Development of Nebraska State Fair Since Its Territorial Origin

ritorial legislature.

tion of a board of agriculture were: That culture for the year 1902. it should consist of sixteen members, the term of office for one-half to be for one year and one-half for two years, thus providing for the election of one-half of its agriculture was amended in 1867, when members each year. The board elected its Nebraska became a state, under which the own members and officials, as it does at the present time. The act also provided that the president of county agricultural societies thereafter organized, and in active working existence, should be ex-officio service of one-half of the members should members of the territorial board.

Notable Names in List.

of Douglas, treasurer.

days' fair, commencing on the third present incumbent, E. Z. Russell. Wednesday of September, 1859. Proposi- The same law and provisions governing

HE origin of the association under which to hold the first fair. The award whose auspices the Nebraska was made to Nebraska City, where the fair state fair is held, dates back al- was held September 31, 22 and 22, 1860. The most fifty years. It was near fair was held in a shaded grove near Nethe beginning history of Nebraska braska City. No enclosing fence, no buildus a territory, that what is now known inga save a lean-to shed, in which all, as the Nebraska State Board of Agricul- except live stock, was exhibited. Horses ture was originally created by an act of and cattle were tied to trees. Swine were the territorial legislature with perpetual ex- provided for with hastily improvised pens. istence, approved October 14, 1868, entitled. The limited premiums awarded were paid "An act to establish a Territorial Board for from the pockets of the members of of Agriculture." The bill for this act the board. From the tail end of a wagon was prepared and its passage secured by backed in the shade of an elm tree, J. the efforts of Robert W. Furnas, then a Sterling Morton delivered the first agrimember of the council branch of the ter- cultural address ever made in Nebraska. This address can be found in full in the The provisions of the act for the forma- annual report of the State Board of Agri-

Under State Legislation.

The territorial law creating a board of following persons were made a body corporate in the name and style of the Nebrasks Board of Agriculture, with perpetual succession, so that the term of expire annually on the day of the annual meeting: S. M. Kirkpatrick, O. P. Mason, C. H. Walker, George Crow, J. G. Miller, The original members named in the act John Patrick, John Ritchie, John Cadwere: A. D. Jones, E. Esterbrock, John M. more, Samuel Maxwell, Elam Clark, Isaac Thayer, Robert W. Furnas, Thomas Gib- Albertson, Amos Gates, George A. Hafl, son, Harrison Johnson, Christian Bobst, William Imeley, E. A. Allen, H. M. Rey-Jesse Cole, S. A. Chambers, Jerome Hoover, noids, W. D. Scott, A. S. Hollday, John B.

by calling John M. Thayer to the chair, being given this honored distinction by an same form of county reports, the same state fair, in its department of farm and A. D. Jones, the first Omaha post- act of the legislature. Prominent among system of publication master, as secretary. The term of service those having held important positions on of members were at this meeting appor- the State Board of Agriculture may be named, as presidents: Robert W. Furnas, At this meeting provisions were made for J. Sterling Morton, R. R. Greer, S. M. a board of fair managers consisting of five Barker, R. H. Henry, Ed McIntire, John members whose duty was to arrange for Jensen, Martin Dunham, J. T. Clarkson, and supervise the holding of an annual Ell A. Barnes, Milton Doolittle, S. C. Basfair. The first board of managers elected sett, E. L. Vance, J. B. Dinsmore, W. R. were E. H. Chaplin of Douglas county, H. Mellor and the present incumbent, Peter Baird, Dakota; M. S. Reeves, Otoe; Broad Youngers. As secretary: A. D. Jones, C. Cole, Cass; C. Bobst, Pawnee. The per- H. Walker, J. C. McBride, D. H. Wheeler, manent organization was: Robert W. Fur. Robert W. Furnas, S. C. Bassett, unexnas of Nemaha, president; A. D. Jones of pired term of Mr. Furnas and present in-Douglas, secretary; and John M. Thayer cumbent, Mr. Mellor. Treasurer: John M. Thayer, L. A. Walker, J. W. Moore, Chris Provisions were made for holding a three Hartman, L. A. Kent, Ed McIntire and

tions were to be solicited for a place at the State Board of Agriculture prevail the state for has created.



A VIEW OF THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR GROUNDS-Thote by Staff Artist.

Growth of the Fair, into one of the most prominent and influential agricultural exhibition associahas shown great progress in the exhibition agricultural industry the disposition has the eye. been to improvement and a higher standard of perfection in the exhibition art. In addition to the great natural resources of a state rich in the inexhaustible fertility of its soil, there has been a systematic training of exhibition skill in the various counties, prompted by the in- traction for its agricultural products dis- collective display by counties of farm that will be operated and conducted in the The one important factor, good weather, centive of contest which the county col- play. In this one feature of county products, and that not to exceed three interests of the people whose industries is the only source from which there has lective exhibition of farm products at collection exhibit Nebraska has for the states offer one-half the money in this a state fair is designed to encourage, foster not been great promises of abundance and

Mills S. Reeves, Broad Cole, J. C. Lincoln, Bennett, B. Gates, Louis A. Walker, J. nine years ago, when this organization troduced by Nebraska as a feature of display, guaranteeing each county a cash for a state fair did not come to the people money in premiums. The operating ex-Harlan Baird, Joel T. Griffen and E. H. Sterling Morton, J. W. Hollingshead, G. P. was created. The representation for the fair attraction, and was at once placed Chaplin. A majority of these members Thomas, J. B. Stout, Henry Sprick, S. W. state, of twenty-nine members on the upon a basis of success by the large named in the act met at the Hernoon Kennedy, A. L. Childs and Anderson Miller. State Board of Agriculture remains the premiums offered. Today, and for years house (where are now the Union Pacific The above named persons, twenty-nine same, the same system of electing the past, no other state in the union has been railroad headquarters) in Omaha, October in number, constitute the charter members board, the same delegate representation able to compare in extent and grandeur 80, 1858. A temporary organization was had of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, from the county agricultural societies, the of display with that made by the Nebraska products. As high as thirty have entered the contest for the largest and best collective exhibition of farm The Nebraska state fair, from its little products, and so large a scope, in general beginning in 1859, has steadily grown exhibition, has been covered by these competitive displays, that visitors to the Nobraska state fair were slow to conceive tions in the United States. Each decade of their being other than competing states, so exposition like, extensive and modern interests at the state fair. In all lines of have they been built to attract and please

Liberality in Premiums.

It may be well to mention in this conupon so broad a basis of premium at- one feature of county collective exhibit or terprise that will belong to the people and are represented by all superintendents.

premium equal to the expense of making of Nebraska until six years ago, when, its exhibit. This guarantee has in some instances raised the aggregate amount to be paid for county collective display \$500 above the regular premium offer of \$2,000. Thus it will be observed that the grain farmer and vegetable farmer is measured by the same premium incentive, in order to attract his attention to the fair, that is used by all fairs to interest the live stock breeder in the show ring.

Until the present year Nebraska's first prize for county collective display was \$300. the balance of the \$2,000 to be prorated among the other countles exhibiting, in proportion to the score of their exhibit. This year a change was made, whereby all live stock industries of the state. countles are paid from the \$2,000 purse. according to the score each receives. It may be interesting to know that Nebraska exceeds any state in the United States by nection that no other state has ventured \$500 in the amount of money offered in the building of a practical exposition en- tion of great interest and full departments

after failures, disappointments and great sacrifices of money had been made in temporary locations, without getting satisfactory results, there was an effort put forth which resulted in harmonizing the agriculhibition improvements could be con- vantage and upbuilding of the fair.

The present state fair grounds since bethe exhibition home of the agricultural and

Permanency is Desired.

state is towards state fair improvement, past dozen years offered \$2,000 in cash classification that is offered by Nebraska. and give the widest possible recognition to spare,

is becoming more and more an institution of learning. The educational features of the fair are developing on every hand. The fair visitor in this age goes to the fair to see, study and become informed on subjects of interest to the farmer and the conduct and well being of the farm, in solls and crops. In this relation the Nebraska State fair has been giving great aftention to the convenience and accommodations of the machinery department of its exhibition, especially the farm machinery which so many thousands of farmers visit the fair to examine and compare by the ad-

vantages thus afforded. The amusement features of the old time state fair are rapidly being trimmed down to include nothing but the most chaste and inoffensive in character. That the higher order of entertainments are soon to find a place on the Nebraska fair grounds only awaits the acquiring of means to put up suitable buildings to accommodate them. Clean, respectable and highly entertaining features are the ambition of the management and the State Board of Agriculture can be depended upon to urge the enforcement of this ambition

On a Business Basis.

The Nebraska state fair management started in a few years ago upon a reform basis. Its new managers believed that a state fair should be run upon a strictly business basis; that in the conduct of a fair obligations were entered into with its patoday that did at the beginning, thirty- This system of exhibition was first in- prizes to the counties contributing in this The importance of a permanent location trens for the payment of large sums of penses also were a moral obligation upon the association and those who represent it and these expenses could not be met under the free pass system that had so generously prevailed for many years. The trimming down of free admissions was introduced and has been steadily enforced until tural sentiment of the state for a perma- the free pass applies only to those whose nent location where a fixed system of ex- business interests contribute to the ad-

> The fair of 1806, which is to commence September 3 and continue to the 7th, has, coming the property of the state has had in advance, given evidence of exceeding centralized around it a strong feeling of in extent and quality of display, in all deinterest and endorsement in making this partments, any former exhibition ever given by the state. The live stock feature is far in excess of the housing capacity of barns and pens. The agricultural show is much greater than has been made for many The prevailing sentiment throughout the years, judging from entries of counties already made. The same sweeping declara-

Chat with Inventor Alexander Graham Bell at His Washington Home

ASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—(Special which they lie are so many that if placed to end they would cital at the placed it was a still the Bee.)anger Graham Bell and asked him for a ization of more than \$300,000,000, and the chat about some of his recent scientific capitalization of the independent companies experiments. The voice was that of Dr. here and of the other companies belonging Bell himself. As it came over the wire to government and individuals in Europe it was not louder than a whisper, but its and the rest of the world is probably much, every syllable was articulate and distinct greater. and I could hear it as plainly as though I first successful communication of this kind, revolutionized the world of society, business heart thrilled at the thought of what its owner has given the human race.

It is scarcely a generation since Dr. Bell invented the means of sending articulate to presume that an equal number were usual hours for rest are from 4 until 11 a. m. uttered in Europe, Asia, South America and Australia,

Our Big Telephone Business.

American Telephone and Telegraph company. It gives no statistics outside its 6,000,000. It has in use enough wire to than enough to bind two girdles around the sun and still leave plenty over for waist if wire could be stretched through space, the Bell wires alone are enough to make around the earth, and they use so much ever enjoyed his life or work more. copper to make them that some of our greatest mines are kept busy furnishing Joseph Henry and the Telephone. It would take a big forest to supply the 8,000,000 poles to which those lines are In response to my questions it was at times

It was a still, small voice As to the money invested in the telethat reached my ears the other phone business its amount is inconceivable, night, when I called up Dr. Alex- The Bell companies alone have a capital-

These figures give some idea of what that stood before the famous inventor face to still, small voice meant when it first sent face. As I listened my mind went back to articulate sounds over the wires and therethe time when that same voice made its by began the conversations which have so

A Midnight Chat.

It required but a few words to arrange sounds over a wire, and today by that in- the interview. The time fixed was midvention the voices of all the world pass to night, for the inventor of the telephone is and fro without regard to distance. Last a night worker. He has always done the year on the Bell telephone lines alone there greater part of his experimenting and thinkwere more than 4,500,000,000 conversations, ing after dark, finding that his mind works or enough to give three talks to every man, more clearly as the world grows quiet, and woman and child upon earth and leave that it is at its best between 12 and 4 in the some to spare. Those conversations took morning. During the summer months he place in the United States and it is fair seldom goes to sleep before dawn and his

Dr. Bell's afternoons are devoted to bustness and social engagements, and his nights to reading and scientific experiments. During our talk I asked him whether his I have before me the last report of the arrangement of the hours was not injurious to health. He replied that he had not found It so, and that he far preferred it to that own business, and it practically includes of other men who work by day. Indeed, only the progress of the Bell lines in the night and day are much the same to him, United States. The figures are astound- and when he is especially interested in some ing and they should be multiplied by two of his experiments goes many hours withmore to give an adequate idea of the out sleep, working on far into the day, and telephoning of the world. The total mile- then sleeping for hours at a stretch to age of the Bell lines is now more than make up. It is by this means that he does an enormous amount of work, carrying reach 240 times around the earth; more on studies and experiments along many than enough to hind two circles around the lines, and, at the same time, keeping himself thoroughly abreast of the scientific world. He is now within a year or so of bands for Mars and the moon. Indeed, the age at which Dr. Osler said the working man should be chloroformed, but his eye is as bright, his step as firm and his mind as twenty private lines to the moon and leave active as when he made his great discovery a million odd miles to spare. The wires as to the telephone thirty odd years ago which were stretched by that company He tells me that he never felt better than during last year would go fifty-four times he does now, and I doubt whether he has

Our conversation covered a wide range

in an adjoining room through the wall into of the air or by means of the ground and locate the bullet in President Garfield's a delighted audience. The dispatch chron- the real conductor is the latter. seling the discovery was full of technical electric terms and it also contained several telephone in the near future, Dr. Bell?" proper names, founded like that of the al- asked I. leged inventor, Dr. H. E. Lix (helix), or some such scientific word. Contents of a Package. "Well, that dispatch went the round of

the press and coupled with it came the lieve that we shall soon have an automatic statement that Prof. Bell, the inventor of telephone service in which every subthe telephone, was interested in it and scriber, by means of certain buttons and green cloth. Inside the board was an electhat he had filed in the Smithsonian in- a combination of wires, will be able to call tric coil, so made that when it was moved stitution a sealed package containing a full up whomsoever he pleases without the an- over anything of a metallic substance it description with illustrations of his in- novance of the central station. When this would buzz. I could take a bullet in my vestigations. Now, the fact was that I is had filed a package, but it related to my will be much reduced, for the greater trical connections, could rub the board investigations as to the photophone or the conveyance of sound by means of rays tors will be done away with and the exof light. How it became associated with penses of operation can be made less." the helix matter I do not know. At any rate the moment my name was published in connection with it an indignant letter was printed in a reputable English scientific journal, signed by two well known professors, Ayrton and Perry, stating that neither I nor the mythical Dr. H. E. Lix had in Vienna or Budapest, I think, but whether honorary M. D." any right to claim the Arst discovery of transmitting images by wire and that they were the real discoverers of the process. A week or two later other claimants ap- by telephone, and they are now planning to peared. They came forth from different have concerts so furnished all over New parts of the United States and from Eng-

"One of the claimants was a well known As to the practicability of that invention I New York electrician, Mr. Sawyer, who, do not know, but many men believe that it like the rest, asserted that he could see is of value and that it will be a success. through a telegraph wire and could send I have not seen the machinery nor heard it any kind of an image he wished in that in operation." way from one place to another. Another published an article in the Scientific Amer- to tell me something about his attempts to can with illustrations of his invention. I answered nothing in reply to such statements. I had never made any experiments of the kind, and had no inventions to claim. After a short time it appeared that the claimants themselves were in the same situation. They were frauds, pure and simple, and some of them undoubtedly had put forth their statements with the idea of lows, at the Grand Lodge ses- has been a practicing lawyer there for filing interferences if the invention as al- sion. The new chancellor has been promi- eighteen years. For eight years he has leged should prove to be a practical suc- nent in Pythian circles for twelve years. been justice of the peace.

CGHA."

"How about Elisha Gray?" "Prof. Gray made his claims, I celleve, at the instance of his lawyers, and largely through the influence of the directors of a great telegraph company, who then feared that the telephone might injure the connected with his many inventions, and knowledge is weak. There are many diffi- telegraph. He had, however, fortunately now scientific, as I asked him as to the culties to be overcome and I fear I have for nie written me a letter of congratulation upon learning that I had made my dis. "'Well, then, you better get it,' said covery and disclaiming it for himself; and this letter was brought forth as evidence I with the other testimony before the courts, tion of sheep, and as to his present work cannot tell you how much they encouraged Prof. Gray and myself were working at on his flying machine. Another part I give me. I did go to work again and it was multiplex telegraphy at about the same you today in the conversation which fol- the result of that work which enabled me time; and his discoveries were so much like to bring about my final success. My pat- mine that I was for a time afraid of him ent for the telephone was granted just and thought he had some way of getting at was for that reason that I changed my laboratory. When I afterwards met Prof. "Suppose Prof. Henry had advised you to Gray I realised that his character was such publish your discoveries and you had done that he could not have done anything of so, Dr. Beil," said I. "What would have the kind I had imagined and I regretted

> Telephoning Without Wires. "Will we ever have a wireless telephone,

called upon him at the Smithsonian institu- known there sprang up claims of prior in- "I think it is possible, though the dising. The tick was a peculiar one, and I to work along the same lines or whether I motor beginning to run the street cars. At Acqueduct bridge while in another boat

will remain practically as it is, but I do been invented. Said Dr. Bell: expect changes in the machinery to facilitate the uses of such transmission. I beaccomplished the cost of telephoning part of the vast army of telephone opera- over the back of my hand and the result

buttons by which the news can be turned off and on?"

"I don't know about that," said Dr. Bell. "Such an attempt was made not long ago it was a success or not I am unable to say. Inventions have been recently made by which music can be carried long distances music to thousands of subscribers at once.

During my talk with Dr. Bell I asked him

He was a member of the judiciary com-

a hall and to throw it on a screen before water. It may be found that in all cases body. It will be remembered that when Guiteau shot the president the X-ray had "Do you look for many changes in the not been discovered. The surgeons probed again and again. Other experiments were made to find where the bullet lay, and "Not in the improvement of the trans- among them some by means of Dr. Bell's mission of sound," said Dr. Bell. "That inductive balance, which had then just

"My instrument consisted of a piece of mahogany board of about the size and shape of a flatiron. It had a handle upon the top, and its bottom was covered with a hand, and having made the proper elecwould be a loud buzzing noise, the sound being loudest when the coil was over the "How about having newspapers by tele- bullet. The instrument afterward proved phone with readers at a central station and to be of great value for this purpose in hospitals, although it failed in connection with President Garfield. It was on account of that invention that the University of Heidelberg gave me the degree of

> "What was the cause of the failure, doctor?"

"It is easy to see now," was the reply, "although we did not realize it at the time, We took the machine to the White House York, giving the best of classic and other and tried it upon the president with the assistance of Surgeon General Hamilton. We moved it all over the person of the president, and to our surprise the machine began to buzz whenever it came near him. According to it, he was full of lead, and the result was that we left the White

(Continued on Page Seven.)

New Head of Iowa Knights of Pythias

FERRIS, of Sloux City, was mittee during the revision of the laws of elected without opposition to the the order and has been a member of the office of Grand Chancellor of the Grand Tribunal for three years. Mr. Ferris Knights of Pythias, Domain of is a prominent attorney of Sloux City and



a wire, and had been able by this means wireless telegraphy is brought about by F. L. FERRIS OF SIOUX CITY, NEW GRAND CHANCELLOR IOWA KNIGHT to convey the image of a sussy cat kent the signals being carried by the medium.

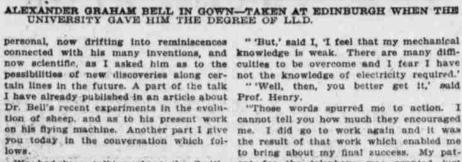
Ezra Meeker on His Long Journey Overland

expects to finish his journey at Indianapo- Savin of Lexington.

ST January the newspapers an- lis. Near Lexington one of his oxen died, nounced that were lacever had and he was forced to purchase a cow to started from Scattle, Wash., to take its place, as he could not secure anmark with monuments the old other ox. He erected a monument on the 'Oregon Trail." It was on Janu- Platte river, about six miles south of Lex-August 13 he was at Lexington, Neb., 2,000 Creek in the days of "the .vail." The miles from his starting point and almost a photograph from which the accompanying thousand miles from his destination. He picture is made was taken by the Misses



EZRA MEEKER AND HIS OUTFIT AT LEXINGTON NEB



We had been talking about the Smithsonian institute, of which Dr. Bell is one about two years before Prof. Henry died." the secrets of my laboratory work. of the regents, and of the late secretary, Dr. S. P. Langley, who was one of Dr. Bell's intimate friends, when I asked him whether he had known Joseph Henry, the first secretary and director of that institution. Dr. Bell replied:

"I became acquainted with Prof. Henry "I might have lost my invention and my namics, having constructed an electro-mag- good reputations. netle telegraph long before the invention asked him to advise me whether I had bet-

much better to keep the matter secret and work along by myself."

" 'But,' said I. 'I feel that my mechanical pessibilities of new discoveries along cer- not the knowledge of electricity required."

"Those words spurred me to action.

Dangers of Publicity.

been the result?"

when I was still working on the telephone work would have been claimed and stolen and he was kind to me. It was a year or by others. As it was, as soon as the pracso before my patent, was granted, when I tical advantages of the telephone became Dr. Bell?" I asked.

to convey the image of a sussy cat kept the signals being carried by the medium

my unjust suspicions."

tion and explained my ideas as to the con-vention on all sides. A number of well tance of its use may be limited. I rememstruction of an instrument which would known electricians appeared, each an- ber some experiments I once made not far carry vocal sounds. I was then interested nouncing himself the original inventor, and from the Cambridge observatory near Bosalso in multiplex telegraphy, and we talked numerous claims and interferences were ton. We had driven two pokers into the about that. Prof. Henry was a man of re- filed against my patent. This is the case ground a few hundred feet apart and had markable ability along the lines upon with nearly every successful patent that connected them by wire. As soon as the which I was working. He had made many is issued, and claims have been filed for connection was made I put the receiver to discoveries in electricity and in electro-dy- such infringements by men bearing fairly my car and heard a clock distinctly tick-"Some of the most remarkable instances recognized it as that of the clock on the of Prof. Morse. He appeared much inter- of this kind," continued Dr. Bell, "were in Cambridge observatory, which set the time ested in my experiments and I determined reference to a newspaper hoax which was for the greater part of Boston. Upon to ask his advice about the apparatus perpetrated by some was a few years after studying the matter I concluded that the which I had designed for the transmission the telephone had become a success. If I sound was conducted by the ground to my of the human voice by means of an electric remember correctly, it was along about receiver. A short time later I tried some wire. After I had explained the idea I 1880, when many new things were being experiments as to wireless telephony on the discovered in electricity, when the electric Potomac here at Washington, and I was ter publish my discoveries and let others go light was superseding gas and the electric able to hear signals made on a boat at the should keep at it and attempt to solve the this time an item was published to the stationed as far down the river as the effect that Dr. H. E. Lix of Maunch Washington monument. In this case the "He replied that he thought I had the Chunk, Pa., or some other town of that water acted as the conductor. Indeed it is germ of a great invention and that I would kind, had discovered a way to "see through a question whether what we now know as