

# THE DRUIDS OF MODERN WALES

## AFFAIRS IN NEBRASKA

### Peculiar Features of the Eisteddfod, the Great Welsh National Festival, Recently Held at Cardiff.

What the Isthmian games were to the ancient Greek, Eisteddfod is to the modern Welshman, an event which brings the people together, ignoring all differences of opinion as to politics and religion, conquering all sectional feeling, and cementing the bonds which bind Welshmen together in a common brotherhood. This institution, peculiar to Wales, is of very ancient origin. The present name, however, which means a "session" or "sitting," was probably not used before the twelfth century. In the fourth century, upon the departure of the Romans, Owain at Maxen Wledig, was elected to the chief sovereignty among the Britons, and it was about this time that the motto, "The truth against the world," was adopted, and the laws of the Gorsedd codified. The first one held, of any note, took place in the sixth century. The Prince of North Wales wished to prove that vocal music was superior to instrumental.

a general thing, non-conformists, although sometimes even a bishop of the Church of England has been known to assist. The Gorsedd is held within a circle of stone, in the light of day and in the open air. No Gorsedd can be held at night, or under a roof. In modern Welsh the word means "judgment," but in mediaeval Welsh it signifies a "tumulus" or "hill." It is probable that the judgments of the Druids were given from a hill, which may account for the double significance. Gorsedd was the court and Eisteddfod the "sitting" which had been determined upon a year and a day previously. The opening ceremonies are very imposing. Three times the presiding Druid asks "Is there peace?" while he and some assistants hold an unsheathed sword. As soon as he has received an affirmative answer three times he sheathes the sword and the court is declared open. A prayer is offered to the Deity in the vernacular:

stone, symbolizing the whole earth, and representing the top slab of the cromlech. Here, robed in his garments of spotless white, stood the venerable figure of "Hwfa Mon," the Archdruid, wearing the breastplate of gold and the wreath of oak leaves; surrounding him were his fellow Druids, bards and oviates, clad in their respective robes of white, blue and green, and in the background was the grove sacred to the Druids of old. There were pennillion sung, as there have been since the days of the fourth century, and the presentation of "Hirlais Horn" was made, and another quaint feature was the offering to "Hwfa Mon" of the horn filled with "mead" by one of the lady oviates. The presence of the Breton delegates suggested a pretty ceremony. The halves of two swords, a Welsh and a Breton sword, were held aloft by the Archdruid, the parts placed together, and tied at the handles with white, blue and green ribbons by one of the ladies. This was called the ceremony of the "united sword," and was suggestive of the time when the various Gaelic peoples were one. The name of the Archdruid is the Rev. J. Williams, and he is Welsh Congregational minister at Llangollen. In these tournaments of song



THE BARD OF THE YEAR READING HIS POEM BY THE SACRED STONE.

and he offered a prize to the bards and minstrels, who should swim over the Conway. The bards found themselves unable to play, as their instruments were wet, but the minstrels had no trouble with their voices. Upon the annexation of Wales to England, Edward I. deemed it wise to sanction the Eisteddfod, by the famous statute of Rhuddlan. During the times of Henry VII., Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth, the festival was held with the royal permission. Taffy was a Welshman, Taffy was a thief, was the sneering couplet of the Englishman once upon a time, but he knows better now, realizing that the Welsh have done a great work in the way of furthering native talent and fostering the latent genius of their country, and the Eisteddfod has been the means of bringing before the public almost all the literary men, musicians and poets of the little country. The Welsh declare that the Eisteddfod has been held since the time of the Druids, and seek to preserve some of the ancient forms, as the sacred stone, but whatever may have been the history of it, from very ancient times it has been held annually, and only twice out of Wales, once at Liverpool and once in London. The first part of the Eisteddfod is the Gorsedd held by bards under the presidency of the chief Druid. The word Druid, as here used, has a loose construction, and means any minister of religion admitted to the Gorsedd. These ministers are, as

"God impart thy strength; And in that strength reason; And in reason knowledge; And in knowledge justice; And in justice the love of it; And in that love the love of everything; And in the love of everything the love of God. O, Jesus, repress injustice." The festival lasts four days, and from all the villages, colliers, quarrymen and laborers, with their sweethearts decked in gayest attire, betake themselves to the 'steddfod. The business of the Gorsedd is the licensing or approving of the various grades of bards, and the choral competition is the most interesting. Then there is the crowning of the bard and the quaint custom of "chairing" the bard. There are also competitions in painting and art needlework. The Eisteddfod are held alternately in the north and south of Wales, and this year it was held in Cathay's Park, at Cardiff. There was an innovation this year, delegates coming from Brittany, wearing the picturesque Breton costume, and other Celtic representatives, in the delegates from Scotland, wearing the Highland dress. Thousands of persons witnessed the ceremonies of the Gorsedd on the first morning. There was the outer circle of red Rader stones, twelve in number, in honor of the apostles, as some think, each draped in the Gorsedd colors, white, blue and green. In the center was placed the "Maen Llog," or sacred

and poetry, the fact is never lost sight of that each ceremony is for the purpose of keeping alive the interest in the Gaelic language and perpetuating the memory of the ancient Welsh customs. The Catholic priest and the Anglican pastor are for the time being eager learners in the school of the Celt. The Welsh language is not a simple patois abandoned to the inferior classes. The same right is claimed for it as for the English, and perhaps the fact that it is maintained so well in the midst of the English-speaking masses is due to the Eisteddfod. The ancient rites of the Druids are by the people, although the Druidism of to-day is Christianity, but they love to guard the archaic formula and ceremonial, and to unite Welshmen of every creed to one arden cult of the old Celtic fatherland.

Seal Oil Ice Cream. A favorite dish with the Eskimo is an ice cream made of seal oil, into which snow is stirred until the desired consistency has been obtained; then frozen berries of different kinds are added, with a little of the fish egg for flavoring.

In Too Great Hasto. New York World: Wife—What's the matter, John? You walk lame. Husband—Yes, a pretty girl with duffy hair and diamond earrings got on the car coming up, and I sprained my leg in giving her a seat.

Valuable Documents Lost. LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 19.—In the North fire here several valuable records and manuscripts were destroyed, among them being the copy and proof of the senate and house journals, several thousand printed copies of the election laws of the state and other printing contracted for by the state printing board. The journals were almost completely and the bound copies would probably have been delivered at the state house within the next two weeks had it not been for the destruction of the printing establishment. The last proof on the house journal was read only a few days ago, and Secretary John Wall and his assistant, J. O. Berkeley, were paid in full for their services. There were still some eight or ten pages of the senate journal to be put into type.

The destruction of this property will probably result in a loss both to the state and the printing firm. Jacob North & Co. have paid for composition on the house journal over \$2,000, and probably a third as much for work on the journal of the other house. This of course will be a dead loss, as the state will not reimburse the printer for the money expended unless the books are delivered. The law requires the publication of a report of the proceedings of the legislature and if it is to be complied with in this respect the secretaries of the two branches and their assistants will have to be re-employed.

Triple Tragedy at Scotia. SCOTIA, Neb., Sept. 19.—Mrs. Ernie Phillips, the wife of a young farmer living near here, killed her two children, aged respectively 1 and 2 years, and then killed herself. She forced the little ones to take carbolic acid and then swallowed a portion of the poison herself. Domestic difficulties was the cause. Young Phillips lives close to the residence of his mother, and while he was busy working in the field his young wife went to his mother's house and announced she was going to leave her husband. She was very hysterical and did not state definitely what the cause of the trouble was. His mother-in-law tried in vain to dissuade her from her purpose, and as a last resort secured her promise to remain where she was, while her mother-in-law went to the field to bring in her son to see if they could not mutually settle their differences. Mrs. Phillips was gone only a short time, as the field where the young man was working was not far distant. When she and her son entered the house they beheld mother and children lying on the floor, dead, with every appearance of having suffered terrible agony. An empty bottle, which had contained carbolic acid, told the story.

Death of J. H. Black. KEARNEY, Neb., Sept. 19.—Kearney was greatly shocked to learn of the death of Mr. John H. Black, which occurred at his home in Kenwood addition. Because Mr. Black had been in robust health and few had even heard of his illness, the shock was all the greater. He had been sick about ten days, the cause of his death being a complication arising from an acute stomach trouble. Mr. Black had been enjoying the best of health and was a familiar figure on the streets for years, strong and robust, only slightly gray, and carrying his sixty years quite lightly. Henderson Black, as he has always been known, came to Kearney in 1880 and homesteaded on the island southwest of the city. He had been a farmer in McHenry county, Illinois, and had always followed farming here. He was probably the first person to raise celery for the market in Nebraska, and has the largest celery garden in the state this year, he having in about fifty acres.

Reception to Soldiers. WEEPING WATER, Neb., Sept. 19.—The citizens of this city gave a welcome to the boys of the First, Second and Third Nebraska regiments in the park. About twenty members of the three regiments were present and the evening was spent in listening to speeches and a general social good time was enjoyed. Quite a number were present from Plattsmouth, Elmwood, Eagle and other parts of the county and all enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent.

Horticulturists and Bee Keepers. YORK, Neb., Sept. 19.—The horticulturists and bee keepers of Nebraska will hold their annual meeting here September 20 and 21 in the court house. A fine display of fruits and flowers will be exhibited and also everything in the apian products. The program will contain many interesting papers and discussions by prominent members of both societies.

Old Settlers at a Birthday Feast. TABLE ROCK, Neb., Sept. 19.—Sixty-five old settlers, most of all of whom have lived here since 1860 and earlier, met to celebrate the 80th birthday of Grandma Margaret Jones with a reunion and an elaborate dinner. Mrs. Jones came to Pawnee county thirty-nine years ago, and has many children, grandchildren and other relatives in the state.

Good Prices for Cuming Farms. WEST POINT, Neb., Sept. 19.—Cuming county land is still advancing in price. Anton Chalmers has sold a quarter section in Logan township to Henry Schlickberend for \$45 per acre, and a number of sales are on record where the price has been \$40.

Johnson is Bound Over. WAHOO, Neb., Sept. 19.—John J. Johnson, the farmer who attempted to kill Sheriff F. W. Farris, has had his preliminary examination in the county court and was remanded to jail to await the next term of the district court, which meets the 21st of December next. Johnson's bond is placed at \$2,000, and he seems to be unable to furnish the acceptable sureties. He is charged with shooting with intent to kill. If Johnson should by some hook or crook be acquitted in the district court on the above charge he will be prosecuted on a charge of forgery.

Harry's Complimentary Order. LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 18.—Following are the orders issued by the adjutant general, a copy of which was sent to each commissioned officer in the regiment: HEADQUARTERS NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD, Adjutant General's Office, Camp Stotsenburg, Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 14, 1899. General Orders No. 223: 1. The commander-in-chief desires to express his high appreciation of the gentlemanly behavior and soldierly-like conduct of the officers and men of the Nebraska National Guard assembled in camp of instruction at Camp Stotsenburg, in compliance with general orders No. 21, C. S. A. G. O., and trusts that the instruction imparted will be carried into practice at the home stations, and hopes that ere the encampment for 1900 rolls around that the reorganization of the First regiment, Nebraska National Guard, will have been completed and that the Guard may continue to attain a higher degree of proficiency commensurate with the services rendered by the First Nebraska volunteers in the Spanish-American war, and also with the splendid record made by the Second and Third Nebraska volunteer infantry and Troop K, Third United States volunteer cavalry. By command of the commander-in-chief, P. H. BARRY, Adjutant General.

Downey Killed by the Cars. LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 18.—John Downey, the city marshal at Aurora, who was killed by being run over by a string of cars at that place, was at one time an employe of the Burlington railroad, and the news of his death was received with much regret at headquarters. It appears from reports from the railroad men at Aurora that Downey came to his death in a very mysterious manner, and some of his friends were afraid that he had caused it himself. But as he was of a very happy disposition, and there was no motive apparent for self-destruction, this belief was not general. The train crew switching in the yards had just pulled a string of cars from a siding, when the brakeman looked back and noticed Downey lying beside the track. He hurried to him and discovered that one of the car wheels had nearly severed his head from his body by passing over his neck. He had not been dragged any distance, as there was no dust on his clothing excepting on the trousers about the knees.

Changes at the State Normal. PERU, Neb., Sept. 18.—At the end of the first week the enrollment at the State Normal is about 415 in the Normal proper, being about fifty more than at the corresponding date last year. Last year the total enrollment, including practice school and special students attending summer school, was 903, being the largest in the history of the institution. Several changes have taken place in the faculty. H. M. Benedict, who was to have taken Prof. Duncanson's chair, resigned to accept a position in the Omaha high school, Prof. Sheldon of Lincoln being elected to fill the vacancy. Miss Dally of University Place takes up the work in elocution, while Miss Sanders of Hastings is teacher of vocal music. Miss Waite, superintendent of the practice school, resigned about two weeks ago to go to Salt Lake City. Her successor will be appointed in a few days.

Father Follows Son. CREIGHTON, Neb., Sept. 18.—Chris Kyrass, a German farmer about fifty-five years old, died at his home southwest of town on Monday, after an illness of only one week. He was buried in the Creighton cemetery on Tuesday afternoon. The funeral was conducted by the German Lutheran minister. His son was a member of the Third Nebraska regiment of volunteers, and died on his way home from the south, and was buried here about a year ago.

Anti-Saloon League at Ainsworth. AINSWORTH, Neb., Sept. 18.—Ainsworth was visited by Rev. J. B. Carns, state superintendent of the Nebraska Anti-Saloon league. He called a number of citizens together and in a forceful way presented the object and work of the organization. As a result a strong, active anti-saloon league was formed. A. G. Arms is president, and Mrs. M. R. Alder, secretary.

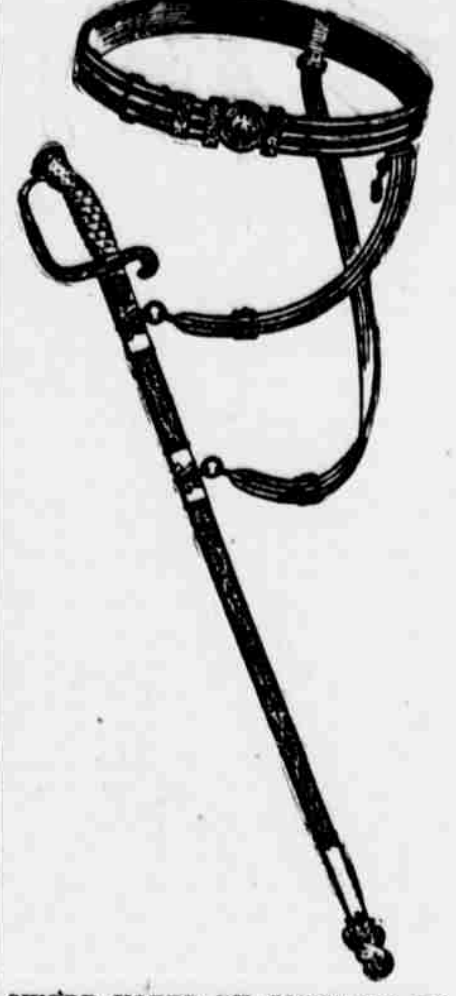
Recruiting at Columbus. COLUMBUS, Neb., Sept. 18.—Lieutenant A. M. Pelete of the Thirtieth United States infantry has opened a recruiting station here and is receiving many applications, but not all are passing. Married men are not wanted and are only taken in exceptional cases. Enlistments are being made for a period ending June 30, 1901, or nearly three years.

Souvenir Rings From Manila. OSCEOLA, Neb., Sept. 18.—L. I. Garringer, a member of Rising Star lodge of Odd Fellows and of the First Nebraska, brought with him from Manila a number of plain band gold rings with "F. L. and T." engraved on them and at the last meeting of the lodge presented them to the brethren with his compliments.

Suspected Horse Thief in Jail. PENDER, Neb., Sept. 18.—Ten days ago Frank Johnson, living northwest of Decatur, lost a horse, and recently found it in the possession of a young man named Hiram Mason, who was bound over for trial in the district court, and being unable to give \$500 bond was returned to jail. Mason claims to have bought the horse.

Sheriff Has a Broken Leg. GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Sept. 18.—S. N. Taylor, sheriff of Hall county, residing in Grand Island met with a very serious accident while attending to his official duties in the western part of the county. Mr. Taylor was just returning from Wood River after having driven forty-five miles, when one of the horses was frightened by a switch engine, and while being turned around both horses plunged forward at a rapid rate, upsetting the buggy and throwing Mr. Taylor out, breaking his leg below the knee joint.

NATION'S GREETING TO DEWEY. Features of the Reception to the Manila Hero at Washington. The central idea underlying the grand welcome to be given Admiral Dewey in Washington the first week in October is its national character. His arrival at the capital will mark his real home-coming to the American people, where the officials of the government will participate, and the magnificently jeweled sword voted by congress will be presented. To that end all the arrangements will be of a simple but most dignified character. The welcome to the hero of Manila at the national capital will probably occur on Monday, October 2, although the date will depend upon the length of the celebration in New York, which is still un-



SWORD VOTED BY CONGRESS TO DEWEY.

settled. The principal features of the reception in Washington, as planned by the citizens, with the co-operation of the president and cabinet, will be two in number—the presentation of the sword voted by congress and a night parade. A public reception at the white house will be followed by dinner to the admiral by President McKinley. The sword will be presented by Secretary Long, at the east front of the capitol, in the presence of Mr. McKinley and all the members of the cabinet, late in the afternoon, while the parade, consisting of organizations of all kinds, will be accompanied by an illumination of the city on a scale of beauty never before witnessed in Washington.

The different features of the preparations are in the hands of a central body of citizens and eleven committees, embracing in all over a thousand people. Preparations for the celebration have been in hand for over a month. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad and other railroads entering Washington have agreed upon cheap rates for the celebration, and the committee expects that there will be an outpouring of patriotic citizens almost equal to the inauguration of a president.

Betrayed by His Parrot. Victor Chevalier, a clever criminal in Paris, was run down in a shrewd way. He was known to be exceedingly fond of a pet parrot, and the police were instructed to look for a loquacious bird of this kind. After a week's search the talkative parrot was discovered in the Montmartre district. The police kept a close watch on the house, and in time the criminal appeared to have an affectionate chat with his bird.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR. Every woman is a good actress till she goes on the stage.

There is one thing a woman never can understand, and that is herself.

When the devil had his choice as to instruments he first picked jealousy.

If they were named anything else a woman would have just as queer a look in her face when she talked about her legs.

If there weren't any bad men to be horrible examples, probably there wouldn't be any good women to be shining examples.

Every racy story a man hears he acts like it was old to him and every woman like it was new to her, and both are making believe.

When a man can make a woman believe that he can't help thrilling at her voice she feels she has to marry him so that she can turn the current on whenever she feels like it.

The difference between a woman and a cat is that when you tease the cat you know she'll scratch you, but when it's a woman you never know whether she'll kiss you or tear your eyes out.—New York Press.

PROVERBS BY WILLIAM BLAKE. Expect poison from the standing water. Without contraries is not progression. To create a little flower is the labor of ages. What is now proved was once only imagined. He who desires but acts not breeds pestilence. Listen to the fool's reproach. It is a kingly title.