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THE OTOES.

The editor of the Tribune was much interested in the account, given on another page, of the Otoe Indians, by a gentleman who has been among them recently. They are a scanty and vanishing race; there are only a few hundred of them left. We have a right to feel a peculiar interest in them, because they were the original occupants of the soil that we call ours today. Original, that is, so far as the memory of man goes. The spade of the archaeologist may some day teach us of others who dwelt here before they drifted down from the north, but they were the ones the white men found here, and they had occupied this corner between the Platte and Nemaha rivers for a long time; probably since before they received the horse. They have never, so far as the writer knows, been studied in regard to their legends and traditions, as the Pawnees and some other tribes have been; but they seem to have been a rather fine lot, for Indians, in their natural state. Early travelers, back in the 30's and thereabouts, speak of them in high terms. They are said to have been the terror of the surrounding tribes, from their fierceness in war and their great skill in the use of weapons.

It would not be a bad idea for the Old Settlers' association to interest themselves in these still older settlers. We would like very much to get together all the reminiscences, anecdotes, pictures or anything of that kind that any one may have regarding the Otoes. Any Otoe county university student

with a liking for original research would find here a promising and appropriate field for first-hand investigation.—Nebraska City Tribune.

RAILROAD HISTORY.

We are glad to notice that the Union Pacific people observed Lincoln's birthday in a somewhat special manner. They closed their general offices and had the old Lincoln car newly draped. This road was closely connected with President Lincoln in its infancy. While he was dead before its first rail was laid, he had a great deal to do with shaping its line and policy. The old car spoken of is the one in which his body made its funeral journey. It came afterward into the Union Pacific service, and went through the depths of degradation; but it is now one of their most valued relics.

It is pleasant to see a corporation like this great railroad paying this homage to its own past. The railroads occupy an enormous sphere in American life today. Especially here in the west, our geography and our history both take shape in great degree about the railroad systems. One would look to find the higher officials of these companies showing a full appreciation of the historic import of their doings, causing complete and coherent annals to be kept, records in accessible shape of extensions and purchases, files of old time cards and things of that kind. It seems not to be done, however. You can learn little of matters only a few years back in the general offices of many railroads. A change in ownership seems

to destroy the continuity, break off entirely all connection with the beginning of the road.

WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN.

The graduating class of the state university is agitated. Its committee on program prepared a list of distinguished Americans, beginning with Senator Beveridge and Mr. Cleveland, and invited them one after another to deliver an address at the next commencement. The first seven declined, and the eighth, who was B. T. Washington, of Alabama, accepted. Mr. Washington is a negro, and many young Nebraskans it seems are unwilling to be addressed on graduation day by a negro. They say their parents wouldn't allow it.

The state university is believed to be an educational institution. Young people go there to acquire knowledge. The state supports it in order that they may in turn support the state. One of the most difficult problems before the nation today is the disposition of the negroes. We imported them by force, took more or less pains with them for a couple of hundred years, and then turned them loose; told them to be white men and vote. As a result they seem to be relapsing into African barbarism, millions of them. No white statesman sees his way through the difficulty. If this very able black M. A. does, or thinks he does, it is well worth while for anybody to give him a hearing. The graduating class may learn more that will be of service to the country from him than from a good many white speakers.