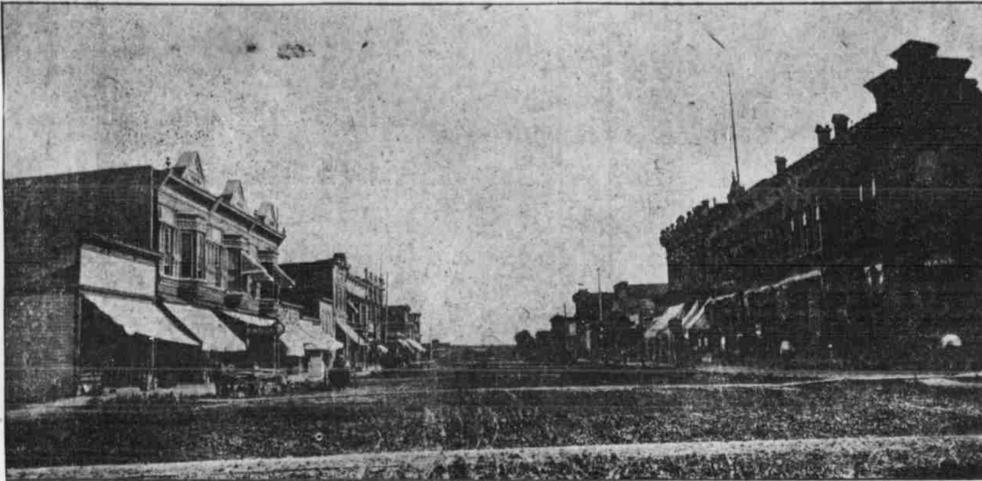


# KINGDOM OF GAGE WHERE PLENTY FOLLOWS THE PLOW

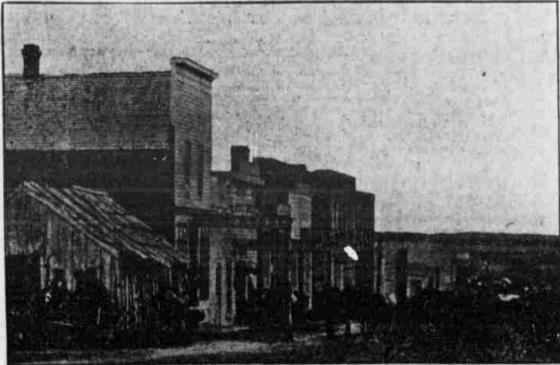
Scene of the First Homestead Filing in the United States Has Become One of the Richest Gems in Nebraska's Crown of Jewels, Whose Luster Grows More and More Brilliant Yearly



MAIN STREET, WYMORE, GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.



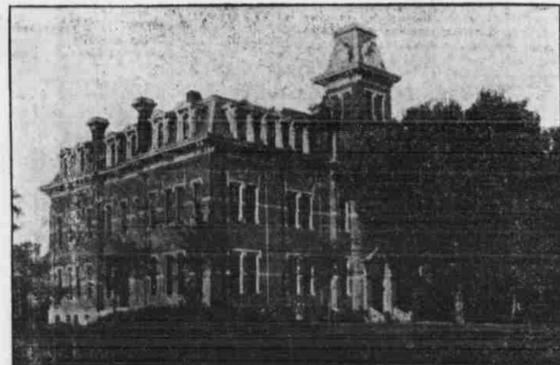
SCENE ON FARM OF HENRY HARMS, GAGE COUNTY.



MAIN STREET, BEATRICE, IN 1860.



SIXTH STREET, LOOKING SOUTH, BEATRICE.



HIGH SCHOOL AT BEATRICE.

THINGS are not what they seem in Gage county. Each day's experience compels the stranger to believe things he cannot see and see things he cannot believe. It is hard to believe this county is of one common wealth, bounded by one common destiny. It is unlike any other county in the state. It cannot fairly be judged by comparison with any other. Climate is an illusive thing. You enjoy it most when you realize it least. But the Gage county people are a bit too insistent on that subject. Everywhere they buttonhole you and tell about maximum and minimum temperatures, rainfall and sunshine, until you feel like a combination barometer, thermometer and weather vane. However charming the climate, there is always one question of more vital interest. What does it produce? How can one make a living. Gage county is one of the large, rich counties of the state. It is well supplied with railroads and water power and has several uncommon, thrifty villages. It has 864 square miles of territory and produced in one year 7,164,000 bushels of corn, about 2,000,000 of wheat, also 1,200,000 bushels of oats. It is an excellent farming country and nearly the entire county is under a high state of cultivation.

Beatrice, the county seat, is located about the center of the county. It is rated as the third largest city in the state, with a population of about 15,000. It is located sixty miles west of the Missouri river and eighteen miles north of the Kansas line. It is supplied with three railroads and excellent water power. It is decidedly the best manufacturing town in the state for its size, as it has more than thirty factories and manufacturing plants. One of these plants has an annual business of \$1,250,000 a year and employs about 400 men. This city has uncommonly good streets, mostly paved with brick. This city has a good electric light plant, located fifteen miles distant, and two gas companies. The schools of Beatrice rank among the best in the west and employ over fifty teachers. The city is now erecting a new school building at a cost of \$80,000.

The pulse of public prosperity is the bank deposits. In all the lines of industry which together make up the great sum total of material wealth and prosperity there are none more essential or of greater importance than the character and extent of banking institutions. Beatrice is as well equipped with sound and excellent conducted banks as any city of its size in the state. The bankers of Beatrice have prospered because they are careful, prudent, wise. What they have made they have saved. The banks are strong because their

owners are strong. The people are under them and back of them. The city has a Chautauqua established some twenty years ago that is said to be the third largest in the United States. The public library is the pride of the entire city. But few cities the size of Beatrice are as well supplied with churches of different denominations as this city. The city is fortunate in having two strong and well conducted daily newspapers and it is especially fortunate in having a live, active and progressive commercial club. In 1862 Daniel Freeman, who recently died at Beatrice, made the first homestead filing recorded in the United States in Gage county.

The fruit of the pioneer ripened into the full measure of wealth and refinement; their names may not live in history, but they were the sturdy pioneers who subdued the wilderness. Some of them lie in graves beside the old emigrant trail; in green graves covered with the flowers of remembrance, far beyond the crags over which they stood more like gods than men, and some of the gallant band are yet in the busy world awaiting the final summons beyond the snow and frost line.

The watchword of the people of Beatrice for the last year has been "Onward." It has seemed to be in the minds and purpose of the people to advance the city's interest in every respect and, hand in hand, the capitalists and the laboring class has tolled for the up-building of the entire city and county.

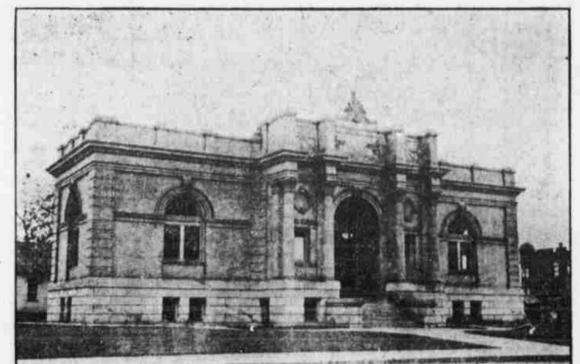
The railroads, the banks, the merchants and the newspapers have done much for this entire county. But how about the farmers? The man with the hoe, the man behind the plow, the man who has made a garden of the former American desert, the man who has planted the orchards and the groves in every direction as far as the eye can reach. All credit to the man who began the work of development as a freighter, all credit to the railroad, all credit to the manufacturer, the merchant and the school teacher. But let us not forget the man who, with his oxen, first began to break the raw prairies in the creation of a farm home—the settler and the homesteader; to him is due the credit. He is the man who has proved that the soil of Gage county would reap an abundant harvest of almost every known agricultural crop; he is the man who had the sand and the hardihood, the bravery to lead the way into the wilderness which had been counted a barren soil and bring forth results of untold wealth to mankind. It was the homesteader who really discovered Gage county. All honor to such a man. Make way for him and his followers. His day is now at hand.

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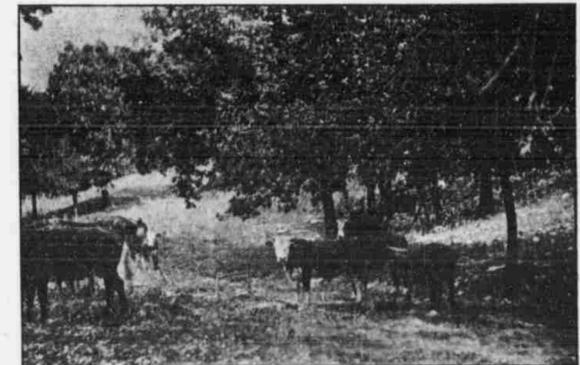
tionary junta in New York, of which Estrada Palma was president. When the Spanish war was over he returned to Cuba. He was identified with the city government of Havana under General Ludlow and was a delegate to the constitutional convention. In the revolution of 1906 he was a real leader. Although knowing well that he was suspected by the government, he remained in the city operating for fully a week after the outbreak of the revolution. The government finally determined to arrest him and others, but he received advance news and when the secret service men entered the front door of his house he escaped by way of the roof, descended to the street through another house and escaped in a waiting automobile. The revolution was a success and Secretary of War Taft and Assistant Secretary of State Bacon came as peace commissioners. Zayas conducted the negotiations. The liberals were not looking for much more than amnesty and possibly a new election, but Zayas so cleverly managed the affair that they practically got the government.



MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST, BEATRICE.



PUBLIC LIBRARY, BEATRICE.



ON THE FARM OF JAMES CRAWFORD, GAGE COUNTY.

HAVANA, Jan. 27.—General Jose Miguel Gomez, the new Cuban president, and Dr. Alfredo Zayas, the new vice president, are two of the most picturesque figures in a land full of persons with histories and dark or brilliant pasts. Of the two Zayas has probably had the more varied and tempestuous career, for not only has he been active in a revolutionary way against Spain and later against the moderate government of the republic, but he has also passed several years in Spanish prisons in the Mediterranean and in Africa. Jose Miguel Gomez is a strong-looking man, and with him rests the responsibility for the life of the new Cuban republic. He himself says that had Palma in 1906 hanged a few of the conspirators he would never have been overthrown. This is probably true, and might have been demonstrated had Palma included Jose Miguel Gomez in the list of the first condemned to die for treason. Gomez's opinion on the subject indicates the course he will follow in the event of a conspiracy against his rule, and if he does follow such a course Cuba is pretty sure to

## Prominent Position Occupied by Gomez and Zayas in Cuban History

have peace while Gomez sits in the presidential chair. There were probably never two more bitter political enemies than Gomez and Zayas in their campaign against each other last summer. They fought hard and long under the party names of Miguelistas and Zayistas. Zayas was worsted in the municipal and provincial elections of August 1. Shortly afterward the two factions united on account of the success of the conservatives in that election, due entirely to the division of votes between the two liberal factions. The fight between Gomez and Zayas arose from the nomination of the two for the places they now hold by the liberal party in 1905. In that year the liberals did not go to the polls and the moderates took everything. The election was unfair and it brought about the successful revolt of 1906 and the intervention and establishment of the provisional government. As the intervention went on Zayas began to work for the presidency. Gomez vigor-

ously objected. He declared that the ticket of 1905 should remain intact despite the intervening events. Zayas said that anyone who could get it was entitled to the liberal nomination. This brought the break and both started in upon a fierce political battle. When the elections of August 1 showed that if the liberals wished to elect a president they must combine against the growing strength of the conservatives a compromise was reached. Zayas, whose following was shown to be not half as great as that of Gomez, joined forces with the understanding that four years from now Gomez will retire in favor of Zayas. General Gomez is rather short in stature, but of heavy build. He is dark and his hair and large but closely-cropped mustache are streaked with gray. If appearances count he will be able to deal with his subjects, for subjects he must make them if he wishes to keep the peace. He was born in Sancti Spiritus, in the province of Santa Clara. He was in the ten

years' war and made a good record. In the revolution of 1895-98 he distinguished himself in the defense of Arroyo Blanco, near Sancti Spiritus, against the Spanish forces. He was a delegate to the constitutional convention and was for several years governor of Sancti Spiritus. In 1906 he was one of the conspirators against Palma. He was selected to lead all of the revolutionary forces, but before doing anything he was captured by the government, brought to Havana and placed in the carcel. Later he was sent to the penitentiary. The new head of the Cuban republic is fond of hunting and fishing. He has made several trips of that nature recently, both for the pleasure of the sport and to get away from Havana and the crowd of office-seeking politicians. He is fond of cock fighting, too, and in 1906, about the revolutionary time, he was arrested and taken to the station house for attending an illegal go between the chickens. Zayas is not nearly as prepossessing as

Gomez, but he is considered far more clever and is looked upon as the shrewdest and sharpest politician in the island. He is white in blood, although his face is rather yellow. He used to wear a beard, but in 1906, for purposes of disguise, he shaved it off and never permitted it to grow out again. He was born in Havana in 1861. His father was the director of Salvadore college, and young Alfredo received a thorough education. He speaks English and today owns one of the finest libraries in the island. He has distinguished himself as a journalist as well as a lawyer. During former revolutions against Spain he was an agent for the revolutionary junta. He operated in Havana until discovered by the Spaniards and placed in prison. He was later taken to Spain and then sent to the prison of the Chaferinas islands in the Mediterranean. At Ceuta he underwent all sorts of privations and hardships in prison. When finally released he went to Key West, where he was an agent for the revolu-

tionary junta in New York, of which Estrada Palma was president. When the Spanish war was over he returned to Cuba. He was identified with the city government of Havana under General Ludlow and was a delegate to the constitutional convention. In the revolution of 1906 he was a real leader. Although knowing well that he was suspected by the government, he remained in the city operating for fully a week after the outbreak of the revolution. The government finally determined to arrest him and others, but he received advance news and when the secret service men entered the front door of his house he escaped by way of the roof, descended to the street through another house and escaped in a waiting automobile. The revolution was a success and Secretary of War Taft and Assistant Secretary of State Bacon came as peace commissioners. Zayas conducted the negotiations. The liberals were not looking for much more than amnesty and possibly a new election, but Zayas so cleverly managed the affair that they practically got the government.