THE PROBLEM OF PROHIBITION

Iowa's Experience Should Be a Lesson and Guide to Nebraska.

A PLAIN STATEMENT OF THE SITUATION.

Prohibition Has Led to Hypocrisy and Deceit, and Been a Huge Burden Upon the Taxpayer.

DES MOINES, Ia., July 19.—At this time, when the people of Nebraska are considering the problem of prohibition, and will be called upon in a few months to decide by their votes whether they will or will not amend the constitution of their state so as to prohibit the manufacture and sale of spirituous and malt liquors, it might be well for them to study the situation in Iowa. These two states for many miles adjoin each other and possess many characteristics in common. It is proper that the experience of Iowa should be a lesson and guide to Nebraska, and especially so upon this vexed and vexing question of prohibition. In this brief article, and any others which may follow, it will be my earnest endeavor to write down facts as to the situation in years passed, and give a plain statement of the facts as they exist today. Those only partially posted as to these facts must admit there have been gross misstatements made and garbled facts stated in relation to the operation and political effects of prohibitory laws in Iowa. Supporters, as well as opponents of prohibition, have been more or less guilty in this respect.

First, there have been many misstatements as to the history of prohibition in Iowa. For instance, many believe that Iowa for years tried license, high and low, as a means of regulating the liquor traffic, and finding this method to be a failure some eight years ago abandoned license and adopted prohibition. This is true only to a very limited extent. The now historical facts are that Iowa never did give or make a fair trial of license. Prior to 1855, as a territory and state, Iowa had made brief trials of crude and imperfect laws to regulate the traffic, having what was then called the "dram shop" and the "five-gallon sewer." Neither of these laws proved entirely satisfactory in their practical workings, though, from conversations with them, I should judge a large majority of the "early settlers" consider that, crude as they were, they were much better adapted to the welfare of the people and the state than the prohibitory laws subsequently enacted.

It will be remembered that along in the '50's prohibition came as a new remedy for the evils growing out of the liquor traffic and like many other newly discovered so-called infallible remedies, had a great run for a few years. Many states east and west, adopted the new remedy, but nearly all of them subsequently threw it aside. Theoretically prohibition may have been good medicine for the body politic, but practically it was more injurious than beneficial to the patient. The remedy was found to be worse than the disease. The general assembly of Iowa, at the session of 1854-5, enacted the first Iowa prohibitory law. But the members were afraid to take the entire responsibility of its enactment and to escape a portion of the responsibility provided for its submission to a vote of the people at the spring election in April, 1855. The vote taken gave a majority of 2,910 for the law. Shortly after the election opponents of the law commenced legal proceedings to test its validity and subsequently two of the three judges of the supreme court held the law to have been properly enacted, while the third, Judge G. G. Wright, now a resident of this city, held that the general assembly was the sole law-making power of the state, and could not legally submit a proposed law to a vote of the people, and hence the law was null and void.

This first prohibitory law went into effect July 4, 1855. It had what was then termed a "county grocery" attachment; that is, a provision that each county should appoint an agent to sell all kinds of liquors for medicinal mechanical, culinary and sacramental purposes. This grocery attachment soon became too popular with many of its patrons and very unpopular with the people generally, and in a year or two was knocked out of the law. Then in 1858 came another amendment which the true prohibitionists claimed further weakened and made it of little account as a prohibitory measure. At that time there had been a heavy influx of Germans into the state. They had made the best of citizens and had done much toward building up the prosperity of the state. Politically they naturally, because of their dislike to slavery, affiliated with the young, but strong and growing republican party. They cared little for whisky and the stronger drinks, but they would and must have their beer and wine they had been accustomed to all their lives. Their numbers, determination and independence made them an important political factor in this then new state. They held the balance of power between the rival republican and democratic parties. To please them, and perhaps others, the general assembly of 1858, the republicans having a majority in both houses, amended the then prohibitory law by adding thereto "the wine and beer clause." This exempted wine and beer from prohibition, and the manufacture and sale of beer and wine was again legalized.

This "wine and beer clause" caused the establishment of many breweries and vineyards in Iowa, and in due course of years hundreds of thousands, finally running up to millions of dollars, were invested in these industries. The state also appropriated money and appointed agents to encourage immigration, and in the "boom" circulars, pamphlets and newspaper articles of that day, especial care was taken to impress upon the minds of foreigners, particularly Germans, the alleged fact that the manufacture and sale of beer and wine was and would remain free in Iowa, and that the state would encourage and forever protect these manufacturing and producing industries. And thousands of foreigners, relying upon these pledges and promises, and not doubting they would be carried out in good faith, came here, made their homes, labored and toiled and invested their honestly earned money, and added greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the state. And when the clash of arms came thousands of them proved their devotion to and love for Iowa and the union upon many a bloody battle field. How these pledges and promises have, during the past ten years, been repudiated and broken is a dark page of Iowa history.

Subsequently the general assembly gave cities and towns the authority to license the sale of beer and wine. It was legally necessary for the citizens to vote upon the question, though in many instances a vote was taken as a matter of instruction to the city or town authorities. These licenses conferred only the right to sell beer and wine. The sale of whisky and other spirituous drinks was prohibited by law. Here let the fact be noted that the manufacture and sale of whisky and other spirituous liquors has been prohibited, so far as law can prohibit, in Iowa for more than thirty-five years. This prohibition has led to much hypocrisy and deceit, saying nothing of the litigation and bad feeling engendered and the accumulated costs piled upon the taxpayers. When, for instance, under the old law the city of Des Moines charged $1,000 per annum for a license to sell beer and wine, it was well understood by all parties that, so far as the city was concerned, the licensed person could and would illegally sell whisky and the stronger drinks. He could not afford to pay this $1,000 for the mere sale of beer and wine. This was an understood agreement between the licensed saloonkeeper and the city authorities. It was clearly illegal, and hence many responsible, respectable men declined to engage in the business, who would have so engaged had Iowa had a genuine, honest, straight-forward high license law. This Iowa never has haw. License has never proven a failure in Iowa. The state never had a trial of genuine high or low license. However, looking ahead before five years or probably a less number of years roll around, Iowa will make a fair trial of high license. The drift of public opinion is all in that direction now. Then in five years after the commencement of that trial the people of Iowa will pronounce whether or not high license is a failure. The friends of license are not afraid of the test.

In the years from 1858 to 1882 many attempts were made to materially change the law, and in some respects it was made more stringent, but they generally failed. Then we come to the period of constitutional prohibition. But this article has already reached beyond the limit assigned, and the history from 1882 to 1890 must go over until another day or remain unwritten by myself.

The Iowa general assembly of 1882 agreed to the prohibitory constitutional amendment, it having been previously agreed to by the general assembly of 1880, and the requirements of the constitution having in this respect been complied with, the proposed amendment was submitted to a vote of the people at a special election ordered to be held on Tuesday, June 27, 1882. The result of that election is well known. The amendment was adopted by a majority of over twenty-nine thousand of those voting at that election, though over 30 per cent of the voters of the state failed to appear at the polls.

Upon this vote has been, from that date to this, based the claim that a large majority of the voters of Iowa are in favor of prohibition and have so expressed themselves at the polls. Do the facts bear out the assertion? Prior to this election the friends of prohibition had perfected an almost perfect organization. They practically had the support of the republican party in three-fourths of the counties of the state. They have in addition the support of more than three-fourths of the churches and of the preachers and priests in charge of the same. They had a widespread sentiment in their favor and they utilized this temperance sentiment in every possible way. It was almost wholly a sentimental campaign. Facts, figures and logic were thrown aside as unworthy of consideration. The experience of other states with prohibition amendments and laws, though often cited, were unheeded. The cry was raised that it was a battle between "the home and the saloon." Those who opposed the amendment, however pure and temperate their lives, were openly charged with taking sides against the home and in favor of the saloon. The mothers, wives and daughters of the state were urged to take an active part in the canvass, and thousands of them did so. Nearly every church, pulpit and school house was utilized in this prohibition crusade. Leading and local newspapers were many of them actually forced into the support of prohibition, while others, whose nominal controllers were really opposed to the amendment and to the principles of prohibition, were forced into neutrality or half-support of the measure.

On the other side there was no thorough organization or concert of action. In 1882 the democratic party, with its organized body of veteran politicians and workers, could not be united as it could be in 1880, in solid opposition to prohibition. Thousands of republicans who were in their own judgment opposed to prohibition, and especially to the constitutional amendment, were incapable of resisting the pressure and were forced to give it their support or at least abstain from any open opposition. Those not present during that noted campaign can form but a faint conception of the then situation. It is true many of the opponents of prohibition made a gallant and determined fight, but they were not supported by the other opponents of prohibition either inside or outside of Iowa. As is always the case in these fights it was reported that the brewers and "whisky men" threw tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars into the state for the purpose of defeating the amendment. It is hardly necessary to say these exaggerated statements were grossly untrue, though many honest men and women may have believed in their truth. The writer knows of his own knowledge that the aggregate of money contributed to carry on this anti-prohibition campaign was ridiculously small compared with the importance of the question involved and the immense property interests at stake. And the most of the money expended, and it was expended in an entirely legitimate manner, was contributed by citizens of the state and much of it by men who had no interest whatever of a pecuniary nature in the manufacture or sale of liquors.

Another cause aided materially in the adoption of the prohibition amendment. For years the democrats of Iowa had been in an almost hopeless minority. They had become despondent over the outlook. But when they saw the prohibitionists securing control of the republican party and dictating its action their hopes revived. They did not believe in prohibition, but they did believe that it was the rock upon which the republican party of Iowa might be wrecked. Hence thousands of democrats in Iowa remained entirely passive or inactive during this campaign, and there is not a particle of doubt that thousands of democrats actually went to the polls and voted for the amendment. A few hundred of these voted probably conscientiously, being willing to give prohibition a further trial, but many thousands of other democrats voted for prohibition not because they loved or believed in prohibition but because they hated the republican party more. They wanted prohibition as the club with which to beat down the republican party. They reasoned well as to the effect it would have upon the republican party. The republican party has been badly bruised and injured and weakened in Iowa by and through this prohibition club, but the democrats themselves have not escaped harmless therefrom. They have suffered in common with the other people of the state from the evils, oppressions, troubles and pecuniary losses growing out of that luckless prohibitory vote of 1882. Not one of any one hundred democrats who then voted for prohibition would be willing to repeat that vote. It was too costly and mischievous an experiment to be repeated. It did not and will not pay the cost.

And here let me remark, as an Iowa democrat, that if any of the democrats of Nebraska are disposed to vote for or in any manner aid in the adoption of the proposed prohibitory amendment in their state, for the purpose of thereby injuring the republican party of their state in the future, I think I but voice the earnest sentiment of all straight Iowa democrats when I say emphatically—don't. It will not pay the cost this year, or next year, or at any future date. In this, most emphatically, "honesty is the best policy." This fact thousands of Iowa democrats have learned, and had it branded into them, during the past ten years. They will never do it again. A burned child dreads the fire. And Iowa democrats are now firm in the conviction that none but fool democrats will vote for or give even the slightest support to prohibition for the purpose of through it crippling or killing off the republican party. The remedy is worse than the disease.

Should Nebraska adopt the present proposed constitutional amendment you will be in a worse condition than we are in Iowa. It is true that in 1882 we adopted a similar constitutional amendment. But fortunately for our people and the welfare of the state a majority of our supreme courts declared this amendment to the constitution had not been properly enacted, and was consequently null and void. We have no constitutional prohibition in Iowa. The vote in favor of such prohibition runs only under the basis or foundation for our present arbitrary, tyrannical and unjust prohibitory laws. These are but statute laws, subject to a repeal or modification at any meeting of the general assembly of the state. Prohibition can be wholly wiped out at any time a majority of the general assembly are in favor of this wiping out. And from the drift of public opinion for the past few years there is little doubt prohibition in Iowa will soon be a thing of the past.

Look at it! With prohibition in the constitution of Nebraska, the "booming" citizens of Iowa can say to prohibition emigrants: "The Dakotas of the northwest, Nebraska of the west, and Kansas of the southwest, all have prohibition in their state constitutions. They cannot rid themselves of it for years. Here in Iowa we are free of constitutional prohibition. We have only statute law prohibition. We can rid ourselves of it at any time. There need be no delay. Come to Iowa, settle here, aid us, and prohibition is dead." A few years ago thousands of the citizens of Iowa left because of prohibition, and many became citizens of Nebraska. You adopt prohibition and many of the thousands will return to Iowa, and aid us in the good work of repealing our prohibitory laws and building up the state. You can take prohibition. We will gladly take your high license.

WILL PORTER.

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ENFORCE THE SLOCUMB LAW.

Remarkable Sermon Preached in 1882 By Rev. A. F. Sherrill.

THE BEE reproduces the following sermon preached by Rev. A. F. Sherrill when he was pastor of the First Congregational church of this city, in which he advocated in strong terms the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Slocumb law. The report is reproduced from the columns of THE BEE of January 2, 1882:

The Congregational church had a good audience last night, upon the occasion of Rev. A. F. Sherrill's address upon the subject of "The Slocumb Law and the Wisdom of Enforcing and Obeying It."

The text was from the Galatians, 6-9: "Let us not be weary in well doing."

It is the duty of every church to take an active interest in all that is good. It should live as a free agent, not as a fossil. In the temperance work, which is the greatest reform of the age, every church should be actively enlisted.

The Slocumb law is being enforced and by this enforcement 100 saloons are practically closed. This is the most noteworthy step of progress in the history of our state. One hundred saloons are legislated out of existence. At the 1st of April not more than half those remaining will continue to take out a license and the number of saloons will be reduced to twenty-five. The law is a sacred thing, which it is the duty of all to obey and not disregard. The mayor is to be commended for his announcement that the law must be enforced. The best way to get rid of a bad law, if this be one, is to enforce it. The saloonkeepers are to be commended that they have at last yielded and have proven themselves law abiding citizens. There are only three out of that number who threatened to stand out. The people should congratulate themselves for this condition of affairs, when the saloon men have been so well organized.

The preacher went on to refer to the crime at Tinsickle's saloon on Sunday last, and especially dwelt on the importance of closing the saloon at 12 o'clock each night and during the whole of Sunday. He thought that good would come out of the evils in our midst, which were attracting so much attention. He said that the young men of this city were becoming aroused to a sense of their danger. He warned parents to be careful in the education of their children toward a temperate life. Christians all should remember that the temperance movement affected each person directly or through friends, and all should unite in furthering its growth.

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RAILROAD REGULATION.

Another Communication on the Subject from Ex-Secretary Gustin.

KEARNEY, Neb., July 15.—To the Editor of THE BEE: None of us monopolize all the goodness nor correct positions on the many subjects of interest to the people of Nebraska and the United States.

There is no question to be considered but what it has two or more sides to it, and in order to get a full understanding we must pick it up and examine all sides in detail. A board may look smooth and clear on one side and you pick it up and a rat run out from under and the reverse side be wormeaten. After examination from all sides of a question we can form an intelligent opinion of its merits and demerits. A question of debate in being jointly debated upon very seldom changes a previous opinion of the hearer; it is when it is put in cold type and placed before a reader that one's thoughts are put into calculating action.

Any apt and ready owner of the gift of gab can stand before an audience and wag his or her jaw, emitting sounds of witticism and sarcasm amusing and pleasing to the hearer, but when it is reduced by shorthand reports to lines of reading matter and laid in cold type the person who looks after facts to base action upon will look to the newspaper report of such debates to make up his opinion.

In the debate at Crete on the railroad question figures were garbled and misstated, to maintain false positions, by the honorable railroad attorney, who is working for hire and at the same time accusing men of at least equal standing and honor with himself of being influenced in their opinion and expressions by wanting office or reasons of selfish intent.

If there is any selfish interest in anything or on any question on God's green earth it is the question that the railroad corporations may maintain their hold upon the transportation of this country. To the Hon. Van Wyck and other railroad regulators I say: Do not pick the tail feathers out of the hawk to keep it from eating your chickens. You not only destroy the beauty of the bird and simply hamper its flight, but do not destroy its ability to live off of your chickens.

Make the means of transportation and communication national, as is postal service. Eliminate the item of distance and you will cage the hawk and train him to your comfort and pleasure and regulate his diet in keeping with healthy demands.

To the Hon. Marquette and other poor, oppressed railroad men I say: Give up your burden of managing the railroads and legislatures, while it is such loss, trouble and poor return to you, and let the vast burden be borne by the whole nation and you will not have to make false statements or produce garbled facts and reports to maintain you in your distress. Turn your ability and knowledge to the giving of public service in transportation and intercourse that you are now wasting with such vigor on private corporations and you will take a position in honor and trust commensurate with your ability.

To me the question of transportation is the one great and absorbing question before this state today but I may be like the man was who thought the other eleven jurymen were very stubborn.

On the question of prohibition, while I hesitate to say anything that could be construed to mean that I am in favor of drunkenness or the saloon element, I am for high license and believe that Editor Rosewater and Hon. Webster had the reasoning side of the argument at Beatrice.

Even the prohibitionists must appreciate the courage of these two men who stood up before that audience and maintained the license side of a question to a people made up almost exclusively of the prohibition element—a people actuated by correct principles and good motives, which might be made practical if entertained all over the state by the balance of the population as unanimously as at the Crete and Beatrice assemblies; but unfortunately it is not. A theory or wish, however noble, does not stand in the stead of fact. I might stand out in the noonday July sun and wish it cool and shady, and wish it strong enough to become insane over the deluded wish, but the fact would show the beads of perspiration breaking out over my head and the heat devouring me. The hardest part of this contention is the fact that prohibitionists who are strong partisans are inclined to call and think all parties who think high license more practical, friends of the saloon element. Let the people who think advocates of the Slocumb law are advocates of drunkenness and all its kindred vices remember that to some of us the prohibitionist may, from their impractical business principles, appear in results as partners with the basest element—free whisky—for the practical result of prohibition is free whisky. I have been a traveling man for years. I have traveled in Kansas and Iowa and I know that prohibition does not prohibit. Prof. Dickie, Rev. Sam Small and Mrs. Gougar to the contrary notwithstanding.

Many of my friends are among the prohibitionists, and I would like to be one too, for my sympathies are with efforts at inculcating sobriety and temperate use of all things. But the fact that I am less in favor of free whiskey than of theoretical prohibition unaided by practical power to regulate makes me in favor of high license and strict regulation of the laws governing the liquor traffic, and until such time as true temperance workers can create temperate sentiment to make it practically unanimous.

I am not for license on account of the revenue derived from it, but because prohibition does not prohibit. I am for principle when that is obtained, but not for theory when practical fact is the reverse of that theory.

A. J. GUSTIN.

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The Sacred Heart academy for day pupils, situated on St. Mary's avenue and 27th st., is an institution devoted to the moral and intellectual education of young girls. The course includes everything from an elementary department to a finished classical education. Besides the ordinary academical course, music, painting, drawing and the languages are taught. French is included in the ordinary course. Difference of religion is no obstacle to the receiving of pupils, provided they conform to the general regulations of the school. The scholastic term commences the first Tuesday in September. Classes begin at 9 a. m., and pupils are dismissed at 3:30 p. m.

A NEW DIVINE.

Rev. Campbell Preaches at Southwest Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Frederick Campbell of Boston preached his first sermon at the Southwest Presbyterian church yesterday morning. This church has been without a pastor for about eight months and a call was extended to Rev. Campbell, who has come out with a view to looking the ground over. He is at present the pastor of Roxbury church, Boston.

The subject of the sermon was "Caleb and Hebron," and the text chosen was Joshua xiv, 12: "Now, therefore, give me this mountain."

The character of Caleb was shown in his actions as one of the twelve children of Israel who were sent into the promised land to spy it out. All but Caleb and Joshua returned with reports that the land teemed with giants and the people rebelled. Caleb took a prominent part in quieting the people and opposed his faith to their timidity. For his action he was rewarded by being spared to see the promised land. Forty-five years later, when the children of Israel entered and conquered the promised land, Caleb asked that he be given the mountain of Hebron as his portion, promising to conquer the city, old as he was. This city of Hebron afterwards became a city of refuge and was rescued from its heathenism to become a blessing instead of a curse to the land. From this incident in Caleb's life three important lessons were drawn:

First, "We are 'kept alive' for the service of God," using Caleb's own words. Caleb had marveled that God had kept him alive, while all the others who had started with him from the promised land had died. Like Caleb, all mankind is daily facing the problem, "why are we kept alive when the tendency of all things is toward death?" Caleb solved the problem when he said, "I am kept alive and have the strength of forty at eighty-five because God has some service at which He will put me."

The example of Caleb, ready to do God's will, was held up as an inspiration to all Christians to do what God had intended they should instead of listlessly waiting for the millenium. To deny the possession of powers given by God and to underrate His strength was condemned as criminal.

The second point made was that the difficult things are the ones to be preferred. Begging off from the hard tasks and pleading for the hard ones is a common practice even in God's name.

This custom was condemned and the people were exhorted to raise their aim and undertake greater things, even though they should not attain the object sought. It was better to fail in a mighty conflict than to win a victory in a small cause.

The third point was that the hard conflict afforded the best reward. "Rest" was the only term which completely designates the heavenly reward. There were different degrees of happiness in heaven. Heaven was both given to the people and was something to be striven for. This was God's wise way of preparing the people for a glorious reward, and when His "Well done thou good and faithful servant" was heard it would not fall on the ear without meaning.

The sermon was concluded by an appeal to the people to emulate the example of Caleb and strive to win God's approbation and the promised reward.

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Silver Mining.

I have been surprised and disgusted at the way a great many of my business acquaintances have acted in regard to buying "Slide mining stock," and from what I hear a great many of them have listened to and taken the advice of idle gabbling friends who are always ready and willing to give advice and who know about as much about silver mines as a pig does about the Sabbath day.

Now I wish to say that I have yet some slide stock for sale at $25 per share if taken before July 20. This stock at this price is the very best investment you can possibly make. If you do not believe the above statement in regard to Slide stock, you can write to any of the following well known gentlemen of Ouray, Col.:

E. J. Bent, cashier Miners' and Merchant's bank.

Harry Lee, manager Beaumont sampling works.

L. A. Dunham, manager American-Nettie mine.

George E. Kedzie, manager Calliope mine and state geologist.

Prof. F. M. Endlich, manager Yankee Boy mine.

P. N. Scott, mill contractor.

B. C. Dickenson, assayer.

George R. Hurlburt, United States deputy mineral surveyor.

John McMahon, foreman Calliope mine.

J. D. Coplen, Coplen's concentrating works.

E. K. Brunson of Bartwell & Brunson, or any business or mining man in this district, and ascertain if this mine has been misrepresented in the least, and also ask if 5,000 shares at $25 each is not a very low value on the property.

Prof. E. M. Endlich, a miner who has mined all over this country, today, after a thorough examination, says we have a wonderful mine and that I have never told half. He also says that the stock at $25 per share is as good as buying silver dollars for 25 cents.

I have heard of several persons whom I supposed were my friends blackmailing the Slide mine to the best of their ability, so I wish to state in this letter to any person who wishes to buy $5,000 or $10,000 worth of Slide stock, I will agree to pay their expenses to Ouray if the Slide mine is not exactly as I represent it.

Now, if you have any spare money, from $100 to $1,000, and wish to make a safe and profitable investment, send draft to me at once and I will forward your certificates.

SAM W. GREGORY,
President Slide Mining Co.,
Ouray, Col.

As for my personal reference I refer without permission to any wholesale firm of Kansas City, Mo.

He Grew Flippant.

An English officer who recently traveled on the public service says that he sent in in his account of traveling expenses the entry, "Porter, one shilling." His accounts were returned, with the remark that porter could not be allowed, but that if the entry were intended for the conveyance of luggage it should be noted as porterage. The alteration was duly made, and a query added as to whether a cab should not be noted as "cabbage." The reply was that "correspondence on this subject must cease."

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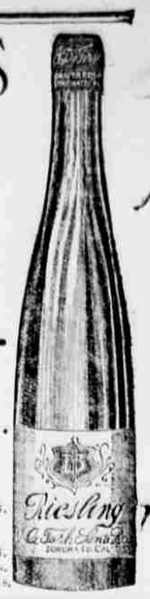
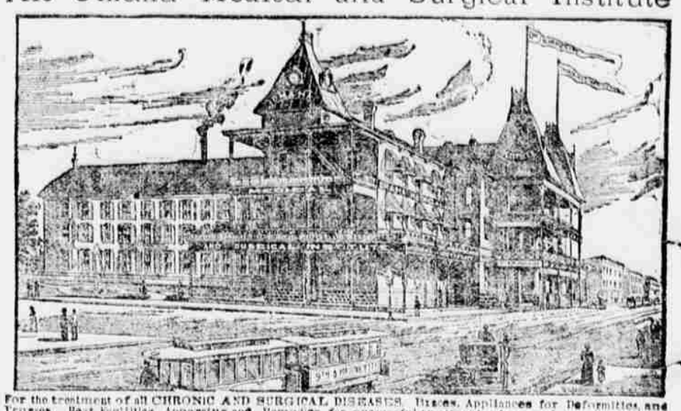


The Omaha Medical and Surgical Institute



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