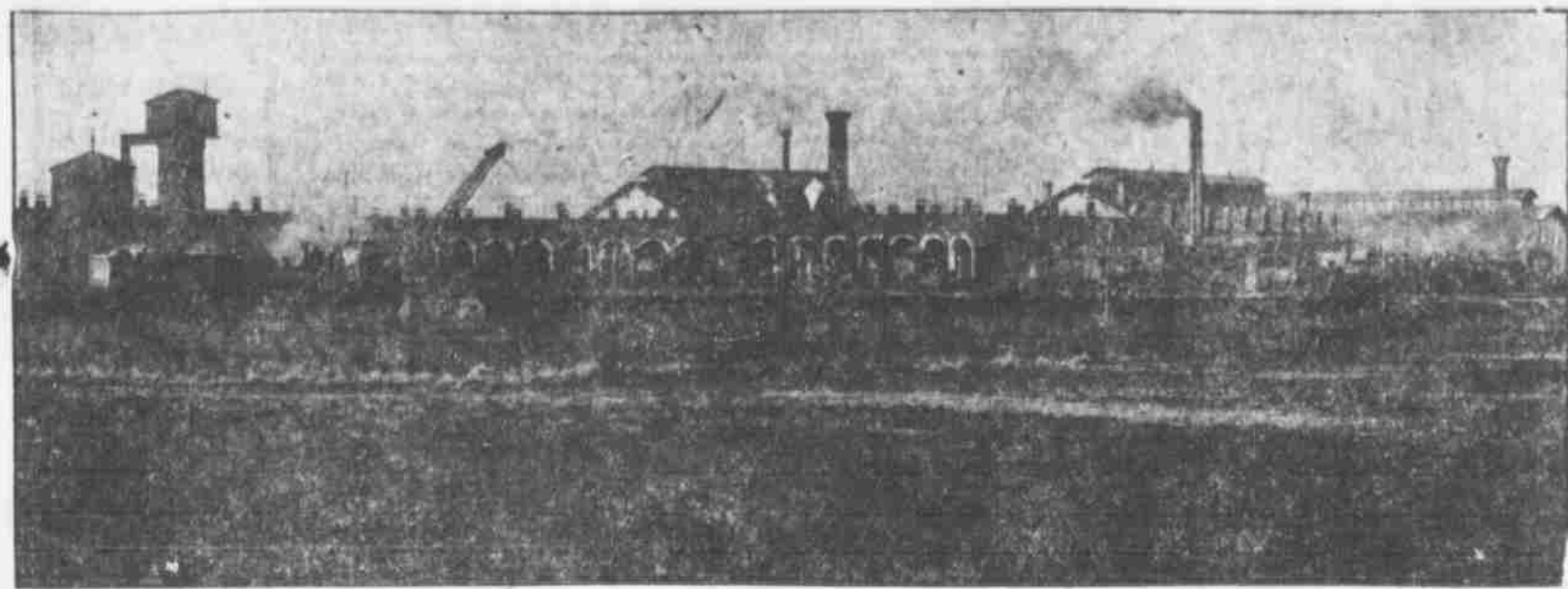


# Hall County Pioneers Built a Kingdom in the Beautiful Platte Valley



UNION PACIFIC CAR SHOPS, GRAND ISLAND.



NEBRASKA SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME, GRAND ISLAND.



HIGH SCHOOL, GRAND ISLAND.

In turn serve it. The welfare and fame of Hall county is very closely associated with the prosperity and pride of Grand Island. With the progressive record of the city the development of the adjacent and contributory territory will keep pace. It is indeed the adjacent development which city progress bespeaks; and it is that upon which the city progress depends. The building up of the surrounding country is the most important and gratifying feature of all.

Every family brought into the country, every farm improved and every institution established, whether it be a creamery or foundry, the raising of better or blooded stock, adds just that much to the business resources of the county. One prosperous family on a little farm is worth more to Grand Island and to the county than a trainload of tourists traveling through the county. And the factory and manufacturing plant employing twenty-five or fifty men and using the raw material of the valley is a growing asset, a continuous revenue producer. Labor is one of the prime factors in all the development, and the community that can supply intelligent and contented labor has an asset of great value.

It was the Germans that discovered Hall county. And its discovery and development came not by chance. To subdue the prairie has taken the rude surgery of the rougher fibers. Hall county has been the battle ground of strong men with nature.

In the spring of 1857 as soon as there was grass for the teams the future settlers of Grand Island started from Des Moines, Ia. Nebraska at that time was a very new territory, with less than 30,000 people scattered along the Missouri river. This party reached Omaha on June 18, and found a little city three years old with less than 2,000 people. A few settlers had at the time gone into the Platte valley and had crossed the Loup river about eighty miles west of Omaha. Every four or five miles a house was found, some with canvas roofs or otherwise unfinished. Fremont and Columbus each consisting of about a dozen block houses.

From Columbus this party journeyed about sixty miles farther west until they came to Wood river. Just west of this point and opposite a large island in the Platte called Grand Island, the new settlement was located July 4, 1857. The party con-

sisted of thirty men, six women and one child; they had a selection of oxen and a span of mules. The pioneers then went to work putting up some log houses near the present dwellings of Menck and Stahr farms, a little east of the present city, so near together they could protect each other in case of attack by Indians. In the fall of 1857 the first farmers came from the west about gold being discovered at Pike's Peak. The immense amount of travel over this old immigrant road for the next five years furnished these settlers with a good market for all farm produce.

Of the original pioneers who came here forty years ago, not many yet remain in the city or county. At present there are living in the city of Grand Island, Christian Menck, a retired farmer, and in the county, William Stolley, William A. Hagge, Kai Ewold, and Hy Joehnek, sr., and two ladies, Mrs. Joehnek, wife of Hy Joehnek, sr. and Mrs. Anna Thompson, wife of John Thompson, sr.

All these early pioneers were poor from a financial point of view. But they were rich in courage, energy, industry and frugality. They were successful from every point of view and laid the foundation of the city of Hall county. Grand Island received its name from the Grand Island in the Platte river. In 1856 the original town site was abandoned for one on the railroad, about a mile to the north. The first track of the Union Pacific railroad was laid into Grand Island on July 8, 1856. The construction train was drawn by a locomotive called the "cow." It was captured by the Indians six miles west of Plum Creek in 1858.

The first building erected in Grand Island was by W. Stephens on Locust and Front streets. The first mayor of the city was elected in 1857. In 1858 the present wealth of the city has developed largely upon the farms and the farmers. And this condition is liable to continue for many years to come. In other industries, that of the railroads is of the greatest importance, not only to the city, but to the entire country. The Union Pacific Railroad has a large shop located at Grand Island where it employs in all about 250 men. This is one of the important division stations of the line. Two other railroad companies also add much to the city's wealth and prosperity, the St. Joe & Grand Island and the Burlington & Missouri.

The Union Stock Yard company has an extensive factory here, employing about 250 men. This factory generally begins operations in September and runs 100 days. The factory consumes the product from about 4,000 acres, yields about ten tons per acre. About one-third of the beefs are grown around Grand Island, the balance is grown in the irrigated districts further west. This factory turns out about 1,000,000 pounds of sugar per year, and furnishes from 12,000 to 15,000 tons of pulp for feeding stock. This was the first beet sugar factory established in the United States.

The Union Stock Yard company has in the last two years built extensive new yards east of the city and is doing an immense business in feeding stock in route to the Omaha and other packing houses from the stock farms of western Nebraska and the stock range farther west.

The large canning factory uses the product, mostly sweet corn, from about 6,000 acres, and employs 250 people through the canning season. The large flouring mill runs day and night, employing from twenty-five to thirty men. The product of this plant, established twenty years ago, has won for itself an excellent reputation, and finds a market in many cities reaching to the Pacific coast.

Grand Island has two excellent laundries which give the people prompt service, delivering to any part of the city. The city also has a broom factory, a wire fence manufacturing plant, good foundry, new windmill factory, candy factory, employing forty people, and the Fairmont Creamery company has just completed a large plant costing from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Among the public service corporations are the Grand Island Gas company and the Grand Island Electric company. The city also has its electric lighting plant and owns its own water works, which are operated in connection with each other. The telephone facilities are second to none in the state. Two telephone companies' gagement unless the other daughter should be betrothed at the same time.

"Now what can I do?" asked Mr. Brook, in the throes of anguish.

"I met Amelia while I was south on my vacation, and we were both stopping at Rock Castle Springs.

"She was alone then and I did not know that she had a twin sister until afterwards. Just before I left the other daughter, Anne, nearly as pretty as Amelia, appeared on the scene, and matters were complicated.

"The two were always together as children and young girls and were inseparable, the first separation being the time when I met Amelia. When I left Kentucky it was with the understanding that I should return, and I was happy until Mr. Livingston called upon me yesterday.

"He made the situation very plain, and that he was wrecking my happiness never occurred to him, but he told me plainly that he and the mother, before her death, had desired a double marriage for the twins, and that he would not give his consent to the engagement of one until the other one be engaged too."

**Prudence of French Diplomat.**

An amusing little adventure happened the other day to the French premier, M. Briand. He paid an official visit to a little town in the southeast of France, which is famous for its clocks and watches. The minister opened the local exhibition, and after the speeches the local mayor presented him with a magnificent chronometer made in the town.

"If your excellency will allow," he said, "we will keep the watch for a few days and regulate it."

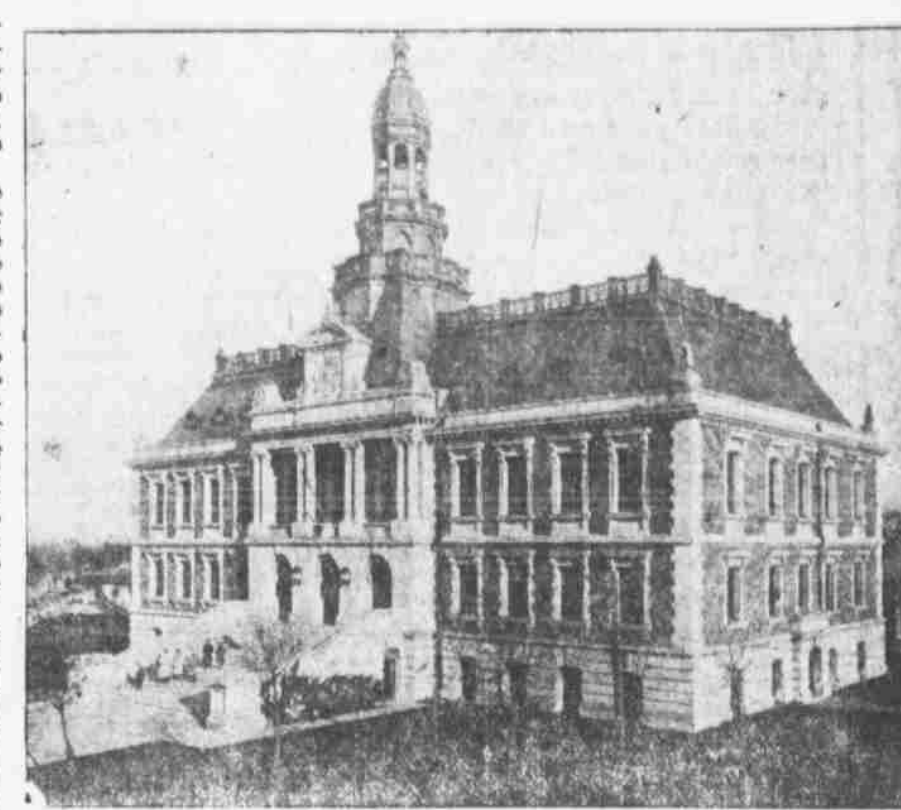
M. Briand, who, though a socialist, has

lines reach from everywhere to everywhere, giving the city and the county excellent service. Most of the farmers now make use of the telephone, and with the rural delivery covering most of the county, they are in close touch with the business world.

The city has in the last ten years made wonderful progress as a wholesale, jobbing and commission sales center; they have two wholesale grocery and two wholesale fruit houses. The first thing that strikes the eye of the visitor of Grand Island is the clean, wholesome appearance of its retail stores, a good criterion of what can be found on the inside. It is very apparent to the careful observer of industrial and commercial knowledge that the city has never forged ahead so rapidly as in the last three years and in every legitimate branch of commerce it can lay just claim to having representative establishments which are abundantly capable of holding their own in any equal field with the best houses in the Platte valley. In the last election the city had the third largest vote in the state.

The State Soldiers' home is located here and is caring for about 600 of the old veterans and their wives. The Grand Island Business college owns its building and has an enrollment of 600 students. The Grand Island Baptist college, established about twenty years ago, has an enrollment of 600. In no particular is the city more prepared to receive judgment from the casual visitor or the great army of traveling men than in the character and make-up of their hotels. The city and hotels are so linked together that a prejudice against one invariably reflects on the other. This city is well supplied with hotels and they are centrally located, convenient to the best shopping district. The Commercial club is well organized with a membership of 200 wide-awake citizens. This club has been very successful in securing for the city many new industries and their influence in up-building and beautifying city is seen on every hand.

Dairying is proving to be the friend of the farmer. It brings in money every month in the year and makes the farmer more independent than he ever was before. Last year the farmers of this county shipped out 300,000 pounds of butter and 120,000 gallons of cream; they also sold and shipped out 16,000 head of beef cattle and 24,000 fat hogs and in addition to this the



HALL COUNTY COURT HOUSE, GRAND ISLAND.

Hall county farmers sold and shipped out of the county 27,000 bushels of corn and 28,000 bushels of wheat.

The sheep industry of the county is of no small importance. Robert Taylor has a ranch of 5,000 acres devoted largely to this industry. Kennel McDonald also has a large sheep ranch on which are some of the best farm buildings in the county. There are over 40,000 sheep shipped out of the county each year. One of the most prosperous farmers is Martin Schimmer, a German, who came in the early days. He owns 2,500 acres of land, under a high state of cultivation and well stocked.

But over and above all the attractions of the newness and swiftness of things is the attraction of the Platte river. It is the mouth of the valley, for it is the most expressive feature of its landscape. It has the power of drawing attention with-

out courting it. The faculty of exciting interest by its graceful movements. The real way to know the Platte river is not to glance at it here and there from the car window. You must go to its native haunts. You must see it in its youth and freedom; you must accommodate yourself to its pace and give yourself to its influence. If you are a good walker, take the Riverside path or across the open meadow. If you are business minded, the Platte river has some of the best scenery in the state. The landscapes of the river are growing more beautiful from year to year, notwithstanding the clearing, tramping work of civilization.

All through this part of the state the old is giving way to the new, the savage to the civilized, the prairie to the orchard and field. The dawn of a new day is breaking.

It has always been the happy fortune of the Platte river to have a border population that was constantly uneasy to reach a farther front, wider land and freer life. But when the early pioneer unyoked his oxen for the last time it was not his intention to turn from the Platte valley, which he knew and loved. And whether he opened a farm or started a bank he had the advantage of knowing the country and its people.

Nearly all the prominent cities of Nebraska have some specialty that has contributed to a greater degree than any other factor to the growth and prestige. But Grand Island has no specialty. Its resources are diversified and well might in-

haustible, and its people have the force, push and enterprise which is essential to success as are the gifts of nature, without which it cannot be won.

The wonderful richness of the soil, backed by great natural advantages, was sufficient to form the ground work of Grand Island. These great natural advantages attracted good men and made men good. Their citizens were of the restless, energetic type, which worked wonders wherever they located. Grand Island also has a goodly number of manufacturing industries and the dinner pail brigade is assuming industrial proportions. The city enjoys a prestige as a commercial and financial center, which keeps pace with the growth of the country it serves and which



DRIVEWAY IN STOLLEY'S PARK, GRAND ISLAND.



THIRD STREET, LOOKING WEST FROM PALMER HOUSE, GRAND ISLAND.

## Gossip and Stories About Noted People

### Taft's Lucky Number.

JULY is President Taft's lucky number, relates the New York Press. He has four letters in his name, and he was born in Ohio, a state of four letters. The president also is one of four brothers. He was graduated from the Woodward high school in Cincinnati in 1874, and went to Yale, which bears a four-letter name. Mrs. Taft then lived in Pike street, Cincinnati. The four letters in the name of that street bore luckily upon the president's citizenship. The wedding ceremony was performed by a preacher whose four-letter name was Hoge. Good luck of the number extended from them to Helen Taft, the daughter. She won one of four scholarships at Bryn Mawr and entered upon a four-year course.

In 1884 Taft was appointed president of the United States Philippine commission. On July 4, 1891, he began his career as the first civil governor of those islands. His work as governor ended on February 1, 1894. Secretary of War Root had four letters in his last name. That augured well for Taft. He succeeded Root as secretary of war in 1904. Ten years before that, in 1894, Taft had made his famous decision against Phelan in the labor strike case. Taft could not help making a record as secretary of war, because he had to deal chiefly with the army, which is another four-letter institution.

Coming down to his election as president for four years, with four more years in

prospect, it is interesting to note how largely the figure four and four-letter names entered into the campaign. On April 11, 1908, it was announced that 241 delegates were pledged to Taft, out of 418 selected in states entitled to 361 delegates. A month before that his manager, Vorys, said he had 194 of 384 delegates selected to the republican national convention, and forty-two were instructed for other candidates. In that week forty-six delegates were selected and forty-two states had been noted, of which the four Oklahoma contests involved Taft men.

Major General J. Franklin Bell, the president's friend, has four letters in his name, and the president's military aide is Captain Archibald W. Butt, another four-letter name. The number also carries into the president's sports, as golf, his favorite, indicates. President Diaz of Mexico, who is to meet the president in El Paso on October 15, also belongs to the four-letter fraternity.

### Noted Naval Athlete.

Midshipman Kenneth Whiting, U. S. N., who, according to recent cable dispatches, while attached to the United States submarine Porpoise, now stationed at Manila, distinguished himself by the daring and dangerous feat of having himself ejected from one of the Porpoise's torpedo tubes while it was submerged and reaching the surface in safety, is well remembered both for his "nerve" and athletic prowess by Annapolis men. While in the naval academy he played and on the foot ball team,

and later captained it. He was also a "star" track athlete. Boxing was the young "middy's" favorite exercise, and in his senior year he won the championship of the academy. As a foot ball player, Midshipman Whiting was particularly noted for his quickness, fierceness of play and absolute disregard for injury to himself or his opponents. His pluck in Army-Navy games was at times nothing less than desperate. His work for athletics at the academy was recognized by the award of the sword "for the midshipman doing most for athletics."

### Wu's Brilliant Career.

Dr. Wu Ting-fang, the retiring Chinese minister, and one of the best known men in the imperial diplomatic service, was born in the Hainan district, Kwang-tung, China, about sixty-five years ago. He was educated in the Chinese classics at Canton and studied English at Hongkong. He was enrolled at Lincoln's Inn, London, in 1874, where he studied international law and other legal subjects for two years, when he was admitted to practice at the English bar.

Returning to China in 1877, he passed through the United States and made a study of national institutions and college law until 1882, when he was appointed as legal adviser and deputy for foreign affairs at Tientsin by Li Hung Chang, then viceroy of China. While serving in this capacity he became interested in railroads and built the first railway in China. He became promoter and chief director of the Kai Ping Railway company, and later was appointed

by the imperial government codirector in the railway bureau, then interested in the construction of railroads in north China.

On the establishment of the Tientsin university, in 1886, he was appointed chief director, and in the same year he was made first secretary of the embassy of peace missions to Japan and plenipotentiary for exchanging ratifications of the peace treaty effected at Peking. He also assisted in negotiating at Peking the Sino-Japanese treaty of commerce and navigation, which was ratified in October, 1895. In the following year he was sent as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States, where his office he held until 1902, when he was recalled to China. In 1907 he was reappointed to the same post.

Dr. Wu Ting-fang has contributed numerous essays on economics and political subjects to the leading American and British magazines and newspapers. He has lectured extensively before university classes here and abroad, and in 1909 the degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by the University of Pennsylvania. He is married and has several children, all of whom are being educated in American and English universities.

### Twin Brothers of None.

Engaged to one twin, but unable to marry her because the father insists that both twins shall be engaged at the same time, is the sad predicament in which Elmer L. Brook, assistant attorney general of Colorado, finds himself. Mr. Brook met a wood and won a southern beauty, Miss Amelia Livingston, some weeks ago, while on a trip to Kentucky, and was preparing to announce the engagement when he was confronted by the father, Wilbur P. Livingston, a lawyer of the Blue Grass state, who forbade the en-

### College Daily Newspapers

(Continued from Page One.)

they are nearer probably to being metropolitan newspapers than any of the other college dailies. The Illinois last year was made an eight-page paper, with five columns. At the same time the Daily Nebraskan was enlarged to five columns, it already being an eight-page paper. These two papers during the last year published more local college news than any other dailies in the country.

For the first semester of the coming school year the Daily Nebraskan will be edited by a boy who is not yet 17 years of age and who is the youngest college editor in the country. He is a brilliant boy, with a large knowledge of newspaper work, and gives promise of putting out a paper that will be the best Nebraska has ever had. A prominent feature of the Daily Nebraskan, the Illinois and the Maroon is the cartoon which is run several times a week. This has become a fixed part of these papers and has made them many subscribers. It is rapidly being adopted by

### Why He Died.

Head Keeper Snyder of the Central park zoo was smiling over a newspaper account of a monkey that had died of love.

"This reporter has an original turn of mind. He's like the western jury. A westerner, you know, once hanged himself to the bedpost by the corner's jury rail; and the verdict of the corner's jury ran: 'The deceased came to his death by coming home full and mistaking himself for his pants.'"—New York Times.

Of the weekly, monthly and other publications published in connection with the schools of the country little need be said beyond the fact that the editors and managers repeat in a smaller way the experiences of the editors of the college dailies. News has to be provided for the subscribers, advertisements must be procured that expenses may be met and all the details of the business must be carried on in much the same way as in the office of the biggest newspaper or magazine published.