

## EARLY PIONEERS OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Address Delivered Before the Early Pioneers' Association of the State By Hon. R. B. Windham of This City.

From Saturday's Daily.

At the meeting of the Nebraska Territorial Pioneers' association held in Lincoln several days this week there were present a large number of the men who in the early days, dating from 1854 to 1867, assisted in forming the territory that was later to become one of the most progressive of the western states in the Union. At this meeting Hon. R. B. Windham of this city, president of the association, delivered an address that is very interesting, as it brings to light many features of the early history of the state and territory. It is well worth reading as it points out the general conditions that prevailed in the state up to the time Nebraska entered the Union, and gives the part that Cass county played in that event. The address of Mr. Windham follows:

"Members of the Territorial Pioneers' Association and Fellow Citizens: In the beginning of my address, I wish first, to felicitate the members of the association who have been so blest with health and strength as to enable them to be present at this meeting.

"This year marks an epoch in the history of Nebraska, rounding out as it does a half century of statehood. With pardonable pride and some hesitation we may now speak of our state as a great commonwealth, shining out brightly among the most brilliant stars in the constellation of states.

"To the territorial pioneers of 1854 to 1867 belongs the credit of laying the foundation upon which they, their sons, and their sons' sons, have built so great a structure.

"It is a matter of great personal interest to me that in celebrating Nebraska's fiftieth anniversary of statehood, that I am also celebrating my fiftieth anniversary of residence in the state. I came to Nebraska in the fall of 1866, returned to Glenwood, Ia., where I was raised, coming back again in the spring of 1867, locating at Plattsmouth, then one of the best towns in the territory, and now, if not the best, one of the best in the state of its class. I am glad I came to Nebraska, and am glad I located in Plattsmouth, both have honored me, and in return I have always aimed to faithfully discharge every trust imposed. What I am of worth, or what I may have accomplished in the interests of my state I give credit largely to the inspiration received from frontier associations and environments.

"I was not yet 21 years of age when I took up my residence in Nebraska, and here I cast my first vote and have ever since exercised the right of franchise.

"In 1867 the estimated population of the new state was less than 80,000, located principally in the river counties, and in the main they were a people of intelligence, and possessed of great courage. They were industrious and energetic, and with all helpful and self-sacrificing in the interest of each other, willingly bearing one another's burdens. It was thus they were enabled to create homes in the best sense of the word, or organize society, and bring into existence municipal, county, and territorial governments, constituting the foundation of our present great commonwealth now with a million and a quarter population. Our marvelous development, along all material lines, agriculture, stock raising, commercial enterprises, educational advancement and in many other ways has challenged the attention of the country at large. We stand alongside the greater states of the Union.

"In the early years of the settlement of the territory, probably the two most important factors in the organization of society were the pioneer Methodists and the newspapers; they were both co-existent with the white population. The church brought to bear great moral and spiritual force often emphasized in great camp-meetings; they were the religious life of most every new community; they believed in open, uncompromising, vigorous fight with the devil, asking no quarter and giving none. Frank Harrison while recently writing up pioneer days in Cass county for publication, ran across an entry in an old record, which he stated, was evidently the first pronounced temperance movement in Nebraska. It stated that at a quarterly meeting held in Rock Bluffs September 12th, 1855, the presiding elder among other questions asked if there were any complaints; in re-

sponse, one brother arose and said, 'Yes, he had a complaint to make against Brother Thompson, that he was indulging to excess in the use of spirits.' Brother Thompson, who was present, arose and acknowledged the charge, and agreed not to drink to excess any more. It seems that Brother Thompson had been a local preacher. It has been suggested that the result of this incident advanced on the enemy, culminated in Nebraska's going dry at the recent fall election.

"The newspapers occupied the political field, and were also the medium through which all news of every variety and character was disseminated. Papers were started early in the settlement of the territory, at Brownville, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Bellevue and Omaha, being followed quickly by the establishment of others in other localities as the country filled up with population. It was a pungent and virile press that led and instructed the early pioneer in the work of advancing civilization and in the laying of the foundation upon which has been constructed the present great commonwealth, of which all Nebraskans are justly proud.

"When I came into the state fifty years ago, while there were many well established newspapers, my attention was more particularly challenged to the Omaha Herald, then edited by Dr. George L. Miller; the Omaha Republican, edited by St. A. D. Balcome, and the Nebraska City News, edited by J. Sterling Morton. Mr. Balcome was only connected with the Republican for a few years, but he was a man gifted with a high order of intelligence, and great force of character, and impressed a strong personality on the readers of his paper, which at that time was the leading representative influence of the republican party in the state.

"It is only necessary to make mention of the name of Dr. George L. Miller and J. Sterling Morton, and the work of their lives passes before us as a panorama, they having made their imprint on most every page of Nebraska's history during their active lives, and the influence of both was nation wide.

"Among the prominent men, aside from the editors of whom I have just made mention, and who occupy the political field, and first attracted my attention, were the Hon. T. M. Marquette, Judge Samuel Maxwell, General R. R. Livingston and Major D. H. Wheeler of Cass county; O. P. Mason, C. W. Seymour and Judge David Guntt of Otoe county; Hon. R. W. Furnas (later on governor), United States Senator T. W. Tipton, Hon. Samuel Dailey, congressman of Nebraska county; Judge Elmer S. Dundy, Judge Isham Reavis (father of our present congressman), Judge A. J. Weaver, of Richardson county, Governor Alvin Saunders, United States Senator John Thayer, Hon. J. N. Woolworth, Hon. A. J. Poppleton, Hon. Phineas W. Hitchcock, Hon. John L. Redick, Hon. A. S. Paddock (later on United States senator), Judge George B. Lake and Judge Ebenezer Wakeley, of Douglas county; Judge Lorenzo Crouse, Hon. John Taffe, congressman of Washington county; Governor David Butler, Thomas E. Kennard and John Gillespie were not only prominent as state officers, but also by reason of having been constituted the commission that later on located the capital of the state on the then bleak prairies, where it has now become a beautiful home city, a commercial metropolis, and educational center, and is the pride of every worthy Nebraskan, and which was given the charmed name of Lincoln, a name that will not perish.

"I would not have it understood that the gentlemen named were the only active forces in the new field of effort worthy of mention, for there were others as prominent, and many nearly so in every live community, helping to solve the problems confronting both church and state in this rapidly growing country. I have simply mentioned these men to whom my attention was directed as leaders. As organizers, as legislators, as judges on the bench, as politicians and as statesmen, they launched the new ship of state on a sure wave of success, and today in our greatness as a commonwealth we do them homage.

"Only one of the men whose names I have mentioned is alive today to enjoy the wonderful results of the fifty years of statehood, and that is Hon. Thomas P. Kennard, the first secretary of state, now a resident of Lincoln.

"As appropos to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Nebraska statehood, I will now relate an incident which occurred in the fall of 1866 at the general territorial election, at which time the momentous question as to whether Nebraska should become a state, or remain a territory, was among other things voted upon. As a party the democrats were opposed to statehood, while the republican party was in favor of statehood; also a state constitution was voted upon, and there were full state, congressional and legislative

tickets in the field, and it was apparent from the first that the contest would be a close one, and probably no more exciting election was ever held, and the struggle was so nearly equal that the final result depended on the counting or the not counting of a single precinct in Cass county. When I crossed the river at Plattsmouth in the spring of 1867, although statehood had become a fact, there was still great tension, and feeling was running high, and the 'Rock Bluffs fraud,' as it was termed, was the only exciting subject that attracted my attention, the republicans claimed there was fraud in the way the election board conducted the election, alleging that persons living in Iowa were permitted to vote; that the list of the names of those purporting to be voters at the election was not certified to by the board; that when it was dinner time the board adjourned, going to their several homes, and that one of the judges took the ballot box and contents with him, no two of the judges being together during the noon hour, and the returns of the election to the county officers were not signed by the board, and other irregularities were complained of. The democrats claimed the vote was fraudulently thrown out.

"Under the law it was the prerogative of the county clerk to appoint a canvassing board, and B. Spurlock, who was then county clerk, appointed Hon. Isaac Wiles and Hon. Willet Pottinger. (It is interesting to note that Isaac Wiles and B. Spurlock, although advanced in years, are still alive and active, and their minds clear as to the facts connected with the Rock Bluffs election). As one of these men stated to me, 'When we came to examine the returns from Rock Bluffs there was self-evident traces of irregularity in every feature.' Hon. Willet Pottinger, now deceased, a very unique pioneer lawyer, expressed himself in the following terse language, that 'Whether there was fraud or not there was such a damn good chance for it' and we threw the Rock Bluffs vote out. I am informed the decision of the canvassers was tested in the court, with the result that the action of the canvassers was sustained.

"The throwing out and the refusing to count the Rock Bluffs vote facilitated Nebraska's admission into the Union of states, giving the republican party two senators, John M. Thayer and Thomas W. Tipton; one congressman, John Taffe, state officers, and the control of the legislative branch of the state, and elected the republican ticket in Cass county.

"It is but fair to state that the canvassing board had no idea of the extent of the result of throwing out the Rock Bluffs vote until after the election returns from over the state were all in.

"Evidently but for this overlooked for incident the celebration of Nebraska's fiftieth anniversary of statehood would yet be some years in the future.

"It would be a grave omission and a matter of severe criticism should I close this address without mentioning and giving due credit to the pioneer women of Nebraska, for what was accomplished in territorial days and since. As a rule the early pioneer women made greater sacrifices and endured more than the men, and but for their aid and encouragement the country would have been much slower in its development. As a rule their lives were more monotonous than the men; they were the home-builders, and home-keepers. They could not vote, or attend political conventions, or sit in legislative halls, but they could keep vigil over the home, train the children in temporal and spiritual matters, and as a diversion many of them helped their husbands in the field in the summer time and with the stock in the winter season, and some were ready handlers of the rifle when the Indians became too aggressive and were inclined to give trouble.

"It is certain that Nebraska could not have been what it is today without the help of woman. The poet has well expressed it in the following stanza:

"They talk about the woman's sphere, As though it had a limit; There's not a place in earth or heaven, There's not a task to mankind given, There's not a blessing or a woe, There's a whispered yes or no; - There's not a death, there's not a birth That has a father's weight or worth Without a woman in it."

### Money in Eggs.

Eggs are not bankable but the money from their sale is. This money is yours for the effort. How do you treat the hen that lays the Golden Eggs? Dr. B. A. Thomas' Poultry Remedy will keep the poultry in good condition and increase the yield in eggs. We guarantee this and refund your money if not satisfied.

H. M. Soennichsen, Puls & Gansemer.

If you have anything for sale advertise in the Journal.

## PATIENT FLEES IN HIS NIGHTIE

West Farnam District in Omaha Startled by Man in Scant Attire in Zero Weather.

Clad only in a thin nightgown, John Engelkemeier, aged 30, of Murray, who had escaped from the Presbyterian medical hospital at Thirty-fourth and Farnam streets last night, fled through the West Farnam district while the thermometer registered close to zero.

After a half-hour chase, in which hospital attendants, police and neighbors joined, he was finally caught in the garage of the Hotel Blackstone, Thirty-eighth and Farnam, and taken back to the hospital.

Dr. Alexander Young, his physician, following an examination, declared the patient will suffer no ill effects from the experience.

Engelkemeier has been in the hospital for several days, suffering from nervous trouble. He was not regarded as a violent patient, but even so, the hospital authorities kept close watch upon him. At 8 o'clock he leaped from the bed suddenly and into the hallway. There he shoved a woman nurse out of the way and ran outdoors.

Like an arrow he sped up Farnam street.

A long line of automobiles, bearing residents from the prosperous districts towards the theatrical section, was startled to see him in the clinging white nightgown, outlined against the darkness by the white light of the head-lamps. Several of the autoists joined in the chase, too, but Engelkemeier proved nimble as well as startling, and he led his pursuers a merry chase until he was finally overtaken.—Omaha Bee.

## THE MASKED BALL AT THE T. J. SOKOL HALL

One of the largest crowds that ever attended a similar event in this city was present at the T. J. Sokol hall Saturday evening to participate in the twenty-sixth annual mask ball of that society. The best of order prevailed throughout the evening and from the start to finish there was complete enjoyment. The array of masks was not as large as usual but were well selected and made a very pretty appearance on the floor of the dance hall. The music was furnished by the Holly orchestra and to the strains of the march the maskers moved over the floor in the grand march and the prize winners were selected by the judges. The first ladies prize was awarded to Mrs. George Gobelman, as a Mexican lady and the second ladies prize given to the two "Topsies" who were represented by Misses Koubech and Sedlock. The first men's prize, was won by Ben Turner as a rube and second by Clyde Thomas as a colored man. The group prize was secured by the turner girls of the T. J. Sokolky. It was a late hour when the merry dancers adjourned after enjoying the opening masquerade of the 1917 season and its complete success could not be doubted in the least.

## DEATH OF LITTLE BABE AT O. A. NEWTON HOME

From Saturday's Daily. Yesterday afternoon the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Newton who are visiting in the city at the home of Howard Newton and family, passed away after a short illness due to gripe and complications. Little Ruth Lucile was three weeks and three days old and had been brought here by her parents from their home in Garden county. The little one contracted a severe cold and soon her condition became very serious and continued to grow worse until death came to her relief. The funeral services were held this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock from the Howard Newton home and the burial was had at the Oak Hill cemetery. The death came as a severe blow to the parents who had come to this city to enjoy a visit with the relatives and then to have their loved one suddenly taken away from them makes the loss heart-breaking. Rev. Thomas A. Fruscott of the Methodist church had charge of the services.

### Doing the Work.

W. T. Nanney, Noel, Mo., writes, "Your B. A. Thomas' Hog Powder is doing the work down in this part of the world. It proved to be what we needed to prevent and cure hog cholera and expel worms."

H. M. Soennichsen, Puls & Gansemer.

## Only \$15

—and they're good Suits, Men!

At least that is the verdict of hundreds of men who choose their suits from the splendid offering we are making at this time at \$15. Some of these are suits worth much more.

## Says One Satisfied Wearer—

"I used to imagine it was necessary to pay a big price to get a good suit. But I heard so much about your suits at \$15 that one day I stopped in to see what they were. Well you know how long I've been buying your \$15 suits and you may be sure I'm never going to pay anyone big money for a suit again. I'll save the difference to jingle in the pocket of one of your thoroughly good suits for \$15."

We can't force you to come to this store! We can't compel you to buy these \$15 suits! But we'll wager that once you see them you'll wonder how we can sell such suits for \$15.

We also feature Overcoats at the same low price \$15.00

## C. E. Wescott's Sons

"Everybody's Store."

New ties every week!

## THE MAN TAKEN UP AT ALVO BELONGS AT A COUNTY POOR FARM

Sheriff Quinton received a message from the superintendent of the Lancaster county farm Saturday evening as to the insane man found last Saturday in the vicinity of Alvo and who has been sent to the state hospital at Hastings. The description given of the man tallies with the person picked up here and who was known as "No. 7," the only name that he would give. From the statement made by the Lancaster county authorities it seems that the man has been a resident of the county farm of Lancaster county and wandered away from that place about two weeks ago. His name is a mystery there as it was impossible to find any papers that would give a clue to his identity when he was first received from the insane hospital where he was confined previous to being sent to the county farm. The man is perfectly harmless but wholly unbalanced and was not able to give any account of himself in any way beyond the fact that he was "No. 7" and how he received this number no one knows. When he was taken to Hastings and placed in the asylum there he was entered under the number as a patient. In view of the fact that he was a ward of Lancaster county it will be necessary for that county to take charge of the case.

## THE DRAWING FOR THE FORD CAR SATURDAY

The drawing for the Ford car that was offered by F. H. Dunbar at his billiard hall for the last few weeks was held Saturday evening and the winning number proved to be No. 100, which was held by H. B. Seivers and E. D. Golobay, jointly, and the two young men were awarded the machine, which is the latest model of the Ford car and a beauty in every way. The young men who were successful in the drawing are the well known contractors, and being partners in business were also in on the car and the machine will be "fifty-fifty" with the boys. The winners were well pleased with the car and certainly appreciate their good luck as they held the winning number out of 600 chances on the machine. The winning number had been written and sealed and deposited in one of the local banks until the hour for the drawing when it was opened and the winner awarded the car. It is a very fine piece of luck for the boys and they have a good offer for the Ford if they desire to take it. The event attracted a great deal of attention among the ticket holders, and Mr. Dunbar is to

be congratulated on the splendid manner in which the event was handled.

### SAYS HE IS THROUGH.

Editor W. H. Brown, the hustling editor and publisher of the Union Ledger, said in Nebraska City yesterday that he is about ready to quit the publishing game in a small town; that the continued advances in paper have ripped his profits all to pieces and made it unprofitable to operate his plant. Mr. Brown has given the Union folks a bright, newsy paper, well printed and if he leaves them it will be a blow to the community.—Nebraska City Press.

### Bad Habits.

Those who breakfast at 8 o'clock or later, lunch at twelve and have dinner at six are almost certain to be troubled with indigestion. They do not allow time for one meal to digest before taking another. Not less than five hours should elapse between meals. If you are troubled with indigestion correct your habits and take Chamberlain's Tablets, and you may reasonably hope for a quick recovery. These tablets strengthen the stomach and enable it to perform its functions naturally. Obtainable everywhere.

Office supplies at the Journal office.

## A GOOD MATCH PROMISED FOR THIS EVENING

Cal Woods, the Stanton wrestler, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon to prepare for the wrestling match that is carded for this evening at Coates' hall. Frank Schmarterer, who was to have met Woods on the mat will not be able to fill the date and Edwards, the fast young wrestler of Falls City will take his place against Woods. Schmarterer had his shoulder injured in wrestling with Edwards at Falls City and this injury proved too severe to allow him to take on the match this evening in this city. Mr. Woods states that he is very anxious to wrestle with Schmarterer and will post a forfeit with him to wrestle any place in the state in the next thirty days. If a match is arranged there will be a large side bet placed on the match. The wrestling tonight should be a good one as Edwards is a good fast man and Woods has a state wide reputation for his successes on the mat and the lovers of this sport can have their money's worth this evening at Coates' Hall.

Young married man wants work on farm by the year. Good worker. Prefer separate house. Inquire at the Journal office.

\$5.00 Phonographs at Dawson's.

## Sweaters

Make this a winter of enjoyment and comfort, by putting on one of our Sweaters, in V-neck and shawl collars, in all the popular colors. Prices \$1.25 to \$7

## Flannel Shirts

Just the thing for these cold days. We have them in both the flat and military collar, in all the new shades, at \$1.25 and Up



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