

Gossip and Stories About Prominent People

Nebraskan Who Has Won Prominence in Connection with Expositions



WILLIAM M. GEDDES.

Geddes a Success. WILLIAM M. GEDDES, who is proud to claim Nebraska as his home, has many friends within its borders. He was for many years a resident of Grand Island and later of South Omaha. For nine years he was a member of the city council of Grand Island, and also its mayor. In 1885 he was made chief clerk of the house of representatives of the Antelope state, making a creditable record for himself and party. But his work in Nebraska as a newspaper man and politician has been accentuated by his labors in a wider field, for he has been actively connected with every government exposition display since 1888. Mr. Geddes first became identified with exposition work in connection with the Transmississippi exposition at Omaha, having been selected by the board having charge of the government exhibit as disbursing officer. After settling up the affairs of the Omaha exposition to the complete satisfaction of the Treasury department, he was selected for a similar capacity at the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo in 1894. When the larger appropriation was made for the government exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis, by a unanimous vote Mr. Geddes was again made the disbursing officer of the government for that place, and he handled the appropriations made for that exhibit in a manner that has received the highest commendation of the president of the board, Hon. Wallace H. Hills and Hon. William E. Andrews, auditor of the Treasury department. At a recent meeting of the government board of the Lewis and Clark exposition, to be held at Portland, Ore., during the summer of 1898, Mr. Geddes' services were made manifest by their action in combining the office of secretary and disbursing officer and unanimously selecting Mr. Geddes for the position, bringing, as it does, additional honor and responsibility. During the years he has been connected with government expositions, Mr. Geddes has not had a dollar held up by the Treasury department. He was 25 cents shy in his disbursement at the Omaha exposition, due to his failure to properly charge for an oath taken before a notary public, and he had to go down into his pocket for the amount. At Buffalo his accounts came out to the cent, and at St. Louis, so far as final settlement has gone, his work shows the efficient paymaster, as well as the painstaking officer.

baker's boy for \$150 a month. He worked as a sawmill hand and a longshoreman. His writings are pitilessly realistic in describing the trials and surroundings of the poorest poor, and though they have hitherto been passed by the censor as nonpolitical, it is not likely they will be dealt with so liberally in future. Pischkeoff is the real name of the author, who is now 26 years old.

Wisconsin's New Governor. James O. Davidson, lieutenant governor of Wisconsin, who succeeds to the executive chair by the election of Governor LaFollette to the United States senate, is 61 years of age, a native of Norway and an American for thirty-two years. He is now serving his second term as lieutenant governor. The Chicago Record-Herald says he is a more interesting product of American institutions than his confreres of the same race on the other side of the Mississippi. Governor Johnson of Minnesota. Mr. Davidson is handicapped in only one particular by Governor Johnson for the latter may aspire to the presidency of the republic, having been born in this country of Scandinavian parentage. Both of these men have risen from poverty, through perseverance and tenacity, to the highest office in American commonwealths. Of the two the rise to eminence of Mr. Davidson of Wisconsin is the more striking.

As a legislator Mr. Davidson was ahead of his time by several years. He was not an orator, but he had a likable personality, and when "Yim" put his hand to any task the others, both minority and majority, sat up and took notice. So did the lobby, which in those days was as powerful in legislative matters as the Russian bureaucracy is in the administration of affairs in the office of the czar.

Twenty years of study and observation in his adopted home had convinced Mr. Davidson that the express, sleeping car, telephone and kindred corporations were not paying their just share of the taxes, and he anticipated the future by introducing bills to reach them. The bills were defeated, naturally enough, but there were other sessions coming. Two years later Mr. Davidson was returned to the legislature by his constituents, and he reintroduced his bills and passed them.

Mr. Davidson's family consists of a wife and two daughters, the elder daughter being a student at the state university.

A Lone Western Congressman. Clarence Dunn Van Duser, democratic congressman from Nevada, will have the distinction of being the only democratic member of the next house from the state west of the Missouri, leaving out the state of Texas. Van Duser says he expects to work overtime next year looking after the interests of his large constituency, as the year he must represent Nevada, from the Missouri and Mississippi rivers on the east to the Behring sea on the north and the Bugabo river in the Philippines on the west.

The Nevada congressman literally fought his way into the house, relates the Brooklyn Eagle. He is a miner and lawyer by profession, and comes from one of the roughest mining sections in the country—the great Tonopah district. Van Duser used to handle a pick and shovel. He eventually graduated from that kind of work and in recent years he has been interested in some of the best mining properties of the state. He also has given his attention to running the earth the swarms of grafters who have been selling stock in fake gold, silver and copper mines in Nevada.

Van Duser spent nearly an entire year in breaking up one crowd of promoters of bogus mining schemes, and the story of his experiences with sharp readers like the plot of a stage drama. The object of the congressman was to redeem Nevada enterprises from the cloud of suspicion that had been cast over them by the fraudulent operations of eastern boomers of worthless mining securities.

Van Duser's great popularity with the mining element in his state was responsible for his election. His popularity is attested by the fact that he was the only democratic candidate for a state or federal office to be elected in Nevada last November. He carried 70,000 votes in 1902, yet Van Duser had a majority of 218. Only 11,000 votes were cast in the state, and Van Duser has figured it out that to have been elected in Pennsylvania, with the same relative votes cast, he would have had to run more than 400,000 ahead of his ticket.

The Great Hoax Maker. "A favorite maxim of Robert Hoe," says a writer in Success, "is that it is better to get behind a thing and push it along than to put yourself in front and drag it after you. In other words, it is the work, not the man, that is important and deserves attention. In his expression of the innate craft of the man who directs their production." "Mr. Hoe is what we designate a silent man; that is, he speaks little, but very much to the point. He has an air of elegant leisure, but works harder than any of his employees. His action in the hundreds of malices that claim his attention daily is deliberate but decisive. Not a detail of his vast business escapes him, whether it relates to the thousands of workmen and hundreds of kinds of machines working in the production of presses in his two big establishments in New York and London, or to the probable effect of improvements on the manufacture of paper or ink or plates upon his own particular branch of the printing business. Although of means and disposition that might naturally incline him to rest his own and take his ease, he is to be found regularly at his office, studying, planning and executing. In other words, he is the embodiment of his own cherished maxims of concentration and thoroughness."

Russia's Reform Leader. Maxim Gorky, whose arrest in Riga has been announced, may be described as leader of the Russian reform party. In his boyhood he was by turns a shoemaker's apprentice, working inhumanly long hours; an engraver, a painter of icons, a cook's helper, a boatman on the great river highways of Russian internal trade. He worked in quarries. He became a

Some Curious and Romantic Capers of Cupid

Cupid Gets a Frost. WILLIAM M. GEDDES, who is proud to claim Nebraska as his home, has many friends within its borders. He was for many years a resident of Grand Island and later of South Omaha. For nine years he was a member of the city council of Grand Island, and also its mayor. In 1885 he was made chief clerk of the house of representatives of the Antelope state, making a creditable record for himself and party. But his work in Nebraska as a newspaper man and politician has been accentuated by his labors in a wider field, for he has been actively connected with every government exposition display since 1888. Mr. Geddes first became identified with exposition work in connection with the Transmississippi exposition at Omaha, having been selected by the board having charge of the government exhibit as disbursing officer. After settling up the affairs of the Omaha exposition to the complete satisfaction of the Treasury department, he was selected for a similar capacity at the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo in 1894. When the larger appropriation was made for the government exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis, by a unanimous vote Mr. Geddes was again made the disbursing officer of the government for that place, and he handled the appropriations made for that exhibit in a manner that has received the highest commendation of the president of the board, Hon. Wallace H. Hills and Hon. William E. Andrews, auditor of the Treasury department. At a recent meeting of the government board of the Lewis and Clark exposition, to be held at Portland, Ore., during the summer of 1898, Mr. Geddes' services were made manifest by their action in combining the office of secretary and disbursing officer and unanimously selecting Mr. Geddes for the position, bringing, as it does, additional honor and responsibility. During the years he has been connected with government expositions, Mr. Geddes has not had a dollar held up by the Treasury department. He was 25 cents shy in his disbursement at the Omaha exposition, due to his failure to properly charge for an oath taken before a notary public, and he had to go down into his pocket for the amount. At Buffalo his accounts came out to the cent, and at St. Louis, so far as final settlement has gone, his work shows the efficient paymaster, as well as the painstaking officer.

at last they were married and Cupid, his work done here, moved on to York state. Here he found an ally in the policeman sent to arrest an eloping couple. It was in Brooklyn that this romance occurred. Anna Richter and Conrad Schmidt were the offending parties. They ran away from home together, because Miss Richter's mother was opposed to Schmidt as a matrimonial possibility. A few hours after their flight the mother discovered their absence. In a furious state of mind she hastened to the nearest police station. She told the captain her case and demanded the young people be found and arrested before they could succeed in being married. It was well for the lovers that F. Fleming Lowe was at the station house just then. To him the captain gave the assignment of finding and arresting the young folks. Lowe knew where to look for them. He went straight to the marriage license bureau. But the loving pair had beat him to it. They were just leaving with the desired license when the policeman arrived. "I must arrest you," the officer informed them. "You cannot be married."

Both were strangers in that part of the country, and they lost the road when a short distance out from Danbury. The drifts became deeper as they went on, and they soon found they were riding over what they thought was a frozen stream. The sleigh and horse finally sank in a drift.

Miss Perkins was suffering severely from the cold. The mercury had dropped below zero, and it began to look as if they might freeze to death. Hawkins was busy all night trying to find a horse and sled. He wrapped the blankets about his fiancée to protect her and his exertions kept him from freezing.

With the greatest effort they managed to travel two miles. It was 6 o'clock in the morning when they reached a farm house. He carried Miss Perkins to the house and aroused the occupants. After a good breakfast they hurried to the home of the Rev. S. C. Hearn, pastor of the Methodist church, and were married. They started for New York on an early train.

Teacher Weds for Fun. A mock marriage that proved to be legal and binding was annulled in the circuit court of Kansas City the other day. Jesse C. Peck, a school teacher in a country district in North Carolina, for amusement, went through the ceremony with a young woman. A year later when the woman tried to marry her brother, who opposed her marriage, announced that she was already wedded. And so it proved. The man who performed the supposed mock marriage was a justice of the peace.

When Mr. Peck learned the facts he served of the innate craft of the man who directs their production." "Mr. Hoe is what we designate a silent man; that is, he speaks little, but very much to the point. He has an air of elegant leisure, but works harder than any of his employees. His action in the hundreds of malices that claim his attention daily is deliberate but decisive. Not a detail of his vast business escapes him, whether it relates to the thousands of workmen and hundreds of kinds of machines working in the production of presses in his two big establishments in New York and London, or to the probable effect of improvements on the manufacture of paper or ink or plates upon his own particular branch of the printing business. Although of means and disposition that might naturally incline him to rest his own and take his ease, he is to be found regularly at his office, studying, planning and executing. In other words, he is the embodiment of his own cherished maxims of concentration and thoroughness."

Even the men of vast wealth who keep in touch with the great fortunes of the day were astounded to learn that the Lockhart holdings amounted to \$250,000.

By an equal division each of the five children will draw an interest on \$250,000 invested in stocks which pay big dividends. Thus are the wishes of the dead father defeated by his children, and the punishment determined by him for the daughter who eloped with the man she loved made naught.

Thomas Delano Whistler, and Mrs. Whistler call Baltimore their home and maintain several establishments here, the family has been abroad so much during the last ten years that the young daughter is remembered only as a beautiful child. Those who have seen her recently say that the promise of the days of short skirts has been more than fulfilled. She is tall, has hazel eyes, features distinctly American and a mass of chestnut brown hair encircles her face.

Dr. Howell is an exceptionally large and powerful man. He inherited much of his great wealth from his father, Andrew Howell of Wheeling, W. Va. His wife also brought him another fortune. He has been well known in New York, Pittsburg, Washington and other cities as a real estate operator for twenty years. A year ago he purchased three of New York's most fashionable apartment houses for nearly \$5,000,000. He paid \$3,000,000 in cash and the balance in Pittsburg real estate.

Eloped with a Negro. Hazel, the lovely 15-year-old daughter of Clifford Dougherty of Three Rivers, Mich., became enamored a week ago of Bert Burton, a negro bootblack doing odd jobs around barber shops of town. Her hero was four years her senior, and used to talk of going to Ann Arbor to study dentistry. Hazel began skating with him several days ago when she wouldn't take a

"dare" from her playmates. She had been with him most of the time since. Friday of last week Burton drove to her parents' home and took her away with him, and the pair started for Kalamazoo. Ever gust of wind seemed to bear to the girl's ears the echoes of her father's voice, and when she arrived at the City hotel she was very nervous and fatigued.

The little white lady and her dark hero were aroused at 6 o'clock next morning by the local police force led by Hazel's irate father. Burton was arrested, and was taken to the county jail at Centerville. The girl went home with her father, crestfallen and sad.

Joy and Sorrow at Two Weddings. Joy and sorrow are closely entwined around two hospital weddings in New York City recently. It was happiness enough for one bride that fifteen minutes before the end came she could frame the words, "Till death do us part," and feel the clasp of her beloved's hand when she passed into the Valley of the Shadow. The other bride lies on a cot in Flower hospital, battling bravely for the life which she has consecrated to her husband. The physicians say that her determination to live for him is proving the main factor in her chances of recovery.

She is Mrs. Walter C. Jansen, twenty-two years old. Her maiden name was Anna Lawson. Her wedding day was set, but illness obliged her removal to the hospital. Her fiancé, Walter C. Jansen of Richmond Mill, L. I., counseled her to be courageous and escape the inevitable, but never breathed the sad news of her serious illness to which she was confined. He informed her. They feared to tell her that she must undergo an operation which might prove fatal.

It was plain to the nurses that she was growing weaker and weaker day by day. But they were no less quick to observe the threatening symptoms than Jansen. He hunted the hospital lest he miss an opportunity to comfort the patient when the physicians would permit him to enter the sick room. The devotion of the young couple brought tears to the eyes of physicians and nurses.

Mr. Jansen came forward with a suggestion which had resulted from a widespread conference with his sweetheart. He declared that they wished to be married, following which the physicians could pursue the course their best judgment suggested. The arrangement was satisfactory and the wedding ceremony was performed in the presence of the physicians and nurses. So great was the change for the better in the condition of the bride that the operation was successfully performed the next day, and she is recovering rapidly.

Almost at the same hour that Jansen and Miss Lawson were made man and wife a similar scene was being enacted in Bellevue hospital. In ward 33 lay a sufferer from tuberculosis. She was a girl of remarkable beauty, and the physicians had become deeply interested since her arrival. She knew well that her strength could last but little longer, and she confided to the nurses that she had no fear of the end if her heart's desire could be attained.

"I want to die Jim's wife," she whispered one night to her nurse. She had often spoken of the man whom she had hoped to marry before the fatal ailment seized her. Dr. Lancaster knew that the end was not far off early Friday afternoon, and asked what she wanted done.

Recent Progress in the Field of Electricity

Municipal Electric Light. COMMISSION of expert engineers appointed by Mayor McClellan to report on the cost of municipal electric lighting in the borough of Manhattan and the Bronx, estimates the cost per lamp at \$75.40 per year. New York City is now paying for lighting comparable to a minimum of \$136 a year for each arc light of 2,000 candle power. With 4,000 of these lamps now furnished to the city the total cost for these lights in the two boroughs alone is \$700,000 a year. If the city can provide these lamps by the use of its own plant at \$75.40 the city will save \$23,000 a year on this item alone.

The report of the commission, which is composed of Carey T. Hutchinson, Prof. George F. Sever of Columbia university and Nelson F. Lewis, chief engineer to the Board of Estimates and Apportionment, was submitted to the Board of Estimates by Mayor McClellan and was referred to the controller with instructions to confer with members of the commission with reference to the immediate acquisition of a site on which to build the proposed plant.

A Mountain Searchlight. One of the notable features of the Portland exposition next summer will be an electric searchlight stationed and operated on the snowy crest of Mount Hood. The plan is to place a searchlight with an 80-inch projector on the crest of Mount Hood, which is 11,225 feet above the sea level and forty-six miles from Portland. This searchlight, from its commanding position, will pierce the darkness for 230 miles, and its gleam on the nearby peaks will be startling. Its flash on Mount Rainier, which is 100 miles from Mount Hood, could be seen from the cities bordering on the Puget sound, such as Seattle and Tacoma. From vessels off the coast 120 miles distant the flashes could be seen plainly on a clear night, and at Portland and the exposition grounds the gleams would be very strong.

To place the searchlight on Mount Hood requires quite a bit of engineering skill and labor which will cost about \$50,000. A short tower of wood and iron, the upper part for the searchlight and the base for the apparatus and operators, will be built on the summit. The transmission line has to be built down the north side of the mountain to Cooper's Spur, and from there to a point in the neighborhood of Cloud Cap Inn, where a temporary generating plant will be installed. The construction of the tower and the delivery of the necessary material and apparatus are the difficult parts of the construction work. This will be overcome by the use of a steel hoisting cable and sleds, and all of the material can be delivered on the summit by this means, the side of the mountain toward Cloud Cap Inn is favorable to this

mode of transportation. The sleds will be run over the trail used yearly by the mountaineers. The placing of the tower on Mount Hood may be the beginning of a movement for the establishment of an astronomical observatory at this majestic peak of the Cascade range.

High Speed Trolley Lines. David Mason, American consul at Berlin, in a late report refers to the special trials on the Berlin-Zossen electric road. These tests on a straight, level and well-built railroad a train speed of 120 miles an hour was possible and might be safe. It was also shown, however, that to propel a single car, with a carrying capacity of sixty passengers, at the speed of 120 miles increased 120 horse power, and that to increase the speed to 150 miles consumed 250 horse power. This was about what theoretical calculations had led the electrical engineers to expect. It was further shown that to stay on the track at these great speeds cars needed to be built very heavy, thus increasing the dead weight in proportion to carrying capacity and proportionately destroying by impact rails and roadbed. A light car, even when as heavy as one of the best types of those in use, cannot be driven faster than eighty miles an hour without a danger greater than any one would be justified in assuming for scientific purposes.

The Electric Shock. One of the new and not uncommon dangers of modern life, says Youth's Companion, is that of getting in the way of a powerful current of electricity and receiving the entire discharge through the body. The effects of such a discharge vary, of course, with the strength of the current; there may be simply a sharp muscular contraction, accompanied by the familiar, disagreeable sensation of an electric shock; these contractions may be repeated several times after the current has ceased, constituting true convulsions, or there may be a persistent continued muscular contraction; there may be suspended respiration while the heart continues to beat; both heart and respiration may cease, in which case death will speedily follow unless instant medical relief is at hand; or in still other cases, death may be instantaneous.

The first care is, of course, to free the person from contact with the live wire, and here great caution is necessary, or the giver of assistance may share the fate of the one he is trying to help. He must himself be insulated before touching the victim's body, if the latter is still within the path of the current, and this is especially important if the accident has happened out-doors on a wet day. Care should be taken also not to touch any part of the body other than the hands, or rather one hand, touch the electrified person.

It may not be possible to pull the sufferer away from the source of electricity, and if not it will be necessary to make a short circuit by dropping a stiff wire or a metal tool of any kind over the live wire, or cutting the wire.

Insulation is best obtained by rubber boots and gloves, but in the absence of these, standing on a folded coat or a woman's silk skirt and putting on thick woolen gloves or wrapping the hands in several folds of silk, woolen or cotton cloth, which of course must be dry. A dry board or several newspapers, or better still, both, may serve as an emergency insulating stool.

When the victim has been freed from the current he should be placed on the back, with the head of the body other than the hands, or rather one hand, touch the electrified person.

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JOSEPH MAULL METCALF, VICE PRESIDENT LININGER & METCALF COMPANY FROM 1881 TO 1882.—DIED JANUARY 15, 1905.