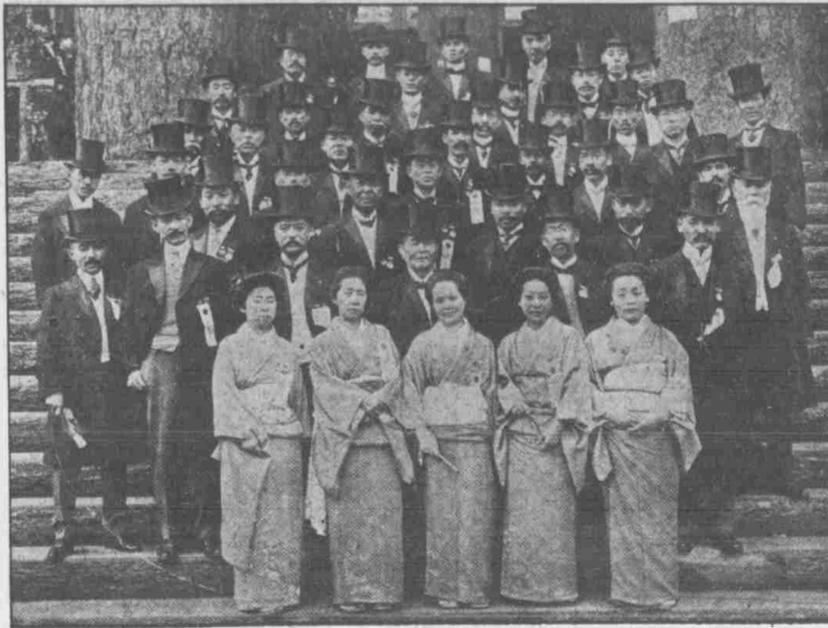


# Royal Party of Japanese Men and Women Who Will Visit Omaha



BARON EUCHI SHIBUSAWA—HARRIMAN OF JAPAN.



ENTIRE PARTY OF JAPANESE COMMISSIONERS AND WOMEN.



BARON NAIBU KANDA, JAPAN'S LEADING EDUCATOR.

**T**HAT the women of Japan may not be averse to visiting America and coming in their native costumes, the five noted women who are in the party of Japanese who will visit Omaha November 13, are wearing their native costumes. They say that thousands of women of Japan would like to come to America to visit and see the sights, but they have a shyness over what to wear. They want to pave the way for others to follow. America looks good to the Japanese. They are not afraid to say so, and say it in no unostentatious terms. They come as Japanese business men to effect a more

perfect understanding between their country and the country which showed them the way to a world's commerce and opened the gates of Japan. Members of the commission have made various purchases in the cities they have visited and they may make some purchases in Omaha if the committee on entertainment does not insist on occupying all their time. The women like to visit the big stores and look over and buy the pretty things. This is a small matter from a monetary standpoint, but it shows that America has beautiful things in its stores which attract these royal dignitaries from the Flowery Kingdom. They

will take back these trophies of commerce and they may attract their countrymen to buy more American goods.

**Supreme Importance of Visit.**

The supreme importance of the commissioner's visit here from the commercial viewpoint may be read in the statement of the trade relations of the two countries. Our exports to Japan for the year 1908, according to the official reports of the United States government, were valued at \$1,116,454, besides \$1,523,113 to Korea and a good trade with that large section of Manchuria, where Japanese interests are paramount. The largest single item was cotton and cotton goods, totaling \$11,423,573. Next to this come iron and steel products. The main items of this schedule are steel

rails, \$1,548,471; electrical machinery, \$1,495,093; locomotives, \$577,370; all other engines, \$4,698,116; structural steel, \$814,465; builders' hardware and tools, \$268,631; wire, \$109,330; agricultural implements, \$101,535; nails and spikes, \$72,706; pipes and fittings, \$1,408,286. We sold \$339,231 worth of cars, carriages, automobiles and other vehicles, not counting \$98,084 worth of bicycles.

Brass manufactures brought us \$20,949; copper, \$27,300; clocks and watches, \$18,492; scientific instruments, \$207,285.

**Flour and Bread Stuffs.**

Another class of goods which comes home to us is flour and breadstuffs. We receive for the former \$2,360,229 and for the

rest \$719,592; paper and products thereof fetched \$136,372; leather goods, \$550,004; meats and dairy products, \$783,371; naval stores, \$114,254; mineral oils, refined, \$2,046,497; paraffin and paraffin wax, \$326,995; tobacco, \$440,857; woodwax, \$394,007; soap, \$49,400; books, maps and engravings, \$51,461; chemicals, drugs and dyes, \$225,964; fertilizers, \$232,119; fish, \$7,400; fruits and nuts, \$34,442; India rubber wares, \$364,775; inks, \$21,132.

The United States bought from Japan last year goods valued at \$68,107,545, besides \$3,045 worth from Korea—a balance of trade against us of nearly \$17,000,000. Less than one-fourth of our importations were dutiable. The overshadowing item was \$48,000,000 in silk. Next come matings, nearly \$5,000,000; in earthenware and

fibers, nearly \$1,500,000 each; rice, \$1,500,000; and over \$1,000,000 worth each of copper products and camphor.

The Commercial club of Omaha and the business interests will leave no stone unturned to see that the Japanese enjoy their visit to this city and will endeavor to show them something which they have not been able to see in other places in this country. Omaha women prominent in society are making plans to entertain the women of the party. Mrs. Gould Dietz is arranging for one breakfast with fourteen guests.

These pretty little Japanese women have

the native instinct of inquisitiveness and they have been known, on this American tour, to go avry of some of the well laid plans of society folk in various cities. For instance, in one packing city where they were to be entertained in formal style while their husbands were being shown around the dirty and ill-smelling packing plants, they insisted on passing up their social engagements and taking in the stinking packing houses with their husbands.

"We came over to see the United States," they said.

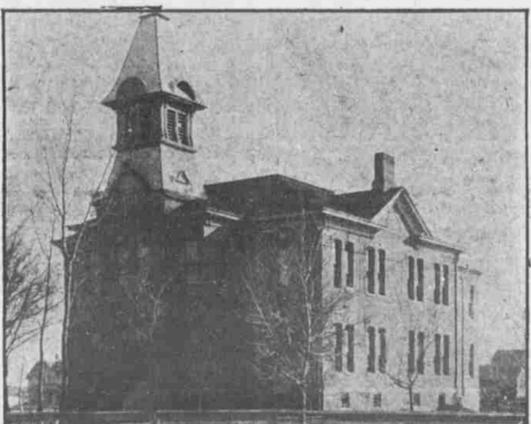
Of course they won't do that in Omaha.

# Pierce County an Example of Up-to-Date Farms and Farming Methods

**F**ARMING in Pierce county has become a four-horse enterprise. The marvelous ingenuity of the farm implement genius has relegated to the shelf of ancient history the old-time plow, and the up-to-date farmer rides a "suiky" while tilling his fields. This era of invention lifted the sturdy husbandman out of the furrow and placed him on a spring seat. It came none too soon, for it brought not only comparative ease in the discharge of farm duties, but a much greater efficiency, materially enhancing the farmer's individual capacity, and rescuing the "knight of the soil" from the arrogant clutches of "the hired man," thereby increasing his independence. The Pierce county farmer today, more than ever before, represents the stability of the nation.



COUNTY COURT HOUSE, PIERCE.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, PIERCE.



LOCUST STREET, PLAINVIEW.



MAIN STREET, PIERCE.

In the earlier days the settlers in Pierce county encouraged and hailed the emigrant because of the fact that he made one more consumer for the product of the soil for which there was but a very limited local market. In contrast with that condition of affairs we find Pierce county today hailing and encouraging immigration upon very different grounds. The present reason for desiring immigration being that more laborers are required that the soil may yield its full harvest and that the demand of far away markets may be supplied. It has been brought about by the transportation facilities, which have entirely removed the necessity of depending upon local markets by making accessible to the farmers of the west the markets of every country on the globe.

It is an interesting fact that the great railways of this country follow very closely along the old Indian trails, and that the red men, in their turn, followed the trail of the buffalo. Engineers surveyed routes across the continent, laying out lines for the railways to follow, but, after all, it was the buffalo, guided only by natural instinct, which "blazed the way."

A remarkable train of events spreading over many years and following each other in rapid succession have unfolded in Pierce county. Forty years ago there was still very much the matter with this part of Nebraska, as with other western counties. The territory where Pierce now stands was hanging perilously near the edge of the western frontier. The antelope, as well as the buffalo, were still furnishing excellent sport for the hunters. But today they are farming the buffalo range and the broad grain fields have driven the antelope beyond the former frontier. For 100 years the supremacy of the Indian and the Hudson Bay Fur company were undisputed. Then the homesteader laid the hand of industry on the broad prairies, possessed

themselves of the richest soil and located their mills, bridges and highways. They built villages, towns and cities so far beyond the pale of civilization that for several years they had no local existence upon the land map of the state and the vergent soil that had slipped unbroken amid everlasting silence was for the first time in all the ages returned to the dew and sunshine. They were the men that followed the dim and winding Indian trail until it broadened into a highway of civilization.

The hotels and banks of Pierce are now receiving their patrons upon the very ground where not many years ago the wolf and the bear prowled and the wild deer and Indian roamed undisturbed. There is a strange combination of wildness and order, of age and newness in this county? It speaks of the long ago and yet brings one into such close contact with the time in which he lives that the dawn of a new era is breaking into view.

There may be said to be two general classes in northern Nebraska—those who are anxious to see a sturdy class of farmers and home-makers come into these counties, thereby building up a population and contributing to the health and strength of the communities; and those who do not desire this kind of development, but, on the other hand, want the great tracts of grazing land to remain in unbroken areas, allowing 1-

The town of Pierce was then laid out and the inhabitants immediately set about building a court house. On March 31, 1871, the county voted \$15,000 bonds, but the bonds were never needed. At this election there were but forty-six votes cast in the county. Pierce county has voted bonds at different times in rather large amounts to different railroad companies.

In the year 1870 J. H. Brown was authorized to call a special election for the purpose of organization of the county. This election was held July 26, 1870. J. H. Brown was elected clerk, H. R. Mewis was treasurer and Albert Briscoe sheriff. In 1879 Pierce county contained a population of 884. In 1888, 1,214.

Pierce, the county seat of Pierce county, is favorably located at the junction of Willow creek with the North Fork of the Elkhorn, the latter furnishing excellent water-power for the city. The first house built in the vicinity of Pierce was a slab and sod house on the bank of Willow creek, built by J. H. Brown, early in 1870. For a time this house served the purpose of a dwelling, postoffice, court house and hotel. The second house was a frame one, built by R. S. Lucas, one and a half stories high, on the land adjoining Mr. Brown's. The school and court house were both built in 1872. Pierce county is one of the very few counties of the state that has been free from a county seat fight. A store building was erected in 1874 by H. R. Mewis. The postoffice was established in 1875, with A. J. Babcock the first postmaster. The first school taught was by Mrs. Robert S. Lucas, in her own house. She afterward taught in the public school house built in 1872. The Pierce County Call was established October 6, 1877, by J. B. Sharot & Bro.

Plainview is one of the thrifty cities of the county. The first settler here was William B. Chivers, June 1, 1871. The postoffice was established in April, 1872, and called Roseville, in honor of Charles Rose, who was appointed first postmaster. In 1874 the name of the postoffice was changed to Plainview. The first house

built was in the fall of 1871, by Star Rose, Schoonover and Dean, the settlers living in the meanwhile in wagons and tents. The first frame house was built in April, 1872. H. R. Mewis built the first store building in December, 1873. The town was platted October 30, 1889.

Let us now turn to Pierce county of today and see what it has accomplished in building up a commonwealth. In the first place Pierce county has a valuation of \$20,000,000, and this amount has been taken from the soil. It has a population of 14,000 people that will compare favorably with any people for thrift and intelligence in any part of the west. The county has 23 1/2 miles of railroad, with seven good, thrifty railroad stations. It also has one excellent water-power, located at Pierce, and in one of the few counties of the state that has a first class independent creamery. The county also has an excellent steam flouring mill located at Plainview. Pierce county is also blessed with ten state banks, twelve grain elevators and twelve free rural routes.

Pierce county has one of the best farms in the state. It is owned by Robert Lucas, at Foster. The farm is located in one of the best agricultural sections of Nebraska and contains 2,500 acres. The farm is valued at more than \$100,000, and is stocked with 1,600 3-year-old white faced cattle. The dwelling house is modern in every respect and cost over \$12,000.

Eden valley is without any doubt one of the choicest farming sections of the state and is located in the extreme northwestern part of the county, while the extreme southeast of the county has one or two townships devoted largely to sandhills and stock range. Pierce county, for its size, is one of the most productive counties of the state. It is not only one of the substantial dairy sections of Nebraska, but it takes high rank in the live stock industry. Last year the farmers of this county sold and shipped out 14,000 beef cattle, 3,500 fat hogs and 700 mutton sheep. Besides raising enough grain to fatten this immense amount of stock, these farmers sold and

shipped out 58,000 bushels of corn, 27,600 bushels of wheat and 678,000 bushels of oats. This county is paying more interest to the dairy industry each year. At the present time these farmers have over 1,100 acres seeded to alfalfa. This accounts for them keeping 8,000 head of cows on their farms last year and using 530 hand separators. From this beginning of the dairy industry these farmers marketed last year 75,000 pounds of butter and 146,000 gallons of cream. These farmers produced on their farms in 1908, 20,000 acres of corn, 2,400 acres of winter wheat, 1,800 acres of spring wheat, 6,500 acres of oats and 4,900 acres of rye.

Pierce county from the very start has been taking a deep interest in their public schools, and it is doubtful if any county in the state has given freer of its time and money for educational purposes than this county. And the results are in the highest degree entirely satisfactory. This county, at the present time, has seventy-four school districts, requiring 198 teachers. Eight districts have two or more school houses. No district has less than six months school during the year, and the average term is a little over eight months.

No district receives a share of the state aid, and last year only three districts levied the limit of taxation—twenty-five mills. The average school fund levy is eleven mills. There are 3,685 children of school age in the county. There are thirty-six children attending the town school under the free high school law. The school property, such as buildings, furniture, books, etc., amount to \$103,599.00.

Last year the average salary paid to female teachers was \$43.34, and to male teachers it was \$55.65. The salary paid this year will average from \$3 to \$7 higher than last year. Superintendent O. R. Boyen, of Pierce schools receives the highest salary, \$1,200.

Over 90 per cent of the teachers showed their professional spirit by enrolling at the North Nebraska Teachers' association, meeting at Norfolk. Frank Pilger is serving his sixth year as county superintendent of schools. He draws a salary of \$1,200. He is also the managing editor of the School News.

The schools and churches have had a

(Continued on Page Four.)



PIERCE KENSINGTON CLUB.



GEORGE STORY'S FARM.