

Of business has jumped ahead within the past two weeks, and one year from to-day will show 20,000 inhabitants in Plattsmouth.

Will be commenced on the B. & M. R. R. between Plattsmouth and the C. B. & St. Joe Railroad next week, and a locomotive will whistle on the opposite bank of the Missouri in less than fifteen days.

Hon. Wm. Smythe, member of Congress from the 9th Iowa District has written a letter asking the President to appoint some colored person to office in Iowa, and cites as a reason why it should be done that Iowa has voted to establish impartial suffrage by a majority of about 25,000.

A member of one of our heaviest mercantile firms told us that they were selling more than double the amount of goods they had done at any time since they had been in business in the city. Their business will "more than double" again inside of three months.

Are being made all about rocky point, and the probabilities are that the work will be completed this winter. The expense of bridging the river at this point will be one-half less than at any other point on the river below Sioux City. A draw can be put in with perfect safety.

Will be built up in Plattsmouth, immediately. The B. & M. R. R. being the only road reaching out into the great grain producing regions of Nebraska. The rich products of the soil will be brought to this city for shipment either to the east, west or south.

Are needed in this city right away. Will some enterprising firm see the money there is in the construction of a Grain Elevator in this city and "reach out" for it? One year from this fall will witness more grain handled in the city of Plattsmouth than there is in any four towns of the State now.

The rush for Plattsmouth has been so great since the letting of the contract to build the railroad that every house is filled and people are living in tents in some parts of the city. This will not last long, however; lumber and brick are too plentiful, and men like money too well to miss getting high rents.

The platform of the recent Republican Convention of Mississippi embraces free speech, free schools, and free ballot-box, equally before the law, the ratification of Article XV. of the Federal Constitution, universal amnesty, and universal suffrage. The convention is said to have been constituted of the ablest men in the State.

There is nothing like doing a good job of puffing, but it is quite essential to make all parts of the story correspond. We learn from the News of Monday that "the grading contract on the Midland Pacific had not been let yet," but that "bridge building and track laying will commence immediately."

Of Iowa City, was in our place last week, and purchased one of the best business lots on Main street, upon which he proposes to erect, immediately, a fine three story brick, which will fill with goods. Mr. Bloom is a brother of the well known Bloom of Council Bluffs, who has done so much for that place, and we congratulate our citizens upon the fact that Mr. Bloom has interested himself with them in the success of the place. He has ample means at command, and will never regret his purchase here.

At the opening of the books of subscription to the Capital Stock of the B. & M. R. Co. in Nebraska, last Saturday, the entire amount of stock designated in the articles of incorporation, seven and a half millions, was taken in less than fifteen minutes. The amount was taken by Messrs. Perkins, Strong and Thielson, of Burlington, Mr. Woodman (for himself and others) of Boston, and Mr. D. H. Wheeler of this city.

In Nebraska will drain the finest agricultural region in the State, and has the best route that is possible for a road to traverse to the interior. The road follows a water course for full seventy-five miles, with a maximum grade of twenty feet to the mile. Is there another line in the United States that can beat that? What would be the chances of a road with a seventy or eighty foot grade along side of this line? Which one would be likely to carry the freights?

Mr. James A. Buck, writing from Peoria county, Illinois, says: "In consequence of the long continued rains the farmers are becoming quite discouraged. Corn will be almost a failure in these parts. Wheat is rotting in the head, and will not be harvested. In the month of June we had thirteen days rain; in July we have had six days rain. On the 17th of this month we had a flood. It seemed as if the clouds opened and let the rain down in torrents. The rain that day did this country a great damage. On the stream called the Kickapoo there were several good bridges washed away, to replace which will cost the county a large sum of money. Corn is selling for 90 cents, and will soon bring \$1 per bushel, as it is very scarce. Fruit, such as apples and cherries, are plenty. The people already are complaining of their potatoes rotting very badly. Taking all things into consideration, the people in this community will have hard times before this year is over."

At the invitation of the Republican State Committee of Ohio, General Chas. has consented to devote a part of the time until October to canvass in that State, as appears from a statement in a Cincinnati paper. At present the Senator is visiting his parents near Chicago.

In this city has advanced somewhat within the past two weeks, but we are pleased to know that property owners generally have discouraged and prevented any great advance. Property can be had in Plattsmouth to-day at much less figures than in any other city of the same expectations on the Missouri river. Now is the time to buy. Property will not always remain at present prices.

Superintendent of B. & M. R. R., arrived in our city last Friday, and remained until Tuesday looking after the interests of the Company. He is a heavy stockholder in the organization in this city, and has done much towards hastening the building of the road west to Ft. Kearney. Mr. Perkins is a man young in years to have charge of so great an enterprise as the B. & M. R. R.

Of Plattsmouth as a commercial center can hardly be estimated when we look at the great agricultural region that will be drained by the B. & M. R. R. in Nebraska within the next year. Just take one Colton's Sectional Maps of Nebraska and examine it. The counties of Cass, Saunders, Lancaster, Butler, Seward, Saline, Polk, York, Fillmore, and all that rich country lying along the headwaters of the Big and Little Blues, the Sandys and the Republican river, all will be accommodated by the B. & M. R. R. in Nebraska, and Plattsmouth will be the river base for this entire region. Can all the products that it is possible for our enemies to muster be made to prevent the building of a large city here, if we are only true to ourselves and look after our own interests? We venture the assertion that no railroad in the world drains a richer country than the B. & M. R. R. in Nebraska. It may be thought by some that other roads will say this, and that other points than Plattsmouth will derive benefit therefrom. We admit that other roads will reach out to this rich country, and that other towns will receive benefit therefrom; but look again at your map, and you will find that the B. & M. R. R. follows a water course all the way from Seward county to Plattsmouth, and her maximum grade is only twenty feet to the mile. It is impossible for any other road to reach this region with anything like this low a grade; consequently the B. & M. R. R. must always do the bulk of the business, no matter how many roads lead in there, and Plattsmouth will always be the great base of supplies for this fertile country.

As we are to have an eclipse in a short time, I send you an article on the subject, mostly made up from an old book in which such occurrences are noted down. That work refers to an eclipse of the sun in the year B. C. 565 as the first on record among the nations of Europe. Another one is spoken of in the year B. C. 424, and a total one occurred in the year B. C. 188; and in the year A. D. 291 one took place that occasioned total darkness at noon at Rome. One was observed at Constantinople in 968; and, in France, one that produced total darkness by day in 1033. One is also spoken of in England, in 1149, and again in 1191, when the stars were visible at ten in the morning. Another is recorded in 1381; and another, in England, in 1715; and one in the interior of Europe, central and annular, in 1829.

These are the most remarkable ones spoken of by the Europeans, but the Egyptians claim to have accurately observed 573 eclipses of the sun, and 823 of the moon, before and down to the time of Alexander the Great. How much truth there is in their claim cannot be decided, but as they are much older in knowledge of that kind than the Europeans, it is probable that they have a reliable record hundreds of years farther back than their northern neighbors.

In remote times an eclipse was supposed to be caused by magic, and the beating of a drum was considered necessary to break the charm. How that was to effect the object is not certain, unless the warbling on a base drum, as Artemus styles it, disconcerted the evil spirit that produced the eclipse. But the eastern nations, if ahead of their brethren of the west in fanciful notions about the cause of the phenomenon, certainly are not ahead in whimsical ideas about the consequences attendant on eclipses. With us, if the season in which one is to occur is remarkably dry, it is said to be caused by the eclipse; if very wet, the eclipse is blamed for it. Also, if very warm or very cold; if very windy or very calm; if very healthy, or if very or reverse; or if very anything, the eclipse takes the credit of the blame.

Here we look occasionally that our very heavy rains were owing to the coming eclipse; and, as it has ceased raining, the same men must think the thing has been postponed. At least one would suppose that, if an approaching phenomenon could make it storm every day for three months in advance, at about the time the eclipse took place the rain would be coming down on us by buckets full, unless there had been a change of programme.

But as such men's philosophical theories are generally adopted without any very convincing logic, we suppose they can readily drop an old idea and take up a new notion. So, probably, if we have two weeks of dry weather immediately preceding the eclipse, they may change front and say the rain after all was not caused by the approaching phenomenon, but that the eclipse put a stop to it and brought on the dry weather.

Fourteen graves have been made in our graveyard within two weeks. Mr. Canada, one of our oldest settlers, died suddenly on Saturday evening, after an illness of eight hours. To-day we learn of the death of an infant daughter of Mr. George Sheop-

man, caused by eating matches. The facts, as I have them, are these: She obtained access to the matches by climbing upon a chair and opening a stand or table drawer, and before her parents noticed her she had eaten the phosphorus from four and one-half dozen matches. After eating them she ate her breakfast, and they did not think anything serious had happened until she commenced vomiting. They then brought her to Dr. Thomas, only to hear her case pronounced hopeless, and after lingering 32 hours in an unconscious state she expired.

Here is another warning added to the many now on record to parents, not to place matches or other poisons in the reach of small children, for by so doing they not only endanger the lives of the children, but also the lives and property of others.

It is unknown whether he came to his death by his own hand or by accident. The deceased was about sixty-five years of age, and quite in feeble health. He was in comfortable circumstances, his home farm containing about eight hundred acres of the richest land in Otoe county, horses and cattle in abundance, and some ready money. He was much esteemed by his neighbors, and his death deeply regretted by them.

It will be seen that a very large proportion of these lands are offered at figures ranging from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per acre. They are all within the ten mile limit, and among the best and most fertile lands in the State. The lands outside of the ten mile limit, and within the twenty-mile limit, will be appraised and offered for sale hereafter.

The following table will show the number of acres in each of the counties bordering on the line of the road, and which are embraced within one million acres now offered for sale:

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MILLFORD LETTER.

Crops, Business, Etc. MILLFORD, SEWARD CO., NEB., July 20, 1899. Here is something like them looks. Honey in woods, Jute in brooks.

since the late dampness; the only difference being, the Juleps have turned to great quantities of muddy water. The woods still remain, but the honey is minus.

The Millfords think they can survive sometime without rain. Grain is ripe, and the busy hum of the reaper is heard on all sides. We think that Seward county will do a "big thing" in the way of exporting grain this fall.

Our village presents a lively appearance, and is fully up to the times, as shown by the enterprise of her citizens. J. L. Davidson is enlarging his grist mill to three times its former capacity. When completed it will be one of the finest mills on the Blue, and Mr. Court-right knows just how to put on the finishing touch.

Doom & Eatherly are supplying the farmers with agricultural implements, while Merriam can suit any sized individual since receiving that new stock of ready-made clothing.

The material is being hauled for the Congregational Church. Blue Mound Lodge No. 22 I. O. O. of G. T. proposes to flourish if it is busy times.

Millford is in need of a hotel. Almost every house is obliged to take boarders. It would be a safe and profitable investment for any one desiring to go into the hotel business to locate here. We are not too far from Lincoln to become great, grand and noble.

Thousands of suns bend each other blaze. Orbs roll o'er orb, and glow with many rays. More anon. LEZAH.

ASHLAND LETTER.

The Crops Damaged but Little. Generally Extra Heavy. - Railroad Matters. - Home-stead Settlers, etc. ASHLAND, July 25, 1899.

FRIEND HATHAWAY:—As you wished to hear from this section occasionally, I send you a few items.

The weather that had been very stormy up till last Tuesday, took a favorable turn, and on that day harvesting the wheat crop commenced with vigor. In every direction now, are extensive fields of wheat, cut, and in shock, and in many cases fit for stacking. Should the weather continue favorable for another week, the heavy crops of this section will be mostly secured. This valley has, since its settlement ranked high as a wheat region, but the crop this year is superior to any preceding one. So far as I have observed every acre of upland wheat will yield well, and the low lands, except on flooded fields, will be extra heavy.

From the excessive rains and cold weather in the early part of the season the corn crop was backward, but it is now improving rapidly, and there is a prospect of a good crop. The same weather that retarded the corn will secure to us a heavy yield of oats and potatoes.

The Burlington road is still sending on hands, and the prospect is that we will yet have a railroad to slip the present crop of produce; with it the farmers will realize a fine income from the produce of this year, without it they will find all the coarser products almost unmarketable, and their wheat still burdened with the heavy drawback from transportation to market by teams. The road, for the present crop only, will add thousands of dollars to the wealth of Ashland Valley, and as a permanent improvement of the advantages to this section are of incalculable value.

The population of our country is mostly made up of home-steaders of less than one year standing. The rainy weather has given them much of suffering from the want of good shelter, but it has also given them much better crops on their new lands than are usually had. The prospects are that even the new settlers, who came in time to put in a spring crop, will all have an abundance for the winter.

On questions of general news I am not posted this week, for the harvest field has taken my entire time and attention; when that is past I may give news more interesting to the general reader. Yours Truly, ASHLAND.

WEeping WATER LETTER.

Coal Mining—Crops—Death of an Old Citizen—Child Poisoning. WEeping WATER, July 28. EDITOR HERALD:—Sometime ago I promised you a detailed account of the coal discoveries on this creek. But while waiting for something real to turn up, Mr. Walker reached the bottom of his drill to find nothing but solid rock. How they could have drilled a day and a half in "solid coal," where it was "so solid that you could hear the drill strike when twenty rods distant," or how any one could have "sailed" the hole while they were at work, is a mystery none are able to explain. If any one knows of a half bushel of coal being put into a shaft, I should think he would know who put it in. The W. W. Coal Company are still drilling, and all are in hopes that they may keep at work until the much needed mineral is found.

Harvest is at hand, and nearly every one is disappointed by having better crops than they expected. Corn never looked better, and if some one will protect us from that "great first" weather prophets predict at the time of the eclipse, we shall have an abundant yield. But while all are rejoicing in the prospect of an abundant harvest, many of our neighbors are called to mourn the loss of loved ones.

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man, caused by eating matches. The facts, as I have them, are these: She obtained access to the matches by climbing upon a chair and opening a stand or table drawer, and before her parents noticed her she had eaten the phosphorus from four and one-half dozen matches. After eating them she ate her breakfast, and they did not think anything serious had happened until she commenced vomiting. They then brought her to Dr. Thomas, only to hear her case pronounced hopeless, and after lingering 32 hours in an unconscious state she expired.

Here is another warning added to the many now on record to parents, not to place matches or other poisons in the reach of small children, for by so doing they not only endanger the lives of the children, but also the lives and property of others.

It is unknown whether he came to his death by his own hand or by accident. The deceased was about sixty-five years of age, and quite in feeble health. He was in comfortable circumstances, his home farm containing about eight hundred acres of the richest land in Otoe county, horses and cattle in abundance, and some