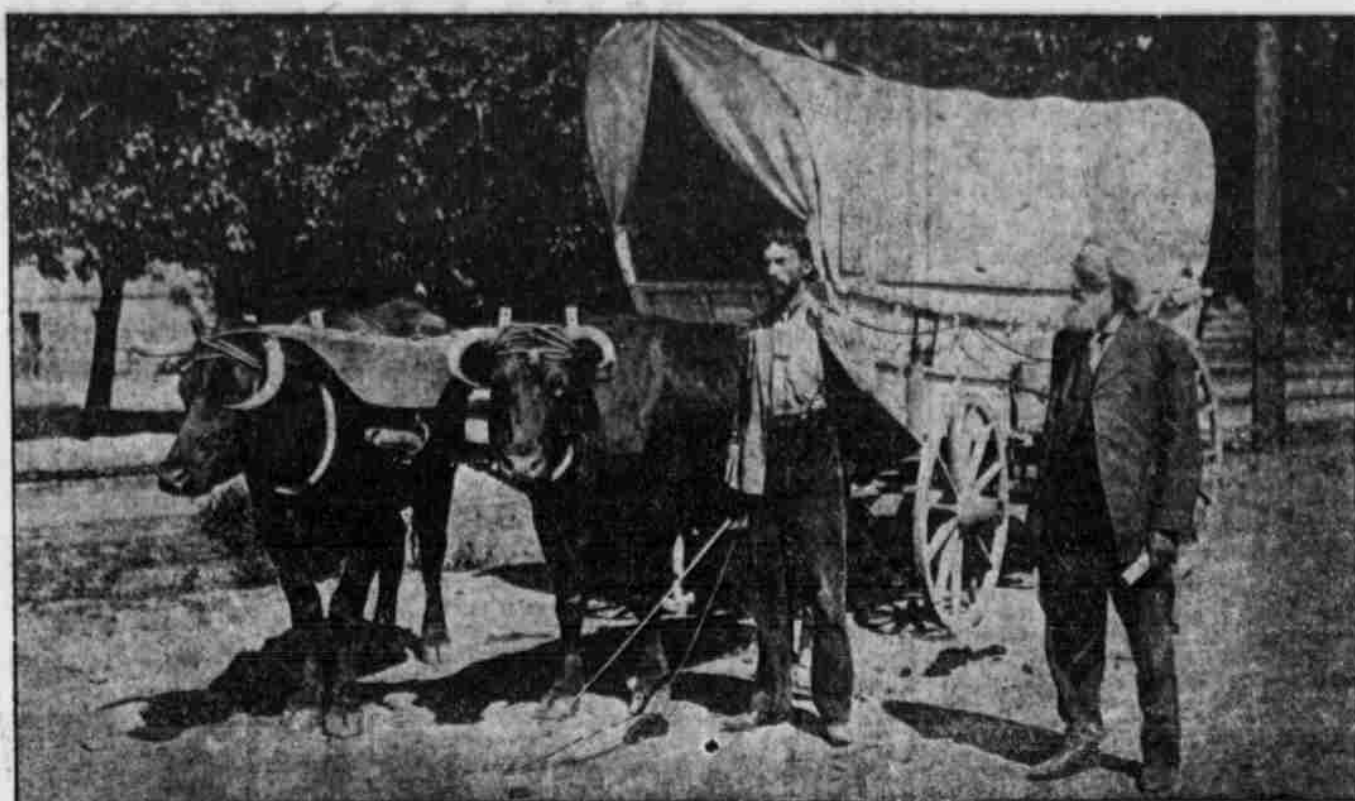


Marking Route of Oregon Trail is Ezra Meeker's Labor of Love



ON A BRIDGE WHERE ONCE HE FORDED.



EZRA MEEKER AND HIS OUTFIT.



SUMMIT MONUMENT IN SOUTH PASS.

As enthusiastic as a school boy; as strong, mentally and physically, as a man thirty years his junior, Ezra Meeker, age 76 years, is traveling overland from Puyallup, Wash., to Indianapolis, Ind., the place he left fifty-four years ago in a prairie schooner hitched to a yoke of oxen. Mr. Meeker is making the return trip in exactly the same way he journeyed westward, in a prairie schooner hitched to a yoke of oxen. It is true the oxen are not the same, but a great portion of the wagon is making the trip for a second time.

Mr. Meeker made his first trip across the continent in 1852 in search of a western home, as did hundreds of his neighbors. His return trip is made in the interest of history. He is marking off the old Oregon trail, traveled by thousands and thousands in the pioneer days.

Time has obliterated many of the old landmarks and the old Oregon trail, known throughout the country as the great road-way to the west, is traced more deeply in the minds of the pioneers than on the country which it traverses. It outlined its usefulness, and has long since given away to the railroad, and the country through which it was forced, then a wilderness, rich only in prospects, is covered with towns and cities, farms and ranches, far beyond the dreams of the travelers of long ago. It is in such a country as this, under such changed conditions, that Ezra Meeker, the rugged old pioneer, is picking out the trail of fifty-four years ago.

Marking the Old Route.
His is a stupendous task, but so indelibly impressed upon his mind was that trip of a half-century ago that he is having little trouble in picking out the identical route. The rugged old historian has come as far as Omaha without difficulty. At regular intervals along his route he has, with the aid of the people from whom he and others blazed the way, erected suitable monuments to mark the trail, so that he who comes after will be able to pick out without difficulty the trail of his forefathers.

The plan of operation is simple. Mr. Meeker marks the place and then calls upon the people of the city or town near where he desires to leave a mark, to erect a monument, and in every case so far they have responded. The size of the monument depends upon the liberality of the donors. From Washington to Omaha nineteen monuments have been erected. As soon as he determines the exact location of the original Missouri river crossing Mr. Meeker will call upon the people of Omaha to contribute to a fund to erect at that place a monument in keeping with the city which is the gateway of the west. At the time when the traveler made his first trip across the plains Omaha was not on the map. Council Bluffs then was known as Faneville, a mere trading station and the end of civilization.

Looking for an Ox.
For some time Mr. Meeker has been tied up at Lincoln with his outfit and he will remain there until he secures another ox to complete his team, one having recently died. He has had great difficulty in securing what he wants, for the days of the ox teams are over in Nebraska and the great west. The faithful old beasts have done their work and are no more. It is merely an incident in the many changes which have occurred in the fifty-four years. Mr. Meeker has always kept a team of oxen at his home, a reminder of the strenuous days of long ago, where strength and endurance counted most, but, as luck would

have it, one of these died just previous to his start. At the stock yards in his locality he secured a mate for his remaining ox, and he is again watching the Omaha stock yards for one that can match the surviving member of his team. His oxen come first in all his calculations, said Mr. Meeker, for it is upon them he is absolutely dependent, and the death of one of them greatly affected the traveler.

Lives Along the Route.
Mr. Meeker, accompanied by his granddaughter, Miss Bertha Templeton, left Puyallup, Wash., January 23, 1906, and is making the trip by easy stages. His old-fashioned prairie schooner is fitted up for housekeeping and in it he spends his days

and nights as comfortable as in his own beautiful home in the western state. He has not been sick, he said, for fifty-four years and he looks it. In fact, he looks as though he never knew what sickness was. He is strong and rugged and apparently capable of enduring any kind of hardship. He has no date fitted for his final arrival at Indianapolis and is much more interested in marking out exactly the old Oregon trail, as his contribution to the history of the west, than he is in arrival at his destination.

Type of the Pioneer.
In appearance Ezra Meeker is the typical pioneer. He is tall and straight, notwithstanding his 76 years and his hard life

on the plains. His hair and beard are white and long, making him conspicuous in any crowd. He wears the regulation sombrero. He is well built and seems as hard as a rock, capable of hard work and hard knocks. In conversation he is pleasant and his enthusiasm over the Oregon trail is catching. He talks more of his return trip than he does of the trip of long ago, when every pioneer who crossed the continent did so, at the peril of his life. The return trip is just the opposite. There are no Indians to fight; there are few hardships to endure; it is more like a holiday.

Nature's Face is Changed.
The changes that have been made, said

the traveler, "are marvelous. No imagination can conceive it. The entire face of the country is changed. With the exception of about 300 miles through the Rocky mountains the country is thickly settled, but even in this country things have changed. The vegetation has changed. The old buffalo grass is no more and other grasses have come on to take its place. What caused these changes I do not know, but they are there. The country I passed over fifty-four years ago is nothing like the country I am going over today. Mountains, rivers, valleys, prairies, hills, all are different. It seems impossible for me to realize that the vast wilderness we traveled over such a short time ago is now built up with magnificent cities and

villages and the never-ending prairies have been transferred into great forests and elegant homesteads. The increase in the number of forests is wonderful to me. We traveled days without seeing a tree and now the entire way almost is shady."

Route to the Sound.
In making his westward trip Mr. Meeker went up the Platte river, through South Pass, down Snake river to the Columbia, down through Oregon to Puget sound. At the last place he located, probably because he had come to the jumping off place, but for fifty-four years he has stayed there, he and his wife, and during that time, so he said, neither had been sick a day. In those days the traveler was only 22 years of age

and he was accompanied by his young wife and their one child. He at once began raising hops, which has been his business ever since. The introduction of machinery and the growing demands for his products caused him to make a dozen or more trips back to the east, but those trips were made aboard the "varnished cars," consequently he knew only in a general way of the vast changes which have occurred.

People Encourage Enterprise.
Since leaving Washington on his historical mission 20,000 people have contributed to the erection of monuments. At Baker City, Ore., the monument was erected by contributions received from 800 school children, and these were all present when the monument was dedicated. At Boise, Idaho, Mr. Meeker was given a most cordial reception. At the invitation of the city officers he camped for several days beside the postoffice. He spoke to the public school children of his object and 1,500 contributed to purchase the granite monument which will mark the place where the old-timers passed through what is now a thriving city. The governor of the state and the other state officers insisted that the slab be erected on the state house yard, and it was, in the presence of over 3,000 people, the state officers participating in the exercises. The monument at this place is twelve feet high.

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Daily Paper for Exporters Printed by Uncle Sam

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WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 20.—(Special Correspondence to The Bee.)—I have just had a talk with the chief of the bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor as to what Uncle Sam is doing to increase his foreign trade. This bureau is one of the most important branches of the government. Our foreign trade is rapidly increasing and our domestic exports are now greater than those of any other nation. We sold to foreign countries more than \$1,700,000,000 worth of goods during the year ended June 30, 1906, and of this more than \$900,000,000 consisted of manufactures. It used to be that the meat of our wealth came from the farms. Today we have about \$10,000,000,000 invested in manufacturing plants, and those plants are now turning out something like \$15,000,000,000 worth of goods every year. This enormous output is more than we can consume, and if the plants are to be kept busy, we must have increased markets for our surplus abroad. It is the business of the bureau of manufactures to aid in finding such markets, and also an outlet for our enormous surplus of agricultural products, a monument of which last year approximated \$1,000,000,000.

Consular Reports.
It takes a good man to be chief of a bureau like this, and President Roosevelt chose well when he selected Major John M. Carson for the position. Major Carson has for thirty years and more been one of the leading newspaper correspondents at Washington, and as such he has been noted as an authority on all matters connected with manufactures and commerce. He was a close associate of McKinley's, and as clerk of the ways and means committee he assisted in forming the tariff acts of 1893 and the famous McKinley bill of 1890. Indeed, he is the originator of the system of utilizing our consuls as business agents, or at least of making their reports of actual value to our exporters and manufacturers. It used to be that when the consuls made reports they were stuck away in pigeon-holes until the end of the year, when they came out in a bulky volume known as the Commercial Relations of the United States. This volume went only to congressmen and government officials, and it was of no practical value to the business men of the country. This was the condition up until William M. Evarts became secretary of

state, away back in the days of Rutherford B. Hayes. About that time Major Carson, having noted the valuable business news contained in these reports, suggested to Secretary Evarts that they ought to be given to the press when they were fresh, and the result was that Evarts issued them as a monthly magazine and sent them out all over the country. This publication was continued until about a year or so ago, when the State Department published the reports as a daily. Then came the transfer of the United States consuls as business agents to the bureau of manufactures of the Department of Commerce and Labor and the appointment of Major Carson as chief and as editor of the daily. As to the work since then and as to the possibilities of the future I can give them best in the words of Major Carson himself.

Uncle Sam's Daily.
"We have materially changed the 'daily,' which the government publishes, giving the latest trade matters," said Major Carson. "As it was issued by the State Department, the consuls wrote on all sorts of things, gathering their information from a variety of sources and roaming the world for subjects. A consul at Lyons, France, for instance, might send in an essay on Confucius, or one in South Africa a treatise on the raising of silk worms in China. An agent situated at the key port of Vladivostok might discuss the heat rays of the equator, and a consul at Paris, at the mouth of the Amazon, describe the course of the icebergs on their way down from the pole. As it is now we are devoting ourselves to reports on trade matters only and are largely confining the investigations of the consuls to their own districts and as to how American trade may be pushed in those districts. We are cutting out the essays and superfluous matter and are gathering live, up-to-date information about our foreign trade and its possibilities from various other sources. We have materially improved the 'daily' in its value to our exporting and manufacturing interests and we find that it is more and more appreciated from day to day. It now goes to every large manufacturer of the country as well as to every exporter of note. It has such a standing abroad that the consular agents send it to their governments and the foreign newspapers quote largely from it. I got a request the other day from the editors of the London Times that it be sent regularly to them and we now have the London Times on our exchange list."

"How many copies do you publish?" I asked.
"The number of copies issued daily is only 6,000, but that gives no idea of our circulation," said Major Carson. "Those 6,000 copies reach our whole population. They are sent to all the leading newspapers, and the editors quote and comment upon them. Many of the reports are telegraphed to the papers from Washington, being taken from the 'daily' as they appear, and important reports are also called abroad. We aim to send the 'daily' to every large exporter and manufacturing firm. We send it also to the industrial schools, and to all parties who are financially interested in foreign trade."

Government Reports.
"Tell me something about your machinery for getting business information?"
"We have, as you know, the American consuls. One is located at every trade center, and they are required by law to respond to such inquiries, giving us such information as we call for. There are about 60 consuls and they sent us last year more than 4,000 different reports. In addition to that we watch the newspapers and magazines, and we call out any authentic information of value. We also get the reports issued by the British, German and other governments, and make such extracts from them as will interest our people. Indeed, we try to gather such information from every source as will promote American trade and enable our people to get it. We aim to put the information in the shortest possible space and in the plainest possible way."

Keeping Trade Secrets.
"But is it advisable to give the reports of our consuls to the world at large? Should they not be sent under bond of secrecy to our manufacturers and exporters only?"
"Some things are kept secret, but we believe that others can be published to advantage. The nations of Europe are more scrupulously guarding their secrets from year to year. The Germans, for instance, now publish but few of the business suggestions of their consuls, and they circulate their trade reports only among their own manufacturers and exporters, with injunctions that they must not be sent abroad. Great Britain, which has been publishing its consular reports, is now considering whether they should not be withheld from the public and the British press, strange to say, is advocating their nonpublication. We

know that our consular reports are sent abroad as soon as they are published. The agents of the German government cable everything of value, and such cables relate to every branch of manufacture and trade. Some of our consuls, for instance, write us that they hear of their own resins first through Berlin rather than through the United States. The cable is now largely used in trade matters and by its means Berlin is brought as close to Philadelphia as New York, Baltimore or Philadelphia."

Progressive Germany.
"What nation pushes its foreign trade best, Major Carson?"
"The Germans are far ahead of all others as to such matters," replied the chief of the manufactures bureau. "The various industries there are thoroughly organized as to foreign markets and the government does all it can to help them. Industrial and technical schools have been established with a view to foreign trade, and young men are sent abroad to be trained as commercial travelers. They learn the language of the country in which they are to work; they study the patterns most liked by the people and know all about credits and the methods of doing business. In nearly all the foreign countries the Germans have resident agents at the chief ports with sub-agents throughout the interior. Such agents often intermarry with the people of the countries where they are stationed. The German government offers also special inducements as to freight rates on goods intended for export."

"What other nations are increasing their trade?"
"The Italians are fast coming to the front as manufacturers and exporters. They are sending more and more goods to South America and especially to Argentina and Brazil. This is largely because there are about 1,000,000 Italians in Argentina and an almost equal number in Brazil."

Uncle Sam and Manufacturers.
"What arrangements have you for giving information to our manufacturers and exporters?" I asked.
"We are now making a classified catalogue of all the manufacturers and exporters of the United States and we shall have a cross reference card index system by which we can tell at a glance anything we want to know about them. Shortly after I took charge of the bureau I sent out 40,000 circulars to our various manufacturers and men interested in foreign trade, asking for detailed information regarding their commodities for export, their capital, output and system of doing business. I have received many responses and we are tabulating and card indexing the information."

"As it is now when we receive a report from one of our consuls as to a demand for certain classes of goods we send out letters to the persons making such goods, reaching them by our card index. A great deal of this matter does not go into the shoe and shoe we send it to the shoe manufacturer only, and if it is of a good market for plows we send it only to the plow men. There is no use in circulating the report about manufacturers as to where to sell agricultural implements, and the plow makers don't care for up-to-date information about shoes. Spinning of boots and shoes, we sometimes get up reports for special branches of trade, showing what is doing in those branches all over the world. We did that for the boot and shoe trade, furnishing the manufacturer with a list of the dealers in every consular district and describing the sort of shoes used and how they should be marketed."

Our Special Trade Agents.
"You have some special traveling agents who go from country to country, reporting on American trade and how it may be increased, have you not?"
"Yes. There are four such men now abroad. They were provided for by a congressional appropriation to investigate our foreign trade. Last year they visited Central and South America, Canada, Mexico and Cuba, and also China and Japan. One of our agents is now in Egypt, and he will go thence to East India."

"Can you give me some idea as to how these agents work?"
"They are under the direction of the bureau of manufactures," said Major Carson, "and they act according to the instructions of the department. They are told to investigate the industrial and commercial conditions of possible markets and the states of other nations in those markets, with special attention to advancing the products and manufactures of the United States. They have to inquire into the products and manufactures of the people of each country, the cost of production, the prices at which things are sold,

the customs duties and in fact all information that might be of value to our manufacturers. In fact, their instructions cover the gathering of all sorts of commercial, industrial and financial information such as is needed by our exporters or those who manufacture for foreign trade."

Information for Our Cotton Mills.
Such reports as we are gathering through these agents are of great value to the industries of the United States," continued the chief of the bureau of manufactures. "Take those we get as to our cotton trade with China, for instance. By our instructions the agents collected samples of every kind and pattern of cotton goods imported there. They reported where each pattern came from, how it was shipped, how sold and its price. They told how the cotton was used, giving the quantities sold, the popularity of certain kinds and their cost at wholesale and retail. The agents sent in about 175 different kinds of goods, with full details concerning them, including all technical information regarding the value of the manufactures."

"But how could you get such matter to manufacturers?"
"We did not send it to them direct, but so arranged it that it reached every chamber of commerce and board of trade in the cotton manufacturing states. In the first place we printed a description of each kind of goods, giving the width, weight and price. We also described its uses and the methods of putting the goods up for sale, as well as the wholesale and retail prices. This was printed on a card half the size of a sheet of foolscap. Below the printed matter was a photograph of the goods, showing the pattern and on the bottom was pasted a sample of the material. We sent out altogether about 8,500 or 10,000 of such cards, giving full information as to the cotton trade of China. They attracted a great deal of attention and the factors and exporters from everywhere came to see them. We expected to do the same, wherever it is practicable, for every branch of American industry, and that as to every country in which a market for our goods may be created."

American Cottons in China.
"How about the present market for our cottons in China, Major Carson?" I asked.
"It is large and rapidly growing. Last year exports of cotton piece goods to that country amounted to about \$45,000,000, and of that nearly \$34,000,000 worth went to China. We sell most of the white and gray goods and also the blue cottons which the Chinese wear. The English are ahead of us in dyed and printed goods. They have been pushing that trade for generations and have established resident agents with branches to sell their product. As for us, we have no agents to speak of and our goods have to sell themselves."

"How much cotton did England send to China last year?"
"Her sales amounted to \$50,000,000 against our \$34,000,000. She sold more cotton goods to China than we sold to the entire world outside the United States, and that was of manufactures for which we furnished the raw materials. The possibilities of our cotton industry are shown by the fact that a bale of cotton worth \$50 is made into handkerchiefs will sell for many thousand dollars, and the difference equals the profits of capital and labor. We ought to manufacture these things ourselves and do the exporting. Last year England exported cotton goods to the amount of \$45,000,000 and two-thirds of that amount went to Asia."

Other Openings in China.
"What other openings did your special agents find in China?"
"They reported upon many things," said the chief of the bureau of manufactures. "The Chinese world is just opening. It has 40,000,000 inhabitants and with the adoption of western civilization, which now seems possible, it is to be a land of railroads and modern machinery. The chances for American trade are enormous and they enter into every branch of industry. There are opportunities of all kinds, and that not only as to the future, but as to the present. During their stay our agents collected samples of every kind of boot and shoe worn in the empire. They took the shoes as a whole and in the parts ready for assembling and shipped them to us. Those samples have been sent to various shoe manufacturers throughout the United States in the order of their application, and they have also been shown at the shoe and leather fair at Chicago. Our agents had samples of Chinese wheelbarrows made and sent here, with a full description of them, their use and their cost and selling prices. Wheelbarrows are the freight cars of China, and they are used by the tens of thousands throughout the empire. It is possible that a great industry might be

built up in manufacturing them here and in sending them, knocked down, across the Pacific. We have done the same as to the jinriksha, the little carriage pulled by men, which is in common use in Japan and other parts of the far east."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Pointed Paragraphs

About the dearest thing on earth is a cheap man.
Poets and students of astronomy have a far-away look.
Nature probably backed the camel up to win the animal race.

Occasionally the first to propose a reform is the last to accept it.
Don't allow your dogs, your children or your troubles to trouble your neighbors.
When a widower marries a widow they are both unselfish; neither of them thinks of No. 1.

When a married woman throws a hint it is reasonably sure to strike her husband's pocketbook.
A charitable man gives according to his means and a miser gives according to his meanness.

And no man realizes what a valuable asset a wife is until he has occasion to put his property in her name.

It sometimes happens that a man wonders how his wife can be so bright and cheerful the next morning when he has such an awful headache.—Chicago News.

Reflections of a Bachelor

A girl knows an awful lot to be able to make men think that her knowing nothing is better than if she did.

When a woman doesn't approve low-necked gowns it's like finding money to bathe she doesn't have to take anti-fat remedies.

No woman is ever so sympathetic with a widow over her loss as to force her to examine carefully the kind-of mourning she is wearing.

If a man ever got up early enough to eat his breakfast without yawning it all at once he might think the cook earned her wages.

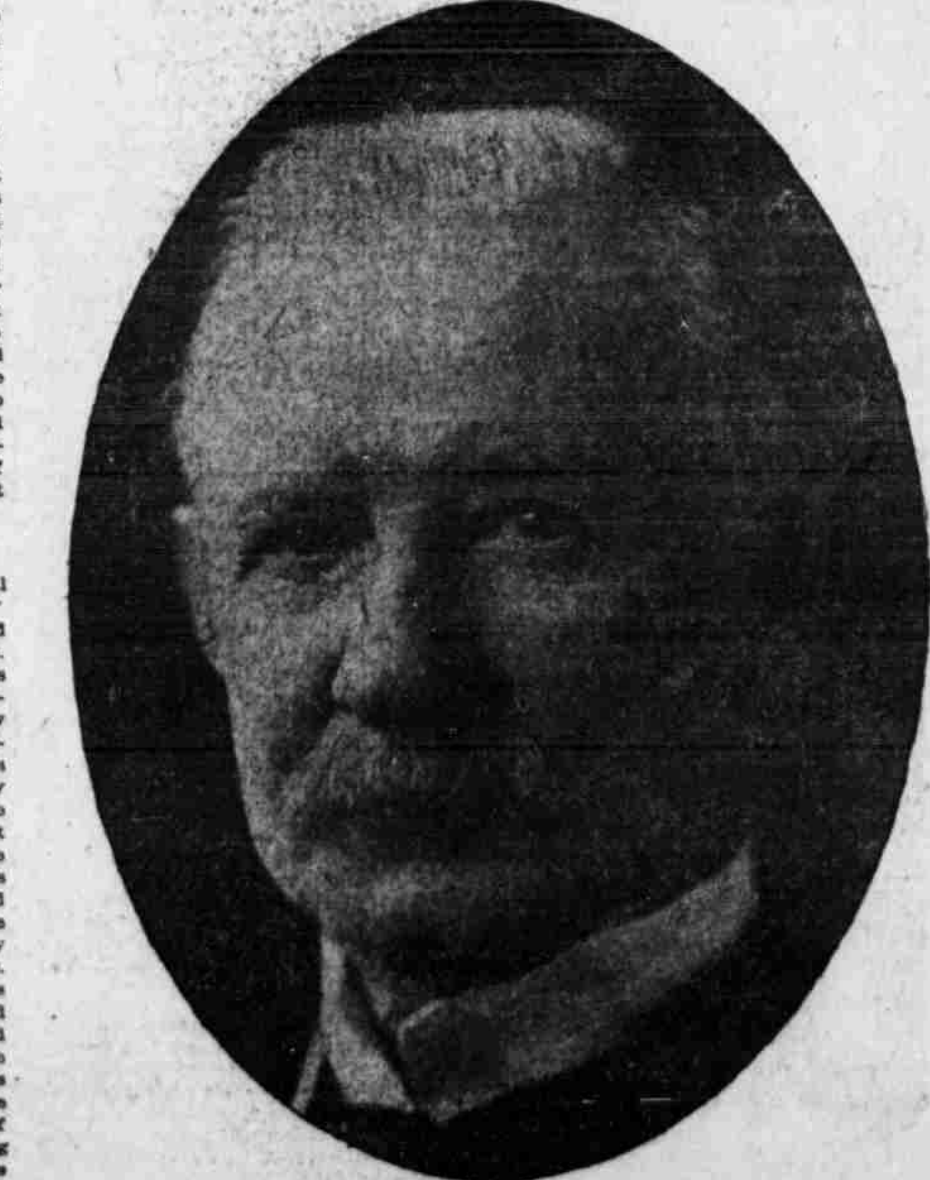
There's hardly anything makes a humorist madder than to read a joke somewhere and have you get it off on him before he can say you.—New York Press.

Editor of Uncle Sam's Daily Newspaper.

New Pastor Omaha First M. E. Church



REV. FRANK LAFAYETTE LOVELAND.



MAJOR JOHN M. CARSON.