

DOOMED TO DECAY.

The Old Court House of Douglas County.

A Brief Sketch of the Building--A Parcel of Reminiscences.

Situated in a small hollow on the corner of Sixteenth and Farnam street, surrounded by a growth of ancient foliage, stands the old court house of Douglas county. Aged and infirm, swaying and creaking before every onslaught of the rustling wind, the old house is in the last stages of dissolution.

The court house was erected in the year 1859 by the pioneers of the county who thought that the growing demands of the city and county called for some such official centre.

In the spring of 1857 the city council decided to the city, "in the consideration of the sum of \$10,000, a block then known as Washington square, bounded by Fifteenth and Sixteenth and Farnam and Douglas streets.

When the city was in its primitive days, there was of course, no theatres even of the rudest description. The tastes of the people, while they were not molded in the plastic forms of eastern refinement, demanded some such recreation as was afforded by an occasional play or musical performance.

One of the early jailors was "old man Rasmussen," who now owns considerable real estate in Omaha, and at present living in Pennsylvania. Many are the reminiscences connected with his administration. It is laughably related that those who go back to those old times have been used to be bothered by the prisoners breaking from their cells and eluding his vigilant eye, making a desperate and generally successful attempt to gain freedom.

One of the most exciting scenes ever witnessed upon the old court house was in the month of June, 1870, when Barney Doran was incarcerated in the city jail. Doran was the murderer of Constable Jerry McShane. He was guilty of the crime of adultery, and a warrant for his arrest was placed in McShane's hands.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

The Change of District and County Officers.

To-day Will Witness the Succession of the New Men to Office.

In accordance with the state statute which provides that the newly elected county, district and state officers shall step into their positions on the Thursday after the first Tuesday in January, to-day will witness a "putting off of the old and a putting on of the new."

Among those who retire to make room for their successors in Mr. Parks Godwin, district attorney. Mr. Godwin has made a good record for himself as an able and fearless officer. He will be succeeded by Lee Estelle, of Blair, who comes into the office with pluck and determination.

The board of county commissioners will also be modified by the change. The complexion of the body will be changed by the retirement of Mr. P. E. Knight and the accession of George E. Timme. Mr. Knight has served for three successive terms on the board, and has performed his duties in a manner exceptionally well.

Commissioners--R. A. Keefe, F. W. Corlies, George E. Timme. Sheriff--D. N. Miller. Treasurer--John Raab. Clerk--H. T. Leavitt. Judge--J. H. McCulloch. Superintendent of Instructions--J. B. Brunner. Coroner--John C. Drexel. Surveyor--George Smith. Assessor--J. C. Miller. Physician--W. S. Gibbs. Superintendent of Poor Farm--J. N. Pierce.

Yesterday's Session. The council met yesterday morning at 9 o'clock pursuant to adjournment. Members present: Bechel, Behm, Ford, Hassall, Redfield, Fumy, Woodworth, Thumpe, Leeder, Kaufman and President Murphy.

Mr. W. D. Ambler, of Fairmont, registered at the Millard yesterday. E. S. Mathew, of the 7th cavalry, U. S. A., registered at the Paxton yesterday. Mr. F. H. Gilmet and Mr. R. L. Downing, of Kearney, are at the Paxton hotel.

Rolling Wealth. The business of the city treasurer is still booming. All delinquent tax-payers have not yet settled up, but so far as can be judged, the receipts of the year of 1884 will be at least one-third larger than that of 1883.

THE TAX SHIRKERS.

Some Reflections on the Unjust Mode of Taxation in this State.

To the Editor of The Bee.

As the legislature is now in session it is time for the citizens of Nebraska to begin to think of what they would wish it to do in this respect. I would suggest one very important matter, the remodeling of our present system of taxation and get it in such a shape as to cause every man to be taxed and every one to pay his own taxes.

The World's Fair. A Scarcity of Funds Worrying the Management. Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat. NEW ORLEANS, La., January 5.--The World's Exposition has had many drawbacks, and continues out of luck, to use a slang phrase.

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Fighting for \$15,000,000. Protracted Litigations Over Real Estate--What an Old Trunk Revealed. A dispatch dated Williamsport, Pa., December 30, says: Many persons here and in Washington, D. C., remember Dr. William Cammack, who for nearly thirty years before his death was contesting his right to large property interest in Philadelphia and other grounds in the city of Philadelphia.

Gen. Grant's House at Galena. Special dispatch to the Globe-Democrat. GALENA, Ill., January 5.--Considerable anxiety is felt here lest Gen. Grant's residence in this city, presented to him by his Galena friends, be swallowed up in the melange into which his property is likely to be cast for the benefit of his creditors.

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Seal of North Carolina Smoking Tobacco is the best. YOUNG MEN--READ THIS. THE VOLTAIC BATTERY Co., of Marshall, Mich., offer to send their celebrated VOLTAIC BATTERY and other ELECTRIC APPLIANCES on trial for thirty days to men (young or old) afflicted with nervous debility, loss of vitality and manhood, and all kindred troubles.

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LEGAL NOTICE. J. M. Wygant, defendant, will take notice that on the 15th day of Dec. 1884, Edward Hartlett Esq., Justice of the Peace of Douglas county, Iowa, in order of attachment, for the sum of \$100.00, docketed in an action pending by him wherein Jacob Cohn, plaintiff, and J. M. Wygant is defendant.

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15th and Capitol Avenue, treats all cases of Cholera, Typhoid, and all diseases of the Throat, Lungs and Urinary Organs.

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Advertisement for HOP BITTERS, featuring an illustration of a bottle and text describing its benefits for various ailments.

Advertisement for ANGI-OSTURA BITTERS, featuring an illustration of a bottle and text describing its benefits for stomach and urinary issues.

Advertisement for OMAHA MEDICAL AND SURGICAL DISPENSARY, featuring an illustration of a building and text listing various medical services.

Advertisement for TOTT'S PILLS, featuring an illustration of a bottle and text describing its benefits for various ailments.

Advertisement for TOTT'S HAIR DYE, featuring an illustration of a bottle and text describing its benefits for hair care.

Advertisement for THE GREAT ROCK ISLAND ROUTE, featuring an illustration of a train and text describing the service.

Advertisement for H. S. ATWOOD, featuring an illustration of a building and text describing the business.

Advertisement for SHORT LINE, featuring an illustration of a train and text describing the service.

Advertisement for CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL, featuring an illustration of a train and text describing the service.

Advertisement for LITTLE HAVANA GOLD & CO'S ROYAL HAVANA LOTTERY, featuring an illustration of a lottery ticket and text describing the game.