parlors of the Perkins hotel yesterday afternoon in a charming manner. The girls always bring the fancy work, and, of course, the greater part of the afternoon was spent in a very industrious way, that of plying the busy needle. The girls spend a part of these afternoons in the reading of a book. As they worked away very busily on their needlework yesterday afternoon Miss Etha Crabbill did the reading stunt. There were fourteen of the girls present and all report a royal good time and say that Garnet and Florence Cory are splendid entertainers. At the hour of 5 o'clock a dainty luncheon was served, which was likewise thoroughly enjoyed. The girls will meet with Miss Jennie Batten next Wednesday afternoon.

Here on Church Work.

Rev. A. Hilkeman, Sunday school missionary for the German Presbyterian church, residing in Omaha, arrived in the city last evening to look over the field and ascertain whether it will be advisable for the organization here to continue or, on the other hand, disband. The meeting will be held in the German Presbyterian church at the corner of Ninth and Main streets at 1:30 next Sunday afternoon. A short service will be held by Rev. Hilkeman, after which the business matter of the church will be discussed. The membership of the church are urged to be present.

W. J. O'Brien in Town.

Mr. W. J. O'Brien, superintendent of the state fisheries at South Bend, came in this morning with the state's special car attached to No. 4. Mr. O'Brien left the car at the local shops for some repairs and change in equipment.

Mr. George Lobnes of Eight Mile Grove precinct drove in to the county seat today to look after some business matters.

Has Eyes Operated On.

Mrs. Joe Bukasek and husband went to Omaha yesterday and consulted Dr. Gifford relative to Mrs. Bukasek's eyes, which have been troubling her for a few days. The specialist pronounced the disease that of trachoma and advised an operation, which was performed at once. Mr. and Mrs. Bukasek returned to Omaha this morning to have the eyes dressed by the specialist.

STOCK YARDS BILL SLIPS THROUGH HOUSE COMMITTEE

Much to the surprise of everybody who was looking for a fierce struggle, the Taylor-Dolezal stock yards measure, much amended, slipped through the house committee of the whole Thursday so smoothly that no one would have guessed there had been a bitter struggle over the question of stock yards legislation. The following is the bill in full:

Section 1. All stock yards operated in this state or organized under the general corporation laws of this state or by special charter, which receive live stock for the purpose of exposing or having the same exposed for sale, and doing a business for a compensation, are hereby declared to be public markets, provided, that the railway department of any stock yard company used as a common carrier of freight shall not be affected by the provisions hereof.

Section 2. The Nebraska state railway commission shall have power to issue orders regulating the service and charges of such stock yards and the same shall be enforced in the same manner and under the same penalties as orders regulating common carriers; provided, that where no other penalty is provided by law for a violation of any such order, it shall be punishable by a penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, and where the violation is a continuing one, each day thereof shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 3. Any person, company or corporation owning or operating any public stock yards in this state under the provisions of section 1 of this act shall annually, on the first Monday of January of each year, file with the state railway commission an itemized statement certified and sworn to by its owners or managers, setting forth the number of head of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, horses and mules received in his or their public stock yards, also make a statement of the gross receipts and expenses of the last preceding year.

Section 4. Every such stock yard shall keep a record showing the time of delivery and turning over at the yards of said stock to the consignee, agent or owner.

BOX CAR ROBBERIES CONTINUE ALMOST NIGHTLY

For some time both roads, the Burlington and Missouri Pacific, have been pestered with box car thieves. Since the capture of the thieves at LaPlatte a few nights since several robberies have been committed at Nebraska City on the Missouri Pacific and the thieves made their getaway. Wednesday night a car of merchandise was broken open and robbed between Pacific Junction and Payne Junction, that was billed to that city and from it was taken a number of boxes of cigars, things to eat and some clothing. The officers inspected the car and are confident they secured evidence sufficient to locate the guilty party or parties. No burglaries of this character have been committed recently in this city, but as they are becoming quite numerous elsewhere, it would be a good idea for the officers keep their eyes open to the advent of all suspicious looking characters.

Uncle Nick Halmes Moves In.

Uncle Nick Halmes has concluded to retire from the farm and the first of this week moved into a residence property in the north part of the city which he recently purchased. Uncle Nick is one of the old-timers and we are glad to welcome him to the city, where we are sure he can enjoy the society of congenial companions and friends, which he has by the score.

Mr. M. Erwin and his brother, Mr. O. Erwin drove up from Union this morning and boarded the early train for the metropolis, where they were called on important business.

NEW GASOLINE ENGINE FACTORY NOW OPENING FOR BUSINESS

Engine Started Early This Week and Several Plattsmouth Workmen are Employed at the Factory.

Mr. John A. Chopieska, proprietor of the new industry which is just opening up for the manufacture of gasoline engines in the new building on South Third street, has his machinery all in position. Shafts and pulleys have been lined up for some days and early this week the engine was started and the belts tightened up and the machinery for running the lathes was set in motion and all of the appliances tested. It requires a six horse power engine to run the machinery to be used at the start and a larger one will be hitched on when the plant is running full capacity.

Three or four skilled workmen have already been given places and have been turning out parts of the engines to be built later. The mechanics so far employed, with two exceptions, are Plattsmouth men, and the balance of the force will come from this city if the men satisfy Mr. Chopieska that they can make good.

Before the end of next week the cupola will be ready for use, and then the liquid metal will be poured in the moulds in the foundry division. The iron shell for the cupola has been cast and is already erected, and a skilled mechanic is filling in the interior fire walls this week and before many days elapse the foundry will be working full time. This part of the building has already been

equipped with a huge crane capable of shifting many tons of castings from one portion of the large foundry room to any location in the room convenient for handling.

Business for the new industry is already beginning to become active, and Mr. Chopieska has sold several engines since arriving here and the prospect for the growth of the business is very promising.

The engine is one which sells itself when once called to the attention of those using such machines, as it at once appeals to the experienced engine man as a simple and practical piece of machinery. With some judicious advertising there is no doubt but there will be sufficient demand for the engines to keep the twelve or fourteen men employed and run the plant at its full capacity all the time. In fact, the Journal will miss its guess if Mr. Chopieska does not find it necessary to enlarge his plant before the end of a year.

The festivities under the auspices of the Commercial club at Coats' hall tonight will be in the nature of a celebration of the event of the opening of this splendid enterprise in the city, and every business man in the city will no doubt be present and show appreciation for what Mr. Chopieska and the Commercial club have performed for the city's advancement.

THE VANISHING PIONEERS OF NEBRASKA

The thinning ranks of the territorial pioneers sustained another material reduction in the death at Haigler last Sunday of James R. Porter at the age of 83 years. He was known among old-timers in Nebraska as "Governor Porter," probably because he ran for governor against the late David Butler in 1868, but was beaten.

In the coming month it will be fifty-five years since James R. Porter became a Nebraskan, and for nearly a quarter of a century he made his home at Plattsmouth. The first democratic delegate convention in the territory was held in that town June 3, 1858, to which Mr. Porter was a delegate and was named as one of its vice presidents. For a score of years he was prominent in the affairs of the democratic party.

Time was when no name was more familiar to Nebraska readers than that of James R. Porter, and none stood higher in the esteem and respect of the territorial pioneers. Almost thirty years ago he moved to the extreme western part of the state, since which time he has passed out of the public ken.

Down in Cass county the announcement of his demise will occasion genuine sorrow, for among the old residents of that vicinity he was very much beloved as a neighbor and is still gratefully remembered.—Lincoln Star.

Fitzgerald-Hawksworth.

From Friday's Daily.

The marriage license report from the county judge's office of Douglas county for yesterday shows a license issued to William Fitzgerald, aged 21, and Miss Marie Hawksworth, aged 18, both of Plattsmouth. The marriage comes as a surprise to the friends and relatives of the contracting parties. Both are young people who have grown up in this city and have many friends in this community who will congratulate them in a fitting single for double blessedness.

Miss Hawksworth is the eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Hawksworth of Lincoln and has been making her home with her grandparents, D. Hawksworth and wife, in this city, and is a young lady with many social accomplishments. The groom is the eldest son of Joseph Fitzgerald and wife and an athlete and ball player of much promise. The Journal joins the many friends of the happy pair in extending congratulations and best wishes.

Mrs. Margaret Glenn left for LaPlatte this afternoon, where she will visit friends for a time.

Gets Large Catch of Fish.

John Richardson brought in a nice catch of fish this morning amounting to over 400 pounds. Four of the largest averaged 60 pounds each. There was quite a variety, the catch consisting of cat, carp and buffalo.

HOWARD ELLIOTT'S REASON FOR DECLINING PRESIDENCY

In declining the \$100,000 presidency of the Missouri Pacific railway Howard Elliott wrote to the committee that had made him the offer: "After very careful consideration of the very complimentary offer that you and your associates have made to me about taking charge of the Missouri Pacific, I have come to the conclusion that it is best for me not to accept the offer. I have been with the group of roads with which I now work all of my business life, and I feel that my best work can be done in connection with these roads, and the many friends and fellow workers in them with whom I have been so intimately associated for many years.

"In coming to this conclusion I do not underestimate the importance of the southwest, the relation of the Missouri Pacific system to that country, the great growth that is bound to come and the opportunity to do good work in helping to develop that part of the United States."

GREAT TALK TO THE RETAIL MERCHANTS AT OMAHA

From Thursday's Daily.

E. H. Wescott, secretary of the Commercial club, returned from Omaha last evening, where he had attended the meeting of the Nebraska Retailers' Federation, where he heard a talk before the members by Mr. Vardeman of the Des Moines Trade Journal, which would have benefited every retailer in Nebraska if they all could have heard it. Mr. Vardeman had for his subject "Scientific Salesmanship," and gave a ringing speech on the line of methods used in selling goods. He advocated strict honesty on the part of the salesman, and came down hard on tricks and schemes to take advantage of the customer.

Mr. Seth N. Fats and bride, the marriage of whom was noted in last evening's Journal, departed this afternoon for Fremont, Nebraska, where they will visit relatives for a few days. Mr. Martin Fate, the groom's brother and best man, left for his home at Red Oak this evening on No. 2.