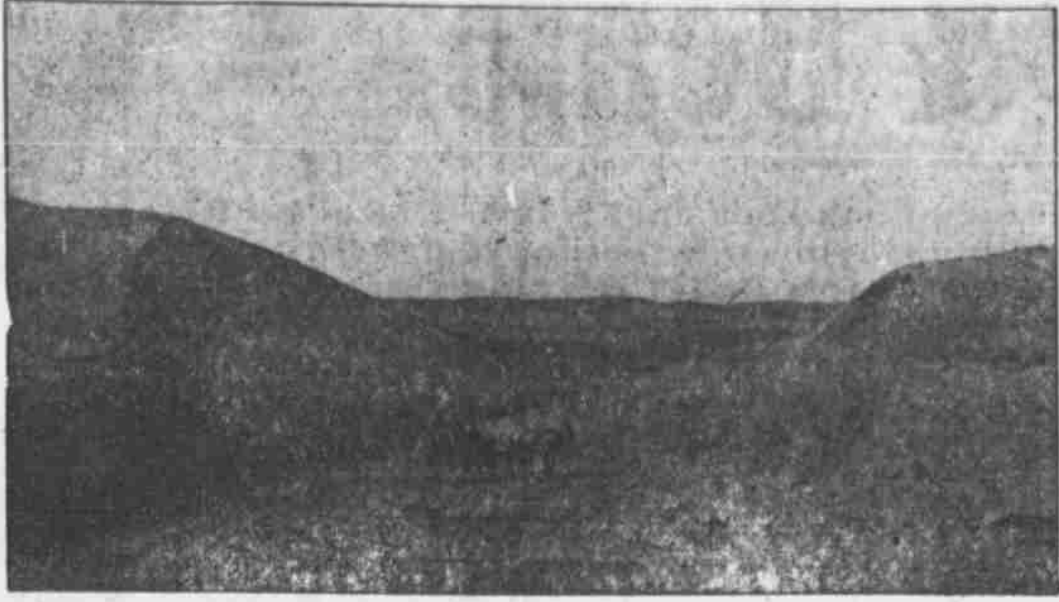


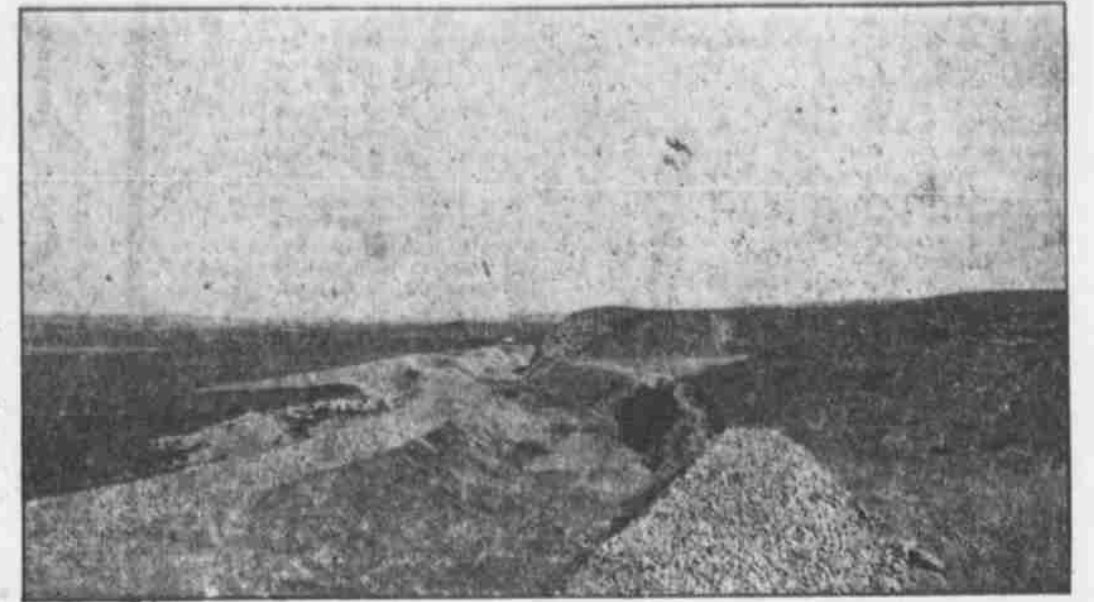
What the Great Pathfinder Project Means as a Permanent Institution



INTERSTATE CANAL AS IT ENTERS RAWHIDE VALLEY.



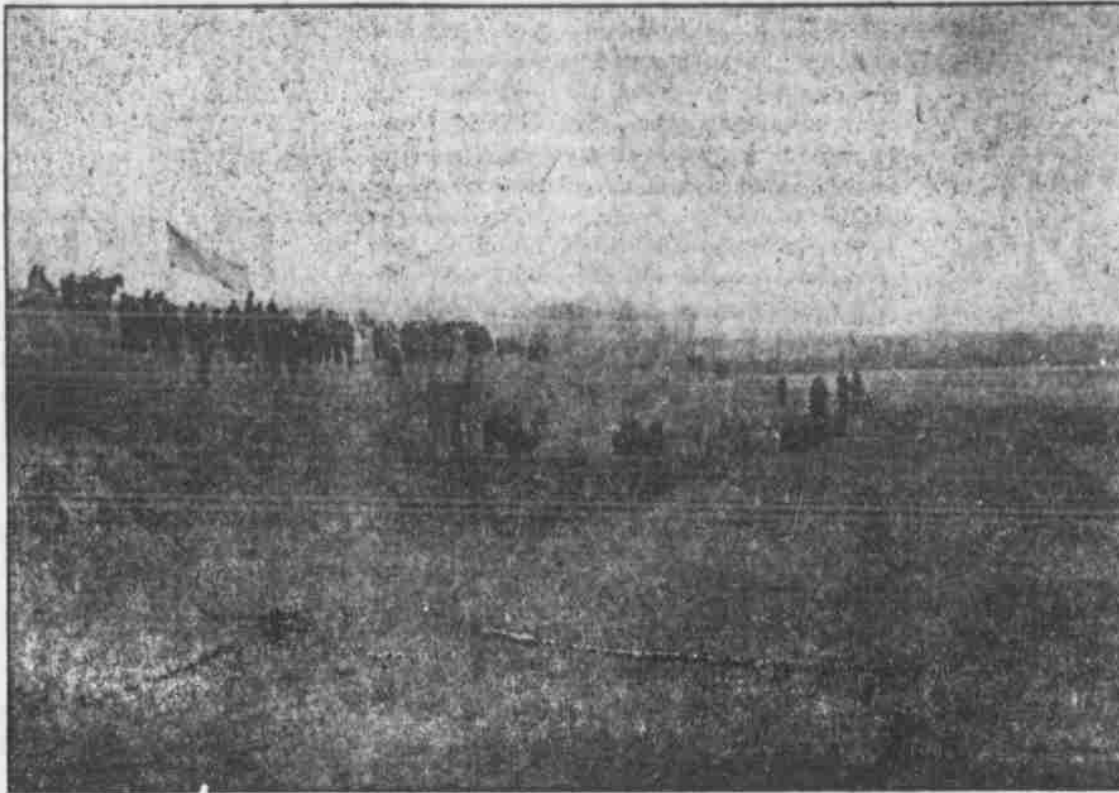
"WATER COMING" IN INTERSTATE CANAL.



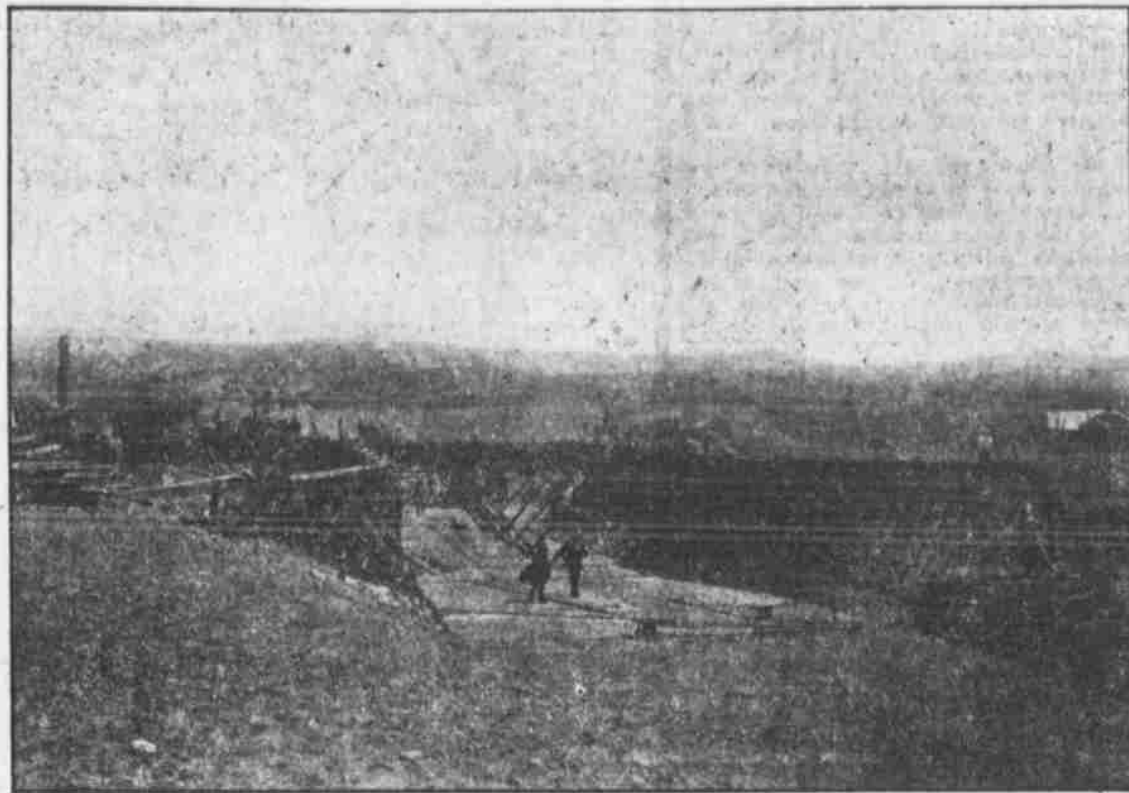
ROCK CUTS AND HEAVY FILLS ON INTERSTATE CANAL.

GERING, Neb., May 17.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee)—The growth and prestige of the North Platte valley already acquired has been the result of approximately 150,000 acres of land subject to irrigation. When it is considered that this area is to be much more than trebled by the government's operations in connection with the Pathfinder reservoir proposition, the immense importance of the opening of the Interstate canal at Whalen Saturday, May 5, begins to be realized. And it is little wonder that the inhabitants of the valley journeyed some twenty miles, some sixty, and some 100 miles to be present at the time water was turned in.

The Pathfinder project as a whole is worth some explanation to make it clear to the readers of The Bee. South and west of Casper in the mountains along the upper North Platte is a natural reservoir site where a huge dam of solid masonry is being built, across the narrow valley of the stream, where the length of the dam is not only least expensive but where it will form a mammoth lake many miles in extent, and capable of retaining the water which would otherwise flow unused to the Mississippi, until the seasons when it is needed for irrigation purposes. The retaining dam will be over 200 feet in height, and the lake formed in the reservoir site will be about thirty miles in one direction. The water which is conserved therein will be released as necessary, to flow down the natural channels of the river to the various points of diversion. The Pathfinder reclamation system comprehends the construction of three great distributing systems, all of them to take water from the river, about 150 miles below the reservoir, at points in Western Wyoming.



PREPARING TO OPEN CANAL BY SCOOPING OUT BARRIER—TEMPORARY DIVERSION DAM AT RIGHT.



VIEW OF CONCRETE FLUME IN PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION NEAR HEAD OF INTERSTATE CANAL.

Interstate Canal to Come.
The Interstate canal will be supplied from a diversion dam, located a few miles above historic old Fort Laramie. The first section of the Interstate canal, which was opened last Saturday, is over fifty miles in length, and will furnish water to 15,000 acres this year, but as the work is completed the aggregate will reach the grand total of 150,000 acres, all being certain of accomplishment within a year or so. As the Interstate canal is built to greater length it reaches out to a wider area, farther back from the river, so that it will be seen that the heavy work encountered in the first fifty miles now done has a much greater service to perform than is indicated by the 15,000 acres for which water is now actually available.

of the land has been settled on by Colorado irrigation farmers. T. C. Henry and President Ellis of the Colorado Agricultural college have done considerable work in the valley on various canal enterprises, and all these things have made a deeper sentiment and brought in Colorado business men. On the other hand, Omaha has been slow to realize the situation in the western part of the state and its business interests have suffered some prostrations as a result of its apathetic attitude.

However, a situation now seems assured that the Union Pacific will build on its survey from North Platte through Northport and Gering to the Medicine Bow junction, giving a direct outlet to and inlet from Omaha,

that city may awake to its natural claim upon this section and regain its rightful prestige.

Illustration of Government Methods.
The construction of the first section of the Interstate canal has been a revelation in its exposition of the rapidity of government work. The initial surveys for the project as a whole were commenced about two years ago, and now not only have fifty odd miles of the Interstate ditch been completed and opened, but it also represents the carrying capacity for that distance of the whole canal. The first plan of actual construction was done less than one year ago, and has been followed

up steadily through all kinds of weather, little time being lost during the most inclement periods of the winter season. The work on the Pathfinder project from its inception has been in the efficient charge of Engineer John E. Field, who has fully demonstrated his capability and fitness to direct such a large enterprise. He may well feel, and no doubt does, that his great achievement in his profession is this project, for the proposition as a whole is only a few years to complete the system so as to reclaim the land subject to the project, and perhaps longer. During this period it will be the duty of Engineer Field to perfect the system in all its phases, so that the government will turn over to the water users' association a complete and permanent irrigating system. All weak places will be located and made strong

enough to last through the ages. Laterals, main and subsidiary, will be planned and built with entire reference to permanent location and perfect service. All headgates and dams will be composed of concrete and structural iron, and the same will be true of the tunnels and siphons. Thus it will be realized that Mr. Field has a normal lifetime of work before him. The headquarters of the Pathfinder project are located at Mitchell, where the engineering forces maintain suitable offices. For the first year the chief engineer's headquarters were at Wynote, Wyo., but with the practical completion of the upper section of the Interstate canal the headquarters are to be concentrated at Mitchell, which

will be more convenient to the territory where most of the work is to be done.

New Work Under Way.
The contractors, who have completed their work on the first fifty-five miles, are now moving down to new work, and the sections of the canal which cover Nebraska lands to a point north and east of Scott's Bluff are getting under way with every promise of an expeditious work as has been done in the last year. Following the contracts now let will come those for the last section, and the Interstate will be dispensed of. Without loss of time the preparations for the Goshute Hole and Laramie canals will have been made, and the work on them will likewise follow. The operations of the last year have been no loss of life, but one or two falling accidents, and little or no sickness, certainly none which could be attributed to camp conditions or bad management of the work.
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Prattle of the Youngsters

"Mamma," said little Ethel, who was looking at the pictures in a Sunday school book, "how do angels get their night gowns over their wings?"

Kitty had been reproved and was sulking. "If I'd known your when I was born as well as I do now," she said, "I'd never 'a' picked you out for a mamma!"

"Now, Tommy," said the teacher, addressing a small pupil, "can you tell me where the declaration of independence was signed?"

"Yes, ma'am," answered Tommy. "It was signed at the bottom."

"Tommy, did you like the entertainment?"

"It was pretty good but there was one girl they called a reader that done 'em mighty rough talking."

"What was it?"

"She said, 'Curse you, you shan't tonight!' Said it right out loud, too."

Bishop Olmstead of Colorado, in an address on perseverance, said:

"At one undertakes this word perseverance with an anecdote about a little girl I used to know.

"This little girl, whose father was a clergyman, lay abed one day with a bad cold and in the afternoon, being bored, she decided that she wanted to see her father—to get him to tell her a fairy story, or something of that sort.

"But her father was busy.

"He is writing his Sunday morning sermon," said the mother, "and must not be disturbed."

"But I want to see him badly," the little girl persisted.

"No, dear," her mother repeated. "He is busy. We can't interrupt him."

"The little girl, persevering, frowned. She glared at her mother and sitting up in bed, she said:

"I am a sick woman and I want to see my minister!" She saw him.

It was the roll of distant thunder which caused little Margie to observe, "They must be cleaning house in heaven today, mamma."

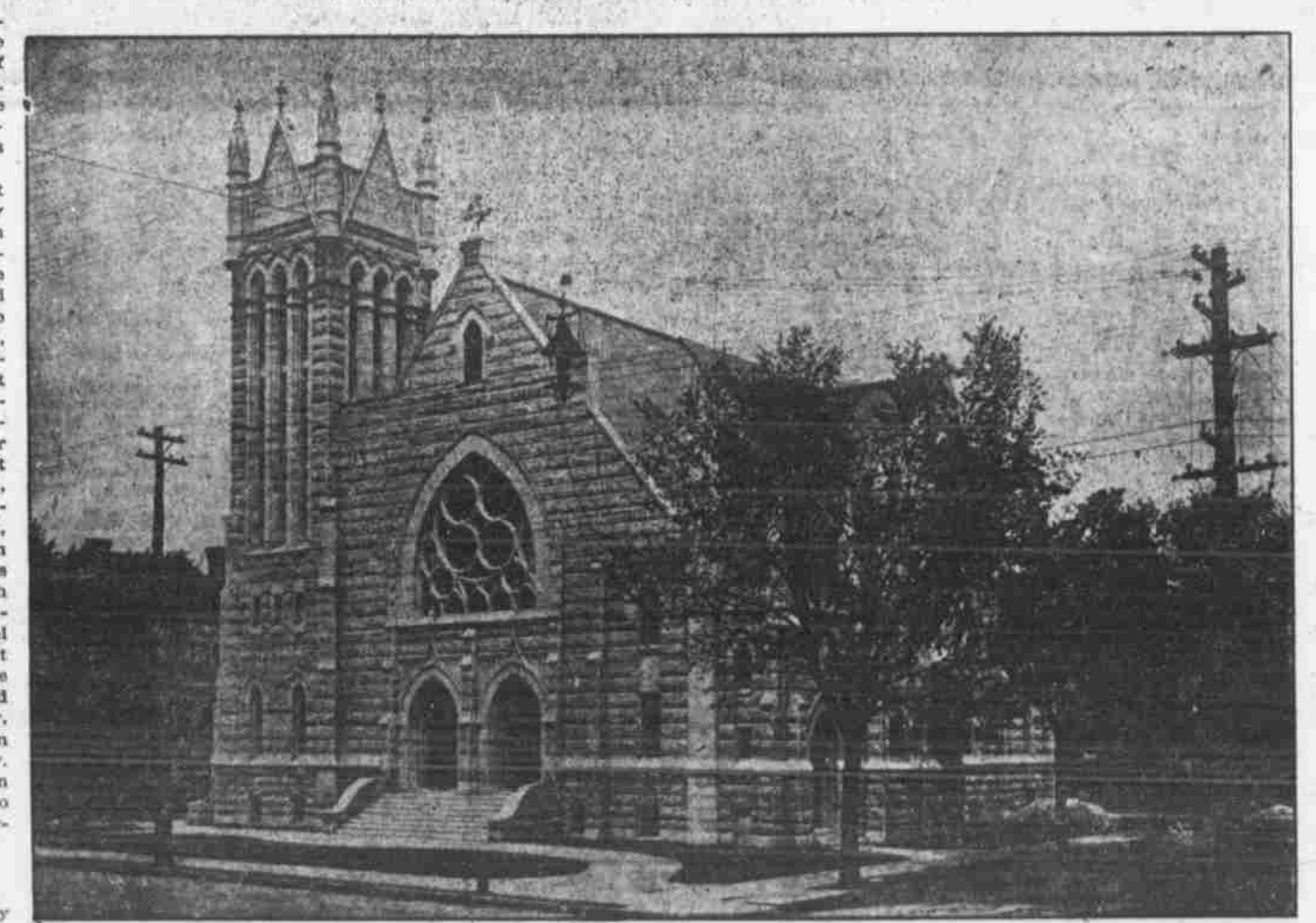
"Why do you think so, dear?" asked her mother.

"I hear the angels moving the furniture around," explained Margie.

Omaha Pioneer Church to Dedicate New Home

IT WAS in 1838 that the organization known today as Kountze Memorial Lutheran church of Omaha was founded by Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, under the auspices of the Allegheny synod of Pennsylvania and with the name of Emanuel's English Evangelical Lutheran church.

Rev. Kuhns had come to Omaha that year as a missionary from the Allegheny synod, and finding some Lutherans in town, organized nine of them into a congregation. Omaha, then a thriving village of several hundred people, already had three other churches, and these, with the assembly room of the territory, I capitol, served as meeting places for the congregations of the several denominations that had effected organizations in the community, so it was not until 1861 that the Lutherans were able to erect a church of their own. During the first year the Methodist church on Thirteenth street had been used, and later services were held in the Congregational church on Sixteenth street, but in the meantime two lots had been purchased on the north side of Douglas street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, just east of and immediately adjoining the site where the Millard hotel now stands, and it was here that the church and parsonage were built. The laying of its cornerstone was celebrated August 5, 1861. Rev. Kuhns, the pastor, officiating. The services took place at noon in the presence of a large assembly. Rev. Kuhns taking the text for his sermon from God's words to speak unto the children of Israel that they go forth.



NEW KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHICH WILL BE DEDICATED SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1906.

Omaha's First Church Bell.
The church was of brick and in its bellry was hung the first church bell that was brought to Omaha. This following year the church was enlarged and the parsonage. The church has grown to one of the largest in Omaha and its third house of worship, the splendid stone structure at Twenty-sixth and Farnam streets, which will be dedicated May 27, is one of the finest churches of the city.

Rev. Kuhns remained pastor of the first congregation for fourteen years and was succeeded by Rev. Hillman, who remained but a year. Rev. W. A. Lise came next, remaining until 1879, when he was succeeded by Rev. H. L. Bauer, who served the church only a few months and thereafter returned east. By this time the congregation had grown and, finding its property pressed by the growing business section of the city, two lots were purchased at the northeast corner of Sixteenth and Harney streets for \$2,000 and later half of an adjoining lot was purchased for \$4,000. The Douglas street property was sold for \$10,000 to the Millard Hotel company and the last sermon was preached in the old building by the new pastor, Rev. George F. Stelling, Sunday evening August 14, 1891. For a time Sunday services were held at Boyd's opera house. At a meeting held at the old Swedish Lutheran church on Cass street, the evening of January 24, 1892, the congregation decided to build a new church on the Sixteenth street lots to cost not more than \$25,000, and a building committee was appointed consisting of Fred Drexel, C. F. Goodman and F. J. Nichols. The contract was finally let for \$30,000, exclusive of glass, heating, lighting and seats. Ground was broken in May and Dr. S. P. Lelander, an elder of the church and superintendent of the Sabbath school, threw out the first earth. Dr. Stelling being ill and unable to participate in the exercises.

by Augustus Kountze of New York to duplicate any sum that the congregation might raise for the church building, as a memorial to his father, Christian Kountze. This generous offer was accepted and the new church built at a cost of \$50,000. At a congregational meeting held the evening of June 24, 1893, a resolution was passed changing the name of the church from Emanuel's English Evangelical Lutheran church to Kountze Memorial Lutheran church, out of appreciation of the generous financial assistance of Augustus Kountze, and a memorial to his father, Christian Kountze, to whom the church record refers as "a man of exemplary life and Christian piety."

Owing to the frequent heavy rains and delay in the arrival of materials the laying of the corner stone was delayed until Sunday, August 5, 1893, the twenty-second anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the original building. The services were held at 6:30 o'clock Sunday evening and were attended by a large gathering of citizens and the clergy of every denomination in the city. Five months from the date

of the laying of the cornerstone the congregation was bereft of its pastor and able leader, Dr. Stelling, and the following spring Rev. J. E. Detweiler came to Omaha to assume charge of the work, preaching his introductory sermon April 27, 1894, in the lecture room of the new church. Easter Sunday, April 5, the congregation entered and occupied the newly-completed sanctuary for the first time. The church was not dedicated at that time, however, nor has it ever been because it has never been out of debt.

In the fall of 1895 thirteen members, unable to attend services because of the distance of the church from their homes, signed applications for dismissal from the church. Certificates of dismissal were granted them and they subsequently organized St. Mark's Lutheran church, of which Dr. L. Groh is the present pastor.

Dr. Turkie's Coming.
May 1, 1890, Dr. Detweiler closed his pastorate and was succeeded by Rev. Alonzo J. Turkie, D. D., who began his work August 31. Under his able leadership the church made most rapid strides forward and his resignation nine years later was accepted with genuine regret. After an interval of seven months Rev. E. F. Truff of St. Joseph accepted the call of the congregation and began his work in the spring of 1901. For three years he served the church, resigning then to accept a call from the east, and after ten months, the present pastor, Rev. John E. Hummon, took charge of the church.

Another Move Made.
Just at this time the congregation found itself confronted with much the same conditions that prevailed twenty years before had resulted in the erection of the second church. The extension of the business district had increased the value of the property and crowded back the residence district until it seemed best to accept a proposition from Judge James Neville to buy the lots occupied by the church for \$30,000, exclusive of the building. The same evening the decision was reached the trustees brought the report they had purchased the site at Twenty-sixth and Farnam streets, known as the McShane property, and arrangements for the building of the new church were begun immediately. The wrecking of the old church was begun almost as soon as the transfer was made. Delay in receiving the plans delayed the laying of the cornerstone until September 25, 1902, when that ceremony was held, Rev. Hummon officiating, assisted by several prominent churchmen. The new church was to cost \$50,000, and to clear the property of debt before its dedication it would have been necessary to have disposed of the west half of the site, leaving only the lot occupied by the church. But the congregation was spared this necessity by the generosity of Mr. Herman Kountze, brother of its former benefactor, who volunteered to make up the remaining amount, about \$20,000, on the condition that the site should be dedicated on behalf of the future. The acceptance of this gift makes possible the improvement of the west half of the property at some future time, by a parsonage, which will make it one of the finest church properties in Omaha.

During the forty-six years of its existence over 1,200 persons have been members of Kountze Memorial church, and from it two other churches have been organized, Grace Lutheran church being the second.

Mount Vernon at Sundown

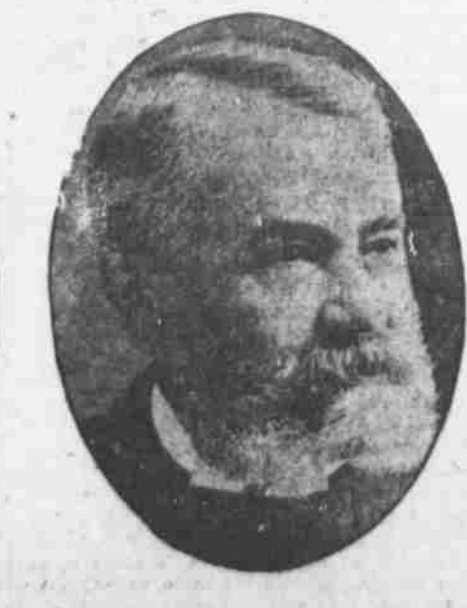
It is the misfortune of the ordinary pilgrim to Mount Vernon that he must see the place only in the garish glare of day. The garden is full of sentiment, but sentiment and brilliant sunshine are sworn foes. It is only in the cool, silvery envelop of evening that we can retrace the spot and make it live again in our minds of that century in which it was planned and developed. We can then stand back of the glass inclosures and fancy once more in the place the long, straight rows of blooming plants from which Lady Washington replenished her rosegay vases—the flowers nodding drowsily in a soft light of twilight and moon, and then swaying softly in response to the whisper of a passing summer breeze. We can almost fancy the bronze-armed gardener stirring the soil between the rows with his hoe as he put the belated last touch to his work before bidding the care-laden chief of gardeners, or we can take up our position at another point and watch the over-seer in his quaint continental garb as he finishes his round, lantern in hand, among the "quarters" and takes his way back to the great house for a final look to make sure that all is well. Or we can ourselves stroll up the path where the var-colored borders merge into the more stately shrubbery that lines the old gray wall. Whether or not the greatest American actually had a hand in the making of all this dainty array, at least he dwelt amid it, sniffed its odors, heard its faint murmurings and possibly—nay, probably—was unconsciously mollified in mind and morals by the influence of such an environment.

Next to the shimmer of the moon, in its power of calling up fancies like these, is the twilight hour at Mount Vernon. As the day draws in, the edges of lengthening shadow are spread in a faint, misty glow close to the ground. The earth sends up a rich moist smell, and over this deep bass there plays a fugue of perfume from the flowers. A gauze of thinnest blue veils the detail of the fine old trees outside of the garden wall and masses them against a tender tinted sky and against a lower glimpse of uncompleted red roof and white supports. From the dense foliage on the lawn comes a half-whispered chorus, the softened twang and creak of an oak leaf of blackbirds away over against the edge of the old kitchen garden, antiphoned by the throaty chirrup of many robins from the big chestnut by the gate. A few small birds hidden among the boughs that overhang the flowers are uttering little notes and cuddling sounds under their breath, and from the topmost twig of a tall maple down at the end of the garden falls the cardinal's evening.—Francis E. Leupp in the Century.

Commerce is Interested.
In this section of the country, as is becoming understood, and little by little the outside world is becoming aware of the boundless future of western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. Even now a little royal is being waged for the commercial supremacy in the section. Omaha and Denver wholesalers, each on a common footing and about equidistant are vying with each other for a permanent foothold in the valley. Naturally the territory, being largely situated in Nebraska, should belong to Omaha, and more so because for years the direct railroad facilities led from Omaha, and the business men of that city had acquired a foothold almost before they knew it. Of later years, since the construction of the Denver & Alliance cut-off, the Colorado metropolis has pushed in vigorously. There is another feature which has aided Denver, in the fact that much



REV. A. J. TURKIE



AUGUSTUS KOUNTZE, WHO MADE THE FIRST BIG DONATION TO THE CHURCH



REV. J. E. HUMMON

About this time a proposition was made