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COMMERCIAL CLUB ENDORSES WATER RATES AND THE BRIDGE CELEBRATION

Recommends That Franchise Be Granted by Council Without Unnecessary Delay—All Enthusiastic for a Big Celebration to Mark Opening of Bridge—Other Actions.

From Friday's Daily.

The Commercial club began its fall campaign for the more progressive Plattsmouth with a big attendance at the club rooms last night. It was a meeting of enthusiasm and optimism for Plattsmouth.

The questions of the Missouri river bridge, the water franchise, the opening of the Platte river bridge and the continuation of hand concerts through the winter were discussed at the meeting.

The club went on record as being opposed to municipal ownership of the water plant. It later went on record as being in favor of a reasonable franchise; stated its belief that the rates given in the ordinance were fair and recommended that the council give Mr. West a franchise without delay.

The club enthusiastically supported the Platte river bridge celebration, and the members were unanimous in their belief that the commissioners should put the road from Plattsmouth to the river at least in a fair condition.

A suggestion to the effect that at the time of the celebration there ought to be a meeting here of delegates from Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Nebraska City, Falls City and other points on the Omaha-Kansas City road for the purpose of organizing the Omaha-Kansas City Good Highway association, met with applause.

There was a discussion about the proposed Missouri river bridge, but no one seemed to know who was back of the proposition or where it originated. It was suggested that inasmuch as the Journal knew more about the proposition than anyone else, that it be made the committee to enlighten the club on this proposition. The Journal accepts the appointment and will take upon itself the work that ought to have been done by the club itself, as the question of a Missouri river bridge is of too much importance to pass up by default. If there is going to be such a bridge built Plattsmouth should make a fight for it, and if it loses out, it can at least have the satisfaction of knowing that it did not sleep on its rights.

The Water Franchise.

The club took up the question of the water franchise, and gave most of its meeting to a discussion of it. R. B. Windham first spoke on the question, and said that while he did not have decided opinions on the subject, he felt inclined to oppose the idea of municipal ownership, but was open to conviction. He thought that a reasonable franchise would suit him better.

A. L. Tidd, the city attorney, talked at length on the franchise, and read the entire list of rates. He thought that the rates fixed in the ordinance were reasonable.

President Pollock of the Commercial club, who is also secretary of the water company, explained the difference in rates under the old and new franchises. He believed that many concessions had been made in fixing the rates for the new franchise.

There was considerable discussion about the section in the ordinance giving the city the privilege of buying the plant by court appraisement at the end of any five-year period. Mr. Windham did not like that part of the franchise, and called attention to Omaha's misfortunes in buying the water plant by the appraisement plan.

Mr. Tidd took an opposite view of the question, saying that the section appealed to him as being unusually fair. The plan as fixed in the franchise is not like the Omaha plan, he said. There the city named an expert, the company named one, and those two named a third. The courts held that Omaha had bound itself to a

contract in agreeing to the appraisement, and had to accept the figures agreed upon by the appraisers.

Under the new franchise for Plattsmouth, Mr. Tidd continued, the matter is left to the district court, which appoints the appraisers. Furthermore, the city can reject the price named by the appraisers by paying the costs of the appraisement.

At this point H. A. Schneider, the local postmaster, introduced a typewritten resolution stating that it was the sense of the Commercial club that the franchise presented by Mr. West was a fair one; that the rates were reasonable, and that it recommended to the council that it be granted without unnecessary delay.

Mr. Windham objected to the resolution, saying that the franchise had not been read; that the members of the club present did not know its provisions, and that no one had had time to determine whether it was a reasonable franchise or not. He stated that the city was now sending out blanks to other cities to find out what were reasonable rates at other places in cities of this state, and that no action should be taken until this information was secured.

After some discussion the resolution was voted down by stating that the club believed that the rates were fair. It was then adopted by a viva voce vote.

The Bridge Celebration.

Chairman Pollock brought up the question of the opening of the Platte river bridge, which, he said, would be completed some time between October 15 and 25. He called attention to the bad condition of the road from Plattsmouth to the river, and also its dangerous points, where the road goes under the Missouri Pacific trestles. He stated that the commissioners of Sarpy county had promised to put in a good road on the other side of the river, but that Martin Friedrich, the commissioner of the local district, said that he could only spend \$200 on the road, which will do but little good on so great a distance of road.

Quite a number talked about the value of the bridge to Plattsmouth and the absolute necessity for a good road if the bridge was to be used. Mr. Windham said that the building of the bridge was the best thing that ever happened to the town. "For fifteen years," he said, "I have wanted to see such a bridge built, as I have believed that when built it would make this a bigger and better town."

Mr. Tidd said that the occasion should be made one of more than unusual importance. He declared that the bridge would increase the value of every piece of property in Plattsmouth. He favored a celebration in keeping with the event. He believed that if the proper work was done by committees and the roads put in the proper shape that 500 automobiles would be here from Omaha and surrounding territory to attend the celebration.

G. C. Parmelee said that he was up to Louisville the other day and 75 automobiles crossed the bridge in one day. He said that Plattsmouth seldom sees a strange automobile.

John Hatt, Jr., called attention to the big delegation that was going from Omaha to Fremont for the celebration there, and that a larger number would come here if the proposition was worked up in the right way.

Winter Band Concerts.

E. A. Wurl said that there had been some talk about winter concerts at the Parmelee theater. He said that the band boys were anxious to keep up their practice, as the band was improving rapidly, and if there could be some way of keeping up the regular prac-

tice and the concerts during the winter the band would soon become one of wide fame. Mr. Wurl said that it had been suggested that a petition be circulated for donations for the semi-weekly concerts, and that the subscribers be given tickets entitling them to reserved seats at the concerts. The rest of the house would be thrown open to the public. This idea met with much favor.

The club adjourned to meet in a week to consider further the question of the bridge and post-office celebrations, and also that of a good road to the bridge.

"HEALTH BUREAUS" AND "MEDICAL FREEDOM"

Interesting Subject That Seems to Be Attracting the Public at This Time.

A subject which seems to be attracting the attention of the public at this time is that of "health bureaus" and "medical freedom." The proposition of having a health bureau as a department of the United States government has been so bitterly opposed as to create a widespread interest among our public officials as to just what merit there is to the question. A close scrutiny has failed to develop the existence of a public demand for such a department and there seems to be a very active and well organized opposition to it. In the propaganda distributed by this opposition there is no expressed desire for any legislation of any kind, the thought seeming to be that the rank and file of the people wish to retain for all the right to employ the services of the practitioner of individual choice.

The general claim is that the attempt to establish a national bureau of health is really a move to place the older school of healing in a position to enforce their treatment to the exclusion of all other schools, thus discouraging scientific investigation and creating a large number of government positions to be maintained at the expense of the taxpayers. There does not seem to be any desire to prevent the passage of laws providing for reasonable and proper sanitation and quarantine, and no criticism is made of any method of treatment.

Compulsory treatment of disease is just as much against the principles of liberty as is compulsory religion. If any attempt is made to form a "medical trust" we are sure the good people of this country will become sufficiently roused to put a stop to it very quickly.

Close Down at Havelock.

From Friday's Daily. The State Journal of this morning says that the big shops of the Burlington at Havelock will be closed today. And order was posted in the shops Thursday, stating that the shops would not be operated Friday and Saturday of this week.

Some of the employees interpreted this to mean that the shops would be operated but four days a week after this. Superintendent Ackerman said concerning this: "The order posted relates only to Friday. For some time we have been working nine hours a day, five days a week. I received an order to close the shops on Friday of this week and it was posted. The order relates to no other date and says nothing concerning the future. Why it was issued I cannot say."

Picnic Postponed.

Judge H. D. Travis of Plattsmouth was in the city last evening en route home from Unadilla, where he went to speak, but the weather prevented him from making any talk in the open air. He has promised to return again Saturday and speak for the people out there when they will hold their postponed picnic, the weather permitting.—Nebraska City News.

Samuel S. Hackenberg, from near Cedar Creek, was in the city today, and while here called at the Journal office and enrolled his name for the paper for one year.

BANKERS TO KNOW FATES IN OCTOBER

Case Against Greenwood Men, Accused of Manipulating Books, to Trial Soon.

Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 24.—The case of the federal government against Albert D. Welton and Laurence Daft, bankers of Greenwood, indicted under the United States banking act, will come up for trial during the October term of the federal court in Lincoln.

Welton, who, at the time of the alleged violation of law, was cashier of the First National bank of Greenwood, is charged with embezzlement, abstracting and misapplying funds of a national bank and making false entries in the books and reports of the bank.

Daft, who was assistant cashier, is indicted under a similar charge, except that that of embezzlement is omitted. There are eighteen counts in Mr. Welton's indictment. All of the charges are provided for in one section of the federal statutes, and the punishment for violation of any one of them is the same, being not less than five years' imprisonment and not more than ten. Mr. Welton is under \$10,000 bonds and Mr. Daft under \$5,000 bond.

It is alleged that Welton, as cashier of the Greenwood National bank, took funds of the bank and used them in favor of an implement concern in which he was interested, and in doing so made false entries in the books of the bank, and was aided in so doing by Daft.

Friends of the two men say that this was nothing more than many bankers do and say that since the funds have been all, or practically all, paid back to the bank only a technical violation of law has taken place.

On the other hand, it has been pointed out by lawyers in similar cases, that all such alleged violations are technical violations and yet at the same time they are actual, and the fact that funds have been paid back does not wipe out a violation of law.

Mistake in Daft's Name.

The indictment against Daft reads "Lawrence H. Daft," while Mr. Daft signs his name "Laurence H. Daft," spelling his Christian name with a "u." Such mistakes have been used at times, on the part of a defendant, to have the indictment quashed and thereby gain delay. But the tendency of late has been against this practice, especially in the federal courts. For while it may be possible to bring about a delay in this manner, it has been found that no permanent change in the results could be obtained, and furthermore, it results in piling up attorneys' fees.

The indictments were brought January 11, 1911, and it is charged that the alleged violations took place previous to September 1, 1910, and the alleged false entries discovered in the report to the comptroller of the currency made September 5, 1910.

The case was to have been tried during the May term of the federal district court, but a continuance was taken, and by the time the case was ready for trial the other jury cases had been finished and the jury had been dismissed. For this reason it was allowed to go over until the fall term, rather than have a special jury called.

The fall term will open October 2, but it is probable that the bank case will not come up until the middle or toward the last of the month. There are a number of cases on the docket which will not require a jury, and these will probably be handled before a jury is called.

Father Vleck Returns.

Father John Vleck returned last night from a three months' trip to the continent. He visited his old home in Bohemia and other places in Europe. When Father Vleck left Plattsmouth for his long trip practically his entire parish was at the train to see him off.

Roy O. Cole of Mynard went to Omaha this morning on business.

A Splendid Meeting.

From Friday's Daily. The Social Workers of the M. E. church were entertained in the parlors of the church yesterday afternoon in a very pleasant manner. During the early hours of the afternoon the ladies held their regular business session, at which time the annual election of officers was held and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Charles Carlson, president; Mrs. John Beeson, vice president; Mrs. Ed Brantner, secretary, and Miss Mae Richey, treasurer. The hostesses in charge of this splendid afternoon's entertainment on yesterday were the four ladies who have held office during the past year—mesdames R. B. Hayes, J. M. Leyda, A. J. Beeson and Miss Mae Richey. There were a large number in attendance and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Following the business session and the election of officers, the ladies indulged in a delightful social time, most enjoyably interspersed with various games and amusements. At an appropriate hour some very excellent refreshments were provided by the hostesses, which materially assisted in the pleasures of the afternoon.

To New Members.

From Friday's Daily. The Star of Nebraska lodge No. 4, Degree of Honor, gave a reception last evening at the A. O. U. W. hall to the seventy-five new members of the lodge who had been initiated during the last six months. The new members, with a number of their friends, were entertained royally by the older members, after which a dance followed, which lasted until near midnight. Delicious refreshments were served. The new members consist mostly of young people and are a nice class of members. The lodge now has 217 members and is still growing rapidly. There will be quite a celebration here a month hence, when the grand lodge officers come.

Will Build a Fine Garage.

From Friday's Daily. Bert Philpot, the rustling Maxwell automobile man from Weeping Water, was in the city today, driving up in one of his cars. He made the Journal office a brief call, and in conversation with him we learn that he is making preparations for the erection of a new garage, which, when completed, will be the finest in the county, up to the present time, for we have not seen the plans for the one that Ralph Duff is going to build in Plattsmouth in the near future. The new one to be erected by Mr. Philpot will be a two-story structure, and will be 40x80 feet.

Another Boy Arrives.

From Friday's Daily. Johnnie Leichtweiss, the accommodating clerk at H. M. Soennichsen's grocery store, came down town early this morning wearing a smile that wouldn't wear off. When asked why he felt so happy he replied: "Another boy arrived at my house last night, which increases my children to five—three girls and two boys—and it tickles me almost to death to know that it was not another girl. It evens up the family better." The mother and boy are doing nicely and Johnnie will step livelier than ever today.

Fine Corn.

From Friday's Daily. John Meisinger, Jr., living south of Cullom, brought in this morning a couple of the finest ears of corn we have seen in a long time. The samples were of this year's crop, 11 inches in length, and perfectly matured, and of a dark yellow in color. Mr. Meisinger says his corn is nearly all just as good, and he believes it will turn out better than for several years, and fully denotes that the corn crop in Cass county is much better than expected.

Examine the Chimneys.

Now that cold weather is near at hand people are putting up their stoves, it would be well for all to closely examine their chimneys and see if there are any loose bricks or cracks that would permit fire to catch to the building. A little diligence now may prevent a large fire.

PASSES HIS FIFTY-SEVENTH MILESTONE

Old Friends and Neighbors Assist in Celebrating the Event.

On Tuesday of this week Charles Jean passed his fifty-seventh milestone. Fifty-seven years ago Charles Jean first saw the light of day, and in honor of the anniversary of the event a number of his friends prepared a surprise gathering for him. The evening of September 19, 1911, will no doubt be one that will ever remain fresh in the memory of Mr. Jean. The surprise was complete in every particular, and a most enjoyable time was had by all in attendance.

A delicious three-course luncheon had been prepared by Mrs. Edith Lloyd and Mrs. Ed Spangler, both daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jean, and they were assisted in the serving by Miss Frances Weidman of Plattsmouth. The occasion was held in the beautiful Jean farm home a few miles south of this city.

Conversational memories of the days gone by and various games made up the program for the amusement portion of the evening. One of the main features was the drawing contest, in which all were requested to draw as near as possible the likeness of those present, and prizes were offered for the one guessing the greatest number of subjects produced by the pencil in the hands of the numerous artists. In this contest Mrs. George Snyder took first ladies' prize, while Bryan Snyder captured the first gents' prize.

Mr. Jean was presented with a handsome rocker by the friends as a token of friendship and high esteem in which their host has been held for these many years.

Following were those present: Messrs. and Mesdames R. L. Propst, W. F. Gillispie, Ed Spangler, Link Huffer, Oscar Gopen, Nelson Murray, Will Porter, Olin Cole, Will Jean, Mrs. George Snyder and Mrs. Ida Cole, Mrs. Edith Lloyd, Miss Frances Weidman, Nelson Jean and Bryan Snyder.

Ex-Mayor of Lincoln Here.

From Saturday's Daily. Frank Brown, the best mayor that Lincoln ever had, gave the Journal a pleasant surprise by stepping in upon us this morning. And there is no man in Nebraska that we would rather meet. He was accompanied by Mr. George Orr of the firm of Copeland & Orr, also of Lincoln, and general agents for the Cadillac automobiles, if not the best, one of the best machines now on the market. With these gentlemen and Professor Abbott we had an opportunity of testing this machine for three miles in the country and back and are free to say that it is the easiest running machine we ever saw. These gentlemen came down from Lincoln with the auto, stopping over night at Louisville. They returned to Lincoln this afternoon.

Fell From Car, Breaks Leg.

From Friday's Daily. Brakeman C. J. Swisher of Kansas City, Kas., met with a serious accident in the yards here last Thursday. He was on the caboose, piloting a long freight train down the track, when the train stopped suddenly and Mr. Swisher, not looking for a halt, was toppled over, striking his left hip on a rail, breaking the bone of his leg and making a bad fracture. He was taken to the company's surgeon, Dr. J. B. Hunkate, and the latter put him in shape and accompanied him to the hospital in Kansas City that night.—Weeping Water Republican.

Hed Men Meeting.

From Friday's Daily. Eight members of the Red Men lodge came down from Louisville last evening to attend the meeting of the Plattsmouth lodge. There were three initiations. William Woods, great sachem of the Reservation of Nebraska, was present and gave a short talk, explaining the secret work to the chief and candidates. Those from Louisville were: C. F. Wheeler, Joe Smarder, G. Smarder, Herman Applegate, Cam Seybert, H. Neuman and Jake Reihart.