

# THE CHIEF

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## CALIFORNIA LETTER.

### Nebraska Association of Southern California Holds Annual Picnic.

SAN PEDRO, CAL., Aug. 20.

TO THE CHIEF:

It has been many, many months since I penned an article for the columns of THE CHIEF, but that is no sign I have forgotten it, for it is a welcome visitor to our western home every week, containing as it does all the news of my home for thirty years. Perhaps I would not be writing this letter today had it not been that my mind was carried back to Nebraska's hills and valleys more vividly yesterday than it has been at any time since leaving the Corn state.

The reason of my memory being turned to things of long ago was the annual picnic of the Nebraska Association of Southern California, which met yesterday at Long Beach, one of the beautiful beach resorts for which this part of the state is so famous.

In this association are enrolled the names of over 6,000 people who have at some time in their life lived in Nebraska. This seems like a large number, but in all probability not a third of the former Nebraskans in this part of the state have their names on that book, because it seems like at least half the people one meets here have at some time in their life lived in Nebraska.

Probably a third of the society, 2,000 people, were gathered yesterday on the beautiful strand of the Pacific at this spot, and to say that they enjoyed themselves would be putting it very mildly. It seemed as though people from every walk of Nebraska life were in attendance. Bankers and lawyers smoking black cigars, some accompanied by their wives dressed in rustling silks, and some alone, promenaded the strand too dignified to disport themselves in the rolling surf as did a thousand others. Old farmers with bent fingers, calloused by years of gripping the corn plow, the fork handle and the garden hoe, soon gathered in little knots and their talk drifted to cattle, hogs and corn. Occasionally a whole family would be seen trudging the walks or sands together, the children importuning the father to buy ice cream, popcorn or some of the many delicacies offered at every turn. Quite often a young couple, evidently on their wedding journey, or an elderly man and a young woman, he particularly solicitous of her welfare and constantly asking if the salt sea breeze was too cool for her, could be seen arm in arm or walking close together, the latter instance showing that every effort was being put forth to make life more pleasant for the second wife than it had been for the first when the foundation for a competency was being laid in Nebraska's early days. These were the visitors, but most of those persons now live here.

The forenoon was given over to bathing, either in the surf or plunge, and many hundreds of both sexes participated, filling the air with startled shrieks and "Ohs!" as the breakers rolled in upon them. Bathers of all sizes and ages, from the tot of two to the grandmother of eighty, raced up and down the beach, paddled in the foamy water or disported themselves on the clean, white sand, out of reach of the combers.

In the afternoon the meeting was held on the end of the pleasure pier in a fine room a thousand feet from shore and over blue water thirty feet deep in which could be seen myriads of the finny tribe. The meeting was called to order by Judge Morris, a former well known lawyer of Crete, Neb., and a very pleasant and able man. Songs were sung and different orators were introduced who spoke a few moments each of former Nebraska life. Among others was a Frenchman named Moriarity, who was a well known lawyer at Indianola during the '80s. He made a good speech and was loudly cheered. A Mr. McGrew of Lexington also gave a spirited address.

The speaking did not last long and

was given over to visiting and renewing old acquaintances. I found many that I had known of and a few that I knew personally in earlier years. J. B. Hartwell, former postmaster of Hastings, was prominent, and on the register of members there are at least 300 who once resided in Adams county. While standing at a corner observing the crowd I felt a hand laid on my shoulder and heard a familiar voice speaking to me, and on turning I beheld Adam Morhart and wife, who have been touring the west this summer. Mr. M. seems to like this country and said he might come here to live.

A little later in the day I met Jim Hilkey, one of Guide Rock's former giants, and John Larkey, also of that place, both of whom are now living at Long Beach. The tan is gone from the cheeks of the good natured giant and the callous on his hands is very thin. He has a complexion now that any Guide Rock belle would envy, but he's the same old Jim—slow of speech pleasant spoken and good natured. He says he's glad he's alive to enjoy the finest climate in the world. Larkey seems to enjoy the good things of life, too. He told me that the last time he was in Red Cloud George McCrary said to him: "Ah, John, I envy you. You will be going down to the beach every day, when you get out there, and watching all those beautiful maidens running around on the sand with their bathing suits on." And John does.

Long Beach is also the home of Joseph Hunter and family, one of Webster county's earliest and most progressive settlers. He it was who secured the second piece of deeded land in the county and on it located the town of Guide Rock. He built there on the first store of logs, and later the first frame building, which, he tells me is still standing. He yet owns considerable of that piece of land. He came out here three years ago to retire from active life and live at ease. He is doing the latter, but his judicious investments here have brought him many thousands of dollars. He is upright, happy and good natured, a model citizen and a glory to God. His wife and two bright girls bless his declining years. They have a beautiful home on which are growing hundreds of semi-tropical plants, showing the marvels of the country. In front of his home are two date palms with a foliage covering thirty-five feet and bearing fruit nine months in the year. Among other Webster countyans who live at this town are Harry Horn and wife, the latter a daughter of Mr. Hunter; J. W. Reed and Mrs. Dr. Rockwell, all seemingly happy and contented.

As to my own circumstances, I have little to say. My health and that of my family has been excellent since coming to this coast. Financially we are not losers, so we are satisfied. I have been in the newspaper business at Oxnard for something over two years, but sold out the 1st of August and am now contemplating going into the same business at this place, San Pedro. This is a live town of about 6,000 inhabitants and has two daily papers, one of which I am bargaining for. It is the harbor city of this part of the country and has the only deep water port between San Diego and San Francisco. It has a wharfage payroll of over \$80,000 per month. The government recently erected a breakwater for the outer harbor at a cost of \$1,000,000. Twenty-eight vessels came into this harbor to unload in one day last week. There are two railroads running in here, and two electric lines. It is twenty-six miles from Los Angeles and the electric lines carry passengers to and fro in a trifle over half an hour, one way. We think the city has a great future. Joseph Hunter recently bought a lot in the residence portion for \$3,000 and in less than twenty-four hours was offered double that for it.

But this letter is too long now, so I will close by inviting all who come this way to call and see me.

U. G. KNIGHT.

### A Guaranteed Cure For Piles.

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## Often The Kidneys Are Weakened by Over-Work.

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It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these most important organs.

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## TRUE WAY TO MAKE TEA.

A Science Which Includes Many Mysteries in the Brew.

Luwuh, a poet, saw in the tea service the same harmony and order which reigned through all things. In his celebrated work, the "Cha-king" ("The Holy Scripture of Tea"), he formulated the code of tea. He has since been worshiped as the tutelary god of the Chinese tea merchants.

In the fifth chapter Luwuh describes the method of making tea. He dwells on the much discussed question of the choice of water and the degree of boiling it. According to him, the mountain spring is the best; the river water and the spring water come next in the order of excellence. There are three stages of boiling. The first boil is when the little bubbles like the eyes of fishes swim on the surface. The second boil is when the bubbles are like crystal beads rolling in a fountain. The third boil is when the billows surge wildly in the kettle. The cake tea is roasted before the fire until it becomes soft like a baby's arm and is shredded into powder between pieces of fine paper. Salt is put in the first boil, the tea in the second. At the third boil a dipperful of cold water is poured into the kettle to settle the tea and revive the "youth of the water." Then the beverage was poured into cups and drunk. Oh, nectar! The filmy leaflet hung like scaly clouds in a serene sky or floated like water lilies on emerald stems.—International Quarterly.

### The Change of a Word.

"You wouldn't think there'd be enough difference between the definite and the indefinite article to matter much, would you?" said a woman who writes for a living. "I made a lifelong enemy of a woman once just by writing 'the' where I meant 'a.' It was an account of her wedding I was doing. I said something about the ceremony being performed at the home of the bride's aunt, and then I added that there were present 'only the few friends of the family.' The bride never got over that 'the' in front of few. It happened five years ago, and when my name is mentioned she still froths at the mouth."—Washington Post.

### Nearing a Crisis.

Jackson (whose financial credit is gone)—I tell you, Witherbee, we are on the verge of a financial panic. Witherbee—Pshaw! What makes you think that? Jackson (confidentially)—Well, sir, Bagley and Roberts used to lend me small sums a year ago, but when I go to them nowadays for five or ten pounds they tell me frankly that they haven't got it. Bagley and Roberts are two of our best business men, too. I tell you, sir, we're going to have a panic.—London Express.

### Indifference.

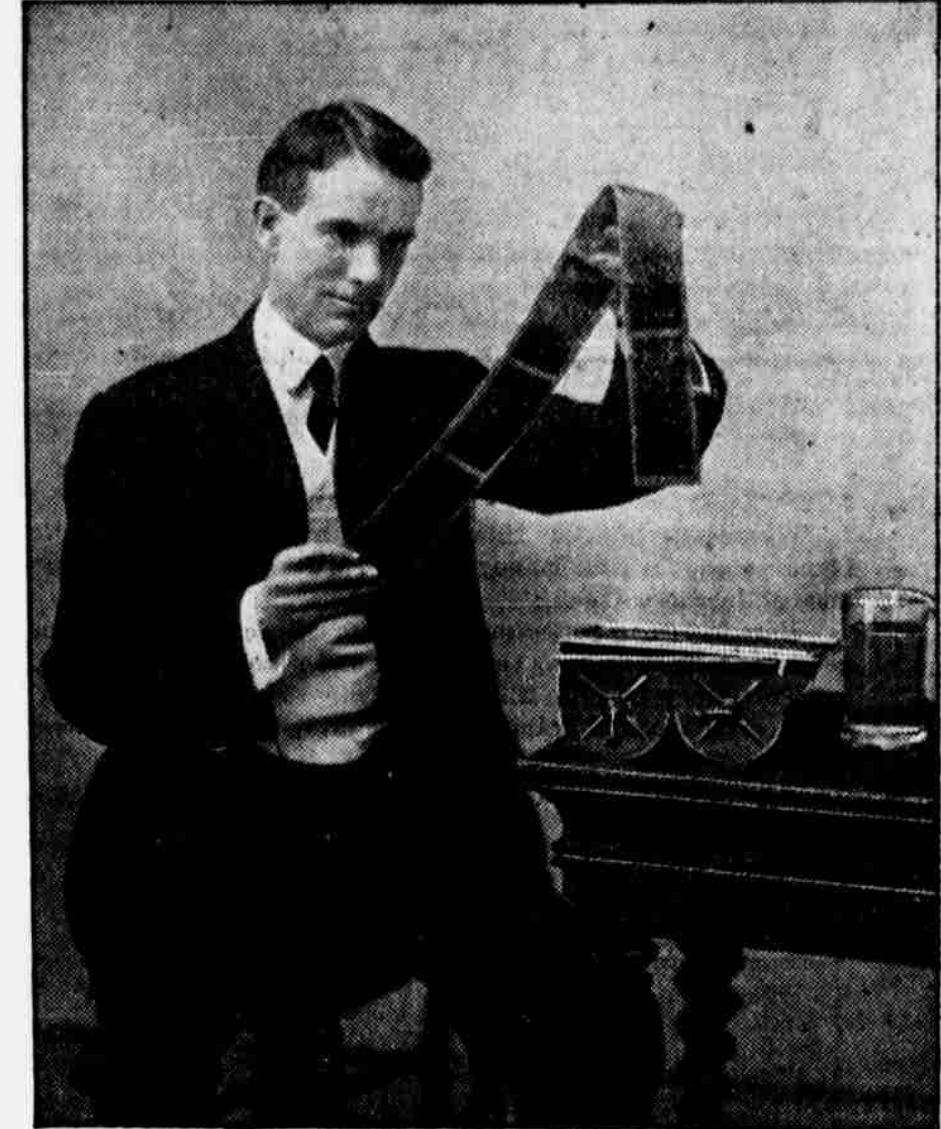
Indifference may not wreck the man's life at any one turn, but it will destroy him with a kind of dry rot in the long run. To keep your mind alertly made up is to be dull and fossiliferous; not to be able to make it up at all is to be watery and supine.—Bliss Carman's "Friendship of Art."

### The Good Classified.

An Indian is a good Indian when he is dead; a boy is a good boy when he is asleep; a man is a good man when he is at work. Get busy and be a good citizen.—Douglas (Kan.) Tribune.

Pedantry and taste are as inconsistent as gayety and melancholy.—Laver.

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