

GENERAL JOHN M. THAYER

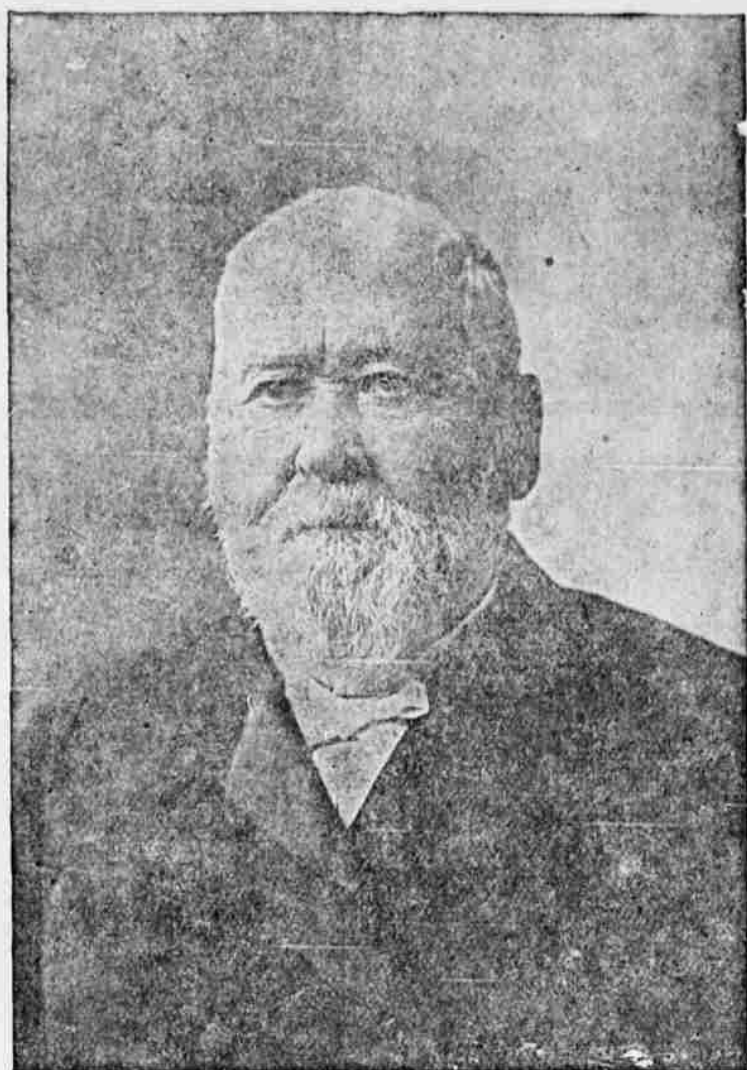
SKETCH OF THE DISTINGUISHED NEBRASKAN WHO RECENTLY DIED AT LINCOLN

HIS LONG AND EVENTFUL CAREER IN THIS STATE

Coming to the Commonwealth in 1854, He Took Up Farming but was Soon Called to Military and Civic Duties for State and Nation.

Born in Billingham, Mass., January 24, 1820.
Graduated from Brown university, 1841.
Settled in Nebraska in 1854.
Brigadier general and major general of territorial forces operating against the Indians from 1855 to 1861.
Colonel of Nebraska troops in civil war and brigadier general United States volunteers.
Member of Nebraska's first constitutional convention, 1860.
United States senator from Nebraska, 1867-1871.
Governor of Wyoming territory, 1875-9.
Department commander Nebraska G. A. R., 1886.
Governor of Nebraska, 1887-91.

The following sketch of the life and public services of Gen. J. M. Thayer, who recently died at his home in Lincoln, at the age of eighty-six, is taken from the Omaha Bee:



GENERAL JOHN M. THAYER.

John Milton Thayer was born at Billingham, Mass., January 24, 1820, of good old colonial stock, both his grandfathers having held commissions in Washington's army. He was the youngest son of Captain Elias and Ruth (Staples) Thayer, and, with eight older brothers and sisters, was farm-bred. He entered Brown college in September, 1837. On graduating in 1841 he entered the law office of the Hon. Isaac Davis of Worcester, of the class of 1832, and for forty years a member of the corporation, and on finishing his law studies he spent some years in Washington as a practitioner in land claims, pensions and the like.

Meantime he had formed the partnership of his life. During his second years in college he had taken three months off to teach a rural school in what was then Seekonk, and thus met his fate in the person of Miss Mary Torrey Allen, whose father, Rev. John Allen, was pastor of a church in the neighborhood. They were married two years after young Thayer's graduation—to walk together happily through his whole public life, until he brought her back in broken health to look once more on the dear families elms and breathe her last breath in the old home at Billingham. Of six children born to them, two sons, John M. Thayer, Jr., and Dana Thayer, alone survive.

Comes to Nebraska.

Mr. Thayer removed to Nebraska in 1854—the same year that saw his classmate, Frieze, take up his life-work in Michigan; and though at once admitted to the Nebraska bar, it was with no intent to practice. Rather his heart was set on the calling to which he was born, and with a world of virgin soil about him, where to choose, he promptly set his stakes and went to farming.

But the sword was more in demand than the plowshare, just then and there; and the first territorial legislature (1854, 1855) made young Thayer brigadier general in command of the forces levied against the redskins, who were as usual on the warpath. For the following six years he had enough to do in protecting the scattered pioneers and keeping the Indians within bounds—a task that required all his courage and diplomacy. Twice at least he had to deal with a general outbreak, and once with less than 200 men he rounded up the whole Pawnee nation—5,000 strong, including 1,500 fighting men—when they had raided the Elkhorn valley and left behind

them 'one wide swath of destruction.' It was on this expedition that young Thayer first found use for that decision of character that has marked his career.

Guard for a Governor.

At the end of a two days' march he was overtaken by the governor with a demijohn of whiskey in his traveling ambulance—a class of baggage much affected by the gentlemen whom Pierce and Buchanan used to send out to govern the territories. Now, governor—was already mellow and getting more so, and Thayer foresaw trouble if in that state he should assert his authority as ex-officio commander-in-chief. Accordingly, he emptied the demijohn and put the governor under guard till he should sober off. But, watching his chance, the governor got the ear of Thayer's second in command and gave his first military order: "Colonel," quoth the gallant governor, "you will take seventy-five men and proceed to Colum-

emancipation proclamation. "In the winter of 1861, while still a colonel, I received an order from a general officer to have my camp searched for a runaway slave and to return him if found to his master, who brought the order. There was an issue for me. I said to the slave-hunter: 'You shall not take this man back to bondage, and I give you five minutes to get outside my lines.' He did not hesitate about going. I kept the slave at headquarters that night, and next morning I loaded him with supplies and sent him rejoicing on his way to freedom." And that was not the first nor the last time he took the bull by the horns.

Saved Lives of Soldiers.

An incident worthy of mention in his career occurred when his regiment was stationed at Leavenworth. News came from Independence, Mo., that four union soldiers had been captured by the rebels and were held as spies, awaiting death. General Thayer determined to save them and accordingly boarded the boat and went down the river to Independence with his company. They proceeded at once to the jail and demanded the release of the four union soldiers which was given them. General Thayer took them to Fort Leavenworth and gave them their liberty.

After the War.

At the close of the war he returned to Nebraska and became a member of the first constitutional convention in 1866. He took a leading part in securing the admission of the new state, and was chosen one of its first senators in congress. In this high office he served four years (1867-71), including the stormy session of Andrew Johnson's impeachment and the earlier part of Grant's first term. After leaving the senate he was appointed by his old commander to be governor of Wyoming territory, and held that office some four years (1875-9). In 1886 he was elected governor of Nebraska, and in 1888 was re-elected, and, although not a candidate at the following election, he became, in fact, the first and only third-term governor in the history of the state. It came about in this wise: James E. Boyd, who carried the state in 1890, was not only a democrat, but a born Irishman. He had come to Nebraska as a minor with his father, and neither of them had ever taken out naturalization papers, though the son had always been an active politician and was at the time mayor of Omaha.

Leaves Governor's Chair.

Governor Thayer declined to turn over the office to him, and claimed to be governor de facto and de jure until a successor should be elected and duly qualified. The issue was tried on a writ of ouster before the state supreme court, and the governor's contention was sustained, but, on appeal to the federal supreme court, that tribunal, by a majority of one, reversed the decision and seated Mr. Boyd—some of the justices claiming that the enabling act made all residents citizens of the new state, while Chief Justice Fuller held that Boyd was de facto a citizen, inasmuch as he had been voting and occasionally holding office ever since the admission of the state into the union. In accordance with this decision Governor Thayer turned the office over to Mr. Boyd shortly before the expiration of his unsought third term, in 1892.

His Domestic Life.

Gen. Thayer was prominently identified with the Grand Army of the Republic and John M. Thayer post is named in his honor. General Thayer was commander of the state department of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1879.

The domestic life of the great Nebraskan was an exceedingly happy one. His wife, to whom he was married in 1843, died in 1892.

During his long and eventful public career he always had been a republican and advocated republican principles. Since his retirement from public life he was a frequent and welcome visitor at the state capitol and his words of wisdom frequently have been heard in the administrative councils.

A Spirit of Reconciliation.

LINCOLN.—The visit of C. H. Dietrich of Hastings, ex-senator and ex-governor, recalls one of the interesting episodes in the life of the late General John M. Thayer. Because of doubt concerning the citizenship of Governor-elect James E. Boyd in 1891, Governor Thayer refused to turn over the office until the supreme court should say whether Boyd had been properly naturalized or not. The feud became bitter and when final decision had been reached and Boyd declared eligible for the position, the two men had become the most irreconcilable enemies. They refused to speak and the common courtesies between men were forgotten.

In 1901, when Governor Dietrich was living in the governor's mansion, he invited all the living ex-governors to dinner at his home in Lincoln. Boyd, Poynter, Holcomb, Furnas, Crouse and Thayer were present. General Thayer was the last to arrive and as he took off his coat in the hall he anxiously asked Governor Dietrich if Boyd was present.

"He is," said the governor, "and I believe he will be glad to see you. I hope that you and Governor Boyd will forget forever the past unpleasantness."

"I hope so, too," responded the aged veteran.

As Governor Dietrich and his guest entered the parlor, ex-Governor Boyd was the first to rise and greet General Thayer. The two men shook hands long and cordially, while tears streamed down the cheeks of the old general. The reconciliation was complete and the two men ever afterward spoke of each other with great respect and friendship.

Combined Escutcheons of Longworth and Roosevelt



Alfred Radway, the English heraldic expert, has executed and presented to President Roosevelt an illuminated copy of the combined escutcheons of Nicholas Longworth and his bride. The Longworth arms show on a shield, three black dragons' heads. The Roosevelt arms are three red roses on a green hillock. The crest is a boar's head, holding in the mouth a sword.

SOME COSTLY BANQUETS

Many Thousands of Dollars Spent by People of Wealth for Single Repasts.

Three hundred dollars, half a year's income for hundreds of thousands of clerks, for a single meal! Such was the regal hospitality with which Mr. and Mrs. John Hanan entertained forty of their friends at a house-warming dinner in New York a few weeks ago. The dinner, we are told, was an exact reproduction of a banquet given in Paris during the seventeenth century by the Duke of Alva in honor of the birth of the Prince of Asturias. The forty guests at this Lucullan feast dined off plates of solid gold, and for souvenirs of such a memorable banquet each lady carried away a small clock of gold and each man sported a gold flower-holder in his buttonhole.

Such costly hospitality as this raises the interesting question, "How much of the \$300 per guest was spent on the food alone?" and the answer is rather surprising. M. Escoffier, a chef of world-wide reputation, says: "As far as the food itself is concerned, and apart from wines and decorations, you could not make a menu cost more than \$15 a head for four people without being eccentric." Such a menu, which would satisfy the most exacting of epicures, would include the most costly delicacies the world can supply, such as swallows' nests from China; oysters, a kind of crayfish caught in the Mediterranean; caviar from Russia, sturgeon from the Volga, and terrapin.

Another famous chef fixes \$20 as the cost of the most expensive dinner he could provide—in food alone. "In any dinner in which common sense is taken into account," he says, "the food alone would not cost you more than \$20 a cover; that is, without wines, decorations or attendance." It is thus clear that any one who is prepared to entertain his friends at the cost of \$15 or \$20 a head could provide for them as good a dinner as the man who counts his fortune in tens of millions of dollars, and that any expenditure beyond this relatively modest figure is, apart from wines, lavished on externals, and principally on decorations.

Thus, at a dinner which cost \$50 a head, given not long ago by a millionaire to celebrate a remarkable run of luck at Monte Carlo, the walls of the dining room were surrounded by peach trees and vines, from which the guests gathered the growing fruit for dessert; and in the center of the table a fountain of rose-water plashed in a veritable orchard of dwarf fruit trees.

At another dinner of eighteen covers, which cost in all \$13,900, or over \$720 a cover, the dining room was converted into a natural grape arbor, from which the fruit hung in hundreds of tempting bunches. There were dwarf trees from Japan, each bearing its burden of seductive fruit, the rarest exotics from all parts of the world and fountains in which fish swam.

Not long ago a western millionaire entertained thirty of his friends at a banquet for which he paid \$8,000, at least fifteen times the actual cost of the dinner itself. One charming feature of the meal was a centerpiece of 3,000 American Beauty roses nestling among maidenhair ferns. Each rose of the 3,000 cost the host 75 cents.

BATH GOOD FOR HUMAN LUNGS.

As Necessary for Health as Cleansing of the Body.

Returning from the theatre via the Subway, Dr. Henry Russell of the upper West Side, with his wife and a neighbor whom he had met on the train, walked over to Riverside Drive at the physician's request, to "take a lung bath," as he expressed it. "Our lungs, quite as well as our bodies, need baths," said he. "Especially do they need a bath after we have sat for three or four hours in the impure stale air of a theatre or a church. Then, if we could see them, our lungs would look as unsightly as the face of a coal heaver looks after a hard day's work."

"Air, pure air, is the cleanser of the lungs, and to bathe them the head should be thrown back, and through the nostrils pure, fresh air should be inhaled, till the lungs are distended to their utmost limit. About twenty-five of the deepest possible lungfuls of pure air should be slowly inhaled and exhaled. Then the pure air rushes like a torrent through all the dusty crannies and hidden, grimy corners of the lungs, and it carries out with it every impurity."

"After a long sitting in a theatre's stale air, try a lung bath. You will be amazed to find how it will cheer and strengthen you."—New York Press.

Tried to Conceal His Feelings.

The late President Samuel C. Bartlett of Dartmouth was a man who keenly appreciated repartee, whether turned upon himself or some one else. At a college gathering recently this story was told as an illustration of his temperament:

Barron Shirley, now a prominent lawyer in Franklin, N. H., was called before President Bartlett when a student at the college for remarks he had passed because of a ruling of the Faculty. The matter was regarded as serious, and there was danger of young Shirley's expulsion.

"Sir," said President Bartlett, sternly, "I understand you have been expressing your contempt for the Faculty."

"No, sir," replied Shirley, as quick as a flash, "I have always done my best to conceal it."

President Bartlett looked into the young student's eyes, then chuckled and said: "You may go, sir."

Women in the Great West.

Girls, too, here prove their capacity, for I saw a house that a girl built herself. She took up a claim, worked it all alone, built her own house, and in a year more will have "proved up" and become a property owner in her own right. We heard of several more such instances, and visited one neat little house, shining clean, with a wooden floor on which the neighbors loved to dance, and a windmill near by pumping gallons and gallons of good water into big tanks for the benefit of the many cattle and pigs. It was set by the roadside, offering blessings to every passer-by. This ranch, comprising a full section—that is, one square mile—had been taken up by two young men and their two sisters, each filling on a quarter. The girls farmed, the boys raised cattle. All were successful.—M. F. W., in Harper's Bazar.

African Park for Elephants.

A society which calls itself "The Elephant's Friend" has been founded in Paris. It has for its object the protection of the African elephant, which is threatened with extermination by the hunters who now swarm the no longer dark continent.

It is proposed to found in the center of the African continent a sort of park which would serve as a range for wild game, the regulations concerning which will be founded upon those existing in Yellowstone Park.

Not only elephants will be accorded shelter, but asylum will also be given to giraffes, zebras and other harmless creatures.

JUSTICE BROWN WILL RETIRE.

Fears Continuation of Judicial Duties May Cause Blindness.

Associate Justice Henry Billings Brown of the United States Supreme court intends to retire from the bench and has notified President Roosevelt to that effect.

Justice Brown was 70 years old on March 2. Having reached that age and having served ten years as a member of the Supreme bench, he was privileged to retire on full pay. Although strong and vigorous bodily and mentally, Justice Brown has been troubled with failing sight, and he has felt that a continuance of his judicial duties might cause him to become blind.

He will serve through the present term of court and probably will retire in the fall. He expects to travel in Europe during the summer.

Justice Brown was born at South Lee, Mass., in 1836, graduated from Yale when 20 years old, and, after studying law at the Yale and Harvard law schools, was admitted to the bar in Wayne county, Mich., in 1860. From 1861 to 1868 he served as deputy United States marshal and assistant United States attorney for the eastern district of Michigan, and then became judge of the state circuit court of Wayne county.

He served only a few months, when he returned to the practice of law in



DETROIT in partnership with John S. Newberry and Ashley Pond. In 1875 President Grant appointed him United States Judge for the eastern district of Michigan, and in December, 1890, President Harrison appointed him associate justice of the United States Supreme court.

THINK TOO MUCH OF "NERVES."

Mistake Made by People and Physicians of To-day.

What a fine thing it would have been for the human race had physicians never discovered anything about the nervous system or invented such terms as "nervous prostration" or "nervous dyspepsia." It makes one green with envy to think of those former times when people knew little or nothing about anatomy and when they called things by their right names. When they were ill-tempered or jealous or melancholy they said they were, instead of putting everything on the poor nerves as we do now. When physicians are called in and find themselves at a loss to know just what is the matter with patient—and even the very cleverest of them sometimes do find themselves in that humiliating position—they can always fall back upon "nerves," with the certainty that the patient will quite agree with them and also that he will immediately justify the diagnosis by having a nervous attack of some sort.—Charleston News and Courier.

SCIENTIFIC FACT AND THEORY.

Too Many Vagaries Indulged In by the Thinkers.

That the human race will become blind through the effects of the electrical current so abundantly generated for modern uses is the startling proposition of an alleged scientist of Chicago. We are of the opinion that this statement should be classed among the vagaries of science. There never was a time when real science commanded more respect, or, to demonstrate truths, more unquestioning belief than the present. This is shown by the innumerable instances of applied science in all branches of industry. But scientific demonstrations are one thing and scientific speculations are quite another. In fact, real scientists do not indulge in the latter. They announce conclusions as the result of patient and thorough research, but they do not promulgate long-range speculations or fantastic theories.—Indianapolis News.

French President a Music Lover.

M. Fallieres, the new President of France, is a capital billiard player, having succumbed to the fascinations of the game long ago. He is the first President to adore tobacco, but he has a fine taste for music, which Loubet, Faure, Grevy, MacMahon and Thiers, who were all smokers, notably lacked. President Fallieres shares M. Loubet's enthusiasm for shooting, and is a better shot than President Carnot, who once at a shooting party in Ram bouillet severely "peppered" Gen. Brugere.