

HENRY H. ROGERS

Pen Portrait of Once Active Head of Standard Oil

Genial and Companionable, He Has Many Friends and Is Praised for His Americanism—His Generosity

New York.—When a man like Henry H. Rogers drops out of the active business world wherein he made so striking a figure, his friends are prone to become anecdotal about him. Hence stories that take on a romantic tinge in bank parlors and directors' rooms, and in the chatty corners of the exchange, not to speak of the shipping offices near the water front. If Mr. Rogers feels like resuming the ways of Bowling Green in a few months or so he will find a reconstructed Rogers looking at him from every corner, and whom he may have some little difficulty in recognizing.

The tall, erect figure of a well-dressed man with whitening hair and white moustache, who somehow reflected in his ripe age of 67 the graces that he cultivated a quarter of a century back, is, however, the figure that



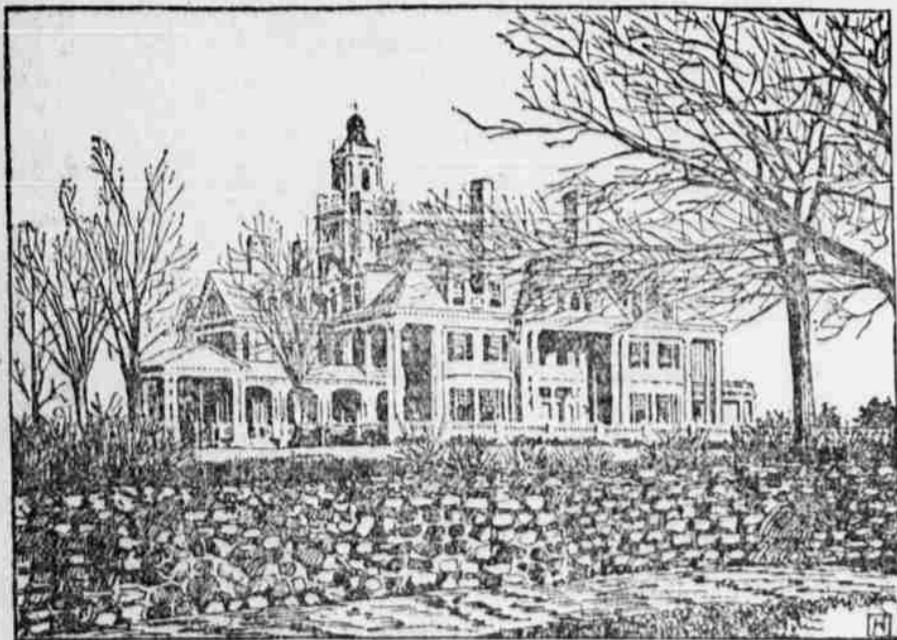
Rogers Library, Fairhaven.

his friends will recognize. His photographs have done him the doubtful service of giving him a proud, rather haughty, air, as of one who marshals hosts of facts and figures and who is always bent on hard achievement. It is the familiar trick of the camera to pick out in the self-conscious moment that one stands before it the traits that are at the root of character rather than those that are familiar to everybody.

The Habit of Victory.

"Take all great men of business," said a banker, "H. H. loved affairs better than anything else. It was not the struggle for the sake of the fight, but for the end in view. As soon as he won he passed on without a halt to try another tilt, and he had what is important, the grit for a long clinch, and what, believe me, is most important, the habit of victory."

"Men like the heads of the Standard Oil company are no accidents," said a sharp observer. "They were tried out in a hundred ways before they came to control. It was the many-sidedness of H. H. Rogers that made his uprise a necessity in that remarkable group headed by John D. Rockefeller. I don't know any of the qualities they possess that is not common in the business world of America. They are no better and no worse than the thousands of men engaged in the conduct of the higher business of the country, but each one has had some quality notably in excess of the average. Their combination has been ir-



Country Home of Henry H. Rogers in Fairhaven.

resistible, because its action has been continuous. Its steady business pressure, its suave method, its commercial reliability have been due, I have no doubt, to John D. Rockefeller, but I have no doubt, either, that its tremendous outreach and conquering courage have been greatly due to the imaginative side of the temperament of Henry H. Rogers. He has inherited the pioneer spirit."

His Domestic Life.

A man always happy in his domestic relations and devoted to his family, Mr. Rogers has been accumulating his patriarchal with the regularity of his increase in other wealth. He has been twice married, and his son, Henry H. Rogers, Jr., and his three surviving daughters, Mrs. Urban H.

Broughton, Mrs. W. R. Coe, and Mrs. W. E. Benjamin, have already provided him with nine grandchildren. And he is proud of them in a way usual to grandparents, and one may find their pictures making cheerful his roomy office at 26 Broadway.

From this lovely domestic side one travels easily to his general social outlook. That can best be described as frankly American. He is too sensible of the value of his position as a man of wealth to underestimate its possibilities. He mixes easily in society, entertains on a generous scale, with an eye to the elegances so easily within his reach, but he enjoys most the company of the gifted, the genial and the witty, for he rather leans to saying good things himself and is never happier than when he applauds a smart saying or a good story. A quiet game of cards for the love of the game in congenial company is his occasional pastime. He has never developed the fondness for field games that pleased him in his youth. He has taken easily to the automobile, but, like all good sons of the saltwater, his liking for the sea has grown with the years.

At Home on His Yacht.

Nowhere is he perhaps more genially at home than on his yacht. No hurry that sends men to express trains is allowed to interfere with his yachting runs to Fairhaven. Hence the Kanawha is about as well known as Mr. Morgan's Corsair around the waters of New York. But it is in Fairhaven itself that he fairly revels in life as he thinks he would like to live it. There he was born and reared, and his affection for the town and the bay and the country road is extravagant in its manifestations. There, in his frequent visitings, it is his delight to move about and chat with all and sundry old cronies of half a century gone, who call him "Hen"; sons and daughters of old friends who are middle-aged men and women salute him as Mr. Rogers, and third generation little ones, who regard him open-eyed as the local representative of a magnificent providence. Said a newspaper man recently: "I couldn't find anybody there who would say anything but kindness of H. H. Rogers."

Generous to Fairhaven.

He surely has been good to Fairhaven, which picturesque village looks across Buzzard's Bay to New Bedford, ancient home of whalers and all the romance and business that came of their seafaring. There he built a great mansion for himself amid beautiful grounds, and there he loves most to live when away from work. But he alone was not to be the only Fairhavenite who was finely housed. He built and presented to the citizens a handsome town hall and a Masonic hall.

On the death of Millicent, a beloved daughter, he built a beautiful public library as a memorial. It is called the Millicent library, and has the highest record in the country for books taken out and read in proportion to the contents of its shelves. The village wanted water works and H. H. Rogers provided them. That they might be doubly useful to Fairhaven, he deeded the income from them to the Millicent library forever.

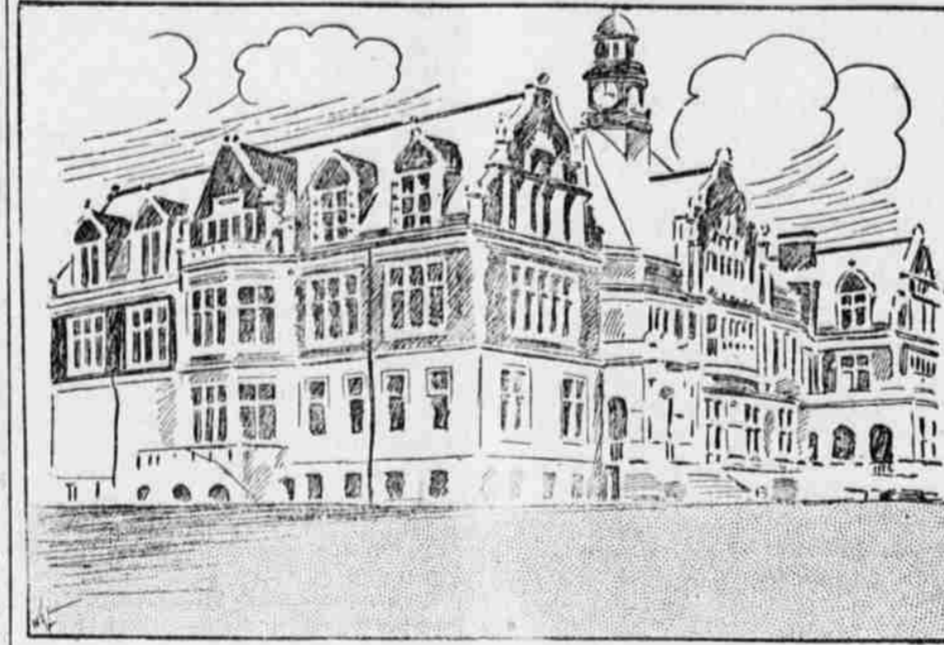
It was in 1856 that Henry Rogers was graduated from the high school at Fairhaven, and it appeared to him that there was still something else to build as the fiftieth anniversary of that event approached. So he called for his merry men all, and commissioned them to build and equip the finest high school ever, and as it went up he watched it and nursed it as a mother might a growing child. And now, with its wonderful fittings, its gymnasium, its class rooms, its offices, it is at once the most luxurious and practical building of the kind in the world.

"What is at the bottom of all this home love and passion for local adornment?" a friend of his was asked.

"It is his Americanism," was the answer. "He loves his people and would see them second to none in the world."

Taking Life Easy.

Mr. Rogers is taking life easy now, and obeys the behests of his doctor with a smiling acquiescence that conceals whatever impatience he may feel at unwonted restraint. You noticed the other day that he had Mark Twain with him on a short yacht cruise. Well, that was not the first time they had foregathered in the cabin after a day of steaming in the open. Men like Mr. Clemens and the late Tom Reed are the type he most prizes for companions—they should



The Fairhaven High School.

be bright and brainy both. Of a winter evening when he lives in town he may spend a few hours at one of his clubs—the Metropolitan, say. There he would be apt to gather a group of bright people and smoke a single cigar while good things went around.

I heard him once tell of meeting a whaling captain whom he had known as a lad 40 years before. He took his old comrade about the town and the countryside, identifying old landmarks together. The captain had been away six years from home and was to sail on a new voyage the next day. "I'm going aboard now, Hen," he remarked. "And won't you go home first and tell your wife goodbye?" I asked. "Blazes, no," replied the whaler. "I'm only to be gone two years." That seemed, he said, the most extraordinary utterance he had ever heard. He saw the humor of it, but to a home-lover it seemed sacrilege.

When the new high school about to be opened I spent an afternoon with him, and our talk turned quite naturally on education. What he said then is about as good a key to the man and his opinions as anything I can think of, and this is the drift of it:

High School Best Outfit.

"For the boy starting out in life who is anxious to succeed in business I believe that the ordinary high school education is the best outfit.

"He is master of the ordinary implements of business life, whether it be mechanical or commercial—that is, he can read, write, spell and figure. He has at least a foundation of general knowledge. Our American high schools, too, cultivate a sense of the greatness of the country which inspires him with confidence in her future and hence in his own. I speak now more particularly of what may be called the country schools, which I know best. The high school boy had set for him a standard of good conduct, and that give-and-take, which is the necessity of all civilized social conflict.

"His great advantage over the college bred man is that he gets his start in life at 16 or 17 years of age, as against the 21 or 22 years of the college graduate. The high school graduate is proud enough in his way of what he has accomplished in getting his class standing, but he does not bring his pride with him when he is going to work or looking for a job. On the other hand, the college man who is not entering one of the professions is apt to have more pride than the situation warrants, and that is a hampering thing. He is expecting the world to come to him rather than he should set out with eager heart to discover the world.

Had Mechanical Bent.

"As for myself, I was very eager to go to work after graduating, and in fact did go to work in less than a week from the day I left school as a graduate. My father and I were agreed that I should take up the trade of machinist, but there was no chance. Apprenticeships were limited even at that time as much as they are now. The machine shops within reach were full, so I had to look in another direction. I wanted to be at work and I found work. I was proud to get three dollars a week to begin.

"My father said to me, 'Make your

hand able to support your head, and maybe your head will learn in time to support your hand.' It was worth a whole volume of maxims to me. I never forgot it, and for the 11 years following I worked with my hands. No doubt I was born with a mechanical bent, but when, in 1868, I entered the oil refining business in Brooklyn I had an equipment of mechanical knowledge and experience that gave me a special value, and I may say that I exacted a money return for it. My mechanical knowledge and aptitude were of great advantage to me with my young competitors in the business, and, indeed, with many, if not most, of the older ones.

Great Opportunities To-day.

"What, I am asked, is the young high school boy's chance now as compared with 50 years ago? The cry is general that it is much less than it was then. Is that so? It is emphatically not so. The chances for the high school boy now are many times greater than they were then. People count too much by the conditions they find in their immediate surroundings. They don't look at it in a broad enough way. Remember, that in 1856 I seemed to find closed to me a trade that has since grown with the country's growth, in a proportion far greater than the increase in population. Think of the number of machine shops in the country now com-

The State Capital

Matters of General Interest FROM Nebraska's Seat of Government

Complaint Must be Filed.

The state railway commission will start off on the right foot in the reduction of grain rates when a complaint is filed by a shipper, which will be soon, it is predicted. Powell & Nilsson of Marion have agreed to file the complaint. Under the Aldrich bill no rates established by it can be changed without the filing of a complaint by a shipper. The Aldrich bill reduced the rate on carload shipments of grain 15 per cent.

The commission overlooked this important provision of the law about complaint and started out to reduce grain rates on their own motion under their own commission law. The railroad attorneys permitted the commission to proceed to considerable length under the delusion that it was reducing grain rates, and then secured a restraining order to prevent the promulgation of the rates. Senator Aldrich of David City, who was secured as counsel for the commission during the grain hearings, told the commission and the railroad attorneys plainly that the commission had started off on the wrong foot. He told them that a complaint must be filed before any changes could be made in the rates.

The restraining order secured by the railroads was dissolved and a temporary injunction was denied. Since then the commission has been awaiting a complaint from a grain dealer and the Marion complaint is the first to be received. This letter was as follows:

"I see by the paper that the shippers have to make a complaint. I will make this complaint, and if it has to be made personally, I will have Mr. Powell take this up at once.

"MARTIN NILSSON.
"Marion, Neb."

Election Proclamation.

Following is the election proclamation issued by Governor Sheldon, under date of September 28:

"Under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the provisions of section 11, chapter xxvi of the compiled statutes of Nebraska for the year 1905, entitled, 'Elections,' I George Lawson Sheldon, governor of the state of Nebraska, do hereby issue my proclamation declaring that on Tuesday, the 5th day of November, A. D. 1907, there will be an election held at the usual places of voting in said state for the election of the following officers, to-wit:

"One supreme judge.
"Judges of the district court for the several judicial districts.
"Two regents for the state university.
"One regent for the state university, to fill vacancy.
"One judge for the Ninth judicial district to fill vacancy.
"One member of the state railway commission to fill vacancy.
"One senator of the First senatorial district to fill vacancy.
"One representative of the Tenth representative district to fill vacancy."

Report of Prison Associations.

At the recent quarterly meeting of the board of directors of the Nebraska Prison association the citizens of Lincoln and Omaha were congratulated for the generous responses they had made in answer to the requests for funds with which to keep up the work of the association. The need for more workers in the smaller towns was emphasized and subcommittees will be organized with some one from the board of directors will be sent to several of the larger towns to work up interest.

To Enforce Child Labor Law.

No further immunity from prosecution under the child labor law should be granted the packers and other large manufacturers in Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln, as Labor Commissioner J. J. Ryder views the situation. While at Omaha Ryder learned that Rev. Mr. Wise and Mrs. Draper Smith, members of the state board of child labor inspection, had agreed not to bring any proceedings against the packing houses without notice beforehand.

Reese Files His Resignation.

Judge M. B. Reese, recently appointed supreme court commissioner to take the place vacated by Judge N. D. Jackson of Neligh, has resigned. He finds his private business such that it is impossible to accept the position. At the time of his appointment the judge said he did not believe he could accept. Judge Jacob Pawcett of Omaha has been offered the position.

Burlington's Receipts.

Ticket sales on the Burlington railroad in Nebraska for the month of July produced a much greater revenue on state than on interstate business. The report filed by the Burlington with the railway commission places the state passenger earnings for that month at \$202,860.72 and the interstate at \$127,353.06. At the same rate for each month in the year, the Burlington would take in more than \$2,800,000 on its Nebraska passenger traffic alone in the course of a year, to say nothing of the freight earnings.

Union Pacific Denies Wrong.

The Union Pacific railroad has denied that its rates are unreasonable and unjust on Wyoming coal shipped to Nebraska points. A copy of the answer filed with the interstate commerce commission has been filed with the state railroad commission.

The commission made complaint that the charges for shipments from Rock Springs and Hanna, Wyo., being blanket rates of \$4.50 from Rock Springs and \$3.50 from Hanna, were exorbitant, excessive and in violation of the interstate commerce acts. This is specifically denied and further the road says the distances mentioned in the complaint of the commission are incorrect. The complaint mentions the distance from Rock Springs to the Kansas state line as 694 miles, when the road says it is 611. The actual distance from Rock Springs to Oakley, Kas., is 608 miles, instead of 633, as mentioned in the complaint.

Distances for which similar transportation charges are made on coal and which are complained against are from Rock Springs to Smeed, 341.5 miles and to Omaha, 809.2 miles; from Hanna to Smeed, 182 miles and to Omaha 650.2 miles.

Railroad Commissioner Clarke says the mileage for the complaints was taken from the road's tariff sheets and that if any error exists, it must have been in them.

Expenditures of McBrien.

The expenditures of State Superintendent McBrien have begun to attract attention. The last legislature appropriated \$15,000 for the support of junior normal schools, eight in number. Last year there were five, and vouchers amounting to \$10,061.21 have been filed on the appropriation of \$15,000 for the support of junior normal schools and less than \$5,000 will be available for next year. Other outstanding claims may yet be filed with the secretary of state which may reduce that amount. Next year it may be necessary to cut down the number of instructors and the length of the term. The last legislature appropriated all it was asked to give for junior normals, but Mr. McBrien says it was a small appropriation.

The legislature last winter, appropriated \$13,000 for the expenses of the office of state superintendent and up to this time \$6,906.46 of that amount has been expended. The state superintendent had \$10,000 two years ago for office expenses. Mr. McBrien explains that the greatest expense is the cost of the examination committee, a committee to issue certificates to teachers, and that this will be less in the future. He says there will be no deficiency in either his office expenses or the junior normal fund.

Judgment Against Railroad.

For the third time the supreme court has handed down an opinion in the case of John F. Parkins against the Missouri Pacific Railway company and has again affirmed a judgment for \$7,468.09 obtained by the plaintiff in the district court of Sarpy county.

This action was based upon a contract entered into in 1892 under the terms of which Parkins was to furnish to the defendant 50,000 cubic yards of gravel for ballast purposes, the same to be loaded on the cars at Springfield and approved by the defendant's superintendent.

The court holds that a new trial will not be granted upon the ground of newly discovered evidence where such evidence is merely cumulative and would not in all probability affect the result if a new trial were granted. It is also held that the defendant is not entitled to a new trial upon the ground of surprise, as the testimony complained of as surprising could have been brought out by cross-examination at any of the previous trials.

Report on the Weather.

October, according to the record of the United States department of agriculture, kept in Lincoln for twenty-four years, has a mean temperature of 55 degrees. The warmest month was in 1883 with an average of 63 degrees, the coldest that of 1855 with an average of 46. The highest temperature was 92 degrees on the 12th, 1899, the lowest was 15 degrees on the 29th, 1895. October is the average date of the first killing frost and the earliest date September 12, 1902. The average precipitation for October is 2.09 inches. The greatest monthly precipitation was 6.03 inches in 1883 and the least .01 inches in 1893. On the 17th, 1898, 4.7 inches of snow fell.

Big Railroad Business.

Reports of the Burlington, the Northwestern and the Union Pacific railroads for the month of July, which have been received by the state railway commission, indicate an immense business in both freight and passenger departments. The state business in freight forwarded amounts to more than half of the interstate business, while it is less than one-third of the interstate business in the amount of freight received during the month.

Nebraska Educators in Demand.

State Superintendent McBrien has received word that Principal Crabtree of the Peru State normal has received an offer from a Wisconsin normal school of \$3,000 a year. He receives \$2,500 at present. Dr. W. A. Clark, formerly principal of the Peru normal and now of the Kearney normal, has received an offer to take the chair of pedagogy at Kirksville, Mo., at a salary of \$2,000, which is much more than he is now receiving. The recipients of these offers have not announced their decision.