

THE NEBRASKAN.

Vol. V. No. 20

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, FEB. 26. 1897.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

P. J. Jewell, a Former Student, tells of His Experiences, Prospecting.

THERMOMETER SIXTY BELOW

Traveling in the North Country on Foot and by Sledge—Fund Started for Maintaining a School—Customs of the People.

Extracts from a letter written by P. J. Jewell, a student of the university from 1891 to '94, now at Circle City, Yukon river, Alaska.

We arrived at Circle City, Sunday evening, September 23, '94. For nearly a mile along the river bank, cabins were springing up like magic, so that the town only four months old, had more than 250 inhabitants. We immediately began erecting a cabin and inside of two weeks, were snugly ensconced in a warm twelve by fourteen foot cabin.

Soon after, in company with seventeen other men, I went to Ft. Yukon, eighty miles for additional supplies. The fort is inside the Arctic circle, and on both nights which we camped there, the displays of the Aurora Borealis were superb. The trip up the river was anything but pleasant. Snow fell nearly every night, cold winds were blowing, forming ice nearly all the time and we were constantly wet from handling the tow lines. It was necessary to tow the boats all the way, to contend with sweepers (trees over hanging the water), high cut banks, side channels and swift currents. Several times we had to double up to pull a boat over the riffles, and in one instance it took ten or twelve of us to pull a single boat over. We covered the eighty miles in six days. Two days later the ice began running in the river. If that had caught us, we should have been obliged to sled our effects to the city. On February 20, when the temperature was 38 degrees below zero, my partner and I started for the mines, fifty miles away, arriving there March 7.

We freighted our entire outfit out; there were five loads each, necessitating our going over the trail nine times, making the equivalent to a straight pull of 450 miles; added to this we pulled the sleds another 100 miles each, to get wood, lumber, etc., to the claim we opened.

We took a claim to prospect on Deadwood for two-thirds interest, and all we could take out the first season.—It didn't pay us very well, averaging only about ten dollars a day. Some claims above us were good, yielding as high as \$100 per day. One young man cleared \$5,000 for his summer's work. Mastodon creek, the largest and richest creek known in this district, produced a large amount, \$40,000 being taken out of Discovery claim alone, and it is estimated that \$250,000 was produced in this district the past summer. The original creeks discovered were: Squaw, Mastodon, Miller, Mammoth, Independence, Deadwood and Switch.

Last fall and summer several others were discovered; Green Horn, Boulder, Bonanza, Eagle, and Harrison; but too late for anything but hurriedly prospecting, but several of them bid fair to rival the first mentioned creeks. The discoverer of Green Horn creek, while digging a drain 100 feet long for the purpose of prospecting the ground, panned and picked out over \$100 in dust and nuggets, one of which was worth fifty-seven dollars.

In company with two other men I own the third claim above this rich ground, for which we paid \$1,000; but whether or not there is any gold in our ground, time alone can tell.

I am building no air castles, simply letting events shape their own course. Should mammon see fit to smile upon me next summer, I shall spend the winter at home, and if possible, should be very much pleased to meet you then, I could spin some great yarns for you.

Toward the latter part of last September, '94, I came to town for ordering my outfit. After a week of sight seeing, I took a seventy-pound pack of provisions and blankets on my back and started to the mines, reaching my claim at the end of the third day. I remained there hunting and cutting wood until the last of October, when I came in with two sleds and about 200 pounds' load. The sixth of December, with two others, I started out to do some prospecting on Green Horn, and returned the 26th. On the way out we had to break trail fifteen miles and were six days and a half in covering that distance. The days were so short, scarcely four hours of light, and that was necessary to select a good trail, so we made slow progress. We camped out every

night without stove or tent, and did our cooking and sleeping by rousing campfire made of dry pine logs. We did but little prospecting.

December 22, with a temperature of 35 degrees below, we started on our return to the city. Soon after going into camp that evening, the thermometer registered 40 degrees and growing colder all the time. We cut an immense pile of wood for the night. Hour after hour we hovered around the fire dreading to turn in. Finally, about midnight and after eating a second supper, we crawled into our blankets. I froze out in about two hours, although I had a double 16 oz. canvas, a bear skin and four blankets under me, and double canvas and eleven blankets over me. The next morning it was only 55 degrees below zero. It was so intensely cold that although I had been sitting within three feet of the camp fire (and not an Indian fire either) most of the night, ice that formed on my beard the preceding day, had not all melted off by morning. On the 23rd, we had about twelve miles to go, to reach the junction house, put up, and especially to accommodate men traveling on the trail. It was 5 o'clock, fully three hours after dark when we reached it, stiff, cold, hungry and almost exhausted. The thermometer was down to 47 degrees and the next morning, the 24th, it was down to 54 degrees below. With but one exception, all the men who were stopping at the junction, decided to stay over for the day; but on Christmas morning it was only 40 degrees below, and at 7 o'clock we started on the trail for the next house twenty-two miles away, which we intended to reach that night and at 3:30 we were there. The entire distance was made without food or drink and I took the dray rope from my shoulder but once, although the day was bitterly cold, so that quicksilver was frozen solid all day. I frosted my nose, all my fingers and left ear which had already peeled four times this winter, began freezing more than a dozen times. The proprietors of the twelve mile house which we reached Christmas evening, charged us \$2.50 each for supper, breakfast and lodging; but I did not feel that it was exorbitant for with the cold and exertion, we were ravenously hungry. The next day we reached town, fourteen miles in five and a half hours, and since that time I have done little else but reading, writing and loafing.

The temperature continued to fall until Sunday morning January 6, it was 64 degrees below, when it began to moderate. It is almost impossible for one to conceive what 64 degrees below is, until he has the experience. To inhale such air through the mouth strangles one; and the breath exhaled through the mouth roars like steam escaping from an engine, and hot water thrown into the air, hisses and roars, giving off a perfect cloud of steam. The air is so full of particles of frost, that everything seems enveloped in a light fog, and at short intervals, low heavy reports are heard from the ice cracking in the river.

Last spring I killed two caribou and so had all the fresh meat I craved for; and, at last, I can report the killing of a bear. In September I got on the trail of a bear. I tracked him to his den and shot him, putting two bullets through his head, about an inch apart. As this was the first wild bear I had ever seen, I did not know his size until I had dragged him out of his den; and as my primers failed on the first trial, each time, I think—without wishing to appear egotistic—that I did pretty well. Bruin proved to be a small black bear, measuring five feet, six inches from the end of his tail to tip of nose, six feet spread of fore arms, dressed about 150 pounds, and was very fat, in some places one and three-fourth inches thick. His fur is jet black, and I intend to keep the pelt. The flesh of a young bear, fattened on berries, is simply delicious, the best substitute for fresh pork I ever saw.

No doubt you would be interested to know that I have been so fortunate as to get a glimpse of the midnight sun. Theoretically it cannot be seen unless one is on or near the Arctic circle; but although the mines are sixty miles south of this circle, I was of the opinion that the elevation of a high mountain near our cabin, would more than make up for the distance south, so I left my cabin on the evening of June 21, armed with a rifle, hunting knife, a pencil, note book, compass and watch for the summit of the mountain, three miles away. Following up the crest of a spur the timber line was soon reached, and at 10:35 I was on the summit. Robins, the great northern flycatcher, and several other varieties of birds were singing merrily as I left the

(Continued on fourth page.)

TO ABOLISH FRATERNITIES

A Bill Introduced Into the Legislature with that Intent.

MR. HYATT, OF PLATTE COUNTY

The Gentleman from the West Who is the Author of the Measure, Tells a Nebraskan Reporter his Motive.—Text of the Bill.

One of the latest additions to the immense number of bills introduced into the house, is a measure to prevent students of the state university from becoming members of Greek letter fraternities. The bill, house roll number 521, is for an act to amend section 16 of chapter 86, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, and to repeal it as it now stands. This section refers only to the question of who shall be allowed to enjoy the privileges of the university, and the amendment is simply an addition to it, without cutting out any of the original section.

The bill was introduced by Hyatt of Platte county. To the original section he proposes to add the following:

"No person shall be allowed any of the privileges of this institution who shall be or become a member of any secret Greek letter fraternity or society."

The bill has been read the first time and ordered to second reading. Mr. Hyatt, the author of the measure had this to say when asked by a Nebraskan reporter as to his motive for the action. "By their close organization, the members of fraternities gain a considerable power over the students who do not wish to belong to such societies, or are not able to pay the necessary expenses. In public meetings of the students, the fraternity people who are so closely organized can generally run things to suit themselves and have an unfair advantage over those who are not organized. If such fraternities were done away with, all the students would have an equal show, and be placed on a level footing."

It was thought from the gentleman's remarks that perhaps he might have a son in the university, but such is not the case. He said that he had had no direct connection with the university.

JOURNALISM IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The class in journalism on last Tuesday morning had the pleasure of hearing a lecture by I. M. Bushnell, a former editor of the Call, on the subject of journalism in South America. Mr. Bushnell, as a newspaper man, made quite a study of South American newspapers while traveling in that country a few years ago. He said that one of the most noticeable differences between the newspapers of South America, and the newspapers here, is the amount of local news which is printed.

South American papers care very little for local news and a reporter is almost an unknown quantity. The principal news given by them is European. They especially keep close watch on European markets as the greater part of their trade was with Europe. Mr. Bushnell here took occasion to say that these countries had been neglected by the United States, for what reason, he could not say as they would certainly afford a very valuable market to American shippers.

South American newspapers are always but four pages in size and of these at least three are filled with advertisements. The advertising man on a paper which is a warm supporter of the government, has an easy time to get advertisements. One reason or this is that the women particularly those of the rich classes, are inveterate shoppers, and hence pay a great deal of attention to advertisements. Another reason is that the merchants are in a measure forced to advertise. Should a dull season come along, the merchant desires to retrench, and generally begins by stopping his advertising. Of course this makes a hardship on the newspaper and if better times do not speedily return, the editor complains to the government that his paper is not being properly supported. The government then sends a man to the delinquent merchants, who suggests to them that it would be advisable for them to continue advertising. The hint is generally sufficient and the desired "ad" is soon forthcoming.

Although the newspapers are thus aided by the government, they are put under great restrictions as well. The right of free speech, as we know it, would not be tolerated and the slightest unfavorable comment on the policy of the government is considered sufficient cause for suppressing the paper. For this reason the editorial page does not amount to much and many papers have none at all.

Mr. Bushnell said that the people of South America were often looked down upon and despised by the people of the United States. There is no reason for this as they are a naturally bright and intelligent people. Although not up to our standard of civilization, they are progressing rapidly in this direction and especially since the Columbian exposition which brought them into closer contact with the most civilized and modern methods of living and administrative government.

RESULT OF SUGAR EXPERIMENT.

The result of the sugar experiment which was given in chapel about two weeks ago, was announced on last Tuesday morning. The experiment it will be remembered, was for the purpose of determining the difference if there is any, between cane and beet sugar. Samples of each kind were given to the students and members of the faculty who were asked to distinguish between the two and if possible, tell which was the sweeter.

In announcing the result, Professor Nicholson said the experiment involved a question of morals as well as chemistry. In this connection the faculty was put in rather an unfavorable light, for out of the packages of sugar distributed to them, only 83 percent were returned, while the students returned 94 percent of the number given to them. Seventy-eight percent of the faculty were of the opinion that the cane sugar was the sweeter, while 22 percent could detect no difference. The students were more loyal to the Nebraska product, and 55 percent declared beet sugar the sweeter, while only 44 percent decided in favor of cane sugar.

In regard to the correctness of the answers given, the members of the faculty showed that their judgment or rather their ability to guess correctly, was no better than their morals, while the students showed that they were far ahead of the faculty in this respect. One hundred percent of the answers given by the faculty were incorrect. Of the replies received from the students, 43 percent were incorrect, 46 percent were correct, while 11 percent made no decision.

TALKS TO THE ELECTRICIANS.

The electrical engineering society held a special meeting last evening at which the chancellor gave a short address.

Preceding the address, a business meeting was held and a vote of thanks extended to all professors and others who had assisted the society in the recent exhibit, by the use of their rooms and apparatus.

Somewhat later than expected the chancellor appeared and being introduced by the president, excused himself for his tardiness by stating that he had been spending some time with the legislature and thought that the university appropriation would be favorably considered.

He brought the good news that Edward Everett Hale was to be commencement orator, and said a few words about this noted man.

The resolution drawn up by the regents, thanking the society for the interest taken in the promotion of the university by the exhibit, were then read by the chancellor, who presented a copy to the society.

He then spoke of the effects of such a demonstration by the students.

Before coming to the university he had heard of these exhibitions which had deeply impressed him as they showed a spirit of free will labor which was always beneficial, and this impression had not been changed since his arrival here.

Our university has shown a tendency to pay students for small service and free will offerings of labor will be a powerful factor to remedy this.

Educators he said were consecrated people and literary culture is appreciated as much by scientific students as any.

After a few words by Mr. C. C. Griggs, the president of the society, Professor Owens was called upon, who expressed himself as strongly agreeing with the chancellor in the culture value of a technical education; and he thought the public appreciated these exhibits and interest in electrical matters was certainly awakened by them.

The chancellor was then voted in as an honorary member of the society and in a few words commended the practice of recognizing our distinguished guests both in the past and future, by this honorary membership; and the custom might as well be followed by other institutions.

Mr. Browne, our new instructor was called upon and spoke of the electrical societies at Johns Hopkins and his interest in this one out west.

The Camilla Urso concert at the Lansing March 5, is the third in the popular course. Ticket holders may reserve seats at the box office Wednesday March 3.

THE ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Date Has Been Set and Judges Selected.

WILL BE SIX COMPETITORS

The Manuscripts Have Been Handed In and They are Ready for the Battle to be Held in Chapel on Next Friday evening.

The annual contest of the local oratorical association will be held Friday March 5, in the university chapel. Unusual interest is manifested by the number of contestants. Six orators representing some of the best talent in the university will compete for the first prize of fifty dollars. The place of oratory in our university which according to the version of some has been on the decline, is certainly assuming its due place among the student interests.

The contest promises to be one of the most closely competed for in the history of the university. For this reason the association bespeaks from the students the most liberal patronage. Every student should attend to cheer the winning orator, and encourage him for the coming fight in the state contest which will be held March 26.

The judges chosen on manuscript are: Dr. H. K. Wolfe, W. O. Jones, and Dr. Johnson; on delivery are: W. J. Bryan, Judge Field, and Senator Wm. Doering. The contestants are: C. O. Brown and J. D. Denison from the Deilan society, G. E. Hager from the Union, R. C. Roper from the Palladians, and A. L. Deal.

UNIVERSITY AGAIN VICTORIOUS.

On Tuesday evening the second game of basket ball between the university and Y. M. C. A. teams was played in the gymnasium. Play began promptly at 8:15, with rather small but enthusiastic attendance in the gallery. Captain Hill of the Y. M. C. A. team, won the toss and chose the east goal. After a few minutes play, Dogny was left free for a moment and seized the opportunity to throw a goal from the field, scoring two points for his side. The next goal from the field was made by Denison, scoring two points for the university team—score now two all.

The first foul was called on Trompen for holding, but no goal was thrown by Stebbins. During the first half four fouls were made by the Y. M. C. A. team but no goals were thrown. In the same time the university men made the same number of fouls and Lewis threw one goal. In the first half, Dogny managed to score three more goals from the field and Stebbins and Placek each scored one in addition to that of Dennison, so that at the end of the first half the score stood 9 to 6 in favor of the delegation from the Y. M. C. A.

At this time it was evident that the university boys would have to take a brace or get beaten, and brace they did, for as soon as the ball was put in play by the referee, Morrison caught the ball and threw it to Stebbins who scored a goal before the ball had touched the floor. But almost immediately Lewis threw one for the Y. M. C. A. chaps, and then another was thrown by Stebbins before a foul was made on either side.

During the second half four more fouls were made by the Y. M. C. A. and three goals thrown by Green. The university boys only made two fouls and Hill threw one goal. In the second half Stebbins threw four goals from the field, Placek two and Morrison one, for the university, and for the Y. M. C. A., Lewis threw one and Bently one, the last half ending with the score 23 to 14 in favor of the university.

This is the second game which the university team has won from the Y. M. C. A. Near the end of the second half, Denison had his eye slightly injured and surrendered his place to Burks. Following are the players and their positions.

University	Position	Y. M. C. A.
Placek	..... f.	..... E. C. Hill
Gutleben	..... f.	..... Trompen
Green	..... center	..... A. Bently
Denison	..... l. g.	..... E. Bently
Warfield	..... r. g.	..... Stillson
Stebbins	..... l. c.	..... Dogny
Morrison	..... t. c.	..... Lewis

Referee, Swearingner, umpires, P. E. Clements and Dr. John White. Score keeper, E. T. Hill; time keeper, C. C. Culver.

DR. HALE ACCEPTS.

Word has been received that Dr. Edward Everett Hale has accepted the invitation of the senior class to deliver the commencement oration, June 10.