

BELLEVUE GAZETTE.

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News and Local Editor.

BELLEVUE, N. T.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1858.

Emigration to the West.—Bellevue and Sarpy County.

At no time, in the history of western emigration, were there so many eyes turned towards this great and glorious west, as at present. Not only the farmer in his quiet home, who has gathered the members of his household band around the hearth stone, and in these long winter evenings is debating whether he had better dispose of his worn-out lands, and push on towards the setting sun, where nature is more generous to the tiller of the soil,—filling his store house with the products of an exuberant land, but he who has met with a reverse of fortune, in the late financial crash, is now extending his vision over the broad and fertile prairies of the west, which are offering homes to those of small means, where he can eat the bread of his own industry, and in a few short years can repair his broken fortunes, enabling him to spend his declining days in affluence and luxury.

In former years, before the productive-ness of the western prairies became generally known, those that were engaged in mercantile pursuits when a revolution in the monetary world caused their bankruptcy, became desponding, and often sought to drown their troubles in dissipation; and in a short time, many who once counted their gains by thousands, became daily patrons of the corner grocery, till at last they end a life of wretchedness, and find their last resting place in the potter's field. In late years, a relief is found in the cheap homes of the west. Instead of despair and dissipation, those that have been unfortunate, quietly pack up at the earliest moment, and with the courage of a true philosopher resolve to brave the storms of adversity, and go forth to the free and mighty west, where industry, virtue, and integrity, are always crowned with success.

We confidently believe, that Nebraska, holds out greater inducements to the settler than any portion of the west. At the present time, there is more cheap and fertile land, to be had at Government price, in Nebraska, than in any State or Territory bordering on the States, while its climate is rarely surpassed. In no part of the west, can one enjoy better health, than here. There are no marshes, so common in portions of Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, to generate a noxious malaria, which is so destructive to human life. There are always a few diseases incident to a new country, often-times caused by negligence and dissipation; but as a general thing, those that are temperate and pay a proper regard to diet and cleanliness, are seldom attacked by any disease. Owing to an unprecedent rise in the Missouri, last spring, which overflowed part of the adjoining bottoms, there has been quite a number of cases of ague here the past season; but not as many as often occur in many of the oldest western States. This is a fact, admitted by all that are conversant with the different sections of the west. In a few years, we predict that Nebraska will be universally acknowledged to be the healthiest State in the Union.

The winters, as a general thing, are short and mild. The two past winters were very severe, as they were, in fact, throughout the country; but at the present time, we are enjoying a soft and balmy atmosphere, that is more befitting the genial days of October, than that of almost mid-winter. We are informed by those that have spent upwards of ten years in Nebraska, that this is a fair average of the winters experienced here during that time. Surely, who can desire better?

The past summer was very warm. At one time in July, the mercury rose to 110 degrees in the shade; but notwithstanding, the nights are, hardly without an exception, cool and refreshing. So much so, that even quite thick bed-clothing is almost indispensable. Sleep under such circumstances, is indeed invigorating; bringing back, as it does, the deep and quiet sleep of childhood.

From what we have seen of Nebraska, we are inclined to believe that, taking all things into consideration, there are no points in the Territory, that possess greater attraction to the farmer, mechanic, and speculator, than Bellevue and Sarpy County. Bellevue, has a rock landing, unsurpassed by any on the Missouri, while the town is situated on a high bluff, which commands a view of the Missouri valley, nearly forty miles in extent. A few miles

to the south, is Pacific City, in Iowa, which is to be the terminus of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad, while on the north, down the valley of the Musquito, the Davenport and Council Bluffs Railroad is located. And as the valley of the Platte, on the north side, is the only feasible Railroad route to the Pacific, these two roads must ultimately meet at this point; and at no distant day, the iron horse will bring to our doors, both from the commercial cities of the Atlantic and Pacific, the products of a foreign climate.

Sarpy County is situated on the Missouri and Platte rivers,—fronting 12 miles on the former and extending 25 miles along the latter river. It has more timber than any County of its size, in the Territory. The innumerable islands in the Platte, afford an abundance of timber for all practicable purposes. The timber is chiefly oak, black-walnut, hickory, elm, cedar, and cotton-wood.

Coal has been discovered in several places, in different sections of the County, and it is supposed to exist in quantities sufficient to supply a large population.

The surface of the country is slightly undulating, and is well watered with many pure and limpid springs. The soil is a rich, black sandy loam, and will average three feet in depth. In some places it is much deeper.

Oh ye care worn and weary toilers of the east, who are longing for homes of affluence and ease, come to Nebraska, come to Bellevue, and we will extend to you the hand of welcome!

The Ferguson Land Trial.

This important trial came off at Omaha City, before the Register and Receiver of the Land Office, on Saturday last. T. B. Lemon, Esq. and S. A. Strickland, of Bellevue, appeared as Counsel, for Judge Ferguson. Judge Lockwood, the Brother-in-law of B. H. Chapman, appearing to contest the right of Judge Ferguson to pre-empt the land in question.

The letter of instruction from the Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington, to the Register and Receiver of the Omaha Land Office, stated, that the first affidavits, made by Watson and others, against Ferguson's pre-emption, were enclosed in a letter, sent to the Department by B. B. Chapman. And here his Brother-in-law appears as counsel in the case on the same side. If the squatters of Nebraska, were not satisfied before, that this was the dirty work of this Chapman, they will be fully satisfied now, that he is capable of doing that which, we venture the assertion, no settler in Nebraska, could be found mean enough to do. The testimony of the adverse party, only showed how little they knew about the pre-emption of Judge Ferguson.

Their testimony was entirely negative, and proved nothing, only the fact, that they knew less about the Judges living on his claim, than they would, had they been disinterested, instead of maliciously willing witnesses for the further purposes of giving a semblance of decency, to the probability of there being some little foundation for the wholesale assertion, about the pre-emption in the first instance.

Not ONE of the witnesses disputed the Judge's improvements. While the witnesses on the other side, one after another, could not only swear to the improvements, but all had seen the Judge and his family, at various times, living on the land.

Settlers and squatters of Nebraska! you have been told that Chapman was a non-resident of Nebraska; that he had no interest or sympathy in common with you. You have also heard in detail his black and infamous reputation, from the time he was concerned as a coarse hand clerk, in Washington, trying to smuggle and steal away negro slaves, from their owners, down to his framing out the Land Offices in Dakota, Nebraska City, and Brownville; and taking in violation of the statutes of the U. S., where it is made a penal and penitentiary offense, the sum of one thousand dollars, from an Indian trader, Gen. P. A. Sarpy; and the further purloining of the public documents, given by Congress, for the benefit of the settlers and squatters of Nebraska. You may stand with a reasonable amount of grace, these most villainous and shameless acts of Mattison & Co., but how will be excuse this willful, malicious and premeditated attempt to strike at the very foundation of your rights, and highest and best interest? for we unhesitatingly say, that if Judge Ferguson's pre-emption can be broken, then one hundred and fifty in Sarpy County, will share the same fate, and no less than one thousand in the Territory. You who have endured the toil and privations incident to a pioneer life, will you look idly on, and see this ambitious and corrupt aspirant for your votes, come among you, to disturb the

most sacred interest, incident to your coming here, after having possessed himself of a vast amount of land and city lots in Nebraska, through his Brother-in-law Lockwood, by locating land offices, which properly belonged to squatters and settlers? That the world may see this was prompted in malice, and the object of persecution, set in motion by malice and revenge, we publish the affidavit of Col. Lorin Miller, one of the first residents of Omaha City, and the father of the President of the Territorial Senate of Nebraska. Further comment is unnecessary.

Lorin Miller's Evidence in Case of Watson vs. Ferguson.

Question.—Are you acquainted with the parties in this suit?

Answer.—I am acquainted with the parties. That is, I am acquainted with Fenner Ferguson, but not with Eli P. Watson.

Question.—State if ever you have been present at any conversation Mr. Watson has had with your son, or any one else in regard to his purpose and design, in prosecuting the suit against Fenner Ferguson.

Ans.—I was present at a conversation with W. R. Watson and my son; the nature of which was as follows: My son put the question to Mr. Watson, what was there in this reported perjury of Mr. Ferguson? Mr. Watson in answer, went on to state, that it grew out of a difficulty in burning some land by Judge Ferguson's son; the damages to which Judge Ferguson refused to pay; and that his brother said he would make it cost him ten times that amount, before he got through with it, if he did not pay it. He also stated, in that conversation, that he saw the wife of Judge Ferguson, at the house on the claim, but did not think they lived there.

[Counsel for Plaintiff objected to the above answer. Objection overruled.]

Ques. by Reg.—You will please state your age and residence in Nebraska.

Ans.—I am 57 years of age. My residence has been in Omaha, mostly, since October, 1854.

Ques.—Have you been acquainted with Judge Ferguson, since that period?

Ans.—I have, since the first days of my coming here.

Ques.—Please state what is his general character for truth and integrity.

Ans.—As far as I know, it is above suspicion. I do not believe him capable of committing perjury.

[Pliff's Counsel objected. Overruled.]

(Signed.) LORIN MILLER.

What the Press says of our Representatives.

We place Sarpy County third. Strickland, a representative from this county, is often heard upon the floor and figures pretty largely in the legislation. By the Mugger's generally, he is regarded as possessing peculiar and striking talents. We differ with the Mugger's, individually; we think he is possessed only of ordinary abilities, and that if he would speak less and more to the point, it would be quite as well for his constituents and the interests of the Territory.

Charley Holloway, from the same county, is possessed of a fair share of ability, and wields a right genial, pleasant countenance. He ranks above the average of intellect in the House.

Mr. Strickland speaks well and readily. He goes a little too fast, sometimes, but taken altogether, we regard him as one of the ablest debaters in the House.

Florence Courier.

Among the friends and advocates of the Ferguson resolutions in the House, stands most prominent, and who has taken an active and energetic part in engineering them through is Hon. S. A. Strickland. This gentleman is a representative in the House for the County of Sarpy. When not too much excited, he is a very pleasant speaker, of easy address, and commands much of the attention of both members with whom he is connected, and the lobby without the bar. A good selection of language apparently suggests itself to his mind readily, when he deems it proper to make the slightest effort. He most generally has the leadership on questions which divide the House, and places him in antagonism with other able participants in discussion.

Council Bluffs Bugle.

We extract the following from an article in the Omaha Times, replying to an attack made by the Nebraskan, on the members of the Legislature, for voting for the Ferguson resolutions:—

General Bowen sustained the resolutions because he believed them to be right and embodying the sentiment of over four-fifths of the people of the Territory. He is a gentleman of talent and acknowledged ability, and to show how he is viewed by impartial strangers, we will quote a short paragraph, from a well written and interesting letter, in the Council Bluffs Bugle:

"The General is pleasant in his address before the Council, affable and kind in his social intercourse with those around him, agreeable with his colleagues, whilst attending to the duties of a committee, and having a smile for everybody, renders him generally a very acceptable companion. He usually participates in all the important questions presented for the consideration of the Council, and is often consulted on questions arising from a disagreement of members on the rules, in which he is well versed, having been the presiding officer for the previous session, which position he occupied with

much ability and credit to himself, and satisfaction of the Council."

Whether * * * the indomitable, energetic leader Strickland, and the reliable, steadfast and unflinching Holloway, will be consigned to "eternal infamy" for their support of truth and justice, and rebelling fraud and knavery, remains to be seen, but we think not.

Nebraska Legislature.

COUNCIL.

Tuesday, Dec. 29 1857.

A large number of bills of a local character were introduced and referred to the appropriate committees.

C. R. No. 32. An act to incorporate the town of Columbus, was passed.

On motion of Mr. Bowen, the Council went into the committee of the whole, on C. B. No. 16. An act to locate the County Seat of Washington County.

Mr. Bowen in the chair.

After some time spent in session, the committee arose and asked leave to sit again.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, introduced a resolution expelling Mr. Robertson, reporter for the Nebraskan from the bar of the Council, carried, adjourned.

Wednesday Dec. 30 1857

The following bills were passed.

A bill confirming the title of Geo. L. Miller to certain Real Estate in Omaha city.

Joint Resolution relative to grant of land for Rail Road purposes.

Council then went into the Committee of the whole on the School bill.

The Council went into the committee of the whole on C. B. No. 16. An act providing for the location of the County Seat of Washington County.

After spending some time in session the same was reported back with some amendments, passed.

An act providing for the organization of Ames county and the location of the County seat was read third time and passed.

An act to amend an act to incorporate the University of Nebraska; also an act to incorporate the City of Fontenelle. Which has been signed by the Executive.

Council adjourned.

Thursday Dec. 31st 1857

Mr. Bradford submitted the following report

Your Committee to whom was referred the matter of Criminal Code for Nebraska, report the accompanying bill, entitled, An act to create a Criminal Code for Nebraska, and recommend its passage.

Messrs. Allen and Reeves gave notice of bills.

On motion of Mr. Safford, the bill for an act to create a Criminal Code for Nebraska, was read the first time by its title.

On motion of Mr. Puetz, the Council went into the committee of the whole on the School bill.

Mr. Allen in the chair.

After spending some time in session the committee arose and reported recommending its passage.

Mr. Bowen, reported back a Memorial and Resolution relative to the establishment of additional Land districts in Nebraska.

Report accepted and memorial adopted.

On motion the Council adjourned until Saturday 10 o'clock.

Saturday Jan. 2 1858.

The following bills were read third time and passed.

C. B. No. 28. An act to incorporate the Emerson Land Company.

H. F. No. 19. A bill to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

H. F. No. 30. An act to change the name of William Britwhistle.

H. F. No. 53. An act to incorporate the town of North Rock Bluffs.

H. F. No. 60. An act to change the name of Achilla Rogers to George Rogers.

C. B. No. 47. An act to incorporate the town of Bedford in Monroe County.

C. B. No. 59. A bill to incorporate the town of Liberty, Cass Co.

C. B. No. 56. An act to charter a Ferry at Wyoming.

C. B. No. 37. An act to incorporate the town of Cambridge in Otoe County.

C. B. No. 38. An act to establish a Ferry across the Platte River.

C. B. No. 70. An act to amend an act, to incorporate the Florence Bridge Co.

C. B. No. 57. An act to establish a Ferry across the Missouri at Liberty, Cass Co.

C. B. No. 45. An act to locate a territorial road from Bellevue to Omaha city.

C. B. No. 79. Joint Resolution relative to School Lands.

C. B. No. 43. An act to incorporate the town of Milan.

C. B. No. 68. An act to locate a road from Neenah city to Otoe Mission.

After transacting some miscellaneous business the Council adjourned.

HOUSE.

Monday, Dec. 28.

MORNING SESSION.

On motion the House went into committee of the whole on the Homestead Bill, which was the special order of the day.

Strickland in the chair.

After remaining sometime therein, the committee reported progress, and asked leave to set again on Wednesday next at 9 o'clock A. M. Agreed to.

Strickland presented a petition of Enos Lowe J. Milton Thayer and others, praying to be incorporated as the Douglas County Agricultural Society. Refd. to committee on agriculture.

The following notice of bills were given.

Crawford of a bill in relation to writs of quo warrants and mandamus. Also of a bill to incorporate the Frankford town and ferry company.

By Rogers, of a bill to change the name of the county seat of Pawnee County.

By Thrall, of a bill to incorporate the Nebraska Medical Society.

Also a bill to suppress and punish bribery and corruption.

Also a bill to provide for the herding of cattle and other stocks in certain parts of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

By King, of a bill to incorporate Fall City in Richardson Co.

Also of a bill to charter the Falls City College at Falls City, N. T.

Also of a bill chartering the Falls City Manufacturing Co.

By Minick, of a bill locating a territorial road between Aspinwall in Nemaha Co., to Beatrice in Gage County.

Also of a bill locating a territorial road from Aspinwall in Nemaha County, to the Kansas line, via Table Rock and Monterey.

By Paddock, of a bill to regulate fees and salaries.

By Jones, of a bill to incorporate the North Bend Town and Ferry Company in Dixon County N. T.

By Steinberger, of a bill to incorporate the town of Loupburg.

Crawford introduced H. F. No. 61; an act to incorporate the Iowa Town and Ferry company. Read first time.

On motion, the rules were suspended. Bills read second time by its title and referred to com. on corporations.

Also H. F. No. 62; an act to incorporate the Oakdale town Com. Read first time.

On motion the rules were suspended. Bill read second time by its title and referred to the committee on corporations.

Also H. F. No. 63; a bill for an act to provide for the re-location of county seats. Read first time.

On motion the rules were suspended. Bill read second time by its title, and referred to committee on county seats and boundaries.

By Able, H. F. No. 64; an act to incorporate the Eclipse Town, Ferry and Bridge com. Read first time.

On motion the rules were suspended.—Bill read second time by its title and referred to the committee on corporations.

By Davidson, H. F. No. 65; a bill for an act to provide for a territorial road from Bellevue to Fort Kearney. Read first time.

The committee on corporations made the following report.

Your committee to whom was referred H. F. No. 64, an act to amend, an act, entitled an act, to incorporate the City of Tekamah, in Burd Co.

And H. F. No. 55; an act to incorporate North Rock Bluff.

And H. F. No. 34; an act to incorporate the Cleveland Land Co.

And C. B. No. 3; an act to incorporate the town of Omaha, in Dakota Co.

And C. B. No. 42; an act to authorize the city of Brownsville to dispose of property; beg leave to report the same back without amendment, and recommend their passage.

Your committee to whom was referred a bill of L. Gerrard, T. P. Parker and their associates to establish a bridge across Loup Fork of Platte River, report the same back, and recommend that it do not pass.

H. F. No. 23; an act to more clearly define the powers and duties of Notaries Public, was taken up, and on motion of Mr. Strickland was re-committed to a com. of three.

The Speaker appointed Messrs Strickland, Stewart of Douglas, and Paddock, such com.

The com. on engrossed and enrolled bills, reported as correctly engrossed, H. F. No. 60; an act to change the name of Achilles Rogers, to George Rogers.

On motion rules were suspended. Bill read a third time by its title. Passed, and title agreed to.

C. B. No. 24; a bill for an act to locate a territorial road from Plattsmouth to Chester, was taken up, and on motion the report of com. adopted.

On motion the consideration of the bill was indefinitely postponed.

C. B. No. 8; a bill for an act to consolidate the corporations of Nebraska City, South Nebraska City and Kearney City, and to incorporate Nebraska City, was taken up, and on motion the report of com. adopted.

On motion rules were suspended. Bill read third time by its title. Passed, and title agreed to.

H. F. No. 25; an act to provide for the erection of a Court House and Jail in Otoe Co. Nebraska, was taken up, and on motion the report was adopted.

On motion rules sus. Bill read third time by its title. Passed, and title agreed to.

H. F. No. 44; a bill for an act to authorize John A. Singleton to erect a mill dam across the south fork of Grand Nemaha River, in Richardson County, was taken up, and on motion the amendment reported by the com. was adopted, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for third reading to-morrow.

H. F. No. 40; an act to incorporate the town of Brackridge, and establish a ferry at said point, was taken up, and on motion, the amendment, reported by the com. adopted, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for third reading to-morrow.

H. F. No. 19 1/2; a bill to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, was taken up, and on motion the report of com. was adopted.

On motion rules sus. Bill read third time by its title. Passed, and title agreed to.

H. F. No. 19; and act to incorporate the town Tessong was taken up, and on motion the report of com. adopted.

On motion the rules were suspended. Bill read third time by its title. Passed first time.

On motion the rules were suspended. Bill read second time by its title, and referred to committee on roads and bridges.

By Stewart of Douglas, H. F. No. 66, an act to amend an act, entitled an act, for locating, opening, repairing, and changing county roads. Read first time.

On motion the rules were suspended. Bill read second time by its title, and referred to the committee on roads and bridges.

Also H. F. No. 67; a bill to incorporate the Nebraska Settlement Association.—Read first time.

On motion the rules were suspended. Bill read second time by its title, and referred to com. on cor. Title agreed to.

H. F. No. 7; an act to incorporate the town of Syracuse, was taken up, and report of com. adopted.

On motion bill was ordered engrossed for third reading to-morrow.

H. F. No. 4; an act to incorporate the town of Brooklyn, was taken up, and on motion the report of com. adopted.

On motion rules suspended. Bill read third time by its title. Passed, title agreed to.

H. F. No. 3; an act relative to the incorporation of the Simpson University at Omaha City, N. T., was taken up, and report of com. adopted. Bill ordered engrossed for third reading to-morrow.

H. F. No. 14; a bill to incorporate the town of Monroe, in Monroe County, was taken up and report of com. adopted.

On motion rules suspended. Bill read third time by its title. Passed and title agreed to.

H. F. No. 39; an act to incorporate the town of Granada, was taken up, on motion report adopted. Bill ordered third reading to-morrow.

H. F. No. 49; Joint resolution relating to the establishment of a tri-weekly mail from Omaha City, to Dakota City; also a tri-weekly mail from Dakota City to Niobrara Leon qui court county, was taken up, and report of com. adopted.

On motion rules suspended. Bill read third time by title. Passed and title agreed to.

H. F. No. 45, an act to establish a territorial road from Omaha to Forest City in Sarpy County, was taken up and report of com. adopted.

On motion consideration of bill indefinitely postponed.

C. B. No. 1; an act to locate a territorial road from Omaha to Elk Horn River, was taken up, and the majority report of com. adopted, and the bill indefinitely postponed.

H. F. No. 57; an act relative to minors was read second time, and on motion fifty copies were ordered to be printed for the use of House.

On motion: was referred to com. of the whole, and made special order for Monday next.

H. F. No. 29; a bill authorizing limited partnerships was taken up, and on motion rules were suspended, bill read third time by its title. Passed and title agreed to.

On motion the following resolutions were taken from the table.

Resolved; That the rules of this House be so amended, as to require all bills coming from the hands of com. as substitutes for other bills to pass through their regular course, and receive their separate readings.

On motion of Holloway, the resolution was indefinitely postponed.