

# Rediscovering OMAHA

By T. W. McCULLOUGH.

On a sunny afternoon in the early part of last month I foregathered with Herman Bethge down at San Antonio, Tex. Herman used to live at Fremont, but is now property man and stage director at the wonderful Scottish Rite cathedral at San Antonio. Sitting in his headquarters at the back end of the magnificent building, we talked about ancient history and old-timers of Omaha and Fremont, and other parts of Nebraska. Suddenly Herman said: "Do you remember the time we put Jim Boyd in the governor's chair?"

Probably nobody who lived in Nebraska at the time will forget any part of that exciting episode. Already I have had something to say in regard to the election of 1890, when Boyd was chosen as the first governor the democrats ever elected for Nebraska. Right here I want to record my belief that Boyd was fairly entitled to the office. No doubt exists as to the commission of fraud in the election in Douglas county, but it was not enough to throw out the entire vote of the county. On the other hand, if statements made to me by leading workers of the Farmers' Alliance had any foundation, Douglas county was not the sole offender, nor were all the fraudulent votes cast for James E. Boyd. If the contest had been carried through after it was started, it is quite possible that the result would have been the same.

**Two Plots.**

Between the time the result of the election became known and the date for the convening of the legislature at least two plots were laid to prevent James E. Boyd from taking his seat as governor. Governor Thayer, persuaded by counsel more politician than wise at the moment, decided to disregard Boyd's claim to the office, asserting that he was not eligible, because he was not a citizen of the United States. Boyd's father, born in Ireland, had settled in Ohio, but had not completed his naturalization. Governor Boyd himself had made his home in Nebraska long before the territory became a state. On this point finally turned his right to the governor's office.

The farmers' alliance group conceived what appeared to be a simpler though quite as effective a plan. They would organize the legislature, and then refuse to recognize the election, pending the result of an inquiry to be carried on by a committee named by the legislature. Naturally, this committee would be expected to find in favor of "Honest" John Powers.

**Fireworks in Legislature.**

Under the constitution, the first duty laid on the legislature, after the house had elected its presiding officer, was to convene in joint session, when the speaker of the house would receive from the secretary of state the returns from the election, and "open and publish the same." It was at this joint session the fireworks occurred. George D. Meiklejohn was lieutenant governor under Thayer, and it was his duty to preside over the senate until the election of his successor had been declared in open joint session. Thomas J. Majors was the lieutenant governor-elect. Samuel Marshall Elder, representative from Clay county, was elected speaker of the house that did not adjourn, but simply "unhitched." Gathered at Lincoln were the war chiefs of all Nebraska politics. "Bill" Dech, defeated candidate for lieutenant governor on the farmers' ticket, led the forces on that side. Charlie Ogden, John C. Cowin, "Bill" Johnson, W. C. Thompson, Judge Tesagn, Albert Watkins, J. D. Calhoun, T. J. Mahoney and some others looked after the interests of Boyd. John Lee Webster of Omaha and Judge Richard Norval of Seward were attorneys for Thayer, while around them clustered such leaders as John G. Watson of Nebraska City, "Church" Howe, the sage of Nemaha, "Tom" Benton and a galaxy of lesser lights. On the whole, it was such a gathering as probably never again will be assembled in the capital of Nebraska.

**Everybody Present.**

On the opening day of the session, 100 representatives responded to the roll call in the house and 33 senators answered "here" in the senate. On the first ballot for speaker, "Marsh" Elder was chosen, having 53 votes, two more than a constitutional majority. The farmers had the house. Twenty-six democrats and 21 republicans were there. Unfamiliar with the method of procedure, the house adopted the rules of the preceding session, to govern until new rules could be formulated. The role of "philosopher, guide and friend" to the speaker was assumed by "Paddy" Ford of Douglas county, who expounded parliamentary law and practice as he had learned it in the city council of

two exchanged, and the lieutenant governor entered the chamber and mounted the rostrum, from whence he greeted the members as they assembled. Excited crowds swarmed through all the corridors of the old state house, and a riot seemed imminent. Beseeched for aid, the governor ordered his guard to clear the corridors. This was done with difficulty, but finally the members of the legislature gained admission, and the joint session resumed just where it had left off. Meiklejohn refused to entertain a motion, made again and again, that the session adjourn and the house proceed with its organization. This would have carried out the majority plan for throwing the election into the hands of a committee without publishing the returns. Meiklejohn held this to be unconstitutional. While this was going on the republicans and democrats carried out their part of the program.

**Court Takes Hand.**

On the relation of Thomas C. Benton, that the speaker of the house had refused to perform the duty laid upon him by the constitution, and thereby exposed the state to great danger of anarchy, Amasa Cobb, chief justice of the supreme court of Nebraska, issued a writ of mandamus in which Samuel Marshall Elder, as speaker of the house of representatives, was ordered to open and publish the returns.

The writ was turned over to Samuel McClay, sheriff of Lancaster county, who, with Deputy Sheriff Hoxie and Deputy United States Marshal "Pop" Hastings, proceeded to the door of the house. Here a genuine battle ensued. The guard did its level best to prevent the entrance of the sheriff and his retainers. Blows were exchanged, clothes torn, and the door was broken down. "Pop" Hastings immortalized himself by scrambling through the struggling crowd and making his way triumphantly to the

speaker's desk, where he served the writ on Elder.

The show was over. Claimed by the dignified order of the court, the speaker opened and published the returns, and the democratic governor, republican lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, commissioner of public lands and buildings and superintendent of public instruction were declared elected. Elaborate plans that had been laid in Omaha for the inauguration of Governor Boyd and the return of the Samost club and several hundred of their friends, including Herman Bethge, to Lincoln, where they gave the new governor their heartiest congratulations.

**Cold Routs Thayer.**

Temporary offices were arranged for Governor Boyd, and the steam was turned off the rooms occupied by Thayer and his supporters. Zero weather soon raised the siege. The quo warranto proceedings before the supreme court resulted in the ousting of Governor Boyd and the return of Governor Thayer late in the spring. On appeal to the supreme court of the United States the Nebraska decision was reversed, and Boyd was declared to be a citizen of the United States, because he had been a resident of Nebraska at the time the territory was admitted to statehood.

**Columbus Sets Record for Building in 1924**

Columbus, Neb., Jan. 3.—Residence property improvements and construction for 1924 have broken all previous records, approximately a quarter of a million dollars being spent for that purpose. Total building improvement investment in Columbus amounts to \$225,000 for the year. Two public buildings, costing \$300,000, and 16 business buildings at \$42,925 were constructed, and 48 new homes were built for a total cost of \$249,350.

## Second-Hand Lamb Blankets Puzzle Ewes, Who Lose Scent of Hungry Babes

### Omaha's Novel Idea to Shelter Sheep Hits Rocks; Even Soap Suds Fail.



A.C. Scott

Al Scott carried a route of The Omaha Bee years ago, before he became president of the Chamber of Commerce. Then he went into the business of manufacturing tents, awnings and other lines of protection for man and beast.

A few years ago he had a dream, in which he beheld a lamb shivering beneath a March wind. Familiar with the conditions and exigencies of the western sheep country, he pondered over the idea of commercializing blankets for lambs. The more he thought of the idea, the more it appealed to him. A design was made and approved. Thousands of the blankets were made at machines.

Out in the sheep country it is quite a chore during the lambing season to watch the newborn lambs in the cold weather. They are taken under shelter and nursed until their ewes take them in charge. If a ewe gets the scent of its own lamb within the first few days, the mother can find her ewe out of a thousand. A hungry lamb will approach any ewe, but only the natural mother will permit it to feed.

So when Scott went out into the sheep country with his lamb blankets he was surprised at the success of his idea. Dealers in the towns imported him for the exclusive rights. More than 300,000 blankets were sold within a short time.

Scott, however, forgot to take nature into his confidence when he pro-

field, several of his competitors rushed in with large supplies and their order books ready for signatures on the dotted lines.

"For a while we thought we had the world by the caudal appendage," Scott reminisced, "but we did not reckon with nature. It shows that you can't always sometimes tell."

**WOMAN DIES ON 93D BIRTHDAY**

Wymore, Neb., Jan. 3.—Mrs. George Crippin, mother of Mrs. Claude Craig of Wymore, died recently in Athens, O., on her 93d birthday and the 29th anniversary of her husband's death.

She died on the day that Mrs. Craig arrived in Athens to pay her a visit during the holidays, and on the day that Mr. Craig left Wymore to join his wife. Her funeral took place on the 29th anniversary of her husband's funeral.

See Want Ads Produce Results.

## CATTLE FEEDERS PREDICT BIG YEAR

By International News Service.

Ponca, Neb., Jan. 3.—Farmers and other feeders throughout northeast Nebraska are greatly encouraged over the top prices they have been receiving for stock shipments.

Shippers in the localities of Laurel, Hartington, Ponca and other towns in northeast Nebraska have topped the cattle, hog and sheep markets several feeders who have taken special care to have fat and finely finished stock have topped the market two or three times during the year.

In spite of the high price of corn, the prospective decreased supply of meats and the present healthful economic conditions makes farmers feel that profits from feeding this year will approach the high water mark of 1924.

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Pease Upright	\$135	Solo Concerto Player	\$275
Gabler Upright	\$150	Artemis Player	\$280
Singer Upright	\$175	Schmidt & Schultz Grand	at \$398
Lexington Upright	\$195	Weber Grand	\$550
Kimball Upright	\$200	Steinway Grand	\$950

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\$35.00 Dresses—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$17.50
\$39.50 Dresses—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$19.75
\$49.50 Dresses—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$24.75
\$59.50 Dresses—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$29.75
\$69.50 Dresses—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$34.75
\$79.50 Dresses—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$39.75
\$89.50 Dresses—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$44.75

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\$29.50 Coats—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$14.75
\$35.00 Coats—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$17.50
\$39.50 Coats—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$19.75
\$49.50 Coats—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$24.75
\$69.50 Coats—Year-End Clearance Price,	\$34.75
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