

A SUCCESSFUL CITIZEN

Story of Dr. F. Verges' Experience in Nebraska.

ENDURED HARDSHIPS OF A PIONEER

He Early Saw the Possibilities of Sugar Beet Culture—Was a Hard Worker and Has the Interests of His Town at Heart. What He Has Accomplished.

Dr. F. Verges of this city is one of the early pioneers of this section and one to whose progress and activity may be attributed a very large share of the present development of the city and country—perhaps more than to any one individual of the city. He is classed with the sturdy German settlers of the 60's—those who came when there was nothing but the fertile and undeveloped prairies to attract—who endured hardships and grief that people of later generations know not of and cannot appreciate.

His present standing in the business and financial world was only attained by toil—hard and persistent, and if there is anyone who is entitled to spend his declining years in comfort and pleasure it is Dr. Verges who has spent the best part of his life in attaining his present position and has done more for the happiness and prosperity of his neighbors than he is given credit for.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Germany and when he immigrated to this country his idea was to settle in some of the larger cities and practice his profession, that of medicine. He therefore first settled in Chicago, but through correspondence with friends in Nebraska his attention was attracted to this state, where it was suggested that there were great opportunities for a young man, and he decided to come out here. In 1868 he arrived in Omaha which he found to be a typical western city on the outskirts of civilization.

At that time the people were celebrating the completion of the Union Pacific railway, the last spike of silver, which formed the connection between the east and extreme west, having just been driven. He had no money to start in business and it was his idea that a young man should start without assistance. Therefore he decided to look up some fertile prairie land and start from the very bottom. Six others of similar mind were found and they decided to start together to look up desirable locations.

They had in mind the Elkhorn Valley when they started and came to Fremont by rail, that being the nearest railway point. They left Omaha January 19, 1869, and arrived in Fremont in due time. On their arrival at that city they had little money and no team or other conveyance but this did not deter them, and they started out afoot to their destination. The snow was two feet deep and the weather was cold. The little party followed the Elkhorn river and were entertained in the log cabins or dugouts of the pioneers along the way.

The doctor came from a portion of Germany where the best sugar industry prevailed and he was early struck with the idea that this country could successfully produce sugar beets. As early as 1878 he tried the raising of sugar beets from the seed procured from the old country. The beets were successfully grown but he was unable to determine their value in sugar as there was no apparatus for testing them.

He raised some beets in his garden later and sent them to Germany to be tested. The test was satisfactory and his big ambition from that time was to induce a factory to locate in this neighborhood. Prof. H. H. Nicholson of the state university also tested beets for him and obtained good results. After the Grand Island factory was built he communicated his idea as to this section's adaptability to the industry to H. O. Whyman and together they visited the Grand Island factory. He also devoted 20 acres to raising beets for that factory. When it came to raising a bonus for the Norfolk factory Dr. Verges showed his faith in the industry and the benefits to be derived by the locality by subscribing \$4,500 to the factory. He was also on the guarantee committee and contributed another \$500 through that means, thus contributing in all \$5,000.

This is not the only evidence of the doctor's interest in the welfare of Norfolk. He contributed to the street car lines, the electric light plant and other public improvements. He did not go in for the purpose of speculation but with the sole object of aiding in the development of the city and vicinity.

Dr. Verges now owns stock in many of the industries of the city. He owns two brick blocks and other business property, and has extensive interests in town lots and residences. He owns farm lands in Wayne and Stanton counties and considerable country and suburban property in Madison county, principally around Norfolk.

Baumann and Verges were the first to settle north of him.

Dr. Verges made his residence on the homestead until 1881, he having acquired up to that time two additional quarter sections and had 200 acres under cultivation, the balance of the land being hay and pasture land.

The years up to this time were filled with many and varied experiences in the doctor's life of more than passing interest. Before he had fairly started at farming he worked in the harvest field for others. On one occasion he was offered \$4 per day and board to bind on a Marsh harvester. The wages offered were big for that time and he promptly accepted. The weather was hot and the grain dry. He worked several days, wearing the skin off his hands and fingers in several places. He rested over Sunday and on Monday found his hands so stiff and sore he could hardly bend his fingers. At that time the Marsh harvesters were without a canopy and as the sun was almost broiling hot, on his suggestion they rigged up a canopy with bed sheets and willow poles. Whether the harvester people got the suggestion from him or not, he is not prepared to say, but the next year the canopy was put in use. The harvest that year was finished, however, under the improvised canopy.

It might be stated in this connection that Dr. Verges and another gentleman in the eastern part of the state introduced the first self binders in Nebraska. The doctor saw one on display at the Omaha fair or exposition and bought one through the agency of A. P. Pilger paying for it between \$300 and \$400. It was a wire binder and was a great curiosity. It did full duty for many years and bound many acres of grain during that time.

During his farm life Dr. Verges also practiced his profession, being the only doctor for years in the country. His trips were usually made on horseback in bee line across the country and were often made under conditions most discouraging. The temperature and storms that now prevail in this territory are not to be compared with the weather then. He often made trips with the thermometer indicating 20 degrees below zero and with howling blizzards raging, in fact at that time 30 below was not considered very severe. One winter there was a diphtheria epidemic and the doctor was kept on the go much of the time, trips between patients being a matter of miles. In the summer he had worked all day on his harvesting machine, and while he obtained a bite to eat his assistant saddled his pony and he started for Norfolk, a distance of ten miles, went around and saw his patients and returned home. He got to bed about 1 o'clock and was up by daylight to renew his labors at harvesting. Many such trips he has made and it is evident that he knows what work is. After the arrival of Dr. Bear, at an early date, his duties in this particular were not so arduous, but he still practiced medicine and is yet doing so.

In 1881 he sold or traded his land interests in Pierce county and moved to Norfolk where he accumulated large property interests both in the city and surrounding country.

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It is estimated by a friend that the doctor's wealth today is in the neighborhood of \$75,000. While this was not all made by farming exclusively, that industry furnished the foundation for his wealth and the large portion of it is the direct result of tilling the soil.

NO STATE BOARD HERE

The Transportation Board was Coming Today.

WAS TO HEAR RAILROAD CASE.

This was the Date Fixed by the State Board of Transportation, but Without Notice to Norfolk Citizens They Failed to Put in an Appearance.

From Tuesday's Daily. This is the day set for the hearing of the case brought by the Business Men's association of Norfolk against the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railroad, before the state board of transportation. The hearing was to be held here, but the day has come and gone and no high pop dignitary of the state board of transportation has put in an appearance. This was to have been the final hearing for the purpose of allowing the railroads to make a showing as to why the rate ordered by the board at the hearing held here on February 9, which lowered the cost of transporting freight of the first class from South Sioux City to this place from 42 to 35 cents a hundred, should not be enforced.

On February 19, one J. W. Edgerton, secretary to the state board of transportation, sent notice that the final hearing on this case had been fixed for March 6, and that if it was not convenient for representatives of the Norfolk Business Men's association to go to Lincoln, one or more members of the board would come here. The board was informed that it would be better to hold the meeting here, and in the absence of any contrary information arrangements were made to have the hearing at this place today. At an early hour this morning a rousing fire was built in the city hall so that the one or more members of the board who should come would not be greeted by a chilly atmosphere, and everything was placed in readiness to give them as cordial a reception as they deserved. But they came not, and now the question is what has become of the Norfolk case? Will the new rates ordered by the board at the previous hearing be put into effect or not?

Several days ago the railroad, through its attorney, filed its answer with the board, which is in part as follows:

The complaint charged that when Secretaries Laws and Edgerton visited Norfolk last June they found that there was no freight schedule posted by the road on which they might depend for information and that the secretaries promised to command the road to publish such schedule, but that they did not keep their promise. This allegation the road emphatically denies, asserting that it has been guilty of no discrimination or injustice. The document filed by Attorney Sheenan is filled with denials. It denies that the road discriminates against Norfolk in favor of points no better situated; it denies that no tariff sheet is published; it denies the publishing of rates from Sioux City, Ia., and South Sioux City, Neb., other than Norfolk to the exclusion of the latter; it denies that the road published a rate from Omaha to Nebraska points other than Norfolk; it denies it will not accept freight at Omaha to be shipped to Norfolk, agreeing to transport it only to Hope, a small station a mile from Norfolk and asserts that the road is willing to accept freight at Omaha at any time to be carried to Norfolk if only a reasonable rate may be charged. The road also denies that it has discriminated in any way against Norfolk. In conclusion the answer says:

"And further answering, this respondent says that whatever disadvantages, if any, are suffered by the business men of Norfolk are due to circumstances and conditions brought about by the location of the city; that the rates and charges made by this respondent are entirely equitable and just to the public and to the shippers; that South Sioux City is a village existing under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Nebraska, and containing not more than 100 inhabitants; that no shipments of any consequence are received from that village to the city of Norfolk; that there are no manufacturing, commercial, industrial, mercantile or jobbing enterprises at South Sioux City; that there are no commodities and staple goods, of any character, which are offered for shipment from South Sioux City to Norfolk; that the demand contained in said complaint, for a readjustment of rates between South Sioux City and Norfolk, Neb., is not based upon any demands of shippers from South Sioux City, nor from persons who wish to ship from Norfolk to South Sioux City, but such a demand is adopted as a subterfuge for the purpose of securing action on the part of this honorable board to secure lower rates from an interstate point, to-wit, the city of Sioux City, in the state of Iowa, to the city of Norfolk, Neb., and for the purpose of securing the lowering of rates from other through points without the state of Nebraska; that the rates from South Sioux City are governed by a distance tariff, and the same distance tariff is applicable to all small towns similarly situated and near to South Sioux City, as well as other towns and villages in the state of Nebraska.

"This respondent denies each and every allegation in the complaint and in each paragraph thereof, not specifically admitted."

Real Estate Transfers.

The following transfers of real estate are reported by Chester A. Fuller, manager of the Madison county abstract office at Norfolk:

- Martin L. Williams to Alvin Lowe q. c. d. lot 5 block 15 and lot 11 block 17 Western Town Lot Co.'s add to Norfolk Junction \$ 341 00
Albert Edwards and wife to William Leary wd lot 8 block 9 Kimball & Blair's add to Burnett 900 00
C. Hansen and husband to Peter Michaelson wd e 20 feet of w 53 feet lot 1 block 4 Burnett 275 00
Cyrus Blesh to Wm. Leary wd lot 7 block 9 Kimball & Blair's add to Burnett 100 00
Thomas Newlove to Susan Newlove Q. C. D. lot 7 block 9 R. R. add to Newman Grove 1 00
John McDowell and wife to T. L. and E. C. Dames wd e 1/2 of sw 1/4 5-24-41 1,000 00
Henry Clausen and wife to W. H. Vickers, E. W. Sims, Jr. and M. J. Riley wd lot 6 block 6 Clausen cemetery 15 00
Ada A. Christilles and husband to George A. Platt wd lot 6 block 1 Gardner and Braasch's add to Norfolk 350 00
Gustav Nelson and wife to B. F. and J. L. Witt wd e 1/2 of ne 1/4; sw 1/4 of ne 1/4 and nw 1/4 of se 1/4 8-21-4 3,400 00
Geo. C. Reed and wife to Dan'l Murphy and Peter Barrett wd lots 10 and 11 block 18 Western Town Lot Co.'s add. to Norfolk 50 90
T. J. Mitchell and wife to Wm. J. Sellman wd se 1/4 28-22-2 \$2,000 00
Francis Franck to Charles A. Adams wd e 1/2 of se 1/4 23-23-4 1,400 00
Mathias Hettinger and wife to Mrs. E. J. North wd e 1/2 of ne 1/4 35-23-1 100 00
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad company to Augustus F. Tannehill d e 1/2 of se 1/4 27-23-1 480 00
John F. Wade and wife to Francis Franck wd e 1/2 of se 1/4 23-23-4 \$1280 00
Edward Allen and wife to G. W. Shippee wd lot 8 block 4 Tilden 290 00
J. O. Trine and wife to Andrew J. Heath wd lot 7 block 7 nw add. to Madison 135 00
D. S. Fraser to W. Volk wd nw 1/4 30-23-3 2600 00
Geo. R. G. Spaulding and wife to D. S. Fraser wd nw 1/4 30-23-3 2500 00
David C. Herrington and wife to Adolf Schilling wd nw 1/2 and e 1/2 of nw 1/4 3-22-1 5600 00
Lillie A. Stuart to Bernard M. Carson wd se 1/4 8 except 5 acres in se corner used as a cemetery and nw 1/4 10-22-2 7700 00
Geo. Losey sheriff to W. E. Reed sheriff's deed se 1/4 8-22-2 1160 00
W. E. Reed and wife to James Stuart qd se 1/4 8-22-2 1400 00
R. Fred Smith and wife to David C. Herrington wd ne 1/4 29-23-2 2300 00
Helena Schilling and husband to John Mauer wd sw 1/4 22-2 5000 00
Mrs. Etta G. Vanhorn and husband to Alvina Knapp wd lots 25 and 26 Braasch's add. to Norfolk 700 00
H. J. Becker and wife to Sarah E. Carson wd lots 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 block 5 block 4 Madison (part of) 1850 00

A SMALL SPOT MAY BE CANCER.

MOST VIOLENT CASES HAVE APPEARED AT FIRST AS MERE PIMPLES. The greatest cure should be given to any little sore, pimple or scratch which shows no disposition to heal and which does not improve under any treatment. No one can tell how soon these will develop into Cancer of the worst type. So many people die from Cancer simply because they do not know just what the disease is; they naturally turn themselves over to the doctors, and are forced to submit to a cruel and dangerous operation—the only treatment which the doctors know for Cancer. The disease promptly returns, however, and is even more violent and destructive than before. Cancer is a deadly poison in the blood, and an operation, plaster, or other external treatment will have no effect whatever upon it. The cure must come from within—the last vestige of poison must be eradicated.



Mr. Wm. Walpole, of Washburn, S. D., says: "A little blotch about the size of a pea came under my left eye, gradually growing larger, from which shooting pains at intervals ran in all directions. I became greatly alarmed and consulted a good doctor, who pronounced it Cancer, and advised that it be cut out, but this I could not consent to. I read in my local paper of a cure effected by S. S. S., and decided to try it. It acted like a charm, the Cancer becoming at first irritated, and then discharging very freely. This gradually grew less and then discontinued altogether, leaving a small scar which soon dropped off and now only a healthy little scar remains where what threatened to destroy my life once held full sway."

Positively the only cure for Cancer is Swift's Specific—S. S. S. FOR THE BLOOD—because it is the only remedy which can go deep enough to reach the root of the disease and force it out of the system permanently. A surgical operation does not reach the blood—the real seat of the disease—because the blood can not be cut away. Insist upon S. S. S.; nothing can take its place. S. S. S. cures also any case of Scrofula, Eczema, Rheumatism, Contagious Blood Poison, Ulcers, Sores, or any other form of blood disease. Valuable books on Cancer and Blood Diseases will be mailed free to any address by Swift Specific Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

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