

MODERN KNIGHTS ERRANT.

Nineteenth Century Crusaders and Their Transcontinental Trip.

EASTERN EDITORS IN THE GREAT WEST.

Omaha's Welcome to the Delegates of the International League of Press Clubs

Personally Expressed.

Yesterday Omaha was being inspected by eyes trained to notice the details in the makeup of men and things; to weigh the outward seeming of city, county and state governments; to draw analytical conclusions from the miles of paving, curbing, gutters, street car facilities, and a thousand and one features of metropolitan life to which their attention was called.

The city was in the hands of a jolly party of excursionists, representatives of various press clubs throughout the states, enroute to the first annual meeting of the International League of Press Clubs, which convenes at San Francisco January 14.

The personnel of the party shows names famous in the world of letters; men and women whose names have brought them more than the usual homage rendered people in these latter century days, men and women who have done much to elevate their kind, and who have brightened the hum-drum of the world with bits of philosophy, words of wisdom and clever sallies of wit which will live long after the writers have joined their conferees on the other side of the straits.

At an early hour yesterday morning Mr. George West, city ticket agent of the Northern Pacific railway, Mr. Perkins of the American Press association and a representative of the Bee went out to meet the special train which conveyed the delegates to the annual meeting of press clubs from Chicago to this city.

The ride out, while uneventful, was somewhat varied by the delegation being permitted to occupy the cab of engine No. 59 between Dow City and West Side, where the special train on the Northwestern was met.

There is something exciting in riding on an engine, especially as it is in charge of Engineer Frank Benjamin and Fireman William A. McDowell, for the sense of security was paramount to the thought that something might happen with such novices on board. It never does anything but a No. 2. Since boyhood.

Met a Handsome Train. At West Side the special train was met by the delegation sent out by the Omaha Press club to meet the members of the Writers' League, and the rest of the Omaha contingent of incidents which will furnish excellent material for bright letters to the various journals represented.

At the station, which was in charge of Mr. Andrews of the Northwestern from Chicago, Phil Pleiering, the veteran engineer, having the safety of the passengers in his keeping, consisting of six vestibule coaches each bearing on its letter boards the inscription, "International League of Press Clubs." In addition to these coaches there was a buffet smoker, a dining car, a compartment car and three sleepers with staterooms, furnished by the Western company.

Where was also a bath room and a barber shop aboard the train, besides a stenographer and typewriter, whose sole mission was to please the delegates aboard.

Not content with the perfection of these arrangements, the train was under the personal supervision of M. C. Roach, general superintendent of the New York Central, as Chicago; W. H. Underwood, eastern passenger agent of the Michigan Central, who came on with the excursion as far as the World's Fair city; C. L. Loomer had charge of the commissary part of the train on the part of the Wagner Palace Car company; J. C. Yager, division superintendent of the Wagner Palace Car company, was in charge by the train until it returns to the point of beginning, and W. B. Jerome, general western agent of the New York Central, whose personal business it was to see that the magnificent train was turned over at this point in good condition to the Union Pacific, which assumed responsibility out of Omaha.

The run from West Side to the metropolis of Nebraska was without incident, except that Marshall P. Wilder, as he had until 1 o'clock the night previous, entertained the male members of the party with an anecdotal story, showing what a wonderful insight he had into the little things which go to make up the daily lives of the population of the states.

Met Them in Omaha. Upon schedule time the train pulled into Omaha, the engine furnishing the motive power to the train being the first southwest locomotive to cross the Union Pacific bridge.

At the station the train was boarded by Mr. Rosewater, editor of the Bee, and the special committee of the Press club in addition to a delegation from the Board of Trade, composed of Mr. Max Meyer, Mr. C. F. Goodman, Mr. George Nattlinger, Secretary Nason and others.

Previous to taking carriages to the Bee building, where the reception of the tourists was to take place, a meeting of the league was held with Mr. T. J. Keenan, president of the league, in the chair, at which time the itinerary of the tour was somewhat changed, the organization deciding to visit the cities of Chicago and St. Louis instead of Chicago as previously provided for, which will lead the delegates in New York about January 10.

At the Bee building a number of the active workers upon the daily and weekly papers were congregated in the hospitable parlors to the visiting press men and women.

Welcomed Them Heartily. After a short period of mutual interchange of greetings Mr. Rosewater, editor of the Bee, accepted the steps in the court of the building and extended to the visitors a hearty welcome to Omaha. He spoke of the general lack of detailed knowledge in the east of western affairs, Omaha's growth from the outpost of civilization thirty years ago to the midway metropolis of today was referred to as an evidence of the bright energy and force of the people of the west.

When the first profusion of the New York Tribune was projected it was looked upon as so extremely chimerical that many questioned the sanity of the projector. But now he had the pleasure of welcoming them to the first profusion of the Bee, which covered 1,000 square feet more than the Tribune building, and so far as ground space goes, is today the largest newspaper building in the world. This shows the growth of the western newspaper. "We may have built beyond the requirements," said Mr. Rosewater, "but I think not." The constant growth of this city is the great west justifies the erection of this structure as a permanent home for the Bee. He thanked the delegates for the call. In behalf of the Board of Trade, Secretary Nason extended the welcome to the ladies and gentlemen composing the International League of Press Clubs. He stated that Omaha was the gateway between the commerce of the east and the great west. He told of Omaha's greatness as an agricultural center and gave statistics to show the important part which the Bee occupies in the commercial world, closing with the following thought: "We hope you will carry away pleasing recollections of our city and its great west, and that your journey through our state and visit to other cities will unfold to you the immense resources which will sustain the growth of our population here, and which in the years to come, will afford ample means for your individual pleasure and enjoyment and that you will enjoy a safe return to your several homes."

Field's Washington was pressed into service for a response to these welcoming speeches, Miss Field said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen—Really I am afraid this is a translation of the un-protected female, but as I have many projects in this party, my tears are probably mistaken. First, let me thank Mr. Rosewater, the Board of Trade and the other gentlemen who have extended to us such a cordial welcome. I can do this, likely better than any of the rest of you, because this is not my first visit to Omaha and not my first acquaintance with Mr. Rosewater."

"I was first in Omaha in '87, and you must take me word for it when I tell you that it has been born again since those days. Never have I seen such growth, such tremendous advancement, and such a bright horizon of the future as Chicago, and if I were called upon to bestow a sobriquet upon this beautiful metropolis, it would be the 'Chicago of the West.' You all see what an object-lesson in this magnificent building—the west teaches the east, and it can be truthfully said that Chicago, St. Paul and Omaha make the finest exhibition of press buildings in the United States, and this, I say, is the finest building in Omaha. There is not a finer building in any city of the west, water as well as land, this would not surprise you in the least. He is a man of tremendous force, and I suggest that three cheers for this host of Nebraska to make friends with Mr. Rosewater. That is what I did when I wanted to interest Nebraska in the great cause of the press, and before you get to expect to get every representative in congress on my side, not so much on my account, however, as on Mr. Rosewater's. In conclusion, let me suggest that three cheers for this handsome building and its enterprising builder."

Employed Themselves. Upon the conclusion of the speech-making the visitors were piloted to the rooms of the Press club on the seventh floor where the members of the organization disposed of their luggage, and a light luncheon, an orchestra of four pieces playing a program of chamber music throughout the hours the rooms were occupied by the visitors.

Afterwards those who desired were shown through the Bee establishment, beginning with the composing and stereotyping departments, and then to the printing office, where they boarded their special train for Denver, the schedule calling for their arrival in the Mountain city this morning at 10 o'clock.

Rate Field and the Women. I never made so comfortable a journey in all my life. The New York Central has certainly outdone itself in the accommodations as furnished the members of the International League of Press Clubs," said Kate Field. "I am sure that the service is not only one and all. Not only were there all the necessities of life, but all the luxuries that possible man could wish for. The service is most admirable, and altogether if our tour continues to be as charming as it has begun, I think I shall have every reason to shake hands with myself for having discovered the advice of some of my best friends and left Washington at the height of the season."

It may seem to forget that the Pacific coast today is one of the greatest of the telegraph from the Atlantic seaboard and that wherever we stop we read a metropolitan journal born on the spot.

For example, yesterday we got our news direct from Washington in the Chicago papers. Today we are kept in contact with everything national by reading the papers of Omaha. The Bee consoles me for my absence by recording nothing that requires personal presence at the capital, and so I am not to be forgotten in the city which is nowadays to edit a paper, provided it is not a daily paper, at a distance.

A feature of this excursion which ought not to be forgotten is the fact that the women in the history of journalism were officially recognized and sent their delegates just as freely as their brothers. This departure, I am told, originated with the president of the International League of Press Clubs, Mr. T. J. Keenan of the Pittsburgh Press, and was ably seconded by Mr. Foster Coates of the New York Mail and Express. As a woman, I do think I should be very ungrateful if I did not acknowledge the fact that I have had an opportunity to see and meet the women of the International League of Press Clubs who will never regret having done so.

For the first time in the history of the press, men and women are eternally equal, but being eternally different I do not think that the representatives of the sexes can ever be alike. I think that their presence in journalism will be a great advantage, not only to their sex, but to humanity.

We all express our appreciation of the generosity of the citizens of Omaha, and as for the building in which we are congregated it needs no words of mine. If praise can be given, it is to the Bee. The building of THE OMAHA BEE speaks for itself.

Kate Field, Editor Kate Field's Washington.

A Trip of Education. Perhaps the most amazing part of the trip of the delegates to the International League of Press Clubs is the fact that 90 per cent of the ladies and gentlemen who came from what is still termed the east, had never been in either of the cities of Chicago, Omaha, Denver or San Francisco. This trip of education, it is believed, has done more for the press in our country than any other newspaper workers should be proud of.

We shall take back with us much that is helpful and new ideas gleaned from these western cities that will be beneficial in making our own newspapers more successful.

This trip, in my view, is the beginning of a new era in journalism. The International League of Press Clubs, which we will do better in the future, because the Press club of Omaha and all its members and all the newspapers of the city have given us unlimited support and interest in our newspapers are conducted in a broad, manly, aggressive and enduring way.

T. J. Keenan, President International League of Press Clubs. He Enjoyed the Punch. My reminiscences of the trip—that's what you ask, is it? Well, how could you expect a man to have any recollections after he struck Omaha's delicious punch. It's a corker; no eastern city can make better, and when once you find yourself surrounded with Omaha's good people and their hearty welcome, you forget all about what you have seen and heard and can only think of the kindness and hospitality which we have been met. Of all my recollections, the trip so far, Omaha has the largest section in my mind.

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memorable one and there will be no other like it. The people are congenial and the concerts we have at night! They remind me of the entertainments for the needy seaman's fund, held in a translation of the floor. The other day the steam pipes wouldn't work and Mr. Yager with that promptness that is proverbial, immediately went out and got a big stove, knocked up a partition in one end of the car and in a jiffy had a big fire roaring. Now, that's what I call enterprise. As for getting us through on schedule time, why, there had been nothing like it since the bible was written. Yesterday we got behind and to add to the discomfort a window pane was broken. A new light was put in at one station, and at the next station where we stopped they put the next over the tacks, just to save time. Can anything excel that kind of interest? Well, I guess not.

We have had twelve engines to bring us thus far, and the Lord only knows how many more we are to have, but I can't say they were better nor any faster than what we've had.

Marshall P. Wilder, New York Sunday Advertiser.

Mrs. Frank Leslie's Reminiscences. In the first place we have had the most delightful companionship and the most amount of attention on the trip. We have enjoyed every luxury possible and the railway officials made us so comfortable that we almost felt as if we were at home. In fact I regard it as quite an ideal trip. I was in Omaha fourteen years ago, under somewhat similar circumstances, that is, Mr. Frank Leslie and I had a printing car, which was built for the late emperor of Brazil. We took with us a party of artists, literateurs and photographers, who were engaged to get up illustrations for my book, "From Gotham to the Golden Gate."

It was just after the boom when we came here and everything was almost at a standstill, stores closed, business at a standstill, and the citizens seemed very despondent, and were afraid that they had put the cart before the horse. By and by they got over the panic and looking today with the eyes of tomorrow.

I look upon Omaha as a beautiful unfarmed girl, a weedy girl perhaps, but giving promise of a bright future. I think she will see the promise realized; see the pretty girl developed into a magnificent woman.

This Bee is not only a great credit to the city, but to me it is a perfect surprise. I like the way the editorial rooms are divided and the arrangements of all the other departments. We in the east can all learn a great deal of the west in regard to making things comfortable for the employees.

In the Bee building there is such an excellent system of lighting, heating and ventilation that if the newspaper men do not do good work it is not because the proprietors do not give them comfortable and pleasant surroundings.

You have more banks, I think, in a given space of ground than I have observed in any other city of the west, which gives me the impression that you must have great wealth stored away in your city.

Mrs. Frank Leslie-Wilder, Proprietress Frank Leslie's Monthly. Famous Amateur Actress Contributes a Word. As a woman I am particularly interested in the fraternal trip of the International League of Press Clubs for the reason that it has given to a large number of women engaged in the newspaper profession an opportunity to study the great newspaper offices of America. I would not be a woman if I did not thank THE OMAHA BEE and all its attaches for its courtesies and kindness in giving me, as a humble worker in the newspaper profession an opportunity to study the methods of one of the best equipped newspaper offices that have been in America or during a long residence abroad.

I am not so much of a woman's rights woman as some of my other sisters, but I believe in the fact that the woman who will recognize that there is no sex in brains. The women workers in journalism have made so many rapid advances during the past few years that I believe that the woman who could predict what they would not do in the future. The field is unlimited, the women are ready for the work, it is the beginning of a new day for the workers of the pen in the profession of letters.

Elita Proctor Otis, Editor New York Saturday Review. What a Sporting Editor Thinks. The Boston delegation joined the expedition by the train for Omaha, and they were two hours and forty-five minutes late when they got to New York. And what a loss there would have been had they got left! The trip has been a series of triumphs. The equipment of the train alone makes the trip too short, for it is simply unsurpassable and the "gratu" boats of the world are not to be compared with the Chicago river boats. Such experiences fully warrant the organization of such a body as our league and the competition for places on the delegation will be keen in the future, in the whole world. Such experiences fully warrant the organization of such a body as our league and the competition for places on the delegation will be keen in the future, in the whole world. Such experiences fully warrant the organization of such a body as our league and the competition for places on the delegation will be keen in the future, in the whole world.

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