

# Early History of Plattsmouth is Recounted

### Continuation of Chapter 6 Deals with Early Religious Development—Fraternalities and Library

By ROBERT FOSTER PATTERSON, Principal Plattsmouth H. S.

Religious organization sprang up on the frontier soon after settlement, in some cases even, missionary activity preceded settlement. But the first church organization in Plattsmouth was that of the Baptist denomination in October, 1858, when a church was organized with a membership of ten, although a building was not erected until 1872. The first meetings were held in a school building near the foot of Gospel Hill, near 9th and Granite streets. The church, erected in 1872 at a cost of \$1,800, was built on the southeast corner of 9th and Main streets. The first regular pastor was Rev. Elias Gibbs. Other pastors succeeding him were: R. L. Rice, E. W. Hall, C. A. Miller, P. McCleod, T. J. Arnold and J. H. Storms. The membership in 1880 was 32. Several families of this church moved away during the eighties and about 1890 the building was sold to a group of German Presbyterians who remodelled the building and used it until about 1910 when the members affiliated with the First Presbyterian church.

The first work of the Methodist church in Plattsmouth was done by the historic "circuit riders" but a church with twenty members was organized in June 29, 1857, under Rev. Hiram Burch. The first board of trustees was composed of L. G. Jeffers, Ezra Bradford and William McCarty. The first quarterly conference for the Plattsmouth Mission Circuit was held at Eight Mile Grove church April 20, 1860. Plattsmouth men who were active in the work of the early Methodist church were: B. Spurluck, J. W. Marshall, L. G. Jeffers, Dr. G. H. Black and S. Duke. In 1860, Rev. J. L. Fort served the congregation and in 1861, Rev. J. Spelman. In 1862, H. R. Frickel became pastor, but charges of immorality were filed against him by the quarterly conference in 1862 and he was expelled. It is interesting to note that the general charge of immorality upon which the church could expel, was based upon nine specifications with reference to the pastor's personal relations to secession and slavery. His views were pro-secession and pro-southern. The chief witnesses were S. Duke, M. L. White and J. W. Marshall.

In 1862, the subject of building a church at Plattsmouth was discussed at the conference and it was decided to use the same building until more favorable circumstances presented themselves. In 1869, a church was built on Sixth street between Main and Pearl streets. The membership at this time totaled 100.

In 1874 the Plattsmouth church became a part of the Lincoln district conference and the first conference of this organization was held at Plattsmouth with an attendance of 56, including ministers, deacons, exhorters, stewards and deacons and elders. The list of members is as follows: J. L. Fort, 1860; J. Spelman, 1861; H. R. Frickel, 1862; M. Amberg, J. G. Miller, David Hart, J. B. Maxfield, J. J. Roberts and J. W. Presson, all during the period from 1862 to 1873; C. McKelvey, 1873; J. S. Adams, J. Smith, 1874; J. S. Orr, 1876; W. S. Blackburn, 1877; G. W. De La Matry, 1878; John Gallagher, 1879-81; S. P. Wilson, 1881-83; F. M. Estabrook, 1882-8; W. B. Alexander, 1885-89; J. D. Buckner, 1889-91; L. F. Britt, 1891-92; S. D. Roberts, 1892-93; S. Smith, 1892-93; D. Davis, 1893-94; Peter Van Fleet, 1894-95; G. M. Conifer, 1895-96; F. A. Campbell, 1896-99; Asa Sleeth, 1899-1903, and J. W. Swan, 1903-1905.

Rev. Daniel L. Hughes, a missionary in southwest Iowa, organized the Presbyterian church at Plattsmouth on May 8, 1858. There were sixteen charter members. Rev. Hughes continued as minister until 1864. The first services were held in a school house on Marble street between 11th and 12th streets. In 1865, a new building was completed at a cost of \$2,000 on the corner of Sixth and Main. It was used until 1889, when the Riley hotel was erected on the site. In the period from 1864 to 1869, there were various supply pastors including Mr. John K. Demaree in 1865; Mr. James J. Coale in 1866; Rev. William Hamilton in 1867 and Mr. C. D. Roberts in 1868 and 1869. On December 16, 1869, Rev. D. W. Cameron came as temporary pastor and was formally installed June 2, 1870. In March, 1872, Rev. W. T. Bartele came as pastor and served until April, 1875. He was succeeded by Rev. John T. Baird, who came to Plattsmouth from Brownville July 11, 1875, and who served the congregation continuously until he retired as pastor emeritus in 1905. At this time Rev. J. H. Salisbury became pastor. The present church building was erected in 1889 on South Seventh street at a cost of \$17,012.

A church of the Christian denomination was also organized in 1858, but had built no church by 1870. In 1874, upon dissolution of the Congregationalist church, the Christian organization arranged to use the former Congregationalist building at 8th and Locust streets. Early pastors were: J. Conover, D. R. Dungan, Cyrus Alton, S. B. Bass and C. L. Crowther.

Plattsmouth has had a large number of people of the Catholic faith from the early days. St. John's church was originally built in 1861 with Rev. Tekochet as pastor. But in 1872, a new building, the present St. John's church, was erected under the leadership of Rev. Francis Bohal. This building was used by both the American and Bohemian Catholics. Nebraska has had a larger number of

Bohemian people than any other state. The Czechs in Cass county lived mainly in Plattsmouth, where they found employment in the Burlington shops and in various business occupations. With this large Czech population, it was natural that they should desire a church and religious services of their own. The first resident Czech priest in Plattsmouth was Rev. Koutek and the present church on west Pearl street was built in 1890. The rectory was built in 1902, when Rev. Joseph Barboza was resident priest. In 1929, the parish numbered about seventy families.

A Congregational group met at the court house in July, 1869, and appointed a committee to prepare a "text of Christian names." Plans for the erection of a building were made and the lumber secured, but due to financial difficulties, the group disbanded in 1874.

The first services of the St. Luke's Episcopal church were held in the Masonic Hall August 2, 1868, under Bishop Talbot and Rev. Isaac Hager was the first regular pastor. It was originally called "St. John's" but in 1866, Mrs. Edward Young, of New Jersey gave \$11,000 toward the building of a new church on the corner of Third and Pine streets and the name was changed to St. Luke's. The dedicatory program was held on June 16, 1867.

With a large German population in Plattsmouth and the farm territory surrounding Plattsmouth, it was natural that a German church should be organized. Two or three religious congregations of the Evangelical church conducted services in Plattsmouth before the definite organization of a congregation. Among these was Rev. Jans in 1890.

In 1893, a congregation of forty members was organized under Rev. Rudolph Schori. The church was at first known as St. John's, but the name was changed to St. Paul's upon the adoption of the congregational constitution April 30, 1895, under Pastor F. H. Freund. The first board of Trustees was composed of F. D. Lehmann, Henry M. Martens, and Ernest Kloogler. The present church building was dedicated November 21, 1897.

St. Paul's has had seven pastors since its organization. They are: Benedict Schori, 1893-95; P. H. Freund, 1895-1902; H. H. Bachmann, 1902-05; J. J. Langheim, 1905-09; J. H. Steger, 1909-20; Hans Kottick, 1920-25; O. G. Wichmann, 1925-.

There were other church organizations which were formed in Plattsmouth and which existed for a short period of time. Among these were the South Park Baptist church, a Swedish church, German Methodist and one negro church for the dozen colored families of the seventies and eighties.

A branch of the Young Men's Christian Association was organized in Plattsmouth, in October, 1872. J. W. Rawlins was the first president. This group sought to combine literary and religious interests with social activity for the especial benefit of the young men of the community. The stores were persuaded to close at 7:30 o'clock in the evening except on Saturday so that the employees could take advantage of the reading and recreation offered by the Y. M. C. A. It achieved immediate popularity and with its hundreds of papers and magazines and series of lectures, it became a center of attraction for the young men. Lack of funds to continue its work, and a declining interest among some who had formerly supported it, led to its reorganization after a few years of work.

Of the various religious organizations formed in Plattsmouth, the Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Christian, St. John's Catholic and Holy Rosary Catholic have survived to the present day.

**Fraternal Orders**

Numerous fraternal orders were formed in Plattsmouth before 1900. In 1857, members of the Masonic lodge No. 109, came to Plattsmouth from other places, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Nebraska for a charter and during the first year carried on the work of the order without a charter or "under dispensation." In 1858, the Committee on Charters and Dispensations recommended to the Grand Lodge that a charter be granted to Plattsmouth lodge No. 6, A. F. & A. M. The charter members of the Plattsmouth lodge demitted from the various lodges to which they belonged on February 29, 1858, though the charter is dated June 2, 1858. The original officers were: F. A. Donelan, Worshipful Master; D. H. Wheeler, Senior Warden; J. W. Marshall, Junior Warden; Thos. Haund, Treasurer; J. C. Cummins, Secretary; W. B. Porter, Senior Deacon; Joseph Harper, Junior Deacon and G. W. Coblin, Tyler.

A dispensation of the Grand Commander of Nebraska Knights Templar was granted January 15, 1872, for the organization of a Commandery at Plattsmouth and the charter officially authorizing Mt. Zion Commandery No. 5 was dated November 12, 1873. The original officers were as follows: D. H. Wheeler, Commander; R. D. Livingston, Generalissimo; E. T. Duke, Captain General; Robert Balance, Senior Warden; F. E. White, Junior Warden; H. Newman, Treasurer; J. N. Wice, Recorder; John Auster Standard Bearer; M. B. Cutler, Sword Bearer, and A. Cunningham, Warden.

There was no Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons by Nebraska until 1867 so that the dispensation granted to form Nebraska Chapter No. 3, R. A. M., at Plattsmouth, on July 13, 1865, was granted by the Grand Chapter of Illinois. The first meeting was held on July 21, 1865, with the following officers: Harry F. Duell, High Priest; W. D. Gage, King; R. G. Doom, Scribe; J. G. Howe, Captain of the Host; W. E. Harvey, Principal Sejourner; J. W. Illias, Captain; James Minshall, Master of the 3rd Vall; S. S. Hillis, Master of the 2nd Vall; R. D. Livingston, Master of the 1st Vall; F. H. Cummins, Guard, and J. C. Cummins, Secretary. The Grand Chapter of Nebraska was organized at Plattsmouth on March 19, 1867.

The charter for the Plattsmouth Chapter No. 3 is dated January 21, 1866, under the Grand Chapter of Illinois, as previously referred to.

The Plattsmouth Odd Fellows lodge was organized August 2, 1868, under McConchie Post of the Grand Army of the Republic on April 26, 1880.

**Library History**

The forerunner of the present Public Library goes back to the organization of a "Literary Circle" in 1857. But the work of the present public library dates from the organization of the Young Ladies Reading Room Assn. at first called the Young Ladies Social Temperance, on February 25, 1885, at the home of Miss May Cranmer. There were twenty-five members present and Miss Kate Dorning was elected president; Miss Sue Sampson, vice president, and Miss Olive Jones, secretary. A committee composed of Miss Olive Gass, Miss Hattie Fulmer, Miss Lillian Pollock and Miss Hattie Pronger was appointed to report on resolutions at the next meeting. The second meeting was held on March 3, 1885, at the home of Miss Jones and the change of name was made at this time and a room was rented over the Matthew hardware store as a permanent meeting place.

To finance a plan for the purchase of books as a circulating library, it was decided to present some form of entertainment twice monthly. The first was a dance on April 19, 1885, which netted \$89.50. Plays and "socials" were subsequently given at regular intervals and when the total earnings became large enough, \$40 was appropriated for one set each of the works of Dickens, Scott and Elliot and a few miscellaneous volumes. This constituted the nucleus of the Plattsmouth public library.

By January 1, 1886, the Association had enough funds to raise the total number of volumes to 200 and larger quarters were needed. A room was rented in Rockwood Hall and Miss May Cranmer was elected part-time librarian at a salary of \$20.00 a month. In September, 1888, when the Young Men's Christian Association was established in Plattsmouth, the work of the Young Ladies Reading Room Association was taken over by the Y. M. C. A. Upon dissolution of that organization in 1890, the Young Ladies Reading Room Association again took up the work of providing a reading room and Miss Olive Jones became librarian, a post which she still holds in 1932. At this time, the City Council gave \$300 toward the purchase of books and equipment and a room was occupied in the Waterman building.

In February, 1892, a committee of the Y. L. R. A. called upon the Council and asked for an appropriation of four or five hundred dollars to make it possible to maintain an adequate public library and the request was referred to a committee for investigation. On February 29, this committee recommended that the Council make an appropriation for the maintenance of the library and to levy an annual mill tax to provide the revenue. On May 1, 1892, the Council authorized the City Clerk to enter into a contract with the Y. L. R. A. for the operation of the library. But this had not been accomplished by the opening of 1893, for in January of that year, a resolution was passed by the Council to buy the books and fixtures of the Y. L. R. A. for \$500. But the plan to establish a library supported by public funds received a temporary setback in March, 1893, when the Council's Judiciary committee recommended "that no such ordinance be passed as we find after a careful investigation that a library in this city would not be patronized to any extent, that the same would not be self-supporting but a constant burden on our tax-paying citizens." On May 8th, the Council voted on the library ordinance and it failed to pass by a vote of 6 to 2, but on May 22nd, the Council reversed its decision and passed the library ordinance by a vote of 7 to 3. On June 12, the Council authorized the creation of a Board of Trustees to govern the library under appropriations of the City Council. The initial library board was composed of: Byron Clark, D. O. Dwyer, B. S. Ramsey, Ed Oliver, F. J. Moran, D. B. Smith, Mrs. Chas. Parmele, Miss Margaret O'Rourke and Miss Gertrude Kerney.

Between 1893 and 1900, various locations were occupied by the library. Among these were locations in the Union block, the Todd building east of the court house, the Carruth building and again in the Union block. In 1900, the circulation had increased to such a point that the people had come too generally recognize the need of more adequate housing facilities. This need prompted Mrs. C. H. Parmele to donate a building site immediately opposite the present Carnegie library. The gift started a movement of popular donation to a building project in both cash and material. James Robertson gave the sand; T. E. Parmele the brick; A. M. Atwood the paint; F. G. Fricke the glass and with donations of other building material and cash, the library building was assured. A reception marked the opening on January 1, 1901, and the library started off the new century with 2,000 volumes and 800 subscribers. This was the last of the work of the Young Ladies Reading Room association of 1885.

Note—The present Carnegie library was dedicated in 1915. Andrew Carnegie donated \$12,500 for the city would appropriate \$1,250 annually. The building committee consisted of A. L. Tidd, F. J. Morgan, Barbara Gering and Verna Leonard. (To Be Continued)

**FEDERAL AGENT SHOT**

Philadelphia.—William Wipple, a federal prohibition agent who was found wounded in Fairmont park and was erroneously reported to have died, was said by physicians to have an even chance of recovery.

## GREENWOOD

Rev. Goings was a dinner guest at the Hillis lunch one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Nichols of Fairmont called on W. C. Boucher Sunday.

Mrs. Dora Leesley drove to Waverly Friday to attend the R. N. A. lodge meeting.

Frank Coleman, who is working at Friend, Nebr., was home over Sunday and Monday.

Tim Brittenham, of Lincoln, spent Decoration day here and also attended the services.

Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Miller spent the week end visiting with the G. H. Vant family at Ravenna.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Hartsook and Mrs. Layton of Lincoln, called on W. C. Boucher one day last week.

Mrs. Dora Leesley and granddaughters, Mabel, Margaret and Midge, were Lincoln visitors on last Saturday.

Lorin, the small son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bucknell, was quite sick for several days the latter part of last week.

The Dorcas society will meet next Thursday afternoon, June 9th, at the Christian church, with Mrs. Julia Bethel as hostess.

Miss Florence Beighley has returned home from Plattsmouth, where she has been teaching in the High school during the past year.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Sorman and son, Jennings, were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Gustafson, in Lincoln on last Sunday evening.

Charles E. Calfee and wife, of Ashland were visiting in Greenwood on last Sunday and meeting with their many friends while here.

There were a large number of fine, fat cattle shipped to the Omaha market last week from the Wm. Franks' farms south of Greenwood.

Raymond and Wayne Howard returned home on last Friday, having spent a week or ten days in Papillion with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lamb.

Mr. and Mrs. Ery McNurlin and daughters, of Omaha, came down on Sunday and stayed over for the Decoration day services on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. June Hartsook and Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Hartsook and daughter of University Place, called on Mrs. Dora Leesley Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lambert and family visited with the Ray Evans family in Lincoln on Decoration day. Mr. Evans and Mr. Lambert being cousins.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Dimmitt and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Peters and family drove to Alvo Sunday afternoon to attend the Memorial service held that afternoon.

**Special Sale of Chicks.**

One Week Chicks \$5.00 per hundred; two week old, \$6.00; two weeks old, \$7.00; we have them three and four weeks old at very reasonable price. Leghorn hens at 10c per lb.—LEESLEY HATCHERY, Greenwood.

**Entertained Kensington Club**

Mrs. Ben Howard entertained the Greenwood General Kensington ladies' card club on last Wednesday afternoon at her home in Greenwood and had a goodly number of the ladies of the Kensington at the home, where the afternoon was very enjoyable spent and where she entertained them at a very fine luncheon.

Mrs. W. G. Willis accompanied Mrs. Howard Richard and daughter, Betty Jean, of Ashland, to Lincoln on last Thursday, where Betty Jean had her tonsils removed.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hamlin, of Omaha were visiting for the evening last Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Holt, where all enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

P. A. Sanborn and wife spent Memorial day in Omaha, driving over on Saturday night and remaining over the week end. They enjoyed their stay in the big city very much.

Mrs. Ann McCutcheon and daughter, Margaret, of Central City, spent Decoration day with Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Leesley and family. They returned home Tuesday morning.

Mr. Clifford Godsey, wife and niece, of Waverly, had dinner Monday evening at the Hillis lunch room. Mr. Godsey is one of the bosses on the pipe line going through to Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bauer and two daughters drove down from Omaha Sunday morning and visited with relatives until Monday evening. While here they attended the Decoration day services.

Mrs. Ira Lamb, of Kennard, Nebr., visited here over the week-end at the Watson Howard home. The latter part of this week he will leave for points in California, where he will visit with relatives for the summer.

A. R. Birdsall and wife, of Weeping Water, where they are engaged in business, were visiting with friends in Greenwood as well as at Ashland, driving over for Memorial day last Sunday, and visiting with their old friends.

Mrs. Katie Woodruff spent Saturday and Sunday in Ashland with Mrs. Barbee Woodruff and other relatives. On Monday, Mrs. George Shellberg, of

Omaha came down and stopped. Mrs. Woodruff and Mrs. Shellberg came on to Greenwood Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Waldrat and family spent Sunday in Louisville. They attended a family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ahl. The group decorated the graves of relatives and friends at the Glendale cemetery. About sixty were present.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schuster came over from Underwood, Iowa, on Sunday and stayed over for Decoration day to visit with her mother, Mrs. Nannie Coleman. Their son, Harry, who had been visiting here for a couple of weeks, returned home with them.

Mr. Earl Humphrey, of Kansas City had his wife here on last Monday. While here she visited at Shorty's lunch room with Mrs. Hillie. Mr. Humphrey is one of the contractors on the Lincoln pipe line through here, work on which is now progressing rapidly.

Mrs. H. W. Dollarhide, Mrs. Ruth Hanners and children, of Lincoln, and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Dollarhide of Morland, Kansas, visited over Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Grady and also with Mr. H. W. Dollarhide, who is here running the barber shop for Mr. Wilkie.

Uncle John J. Mefford, who looks after the delivering of the mails from the postoffice to the Burlington station and vice versa, has not been feeling so well of late and so Walter Weemer has been taking his place. However, Uncle John will be on hand again as soon as he is better.

G. W. Holt, agent for the Burlington, accompanied by Mrs. Holt, were over to Plattsmouth for the afternoon on last Sunday and were visiting for a time with some of their friends in the county seat. They had some visitors coming and could not remain long and so hurried back in the evening.

The Woods Brothers farm northwest of Greenwood, where they have been feeding some six hundred head of cattle during the times when they had the most on hand, have been shipping many to market, and on Wednesday of last week shipped one hundred and sixty-nine fatted steers to the Omaha market. They, however are replacing their shipments with feeders which will come on later in the season.

W. R. Baldwin, better known as Ray Baldwin, formerly of Cass county and who lived for many years some five or six miles northeast of Greenwood, but who for many years has been making his home in Wichita, Kansas, drove over to Greenwood last week and was visiting with his many friends here. Mr. Baldwin also resided near Plattsmouth many years ago and is well acquainted with the older inhabitants of that place.

**Entertained Kensington Club**

Mrs. Ben Howard entertained the Greenwood General Kensington ladies' card club on last Wednesday afternoon at her home in Greenwood and had a goodly number of the ladies of the Kensington at the home, where the afternoon was very enjoyable spent and where she entertained them at a very fine luncheon.

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Finally, about eleven o'clock they concluded it was going to clear off, and so they started. When they arrived at Havelock, the rain started fresh but nothing daunted them, so they kept on their way and the rain poured until they had gotten to Bennett when it subsided, and they had the remainder of the trip in comparative peace. They started back about three o'clock and to make the trip home shorter cut across on some new gravel which they found rather hard going, but got home and notwithstanding the rain enjoyed the trip a great deal.

**Poisoning the 'Hoppers'**

Ray Friedrich has been mixing grasshopper poison and using some of it on the ground which is badly infested with grasshoppers. He says 100 pounds will cover 10 acres and according to the best evidence, between six and nine o'clock in the morning is the best time to scatter the poison. He has mixed it according to government specifications. The cost of the poison is about 15 cents per acre.

**Hostess to Friends**

On last Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. John Elwood entertained a number of her old neighbors and friends. The time was spent visiting and with fancy work, after which lovely refreshments were served by the hostess. Those present were Mrs. G. N. Holmes and daughter, Mrs. A. N. Sandy and daughter, of Ashland; Mrs. John Van, Mrs. E. O. Miller, Mrs. Evan Armstrong and daughter, Maxine, Mrs. W. A. White and Mrs. George Bucknell and son Lorin. All departed declaring that they had had a most enjoyable afternoon.

**Enjoyed Social Afternoon**

The King's Daughters Sunday school class was pleasantly entertained on last Friday afternoon, May 27, at the Christian church by Mrs. D. H. Headley. There was a very large attendance present. The usual business of the society was taken care of. The remainder of the afternoon was spent socially and in fancy work. Delicious refreshments were served at the close of the meeting. The next meeting will be in two weeks, June 19, at the church with Miss Alice Boucher as hostess.

**Alkins Goes to France**

Mrs. George Bucknell has received word from one of her old school mates, Lloyd Atkins, of Lincoln, who will sail on the 10th of this month for Paris, France, to attend the dedication of the Pershing Memorial, now nearing completion. Mr. Atkins will represent the state department of the American Legion and will accompany Harry L. Stevens, national commander of the Legion and three other prominent Legionnaires of the United States. Nebraska, being General Pershing's home state, will have a special room in this magnificent memorial building and has been soliciting contributions from Legion posts and citizens over the state to defray the cost of equipping this room. Known as the Pershing salon, it bears the same resemblance to the entire building as a lobby does to a hotel and will be passed through by all who enter or leave the building. In it there will be a roster of Nebraska memorial dead, also a list of 96 Congressional Medal of Honor men of the United States.

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# Soviet Plans 10,000-Mile Trip to Arctic Seas

### To Observe International Polar Year and Explore Glacial Regions of the North.

Moscow.—A 10,000-mile voyage from Archangel to Vladivostok, circling the long arctic coast of Siberia and passing through Bering Strait, is an outstanding feature of Russia's plans for celebrating the second "international polar year" in 1932. Prof. O. U. Schmidt, head of the All-Union Arctic Institute, who is in charge of the icebreaker Sibirakoff, which has been chosen for this expedition, is announcing plans for the trip, acting voyage.

Professor Schmidt declared that, while it is hoped to make the voyage without interruption, outside of brief halts for purposes of exploration, the vessel will carry provisions for 15 months. Such preparations are made in case it proves necessary to winter somewhere in icebound polar waters. The Sibirakoff will carry a radio apparatus and airplanes useful for scouting expeditions.

As far as Northern Land—a large arctic territory which is separated from the northern coast of Siberia by a small strait—the Sibirakoff will have a companion ship, the icebreaker Rusanoff, under the command of Prof. R. L. Samoilovich. He directed the relief expedition of the icebreaker Krassin, which rescued some members of General Nobile's polar exploring party in the summer of 1928. The party of the Rusanoff will remain at Cape Cheloskin, on the north coast of Siberia, where it will build a new meteorological station, while the Sibirakoff continues its voyage around the coast of Northern Land.

One purpose of this expedition to Northern Land is to take off an intrepid arctic natural scientist named Ushakov, who with a few companions has now spent two years in this remote and desolate arctic region. Ushakov and his associates have been exploring thoroughly Northern Land hitherto almost unknown. They have made the important geographical discovery that the territory is not a solid mass, but is cut across in an east-west direction by a narrow strait. If the Sibirakoff cannot pass through the little known and often icebound strait separating Northern Land from Siberia, it will try to effect a passage through this newly discovered channel.

Other features of the Soviet celebration of "international polar year" will be an increase in the personnel of the northernmost meteorological radio station in the world, on Hooker Island, in Franz Josef Land, the construction of a weather observation point on Rudolf Island, near the eighty-second parallel of latitude and the establishment of a unique arctic station on the top of a glacier, 3690 feet high, in Novaya Zemlya.

Professor Schmidt estimates that Soviet expenditure on arctic exploration during this year will amount to 60 per cent of those of all other countries put together.

## CLAIM STARVATION AHEAD

Chicago.—President Hoover was told that half a million Chicagoans face possible starvation unless federal aid is obtained at once. A group of prominent bankers and civic leaders telephoned the president personally and urged him to direct his efforts towards procuring federal aid for Chicago's unemployed.

The extraordinary action was taken after the Illinois emergency relief commission announced that dwindling finances doomed the existence of the city's relief stations after Saturday night. The stations have been feeding 500,000 persons for many months. Wilfred S. Reynolds, executive secretary of the commission said, "And these persons will have no place to obtain aid should the stations close."

Eighty-three civic and business leaders have been invited to meet Friday to confer on the problem. Mayor Cermak said he saw no alternative to the closing of the relief stations. "No one knows better than I how desperate the situation is," he said.

Members of the commission expressed fear of possible disorders following the exhaustion of relief supplies.

The divorced wife of the late Arnold Bennett has written a book about him. There isn't much news in that. Books written by married ladies are usually based on certain aspects of their husbands' lives.

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