

Reminiscences of a Wayfarer

Some of the Important Events of the Pioneer Days of Richardson County and Southeast Nebraska, as remembered by the writer, who has spent fifty-one years here.

Whoever lives long enough, will attain to what is known, in common parlance, as the reminiscence age. It is something analogous to the review a traveler makes after performing a long journey. The places he has visited, the happening of things under his immediate observation; the events of which he had personal cognizance—whether of small moment or of national or world importance; the acquaintances he has made and lost with the passing of the years, all come back to him when reproduced in memory in the reverse order of their occurrence, like links in a lengthening chain, till they bring him back to the place whence he started.

This process of mental resurrection of bygone memories, in the case of a single individual who has lived the allotted span of man's life on earth, or any considerable part of it, may or may not be autobiography, according to whether it is intended to cover the whole experiences of a life, or some particular part of them. It is the latter, and not the former that is intended here. It has been in my mind for sometime to give to the public some of my recollections of the early days in Nebraska, but

—for St. Joseph. There were thirty or forty passengers for up river points, but mostly in Kansas and Nebraska, all of whom with one single exception, were young men less than thirty years of age. At Leavenworth, we were reshipped to another boat of the same line called the "War Eagle",—the Missouri was alive with boats in those days—and completed our voyage on that craft. At St. Joseph, those who were left of the passenger list, took passage on a more humble vessel, the "Wattossa", named perhaps, for some mighty Indian brave somewhere, and on the day following I with another was put ashore as before stated, at the town of Rulo in the territory of Nebraska. While yet upon my journey, and while passing from one boat to another, in its prosecution, I somehow felt in touch with home and the state of my nativity; but as I stood on the bank of the fast flowing river, and saw the steamer that had borne me there, cast off her moorings and slowly float out in the stream to resume her voyage northward against the turbid flood of the Missouri, an indescribable feeling of loneliness came over me that I shall never forget. For the first time I realized what it was to break

world indeed, and might as well have been at the Antipodes on the other side of the globe. At least that is the way I felt about it just then. But despondence would not do. I had started out to begin a new life in a new country, and the thought of abandoning that purpose and going back, never entered my mind. And so, while the boat on the river went out of my sight and out of my life, I called up the old resolution that impelled me to make the start, gathered my gripsack and with the words of the great Englishman floating through my mind: "And whatever sties above me, Here's a heart for every fate," turned my face to the town on the hillside, and to the unknown future, and my life in Nebraska had commenced.

My companion on the voyage from St. Louis, and who formed the exception in point of age among the passengers I have mentioned, was none other than Joseph Tesson, well known to all the older residents in and about Rulo and Falls City, and who had debarked with me from the "Wattossa," accompanied me up town, and being acquainted with most of the people there, kindly invited me to take dinner with him at the house of one of his friends, a Mr. William Kenceleur. We were very cordially received by Mr. Kenceleur and his family, and in due time were invited to partake of as good a dinner as one could wish to sit down to, which, besides being good and very wholesome, was flavored by the best of all seas-

THE LOCAL LORE

Crowded off the regular Local Page.

T. L. Hall was down from Verdon Monday.

Mr. Redwood made a business trip to Dawson Monday.

George Hansel was down from Salem Monday on business.

Miss Josephine Graves left the first of the week for Waine, Neb.

Sam Bobst of Humboldt spent a day the first of the week in this city.

Mr. Bouersox and wife of Preston were business visitors here Saturday.

Mrs. Charles Schulenberg of Shubert was in town the first of the week.

Mrs. Lydia Hinton is having electric lights put in her home this week.

Miss Edna Crook left the first of the week for Texas where she is attending school.

Misses Ethel and Helen Pecht returned Sunday from a visit with friends in Hiawatha.

W. C. Campbell, Will Carsh, Frank Kotouc came down from Humboldt on business Monday.

Mrs. J. O. Reeves returned to her home in Kansas City Saturday after visiting relatives here.

Mrs. E. K. Kentner and Helen came down from Beatrice and visited friends here during the week.

Mrs. O. Radinsky of Sterling is in this city visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Pickett.

J. W. Curran returned to Minneapolis, Kans., the first of the week after visiting his family in this city.

George Coon of Salem was in the city Monday looking after business connected with the district court.

Dr. Greene this week moved his office from over Lyford's store to headquarters over McMillan's pharmacy.

Mrs. Grant Sperry and little son returned from Maitland, Mo., where they visited the former's parents for a few days.

Mrs. Frank Werner left the latter part of the week for Greenleaf, Iowa, to visit Mr. Werner's mother who is very sick.

Mesdames Alice Earley and Greger, who spent several days with Mrs. George Chesley returned to their home in Atchison during the week.

Mrs. Nellie King and son Richard returned Sunday from St. Paul, Minn., where they have been at the home of the former's daughter, Mrs. Chas. Braccen. Neal Thornton of Muskogee, Okl., also spent Christmas with his sister and mother there.

This week A. R. Dittmar employed T. L. Himmelreich to take charge of his dry goods department. They are now busy in voicing and will stock up in all lines that are short. This will be welcome news to Mr. Himmelreich's many friends. For many years he was a very successful salesman in this city.

On Jan. 5th the Fremont Tri-Weekly Tribune reached our desk with thirty-two pages. This addition was filled with reading matter, many good ads, and several half tone cuts showing the growth of Fremont in the face of the panic. From looking over the columns 1908 must have been a good year for Fremont's jobbing industries showing a marked expansion of business and improved manufacturing facilities. This was certainly a credit to the Tribune.

B. F. Wiser writes us a few lines from Arizona this week. He says that is a fine country, as farmers are cutting their sixth crop of alfalfa now. While he was out driving recently he saw oranges and other citrus fruits being shipped from there, laws were green and saw many flowers blooming in the parks. That valley is said to have one of the finest climates in the world. He says many Nebraska people are there and he sees some of them nearly every day.



Stone Street, Falls City, Neb., in 1866.

the demands of business and the exigencies of a busy life, have heretofore interfered to prevent the execution of that intention.

Whether I shall be able to perform the task now, without material interference from the same, or other causes, remains to be seen. I will do what I can to rescue from the scrap heap of forgotten things some of the incidents of pioneer life in Richardson County and in Southeastern Nebraska, and as I write largely for my own amusement, it will not be of importance if the task is not well done.

I SEE NEBRASKA FOR THE FIRST TIME.

On as fair a day in May as ever shone upon the world, and at about the hour of high twelve in the year of grace, 1858, I stepped from the deck of a Missouri River steambot, to the soil of Nebraska. In those days, the most rapid and comfortable mode of travel, when the objective point could be reached in that way, was by steamboat. It happened so in my case. I took passage at Quincy, Illinois, on the good boat "Hannibal City", plying on the Mississippi between St. Louis and St. Paul, and landed at St. Louis the next morning. From there I took passage on a Missouri River Packet called "Rowena"—so named possibly, in honor of one of the principal female characters whom Sir Walter Scott has clothed with immortal life in his inimitable story of "Ivan-

off the associations of a lifetime. True, twenty-two years was not a long life, but it was mine, and like others, comprehended associations as pleasant in their creation, as it was painful in their breaking; and when the little tramp steamer left me at the Rulo landing to churn its way through the muddy waters of a river, apparently too thick with silt and sand to swim in, and not thick enough to walk on, every tie that bound me to the old life and the old home,—long ago broken up and its members scattered—with all the sacred memories that clustered around them, were severed at once and forever.

That the situation may be clearly understood, it is proper in this connection, to say, that fifty years ago Nebraska was as completely isolated from the world and civilization, as the land of the "Midnight sun" in northern Alaska was at the opening of the present century. There was not a railroad within hundreds of miles, and with no communication east except by the river that was frozen up half the year, and navigable for boats for only about three months of the year in later spring and early summer, it may not appear singular that, when I found myself in the wilderness of the great American desert, as the country hereabouts had been called ever since its discovery by the Lewis & Clark expedition early in the nineteenth century, I felt that I was out of the

oning, a hearty welcome. My acquaintance with Mr. Kenceleur, so happily commenced that day, continued unbroken, to the end of his life. In after years he was my client frequently, and my friend always. I esteemed him highly, for he was a good man, a good citizen and a gentleman, of what is generally known as "the old school", whatever that may mean.

I was anxious to go on to Falls City, which, I was told, was about ten miles west, that afternoon, but Tesson and Kenceleur both thought, as I was intending to make Richardson County my future residence or some point in it, and as Rulo was its most important town, I had better stay over the afternoon, see the town and get acquainted with the people and go out to Falls City the next day. On consideration I concluded to do so, and we sallied forth for the purpose. What struck me as most singular was the fact that everything about it was new. There was not an old house in it—and there seemed to be about a hundred—all of them, as I learned, had been built within two years, and most of them within a very few months. Nor was there an old man or woman among its people, nor any who were much past the middle age. Everybody was young, the town was young, the territory was young, and the youth of spring was upon everything around them, in its greenest garb. Something of what I saw, and the people I come to know, will receive attention in another paper.

Security For Your Money

You have a right to know absolutely that when you deposit your money anywhere you will get it back. The paper record many foolish acts on the part of people who distrust the banks. One man put money in an old stove, and someone else built a fire, thereby reducing \$1,000 to ashes. Another man dug a hole under his dog kennel and put \$3,000 there in a tin can, only to find it gone when he came to look for it. Another fellow hid \$2,000 in a bed tick and one night robbers applied the red hot poker test to his feet until he finally told where it was. There are hundreds of such cases. There is only one safe, sensible place to keep money and that is in a bank. It is a very foolish man who thinks he can care for his money better than a bank. Your money in this bank is safeguarded in every way. We are prepared to take care of money, with strong vaults, burglar-proof safes, burglar alarms, burglar insurance and every modern appliance. That is our business. You employ a physician to care for your health; better employ a bank to care for your money.

The Farmers' State Bank

PRESTON, NEBRASKA

Chas. M. Wilson

Thanks you for your 1908 patronage and assures you that the stock of Cut Glass, China, Dinnerware and Glassware

For 1909

will be the equal of, or better than, 1908. Our stock of Groceries and Fruits will always be complete, and we've the best line of Coffees on the market.

Chas. M. Wilson

Winter Excursions Low Rates

TO THE SOUTH OR CALIFORNIA.—How long has it been since you and your family have taken a winter vacation tour?

Put your thoughts on a change from snow and blizzards to the soft southern sunshine of California, the Carolinas, Cuba and Gulf resorts. Such a trip is worth while once in a lifetime anyway.

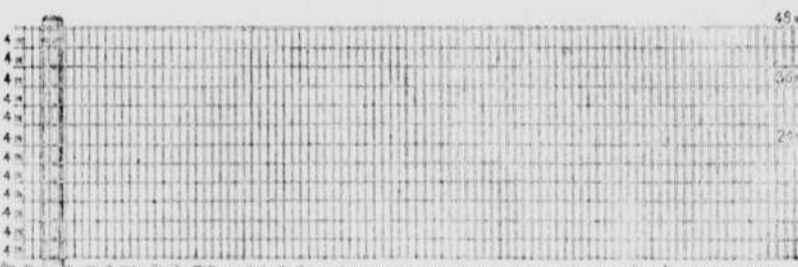
HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS.—If time won't permit a long stay in the South try the homeseekers excursion rates the first and third Tuesdays of each month to the South and West. Lower rates and shorter limit.

Personally conducted through tourist sleeper excursions to California frequently, each week; daily through tourist sleepers to Southern California via Scenic Colorado and Salt Lake City.

Ask for free descriptive literature. Consult me as to the lowest prevailing rates with all kinds of variable routes.

E. G. WHITFORD, Ticket Agent,
L. W. WAKELEY, G. P. A., Omaha.

Pittsburgh Perfect Fences



are enjoying phenomenal success, and are conceded to be far superior to any other fences on the market. Thousands of pleased fence users will testify that "Pittsburgh Perfect" Electrically Welded Fences are superior.

They will not sag in Summer's heat nor break in the cold of Winter. They are made of the best material for fencing purposes. They will conform to the most uneven ground and can be erected over hills and through valleys as well as on level ground. They have MANY other points of merit.

Falls City, Neb. J. C. TANNER

The Falls City Roller Mills

Does a general milling business, and manufactures the following brands of flour

SUNFLOWER MAGNOLIA CROWN

The above brands are guaranteed to be of the highest possible quality. We also manufacture all mill products and conduct a general

Grain, Live Stock and Coal Business

and solicit a share of your patronage

P. S. Heacock & Son

Falls City, Nebr.



HANDSOME RETURNS
A small investment in our dental work at the right time will certainly bring you "handsome returns" in the form of beautiful, regular teeth. We will either make your teeth sound with fine crown or bridge work, or supply you with an entirely new set of excellent teeth. Modern methods of extracting and filling. Moderate charges.

DR. YUTZY

BERT WINDLE, D. D. S., Assistant
Falls City, Nebraska