THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: AUGUST 1, 1909.

# Fertile Dawson County Where the Pioneers Have Won a Good Fight







LEXINGTON.

story of the settlement of to the Rockies planted Itself per- adapted to the growing of alfalfa. The Overton, are doing regular high school most notable of these was the Plum Creek ready quiet a village, it was not laid out out of the county \$1,000 pounds of butter Dawson county is like the manently at the rate of about a entire valuation of the county is \$30,912,000, normal training work. There are some massacre, which took place August 7, 1864, and platted as a town until 1873. This was and 100,000 gallons of cream, while the story of the American colonies, mile a month. There were, of course, and it has a population of 19.100. This excellent school buildings, both town and The bluffs at this point were regarded as the first town in the county. During the population of 19.100. like the story of the Saxon waves of population reaching out into the makes it one of the strong counties in the rural, in the county. Within the last two the most dangerous point in crossing the fall of 1873, a great deal of local excite- sented by the sale of 142,000 dozen of eggs conquest, just a story of fifty wilderness from time to time, but they state both in the matter of population and years the rural school houses have been plains and probably more men were killed ment was created over what was supposed and 72,000 pounds of dressed poultry. years ago, when Dawson were often beaten back, so the slow rise valuation. The county is well supplied greatly improved as to exterior and in- here than at any other point along the en- to be a gold mine about one and a half. The flouring mills of the county are county was marked on the map a desert of man's domination over the desert was with railroads, having sixty-three and one- terior, by the use of paint, wall paper, tire route. and for most part it was a desert indeed, accomplished by a tide rather than by a half miles within its borders and eight pictures, etc. About 50 per cent of the ru-

Before civilized men came to grapple it flood. this desert lay green and tempting in May There are, roughly speaking, five differand Jung and brown and dreary the rest ent agricultural levels, or steps. In the county serve 6,500 people, and cover over school grounds are also being improvel was, of course, discontinued. Some of the settlement Scoupled as a herding ground by of the year. Along the streams the giant state. On each of these levels different 500 miles of rural route daily. The county with fences, trous, etc. At the National ranchmen and stagers left the country the cattle men, no serious trouble with bluestern grass hid the deer and antelope seeds and different methods of growing also has 1,000 miles of public high-ways Corn exhibit at Omaha two premiums and others remained and engaged in variand formed a place of forage for the crops must be used. If Dawson county and 100 miles of irrigation ditches. There were won by George and Joseph Seberger, ous occupations. Among those who recoycte and the gray wolf that flved in the could have known this in advance it thickets of the river bottom. Every fall would have been settled and delivered from the state's northern to its southern ready-made as a self-sustaining commonboundary great prairie fires, house high wealth many years in advance of what it roared over the plains and marked it with was. They had to learn that seed corn ribbons of black desolation scores of miles from the eastern border would not grow wide, for the north wind and the south well in Dawson county. They had to learn wind that carried the fires across this that the Shorthorn and Hereford cattic creater not floet of foot or light of wing learn the value of the cow and the hen as this county sold and shipped out last thought that in a short a time that the store of Daniel Freeman in Flum Creater that the store of Daniel Freem prairie made forests impossible, and no pay better than native stock. They had to could make this place its habitat. The by-products of the big products of the big prod

flower seeds by the roadside and the yellow But the Dawson county farmer of the flowers in their seasons marked with a eighties did not know how to choose and the farmers of this county each year the west to find homes were attracted by the ing of the first Platte river bridge west blaze of glory the main trail that followed plant and harvest so that the rainfall amount is small compared to what is con- smiling genial rolling land of the future of Columbus was held July 4, 1873. This the ever winding stream. On these trails would occur at the proper season for their sumed on the farm. Last season these country and stopped to make it their home. bridge is a mile in length and is located and general progress have been broken. or near them the forts and trading posts crops. The tuition in the achool of ex- farmers sold land shipped out of the Some of the settlers arrived ahead of the directly south of Lexington. of the government and the relay stations perience was high, and the pupils had to county 1,047,000 bushels of corn 537,000 railroad, a few coming with ox teams, of the freighters and the mail carriers learn this tuition as they went along. It bushels of wheat and 297,000 bushels of the county were not cific Railroad company re- and clinch in the minds of the citizens were found. He who would venture north was hard work-heart-breaking, cruel oats. It is but little wonder that these days of profit and pleasure. The little or south from these highways had only work; many were called and few were farmers are prosperous when one stops settlement struggled for many years at Plum Creek station from January 1, there is no more favorable spot in the doing more for this little city than the the sun and stars to guide him. And chosen. All over the western country men to realize what these figures mean. when settlers did come into the prairie and women may be found who have retheir early journeys over the virgin, track- ceived their degrees from the Nebraska its material wealth, but its schools. In some trouble, less sod were accompanied by a music that school of experience. has been still for these twenty years-the

lapping of velvet waves upon golden sands and many and many a child lying curied up on the hottom of the mover's wagon

has known it for his Iullaby. And in the of mature years, pligrims in the uttermost bringing with them a memory of clear, many men worth from \$5,000 to \$25,000. blue sky, hung at the horizon with long, Dawson county is 24x42 miles in extent, trailing clouds that beckoned into an en- has 1,020 square miles and is one of the chanted distance. So came the settlers to wealthy counties of the Platte valley, Dawson county.

Civilfzation upon the 4,000-foot slope that of the Piatte, being fifteen miles wide and river contains 200,000 acres which is especially ses westward from th

BIRD'SEYE VIEW OF LEXINGTON, NEB.

wealth producers.

of the strongest counties in the state in He is both a worker and a winner. regard to the amount of beef and pork

But the chief glory of the county is not dians, chiefly Otoes and Pawnees, made

the amount of money spent for schools. In the time of the old freight emigrant And now Dawson county has conquered in proportion to the wealth and population roads across the plains the route exiended purring of the tall bluestem under the soil and is getting crops from it with this county has but few equals. Never be- up the Platie on the south side through wagon bed in the rich valleys, marked with wonderous regularity. In the last ten years for in its history has the school shown Dawson county. a strangely beaten time as the heads of this county has pulled itself out of debt. greater progress. Dawson county at the was established through the county in the resin weeds tattooed upon the wagon bed and spokes. It was a sound like the this county has pulled itself out of debt. greater progress. Dawson county at the was established through the county in It's proportion of rented farms is smaller present time has ninety-three school dis- 1561, and this county is the only place than that of most any other county in tricts and 104 school buildings with 126 where it was ever injured by Indians. the state. Three-quarters of the homes rooms. The county at present employes There were ranches established every few of the people are owned. The per capita hineteen male and 155 female teachers, miles along the route in this county. The wealth of Dawson county may not be lar- Professional spirit of teachers is strong, most important of these was that of Plum children of school age. The first social the farm and placed the farmer on firm stock in the state. George Allen has a dreams of thousands of men and women ger than that of other counties in Ne. One hundred and twenty-seven teachers Creek, now Lexington, which was the telebraska and other states, but its wealth is have had more or less normal training, graph and stage station and the most im- on New Year's night, 1872. The first newsparts of the earth, this song of the blue- more evenly distributed. There are no Nearly all attend the annual institute portant one between Fort Kearny and paper published in the county was Novemstem, and the resin weeds tattoo come rich men and no paupers, but there are Three of the high schools of the county, Cottonwood Springs. Several murders ber 20, 1873, by Daniel Freeman and called those at Lexington, Gothenburg and were committed here by the Indians. The the Pioneer. Though Plum Creek was al-

thrifty, progressive railroad stations. Sev- rai schools have libraries. Many of them cific railroad in the fall of 1866, the im- point, and how mines of infigation decounty and it school district No. 16. L. A. Olinger is mained in what is now Dawson county was depend for its prosperity were not generare about 2.500 farms in the county and it serving the county for the sixth year as Daniel Freeman, who had carried on a aily as good as they are today. Some of superintendent of schools, he is a man ranch on the overland route since 1861. well qualified for the position, being a Some time after he removed to Plum the fainter hearted gave up the tasts in well qualified for the position, being a Some time after he removed to Plum those days and returned to the east or This county has 20,000 acres of land un-der a high state of cultivation, and is one of the state normal, and having Creek station and opened a small store. of the strongest counties in the state in thirty years experience in school work. On the 20th day of June, 1871, acting such as a visitor rete into an automobile and

Whn Daniel Freeman came to the county proclamation for the organization of the broken the ground others on their way forty people. The celebrating of the open-

against many kinds of adversity. The In-

the county in which there was but six gathering was a dance at Plum Creek

Though Dawson was at the time of its

them was ever experienced by the settlers. The crops on which the county had to the fainter hearted gave up the fight in Governor William H. James issued his sighted ones stuck to the fight with a faith in the county which was its own reward and which in due time bore ample

> have been banner ones for the farmer and business man. Years in which all previous records in the way of crop raising These years go down in the history of this

Under the land grant to the Union Pa- county as ones of unparalleled prosperity ceived in this county \$15,000 acres of land, as well as the outsiders the fact that add much to the prosperity of the city. 1567 to January 1, 1868, the total receipts whole Platte valley for a farm and home. doing more for this little city than the of the railroad amounted to \$1.175.40, and The growth of root crops as well as grains commercial club. It is composed of the from January 1, 2875 to January 1, 1876, the and fruits has been so prolific that it is representative business men of the city and receipts were \$37,630.54. The first fourth hard to say which has had the advantage county and ever on the alert for anything of July celebration held in the county and merits the most praise. Hay, grains that will advance the best interests of a was in 1872. Daniel Freeman was orator of various kinds, potatoes and other root new county. The city has good telephone tablished at Plum Creek in 1872 and was crops, fruit and vegetables have been pro- service that reaches over the entire county of the day. The first postoffice was es- duced and prosperity and plenty have and state. It also has a good system of kept at the Union Pacific depot. At this reigned everywhere. It might be said water works and is supplied by electric time there was but one school district in right here, however, that the crop which light and power by one of the local manhas left the most cash in circulation, 'the ufacturing plants.

substantial footing is the corn crop.

first counties of the state in the growing entirely for breeding purposes. Mr. Allen of alfalfa, which also makes it one of the has secured several hundred medals and leading as well as one of the coming premiums in different states on his stock.

counties of the state in the dairy industry. E. E. Young is also a prominent stock The farmers at the present time have breeder in the county. He makes a specialty 28,895 acres seeded to alfalfa. On these There are several large feeders of stock farms are 5,785 cows kept and from these in this county that furnish an excellent cows were produced last year and shipped market for the surplus grain.

IMPLEMENT HOUSE OF J. S THOMAS & SON, LEXINGTON -LARGEST WEST OF OMAHA.

miles east of Plum Creek. Gold seekers becoming manufacturing institutions of manufactured, sold and shipped out 5,000,-000,000 pounds of flour and 200,000 pounds

> Lexington, the county seat of Dawson couny, has a population of about 3,000, and is the largest little city in the Platte valley. It is decidedly a city of homes. Somehow, one can always tell whether a dwelling is a house or a home; that air of comfort and contentment prevades even glides around the town or takes a Sunday afternoon stroll, that fact forces itself to have as many miles of cement side-walk as Lexington. The business blocks and the stock of merchandise carried is entirely adequate to the trade. The county agricultural society, which is a new organization, bids fair to be an entire success from every standpoint. The alfalfameal mill and the flouring mill are the principal manufacturing institutions and

crop which has raised the mortgage from The county has some of the best blooded thousand head of Shropshire sheep and Dawson county stands among the very 175 head of Shorthorn cattle that he keeps

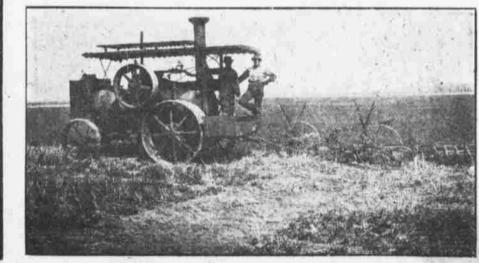




FACULTY OF LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL.



COUNTY OFFICERS OF DAWSON COUNTY.



PLOWING AND HARROWING ON LA HACIENDA RANCH.

#### **Carpenter's Letter**

#### Continued from Page Two.)

Russian or Manchurian cities for sale. At the present time there is no great and rolling plains, so rich that they need demand for meat in this part of the world, to be only tickled with the plow to laugh The Chinese live upon grain, vegetables with the harvest. and fish, with a bit of native pork now

is only \$15 in gold.

mais are much like our old Texas longhorns. They have large but not heavy sian Siberia. Viadivostok takes considerable meat, and there is a packing plant there with ammonia coolers and concrete

land to Blagovestchensk, on the Amoor, large military forces. As to the pork of Manchuria, no for-

The hogs are the scavengers. They are midom fed, and they root about through the mud and fiith, eating all sorts of vilo stuff. As a result, they are blackbig-stomached, small-hammed, bristled. hungry-looking animals. They are much like our razor-backs, but their flesh is wheat and millet are hoed as we hoe by no means so good. They are very cotton. prolific, having from twelve to fourteen might be turned into excellen; stock.

#### The Bread Basket of Asia.

tatest and most valuable sections of than from one of straight ones.

undeveloped farm lands of the world lies Few people have any idea of the ex- all New England, Delaware, Virginia. Dakotas, and that crops will grow much and it is raised in great quantities. right here. The whole of Manchuria has tent of these rich lands of Manchuria. Pennsylvania, West Virginia and South farther north here than in the United They are producing tobacco here as far a climate and soil fitted for good cuiti- The country is enormous, and at present Carolina combined. It is more than twice States. Wheat sown in April matures six north as Canada, and the experts of the and also the low alluvial soils farther valion, and it will raise inconceivable sup- not one-fifth of it is under cultivation, as big as Japan, and bigger than the weeks sooner than that sown in the like American Tobacco company say that if and also the low alluvial soils farther values, and it will have inconcervate soil and that fifth is not half farmed. Man- states of Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, latitudes at home. It is the same with it were properly grown the tobacco would down. They breed their cattle in central plies of wheat, corn and all sorts of hardy and that fifth is not half farmed. Man- states of Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, latitudes at home. It is the same with it were properly grown the tobacco would down. They breed their cattle in central place to the same with it were properly grown the tobacco would places where the bulls are kept and when grains. The soil of the greater part of churta, all told, covers more area than Wisconsin and Minnesota put together. Indian corn, which is ripe by the first be as good as that of Virginia. It is beplaces where the bulls are kept and when stains. The soli of the greater part of ten states the size of Indiana. It has This enormous territory has rivers run- of September, or about two weeks earlier lieved that the southern part of Manthe Mississippi valley. Much of it com- more ground than Germany and France, ning north and south. It has a stream as than in the United States. churia will produce cotton, so that al-

place to place to find pasture. During this time their homes are round tents of hide, which they can set up or take down as they please. When the cattle are ready for the market they drive them to the continuea from the best parts of the control and or and or all the such latitudes as St. Paul and Winnipeg, bad transportation and ignorant farming. but to us on the job it has been going re-

ous regions; but there are wide valleys

This is accounted for it part by the valley.

The southern half of Manchuria is now and then. The Buddhists do not eat meat fairly well settled. Above Mukden the at all and the demand is confined to the farms are widely scattered and there are Mohammedan Chinese, to the Russians huge areas of government land which the and to such foreigners as come into the authorities are thinking of throwing open country. The price for a 6-year-old steer to immigrants. The two American agricultural experts tell me that they have

The calle are so poorly kept that it traveled for days over land as rich as takes from six to eight years to fit a steer that of any part of America, which is now for the market instead of three years, as practically waste. They say the farming at home. Mr. Parker says that the ani. methods are so crude that if employed in the United States they would produce prac tically nothing. Nevertheless, the Manchuframes, and on that account they would rian land yields from thirty to fifty bushels form an ideal cattle to cross with our of sorghum seed per acre, and twenty Herefords. He says their meat is ex- bushels of wheat. It produces about fifty cellent, resembling the compact flesh of bushels of corn, and with improved seed the grass-fed cattle of Montana, but not and cultivation similar to ours it would at all like the corn-fed bullocks of Iowa, probably yield as much maize on the aver-The best markets today are those of Rus- age as the corn belt of the United States.

#### Where the Wheat Is Hoed

All crops here are planted in rows, floors. About 5,000 cattle are consumed a just as we plant corn or potatoes. The month at Marbin and droves are sent over- rows are about eighteen inches apart and the land is thrown up in furrows each and also to other Russian stations with year. In the spring the grain is sown with the hand in the old furrows of the year preceding, and the plow is then eigner cats that if he can possibly help run along the sides to cover it. It is ers, and is plowed again and again throughout the summer. In this way the grain has to start from hard ground, which its roots cannot easily penetrate. Nevertheless, the crops are good. In most places the grain is kept weeded, and in not a few

A curious feature of the farming is pics at a litter; and by cross breeding that the rows are never plowed, straight. They wind their way over the fields with

all the regularity of the undulations of a marcel wave. They are perfectly parallel

As the result of long conversations with and beautifully winding, but never straight. Meesra. Parker and Tomhave, and from Upon my asking a Tartar farmer why y own travels over Manchuria, I am this was he replied that one could get forerd to the conclusion that one of the more grain from a field of crooked rows Commercial Club Executive Committee at Fort Omaha



COLONEL GLASSFORD AND HIS STAFF AND THEIR GUESTS IN FRONT OF HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

all of which evils will probably be remedied in the not distant future. FRANK G. CARPENTER,

## **Up-to-Date Building Methods**

#### Continued from Page Two.

the street and look into the hole do not realize how much work is being done down there. It is a slow task to dig trenches and put in re-enforced concrete.

"But after we get the foundation and the walls up to the first story then the people will be surprised at the rapidity with which we will shoot up the theater.

"Nearly everybody doubts our ability to get the theater part ready for December 27. Why, it will be the easiest kind of a job. If necessary we can turn the whole building over to Mr. Brandels by that time. We now are figuring on that, too." It is not generally known among the

people who stop to look at the work on the Brandels theater that men employed by the same firm and working in the same half block are excavating for an addition to The Bee building, which occuples the ground across the alley south of the new theater.

This addition to The Bee building will stand against the south wall of the theater extending 132 feet from the west end of the Brandels structure. Its dimensions are 33x132. It will be three stories high besides the basement, which will go twelve fast below the level of the alley.

It will be connected with the main building through the basement.

### The Foriorn Hope.

The general consulted the topographical

"You understand, colonel," he said, "that this charge on the enemy's fortifications necessitates the most reckless diaregard for human life."

"I understand, general," the colonel re-plied. "The foriorn hope that leads the inovement will be composed exclusively of amateur chauffeurs!" - Cieveland Plain Dealer.

#### Optimiem.

A small boy was hosing corn in a sterile eid by the rondelde up near Hethel, Ind., hen a passerby stopped and said: "Pears to me your corn is rainer small." "Certainly," said the boy. "It's dwarf or."

COLL

Corn." "But it looks yaller." "Certainly. We planted the yaller kind." "But it looks as if you wouldn't get more than half a crop." "Of course not," said the boy, "We planted it on the shares."