

STRONG CHARACTER GONE

DEATH OF COL. SIMPSON IS A PUBLIC AFFLICTION.

NORFOLK OWES MUCH TO HIM.

A Life of Honesty, Integrity and Uprightness that Served as an Inspiration to All Who Knew Him—He Was a Prominent Factor in Building Town

[From Saturday's Daily.]
When Col. James E. Simpson fell into his last, long dreamless sleep at 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning, all who had known him realized that a good man had passed to his reward. It is not until the spring, when he was attacked with what he supposed was the grip but which later developed into a stomach trouble, he bore up cheerfully and courageously until the last. About the first of June he gave up active work and has since been confined to the house, knowing that the summons had come, yet always bright and cheerful, thoughtful for his family and fond of his friends. What his friends were to him in the long months of his illness, how much of sunshine and brightness they brought to the bedside of the invalid, none knew better than the wife, now stricken with paralysis and liable not to survive her husband many days. Six weeks ago he said to a friend: "I cannot eat and do not want food, hence I must be starving, yet I do not feel it. I know that I have a hard fight ahead of me and feel that I must lose." At the time he was taken sick he was serving as water commissioner, and in May he was reappointed by Mayor Hazen. Realizing his condition he tendered his resignation of the office, notified those persons for whom he was acting as agent or trustee that he could no longer look after their affairs, and made minute plans for the event which he knew could not be far away. The day before death came he imagined that he was attending his own funeral and spoke of it to those who were attending him. Two weeks ago today his faithful wife who had been almost constantly at his bedside, every morning expecting that the day would be his last and every evening fearing that he would not live to see another sunrise, gave out under the tremendous strain when she suffered a stroke of paralysis, from which it is not probable that she will ever fully recover and it would not be surprising if she should follow her husband in a short time.

Col. Simpson was born in New York city August 10, 1832, and removed with his parents when twelve years old to Herkimer county, New York, where he lived the life of a farmer's boy until he was twenty-one years old. A few days before he died he seemed to be a boy again and live over the scenes of half a century ago among the hills of the Empire state.

On July 7, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Rankin and they have two children, one son and one daughter—Charles T. and Mrs. T. W. Wheaton. The former lives in Orleans, this state, and the latter in South Omaha. Both have been with him for weeks and were at his bedside at the time of his death.

In 1856 he removed to Iowa and settled at Decorah. Here he engaged in teaching and was elected as superintendent of schools and was active in advancing the early educational interests of Winneshek county. He was also elected county surveyor. Upon the breaking out of the rebellion he enlisted in 1861 in the Twelfth Iowa Volunteer infantry, company G. He was promoted to the position of orderly sergeant and later was commissioned second lieutenant.

He was at Ft. Henry, Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth, and his war record is clear and honorable. His health broke down through the exposure of camp life, and he was obliged to resign his commission. Just why he acquired the title of "Col." is not just clear. He has borne it since he lived in Norfolk and even before that the people of Decorah were accustomed to address him as "Col." One day he walked into The News office after his name had been mentioned in the usual way and protested against the title. "Don't call me Colonel," he said. "I was never a colonel and it is misleading and isn't honest. I would much rather you would drop the title and let me be known as a plain citizen." But the title clung to him to the end.

A year after he returned from the war he became deputy provost marshal of the Third district of Iowa, being the first appointed to that position in his district and the last to be mustered out.

Then he entered the internal revenue service and was supervising agent in charge of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Dakota, Colorado, Montana and New Mexico, in which position he served over ten years. In 1883 a law was passed by congress limiting the number of revenue agents or supervising officers in the United States to twenty-five, and Col. Simpson was among those retained in the service. After ten years service in seven states and territories he was promoted and received the appointment of collector for the north half of Iowa, which office he held for eight years, until removed by President Cleveland.

In 1887 he came to Norfolk and for three years had charge of the business in this section of Nebraska for the Farmers Loan and Trust company of Sioux City, but was compelled to give up the work on account of a severe attack of the grip. In 1893 he was appointed steward of the Norfolk hospital for the insane by Gov. Crouse as a compromise candidate without solicitation on his part. He served acceptably in this position and it was demonstrated that the governor made no mistake in the appointment.

A strong, aggressive character, an ardent republican and interested in the upbuilding of the town in which he lived, Col. Simpson has long been classed as one of the leading factors of the city. He claimed no public credit for the work he did and often his suggestions were followed by oth-

ers and brought great results. Particularly is this true of the United States court house and postoffice now nearing completion in this city, which Norfolk today undoubtedly owes to the initiative taken by Col. Simpson. Years ago when Geo. W. E. Dorsey was member of congress from this district Norfolk was made a regular place for the sitting of the federal court, but with no suitable room here for the court to convene the Norfolk sessions have amounted to nothing. Later when Senator Allen was in the senate he secured an appropriation for the purchase of a site for a court house and postoffice.

There the matter rested until Henderson was speaker of the house of representatives. Col. Simpson had served in the same regiment with Col. Henderson, and through his personal acquaintance with the speaker he saw an opportunity for Norfolk. He made several trips to see Speaker Henderson and while at first he received no encouragement, he finally exacted a promise that an appropriation measure should be allowed to come before the house, provided the chairman of the committee on public buildings saw fit to bring it up. This chairman was Dave Mercer of Omaha, and Col. Simpson uncovered the fact that Hon. W. M. Robertson was on terms of intimacy with Mercer. Col. Simpson was instrumental in sending Mr. Robertson to Washington, and today there is nearing completion in Norfolk a \$100,000 federal court house and postoffice, one of the handsomest in the United States.

After the burning of the Norfolk hospital for the insane, Sol. Simpson was one of the executive committee of the Commercial club which had in charge the securing of an appropriation for the rebuilding of the property. Here again he worked like a general conducting a campaign, without ostentation but with far reaching plans to produce a result. The hospital is now being rebuilt.

At the time of his death he had two other cherished plans for the good of Norfolk. One was a public library that should be ample for the needs of the city, and the other was the establishment of a better system of roads leading into town. These projects were frequently discussed with his friends during his last illness, at a time when his body was failing but his mind was as clear as ever.

Col. Simpson was an ardent republican and as firmly believed in the party as he did in the supreme being. He took an active part in everything that pertained to political affairs and was untiring in his zeal for his principles. In April, 1898, he was elected mayor of the city. He did not want the office but consented to take the nomination providing a platform was announced that would set forth clearly where he would stand on questions that were then vexing the city. The platform upon which he was elected contained three planks, as follows:

"We favor an economical government."
"We favor closing the saloons at 12 o'clock at night and on Sundays."
"We favor the suppression of gambling and prostitution."

So firmly did he establish the principles of his platform, that never since has an attempt been made to go back to the old condition of things. It was the turning point in the history of Norfolk.

Col. Simpson led a life of integrity, honesty and uprightiness that helped and inspired all who knew him. Whether the consequences were to be what the world calls profitable or unprofitable, he departed not one jot or tittle from his convictions. While he was always intensely interested in the affairs of Mathewson Post, G. A. R., he retained his membership in the Col. Hughes Post at Decorah, Iowa.

The funeral will be held at the First Congregational church tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, after which the remains will be taken over the Northwestern in charge of his son and sister to Decorah, where the comrades of forty years ago will tenderly lay his body to rest. Before he passed away he expressed the wish that Rev. J. J. Parker, formerly pastor of the First Congregational church, now of Plainview, should conduct his funeral. The pall bearers selected are W. M. Robertson, Judge Barnes, W. H. Widaman, H. C. Matrau, W. H. Butterfield and W. N. Huse.

The casket will not be opened at the church. Friends who wish to take leave of the departed should call at the house during today or before the service tomorrow.

The death of Col. Simpson makes a break in the life of the community that will be hard to fill.

Miss Catlin Takes a Winside Band.
Miss Mabel Catlin, who is successfully conducting the ladies band of Norfolk, has in addition recently taken up the work in Winside, having organized a juvenile band among the boys of that town. Miss Catlin is highly recommended for work in that line and music lovers in Norfolk are pleased to testify to her ability. The following from the Wesleyan university at Lincoln, however, comes from more authoritative source:

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Neb.—To whom it may concern: This is to certify that Miss Mabel Catlin was a student in clarinet, harmony and musical theory, in all of which she made most excellent progress. Miss Catlin is the leading clarinet soloist in the University Military band, and gave good satisfaction as a player upon that instrument. I am glad to recommend her as well qualified as a teacher of a band, and clarinet soloist.

OREN E. LOCKE,
Director Conservatory of Music,
Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Kicked Runabout to Pieces.
Alex Morrison's horse got on a jam-boree yesterday in front of the Norfolk National bank and did not let up on the tatoon he was beating with his heels until the runabout to which he was attached had been reduced to kindling wood. Then the animal broke loose and made a run of it for home and the barn. No one was hurt.

School tablets at The News office.

IN THE NEW NORTHWEST

CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF VALUE AT THIS SEASON.

STAPLES PRODUCED IN PLENTY

Country is Certain of a Marvelous Development and Offers Great Advantages to the Farmers of the East—Fruit Does Well.

Norfolk, Sept. 26.—Three weeks' travel through The New Northwest at this season of the year is a revelation in the amount and quality of scenery and wealth displayed that will excite, please and satisfy the most skeptical. That the part of north Nebraska and South Dakota, comprising the New Northwest is the El Dorado—the ideal place where the man with energy and capital may find himself a home that will not only bring him a living, but increased wealth as well, is convincing.

While tropical fruits are not found growing here, there is produced that which is much more to be desired, and much more profitable—the great staples of life. Corn, potatoes, and all the small grains and grasses, growing anywhere in the west, flourish here. All the natural elements in climate and soil for their making seem to exist here, for nowhere do we find these crops that show the yield and quality that they do here, with the same amount of care and labor in their cultivation. The country is new and farming is done more in an experimental or careless way than it is in the east where land no better for the same purpose will cost from six to ten times as much. But this will not long be so, for the farmer of the east who has made up his mind to make an honest dollar without working so hard for it sees his chance here and is selling his high priced land, is now headed this way and is coming to stay.

You have only to travel over this country and see the immense crops of everything here; the vast herds of fat cattle, sheep and hogs and fine teams of sleek horses as they can be seen lazily grazing over the hills and rough table lands where an abundance of feed of the finest quality is found growing. No other section of the country is known where the grazing and farming lands are so conveniently side by side.

I found on a ranch in the north part of Holt county one of the most thrifty young apple orchards I have seen in the west. The trees were healthy and well loaded with fruit of the best variety of apples and of as fine quality as one would wish to see. Plums and grapes of fine varieties were also shown. These are things to satisfy the skeptical and that wise neighbors of yours who told you not to go and farm in the west didn't know what he was talking about and he did not possess any of the spirit of adventure which is necessary for the accomplishment of any great purpose or undertaking in life. This trait is distinctly American and the one that prompted Columbus and our forefathers to cross the seas that we might enjoy the good things of this new world. Eastern people should help and not hinder those who aspire to have a part in the development of the west.

Those interested should take the trip up the Niobrara valley, over the Northwestern, 120 miles from Norfolk, which is the gateway of this wonder land that is rapidly filling up with a busy, bustling class of people who were not long in making up their minds that they had found what they wanted. It is a fact here as elsewhere that some of the lands are not as desirable as others, but any of it is worth the price it can be had for today.

In the upper Elkhorn and Niobrara valleys government lands can still be had. Until quite recently much of the valuable land of this kind had been covered up or fenced by cattle men and as it was in what was supposed by many to be an arid section and of no value at all, there has only recently arisen a demand for it. The passage of the Kinkaid law by the last congress, which permits a homesteader to take an entire section of 640 acres has caused a new movement. Any of the land is good for grazing purposes and much of it will produce good crops, enabling a family to make a good living. In a few years it will be owned by numerous small ranchmen, making their living from a small herd of cattle and the land that is available for farming purposes. The Kinkaid law is considered one of the best passed for this part of the country since the first homestead bill became a law. These lands had been the basis for much trouble and ill feeling for many years, and for settling this friction much credit is due Congressman Kinkaid. Besides benefiting in this way and in supporting many new families it will be a benefit to the state and national governments to have them settled upon. Some of the land produces abundantly of alfalfa and many acres of that plant or clover are found in all parts of north Nebraska and South Dakota, cutting in some cases two and three crops a year, without an unusual amount of rain. This crop, like all others, is more profitable when properly planted and cared for.

While the people in this New Northwest are just now busy with their own affairs they are losing no

time in making friends with all that come their way and they say they are always glad to get acquainted with their Norfolk neighbors. Traveling salesmen with all their wares and traffic are met and they claim they are finding a growing trade and a steady demand for their goods. There is much trade here that could be had by merchants of Norfolk if it was properly looked after, and this New Northwest is able and willing to do all in its power to help make Norfolk a city of 10,000 or 15,000 people in the next few years. Norfolk should take advantage of present opportunities and strike while the iron is hot or it will be overlastingly too late. We want to see Kansas City, Lincoln and Omaha grow some, but we want to see Norfolk grow some, also.

J. H. SEXTON.

Battle Creek.

Dr. Munson reports the arrival of a daughter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ely, Jr., Friday.

Carl Kurptzweit and family and Julius Henseleit went to Waverly Saturday for a visit with Ernest Reikofsky, their brother-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hawkins of Meadow Grove were taking in the show here Saturday night.

Reinhold Reimers of Pierce was visiting here Sunday at the home of his brother-in-law, Geo. Huesman.

John C. Ransdell, our high school janitor, has rented the old Walker residence near the lumber yards, from S. M. Thatch.

Floyd Collins and Wm. Clark were here from Tilden Saturday visiting relatives.

W. E. Hooper received a telegram Friday from Atinsley, Custer county, announcing the sudden death of his brother Albert, who was 44 years old and a painter. Will started Saturday morning on the early train for that place.

John Verplank, who lives eight miles west of Pierce, has traded his farm for the so-called Dugher property on Depot street, owned by Lorenzo Bauer. J. H. Conley of Norfolk made the trade.

Mike Plouzek made a business trip to Dodge Friday.

Postmaster Willis returned Thursday from Hot Springs, S. D., where he had been for some time for his health.

Sheriff Clements of Madison was here Saturday on official business.

Professor Doering and McCarthy were business visitors to Norfolk Saturday.

The Misses Ella and Jessie Goff of Pierce were visiting here Saturday with their friends, the Misses Lillian and May Willis.

Otto H. Maas has his residence on Depot street treated to a new coat of paint.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Pope arrived from Maryville, Mo., for an extended visit with their son, L. J. Pope in Schoolcraft.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Barnes of Cody are visiting with relatives and friends.

Mrs. C. A. Probst was visiting with relatives at Stanton during the fair.

Ed. O'Shea was over from Madison Friday.

John Warrick was down from Meadow Grove on business Friday.

Otto H. Maas is confined to the house on account of sickness.

Monster Apples.

At the farm of Mrs. Warren Rouse's brother-in-law, five miles east of Norfolk is an apple tree bearing an abundance of as perfect a fruit as it is possible to grow of a winter variety. A specimen of the fruit has been measured and was found to be fourteen inches in circumference, and it is said that the apples on the tree are all about of the same mammoth dimensions, showing that it is possible to grow as fine fruit in Nebraska as any country can boast.

New Rural Route.

A new rural route has been established out of Norfolk with Warren Rouse as carrier. Mr. Rouse has repositioned a position at the Sugar City Cereal Mills that he has held for the past seven years to accept the position of carrier. The new route is known as rural route No. 5.

Silver Wedding Anniversary.

With the assistance of about a hundred relatives and neighbors and friends Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krulis celebrated their twenty-fifth or silver wedding anniversary at their home about five miles southeast of the city. Many presents were contributed by the guests and all present had a good time.

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Try The News want column.

COMMERCIAL CLUB MEETS

MATTERS OF A PUBLIC NATURE ARE DISCUSSED.

STREET RAILWAY PROPOSITION.

The Committee Having it in Charge Have Formulated a Plan—Roads, Hospital for the Insane—Celebration of Completion of Building.

The Commercial club met in regular session last evening, President Robertson presiding. It was the first meeting since the summer vacation, but the reports of the committees showed that things have been brewing for the benefit of the community, even if it has been hot.

Sol. G. Mayer, chairman of the street railway committee, reported. He stated that the committee is firmly convinced that a street railway between South Norfolk and the business part of town would materially increase the trade of the merchants. The investigations of the committee has led them to believe that it will be difficult to interest capital to build the line without greater inducements than are offered by the prospective trade that would be given it during the first period of its existence. It is the opinion of the committee that the citizens will be obliged to offer a bonus to secure the line, and the committee has decided that a good way to get at the matter is to ask the business men how much they will contribute each year for say a period of three years to this project, conditioned that regular trips over the line shall be made as often as may be agreed upon. It is believed that on this proposition \$1,000 a year for three years can be raised among the business men of town who would be benefitted by the construction and operation of such a line. Given that \$1,000 a year has been pledged, it is believed that sufficient capital can be interested to construct the line. On the basis of the estimated cost, this would mean guaranteed interest of 10 per cent on the investment. A town which can raise \$1,000 for a fireman's tournament will easily show enterprise enough to raise the amount needed to guarantee a project that would prove of material advantage to the business interests of the city. As the busy season is just starting and as it is too late to put the project through this fall, the committee suggested that work of securing the preliminaries be postponed until after the holidays when business men will have more time to give the matter consideration.

The club approved the plan and instructed the committee to proceed along the lines suggested.

Legislative Committee.

The matter of looking after the needs of the Norfolk hospital for insane before the session of the legislature which will meet this winter, was discussed and it was decided that Norfolk would have to make some effort to secure funds for the maintenance of the institution when completed, else there would be a hospital with no money for its operation. It is especially desirable also that what is known as the west wing, that part of the institution which was not materially affected by the fire, and which is not being repaired under the present contract, be put in condition to take care of patients, and for which a small appropriation will be needed.

A motion was made and carried that the president appoint a committee of seven, of which the president of the club shall be chairman, as a legislative committee. The president took the matter of naming the committee under advisement and will announce the names later.

Road Committee.

The road committee reported that they had met with the county commissioners and had secured an appropriation of \$1,000 of the road money paid the county by Norfolk precinct to be expended on the roads leading into Norfolk. Mr. Pasewalk stated that members of the committee have arranged to view some of the roads in company with Commissioner Smith in the near future and that the committee would be ready to make a detailed report at the next meeting of the club.

Federal Building Celebration.

Norfolk's \$100,000 federal building is now nearing completion and the Commercial club believes it would be very appropriate to celebrate the completion of the structure with a banquet, to which those who have assisted in securing the building be invited as guests of honor. While it is not probable that the banquet could be held in the building there is no doubt but that arrangements could be made to have the building lighted and thrown open to the inspection of the public on the evening of the celebration, and it was decided to ask Postmaster Hays to have this done. Motion prevailed that a committee of five, of which E. A. Bullock be made chairman, be appointed by the president of the club to take charge of the arrangements for the banquet and celebration. The remainder of this committee will be announced later. It was made a part of the duties of the committee to fix a time for the celebration, which will probably not be held until some time after the building is completed and perhaps not until after election.

A. C. OSGOOD, A. M., LL. B., Pres., Omaha.
PROF. A. J. LOWMYER, Princ.

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