

THE FIRST. Joseph L. Sharp was the president of the council of the first legislative assembly of the territory of Nebraska which convened at Omaha, January 16, 1855. The council of that assembly was equivalent to the senate of the present state legislature.

Colonel Sharp had been a member of the legislature of Illinois and subsequently of that of Iowa. He was a man of alert and superior intellect and likewise an experienced and quick parliamentarian. His knowledge of the rules and of parliamentary tactics in general was copious and correct. Never has he been succeeded by a better presiding officer in the law-making body of Nebraska.

Honorable Andrew Jackson Hanscom was the speaker of the first house of representatives in the territory of Nebraska. He was an educated and able lawyer from the state of Michigan where his family, especially his brother, Hon. A. H. Hanscom, was distinguished for ability and brilliancy. Mr. Hanscom still lives at Omaha. He has seen more than thirty legislatures convene in Nebraska since 1854. But he has seen not one with a speaker of more tact and ability than that forceful speaker who presided over the house in 1855.

During the whole summer of 1858, there continued in Otoe county, Nebraska, an abnormal atmospheric condition as to electrical perturbations and surplus rainfall. Thunder and lightning and torrential down-pourings of rain continued until late in August. Wheat grew in the shock and every stack was green with sprouting grain.

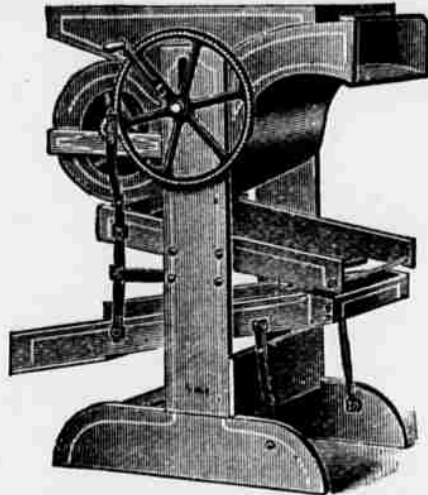
Many settlers gave up their claims and abandoned the valley of the Nebraska because it was too wet to be healthful for human beings and too congenial to mosquitoes.

And now in 1899 Otoe county is getting a renaissance of 1858. Rainfall in May, this year, is four and a half inches and promises to be more than that in June. Floods and drouths come to all countries.

We are interested in so many new places at present, that Harper's Weekly relegates its inevitable continued story to the back pages and sandwiches it in among the advertisements. Really, there are better things than fiction these days. If it were not for its two pages of college-boys in knee-breeches and statistics and wise comments on their running, jumping and ball-playing, one might almost feel tempted to preserve The Weekly and have it bound, for it has many good things in it. This week

its front-picture is a masterpiece of simple human pathos; two naked Apaches in an Arizona village, watching their well-dressed son and daughter approaching their hut, just back from a government school.

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