

Kingdom of Platte Where the Spirit of the Old West Meets the New



ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, COLUMBUS.



VIEW IN CITY PARK AT COLUMBUS.



ONE OF THE GREAT GRAIN ELEVATORS AT COLUMBUS.



ONE OF PLATTE COUNTY'S FLOURING MILLS.

June of each year a county institute convenes in which methods in school government and instruction are presented to the teachers by instructors of educational merit. Platte county also has several large denominational schools, which in some instances have provided school homes for the boys and girls casting over \$20,000. In all Platte county has a most complete educational system. Much progress is being made by the harmonious working of superintendent, teachers, school boards and parents.

Platte is one of the rich counties of Nebraska, not merely in dollars and cents, but from every standpoint. It has a valuation of \$7,000,000, a population of 40,000 people and 100 miles of railroad. The ten railroad stations within its limits are all prosperous and thrifty towns and shipping points for the products of a rich surrounding country. Columbus, the county seat, is the largest, with a population of 5,800. The others are Oenone, Platte Center, Humphrey, Creston, Cornelia, Lindsay, Monroe, Tarnov and Duncan. The county has two large elevators, located at Columbus, with a capacity of 250,000 bushels.

Platte is one of the best watered counties of the state, as it has twenty-five streams, some of which have excellent water powers. The proposed water power canal when completed will furnish about 25,000-horse power. But it is the farms, farmers and farm products to which Platte county is looking for its future prosperity.

The county has 2,648 farms, consisting of 260,000 acres, of which 244,000 acres are under cultivation. On these farms the farmers produced last season 120,000 acres of corn, 39,000 acres of wheat and 75,000 acres of oats. These farmers sold and shipped out of the county last year 1,154,000 bushels of corn, 220,000 bushels of wheat and 1,000,000 bushels of oats. They also sold and shipped out 15,000 fat cattle, 45,000 head of fat hogs and 5,700 sheep. The several flour mills of the county sold and shipped out last year 5,000,000 pounds of flour and 75,000 pounds of mill feed.

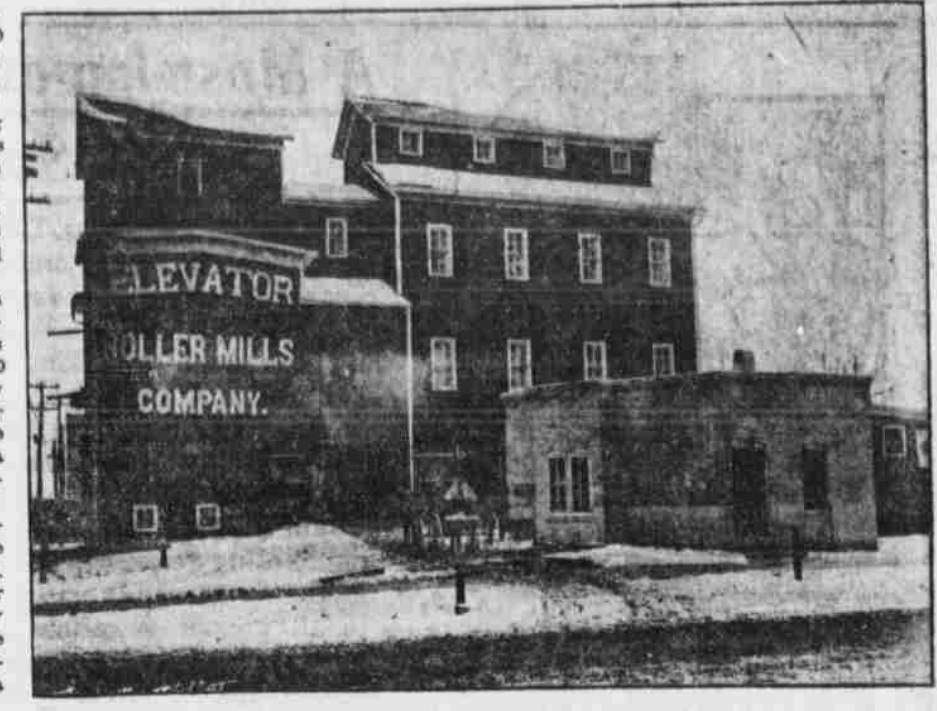
The best outlook for the future growth and prosperity of Platte county is the deep interest that is being taken by the farmers in the dairy industry and the growing of alfalfa. These farmers in the

last year have sold and shipped out 1,154,000 pounds of butter and over 700,000 gallons of cream, while the farmers' wives have marketed more than 21,000 dozens of eggs and 140,000 pounds of dressed poultry. The farmers have been using during the last season 750 hand separators and have kept over 12,000 milk cows. In the growing of alfalfa this county is second to but few in the state, as it has over 8,000 acres seeded to alfalfa, 4,700 acres to timothy and 5,000 acres seeded to clover.

This county is paying more attention each year to the growing of fruit. At the present time, the farmers have 8,000 apple trees in full bearing, 3,000 pear, 5,000 peach, 3,500 plum and 11,000 cherry trees. This county has over fifty freight and passenger trains each day. During the last year the Union Pacific alone did for the county a freight business of \$91,000 and the Burlington \$50,000.

But 15 per cent of the population is foreign born. More than 70 per cent of the farms of the county are free from debt. The farmers over the entire county, for the last few years, have been unusually prosperous, and as each year adds some new comfort and convenience to their surrounding, it is not strange that they are a contented, happy people.

The advance agents of the Columbus Town company were Fred Gottschalk, Jacob Lewis and George Ranach, who in April, 1856, started out from Omaha to found a city. On May 29, 1856, the outlines of the town were determined, and the whole was soon blocked out. A rough log building was put up and roofed with grass. It answered all their purposes for dwelling, storage, and fortification, and was long known as "The Old Company house." For mutual benefit, the Columbus Town company and the Pawnee City company consolidated July 14, 1856. On August 30, the company entered into an agreement with John Rickety of Omaha, by which he was to erect a saw mill and shingle mill. The mill was to be of not less than thirty-two horse power and to be in successful operation by the succeeding August. The agreement was fulfilled August 1, 1857, and the town company passed eighteen shares of stock to the mill company per agreement. A second installment of colonists started



ANOTHER OF THE PLATTE COUNTY MILLS.

THE freedom and hospitality of the old west, the enterprise and progress of the new—that is Columbus, the county seat of Platte county, the smiling city of the Platte valley, a city still young in its hopes and its ambitions. In no other city in the west is found such a happy combination of the old spirit and the new. For Columbus has not forgotten, in the rush for wealth and commercial growth, the things that made the old west stand for all that was manly, hospitable, refined and noble. Columbus has not forgotten the old west, the things that made the old west stand for all that was manly, hospitable, refined and noble. Columbus has not forgotten the old west, the things that made the old west stand for all that was manly, hospitable, refined and noble.

excellent hunting and fishing. Four substantial banking institutions, with deposits of nearly \$1,500,000, and two home building and loan associations. A magnificent water works system, costing \$46,000, owned and operated by the city; a perfect system of sewerage, a large electric lighting plant, two telephone exchanges, two telegraph lines and a free public library and reading room. A high school where manual training and domestic science are taught, and five modern public school buildings that cost \$24,000; a well-equipped up-to-date commercial college, St. Francis academy, the largest academy in Nebraska, and a German Lutheran parochial school. The city also has ten active church organizations—Presbyterian, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, Catholic, Baptist, German Lutheran, German Reformed, United Brethren and Latter Day Saints.

The traveling man is a favorite in Columbus and the railroad facilities make Columbus a favorite with a traveling man. Fully 100 of these "knights of the grip" now reside here, and the number is being increased as rapidly as suitable residences can be secured. Columbus has a wholesale grocery, wholesale butter and egg cold storage plant, wholesale poultry house and a wholesale hide, wool and fur house.

The progressive citizens of Platte county have provided well for their 6,811 school children, having seventy-nine districts, eighty-two school buildings, 118 teachers and 262 school officers. During the school year of 1907-8 nearly \$100,000 was expended in the public school system of this county for educational purposes. About half of this sum was for teachers' salaries, male teachers receiving an average of \$4 and females \$45 per month. The rural school buildings as a whole are substantial structures, being well painted both inside and out. Many have steel ceilings, oiled floors and walls decorated with appropriate pictures. Special attention has been given to modern methods of architecture, heating, light and ventilation. An ample supply of good text books, maps, globes and charts are found in all school rooms. In fact, the best of equipment is found everywhere, for the comfort and profit of teacher and pupil, reflecting credit not only to their respective districts, but to the county and state as well. All schools are provided with libraries of fifty or more volumes of the best literature for school and home. The public schools of the smaller towns of Monroe, Lindsay, Creston, Platte Center and Humphrey are the pride of their respective localities, being well organized, doing from two to four years of high school work under the guidance of well qualified principals and competent grade teachers in the grades.

The 118 teachers of this county are proud of their profession and loyal to the great cause of education. All teachers belong to an organization known as the Platte County Teachers' association, which convenes three times during each year. Much interest is shown in the papers on educational subjects that are read and discussed at these meetings. Recently several teachers drove some thirty-eight miles in order to be present. During the second week of

approved February 11, 1865. A meeting was held in the American hotel, March 5, 1860, at which the first school board was chosen. In December, same year, the town board made a present of the "Old Company House" for a district school building. G. W. Stevens received a school order for \$75.46 at the rate of \$1 per day and he is honored as the first school teacher in Columbus.

The first paper published in Columbus was the "Golden Age," its first number being issued June 21, 1865. C. C. Straw, editor. The first number of the "Columbus Gazette," was published March 1, 1881, by William Burgess, editor and proprietor. The "Columbus Democrat" was established as the "Era," February, 1874, W. W. Hensley, editor and proprietor.

St. John's Catholic church was organized in 1860, and was the first church society in the county. The first church building was a little log cabin.

Platte county was organized in 1855. The first meeting of the county commissioners was held December 28, 1857.

The pioneer railroad was the Union Pacific, which reached this locality in June, 1860. The first bridge across the Platte river was completed in November, 1870. It was 1,716 feet long and cost \$25,000. The rail was first carried from Columbus to Omaha by ox team, and arrived July 4, 1857.

Midway, Nebraska beyond endurance at seeing that everything he touched turned to gold, looked about for some light-colored pattern, with a view to resting his mind, and was about to go into the lumber business.

"But that won't do, either," he said, "if I should touch wood I'd knock the wood pulp business into a cocked hat and bankrupt the timber kings!"

Realizing that crowned heads should stand by one another, and uncertain, besides, what the Payne tariff was going to do with lumber, he forebore and amused himself by going out and buying a gold brick from a con man—which, in his case, was a perfectly safe transaction.—Chicago Tribune.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, COLUMBUS.



COLUMBUS Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

In the Field of Electrical Experiment

Various Heating Devices.
AMONG the latest heating devices which have been perfected for the home are the instantaneous water heater; the electric curling iron heater; the electric hair dryer; the new electric oven; the electric corn popper; shaving mug; luminous radiators and electric tea kettles. These added to the number of trying pans, broilers, cookers, cereal cookers, toasters, etc., already in use make the electric kitchen practically complete. There is no longer any need of a fire in the house or a chimney on the house. The building can easily be heated by electricity. The cooking, washing, ironing and scrubbing can all be done by electricity. Water is heated to a boiling point as fast as it can be drawn. A turn of the switch and the iron is hot. A press of a button and the dinner is cooking. At the weight of a finger the house is warmed, ventilated or lighted. With the same ease and speed the small motors will do the washing, wringing, grinding, chopping, ventilating, refrigerating, freeze the ice cream, sweep the floors, clean the house, carry the coal or lift the ashes.

The instantaneous water heater can be attached to any wash stand or water pipe. The flowing water passes over the heated surfaces and is quite hot by the time it reaches the outlet. There could be nothing quicker or more simple than this electric convenience. Another new device is the electric hair dryer. After Miladi has washed her hair a press of a button starts the hair dryer and a fine breeze of hot air quickly dries the damp tresses. This device contains a small fan and two electric heaters. The cold air passes over these heaters before it is projected from the machine by this fan. Then the curling iron heater is ready to keep the little iron at just the right temperature for dressing the hair.

The shaving mug is specially designed for the traveling man who wants a quick shave in the morning. The water is heated in short order and the cup is built in sections so the soap dish can be removed, making the same vessel answer for a pint water heater.

The electric corn popper makes it possible to pop corn on the parlor table and never mar the varnish. This handy device is

equipped with small rubber wheels and a short wood handle so it can be easily oscillated. A wire screen keeps the popping kernels from flying about the room.

The electric oven, which has lately been improved, is now very quick and economical. There is no waste of heat and the foodstuffs are always baked evenly. The new tea kettles are handy and easily keep a supply of hot water always on hand, as, after the water is heated, it takes but a little current to keep it hot.

The electric sterilizer and bandage heaters are the latest acquisitions to the sick room and are of fully as much service as the electric heating pad and milk warmer.

New Primary Battery.
Considerable interest is being taken in a new primary battery which has been invented by Mr. W. A. T. Bleek, a young electrician, a resident of Brisbane, Queensland. The battery is said to be very simple, compact, and most easily charged, and when charged, goes to work at once. Of the battery itself, Mr. J. E. Badger, manager of the Brisbane tramways, says: "I do not know of any commercial battery which gives so high an electro-motive force, neither do I know of any battery which, combined with such a high e. m. f., shows such a constancy for so long a period."

Prof. Thomas R. Lyle of the Melbourne university speaks very highly of the invention: "It has a much larger useful current than that of any cell I know." Demonstrations were given at the Technical college, in the presence of a large number of Brisbane doctors and scientific men, all of whom were deeply interested in the work of the battery. The running of a sewing machine, electric fan, cauterizing instrument, and Roentgen-ray apparatus were all successfully shown by the inventor.

A Wireless from Paris.
Dr. Henry Vandike, author and professor of English at Princeton, who is at present lecturing in Paris, was the first to send a message across the Atlantic to the wireless station which has been built and financed by three Princeton students. The message was relayed by the steamships Kronprinzessin Cecilie and Baltic to Nova Scotia and then to Nantucket, and was

received in the rooms of the Wireless club, in the school of science.

The Wireless club was formed at Princeton two months ago by W. A. Butler and C. C. Bryker, both of New York City, and P. B. Findlay of Pittsburgh. The three students constructed all the apparatus. Students of Columbia and Pennsylvania have been working along the same lines for some time. The Princeton station is able to transmit within a radius of seventy-five miles, and as soon as the other two colleges perfect their apparatus the three college papers will conduct their business by wireless.

Traffic on Electric Railways.
The electric railways of the United States carried last year 4,000,000,000 fare passengers. This wonderful increase is due to the growth of the street railway and interurban railway service, better transportation facilities and the increase of suburban residents.

The number of persons to be transported increased at the rate of 1,500,000 annually. The number of passenger cars operated has increased at the rate of 40 per cent for the last five years. With the population of the United States estimated at about 80,000,000, the figures given above would seem to show that every man, woman and child in this country has ridden seventy-eight times on the electric railways within the last year.

A Swiss Power Station.
A description is given in a recent issue of the Frankfort Gazette of a proposed hydroelectric power station on a vast scale, the concession for which has been applied for by a company formed in Bern. For the purpose of this scheme five separate generating stations will be constructed to utilize the falls of the Upper Aar. The largest of these undertakings will involve the erection of a lofty dam at Spitalmatt on the Grimsel, some ninety meters in height, by means of which a high-level reservoir will be obtained with an effective capacity of 40,000,000 cubic meters. From this high-level reservoir the water will be conducted by channels twelve kilometers in length to the head reservoir at Guttenen, whence it will reach the power station through three pressure mains with a head of 700 meters. On the way to Guttenen the water from Lake Gelmer will unite with

that from the higher reservoir and the winter minimum water supply will furnish 30,000 horsepower. The water will then enter a second reservoir, where it will join with the River Aar, and a second dam, to be constructed above Nesselthal, will hold up the waters of the Trift, the Gadmen and the effluent water of the Lake Engelen works. The whole of this water will be brought in channels to the head reservoir at Innerschächen by pressure mains with an effective fall of 400 meters to the powerhouse of the Lower Aar works. These will have an output of 11,750 horsepower. There will be three smaller stations, with a joint capacity of 5,300 horsepower, bringing up the gross total to 58,000 horsepower. This power will be available all the year around, but during the eight months of summer high water the maximum output will be 120,000 horsepower. It will take some ten to fifteen years to complete the entire undertaking.

Genius Turns Dreams to Wealth
(Continued from Page One.)

genius is not lacking herabouts. Some of the men mentioned have fitted up at their homes or places of business laboratories and workshops that represent substantial sums of money. Besides the inventions actually reaching the patentable stage, many of them have models nearing completion and still others have sane brain storms on tap that are in the "working down" process. As one inventor put it: "I built and rebuilt my machine so many times that when it reached the final condition where it might be considered workable, it in no way resembled the first model."

In the circles that patronize and read the patent journals and the publications of the patent office at Washington, Omaha is one of the western cities that is known as the home of men with brains that produce ideas and is the abiding place of mechanics that can put the ideas into marketable form. Three attorneys who devote their time to this particular line of business find plenty of clients in Omaha, and a great many more that come from various parts of Nebraska.

And this is true: That the field of invention, as elsewhere, it is the little things that count; the things that Tom, Dick and Harry and the women and children all want, and can afford to buy. Checks for royalties are not all in the dreams of the local inventors, for some have been able to show the coin.

GERMAN as a live and useful language is the idea emphasized in the High school by the occasional presentation of a play in German by the members of the German society, which is composed of students of that department of study. A high degree of attainment was reached in the production of one of the plays at the school last Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Landis, head of the German department, had charge of the play and ten girls from her recitation classes made up the cast. They were Stella Ballenback, Frances Scott, Ruth Jahney, Ruth Lindley, Anna Ruppert, Ada Morris, Anna Matheson, Hazel Clark, Minerva Quinby and Marie Slovack. Hortense and Mamie Spieberger played a piano duet and a stringed quartet, consisting of Elizabeth

Becker, Jennie Undeland, Arred Morris and Will Morris furnished other music.

The play itself, called in English "The Aunt's Hair," was written by a German minister and afforded the High school students ample opportunity for study and the exploitation of their skill. Several hundred students, parents and friends witnessed the production, which took the place of the regular meeting of the German society last Wednesday.

As German plays suitable for the use of High school students, are quite plentiful, one is presented at the High school almost every month. However, the last endeavor was on quite a pretentious scale, as only three or four characters generally appear in the plays, while Wednesday's had ten.

Work on special subjects and ideas outside the regular course in German, has

been going on at the High school since the year 1901 and the present society has been organized with a constitution since 1903.

It meets every Wednesday and spends the alternate meetings on regular programs, the other days being used for staging German folk songs, of which fifty are learned every year. Miss Bowen and Miss Towne are in charge of the singing and have also trained a girls' chorus.

Miss Landis, Miss Rockfellow, Miss Stebbins, Madam Chastelain, Miss Summers and Miss Bowen are the society teachers. They say that active interest in the study of German is aroused by the work of the society, both in giving plays, singing and other features, and that without the society less could be accomplished in their department.



MEMBERS OF MISS LANDIS' GERMAN CLASS AT OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL WHO TOOK PART IN THE GERMAN PLAY.