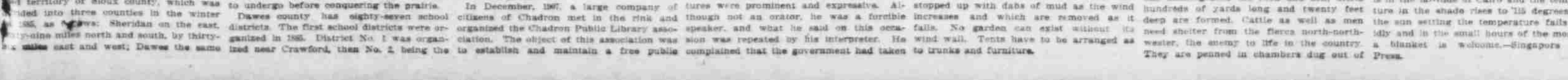
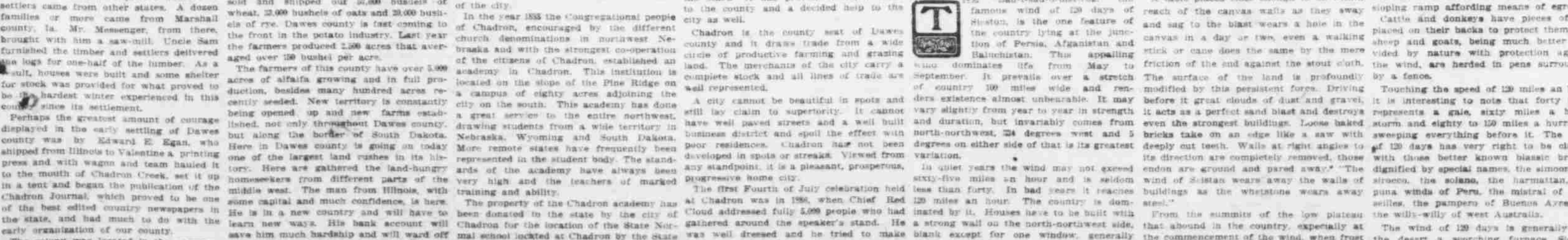
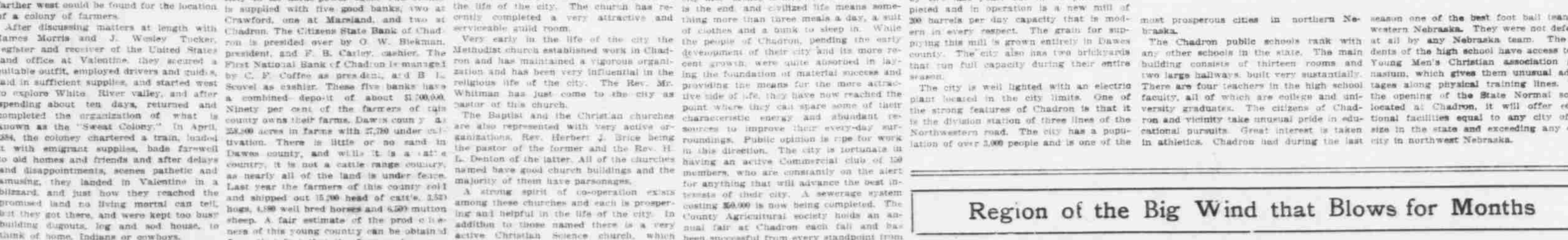
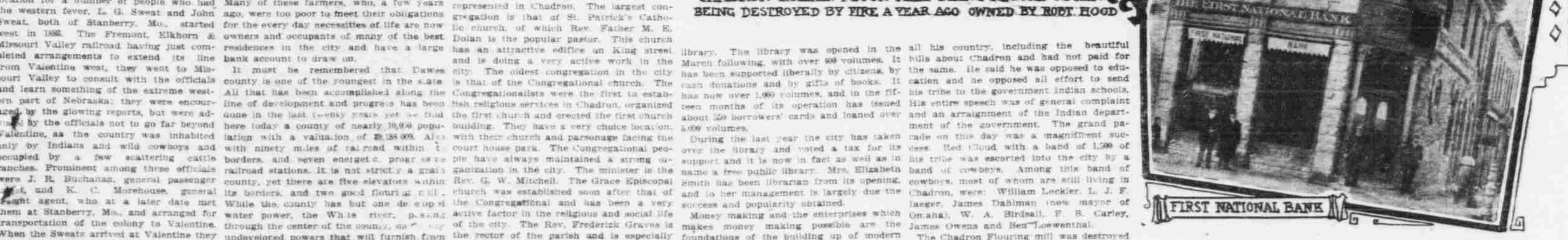
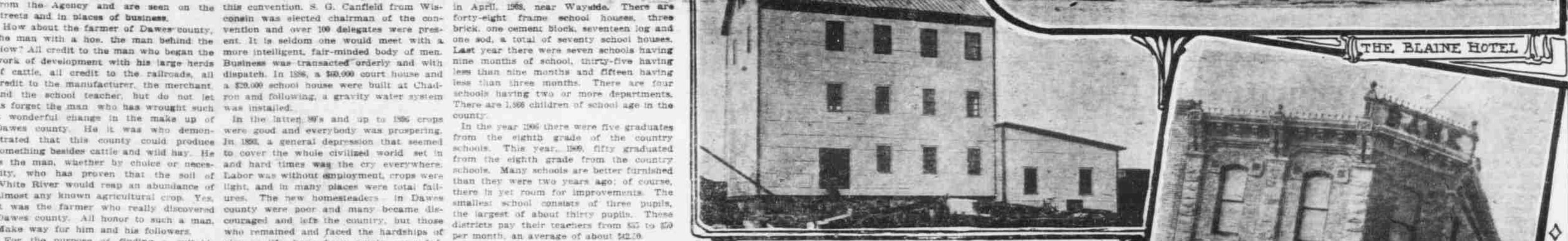
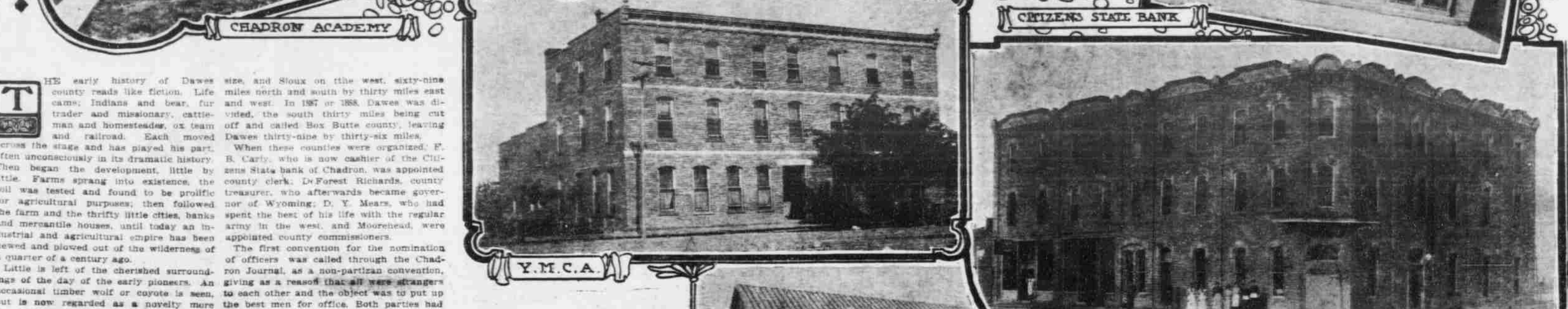


Chadron the Center of a Region of Rapidly Developing Possibilities



THE early history of Dawes county reads like fiction. Life came; Indians and bear, fur trader and missionary, cattlemen and homesteader, ox team and railroad. Each moved across the stage and has played his part, often unconsciously in its dramatic history. Then began the development, little by little. Farms sprang into existence, the soil was tested and found to be prolific for agricultural purposes; then followed the farm and the thrifty little cities, banks and mercantile houses, until today an industrial and agricultural empire has been heaped and placed out of the wilderness of a quarter of a century ago.

Little is left of the cherished surroundings of the day of the early pioneers. An occasional timber wolf or coyote is seen, but is now regarded as a novelty more than a nuisance. The red men come over from the Agency and are seen on the streets and in places of business.

How about the farmer of Dawes county, the man with a hoe, the man behind the plow? All credit to the man who began the work of development with his large herds of cattle, all credit to the railroads, all credit to the manufacturer, the merchant and the school teacher, but do not let us forget the man who has wrought such a wonderful change in the make up of Dawes county. He it was who produced something besides cattle and wild hay. He is the man, whether by choice or necessity, who has proven that the soil of White River would reap an abundance of almost any known agricultural crop. Yes, it was the farmer who really discovered Dawes county. All honor to such a man. Make way for him and his followers.

For the purpose of finding a suitable location for a number of people who had the western fever, L. G. Sweat and John Sweat, both of Stanberry, Mo., started west in 1881. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad having just completed arrangements to extend its line from Valentine west, they went to Missouri Valley to consult with the officials and learn something of the extreme western part of Nebraska; they were encouraged by the glowing reports, but were advised by the officials not to go far beyond Valentine, as the country was inhabited only by Indians and wild cowboys and occupied by a few scattering cattle ranches. Prominent among these officials were J. R. Buchanan, general passenger agent, and K. C. Morehouse, general freight agent. After a later date met them at Stanberry, Mo., and arranged transportation of the colony to Valentine. When the Sweats arrived at Valentine they had a conviction that a better country farther west would be found for the location of a colony of farmers.

After discussing matters at length with James Morris and J. Wesley Tucker, register and receiver of the United States land office at Valentine, they secured a suitable outfit, employed drivers and guides, laid in sufficient supplies, and started west to explore White River valley, and after spending about ten days, returned and completed the organization of what is known as the "Sweet Colony." In April, 1884, the colony chartered a train, loaded it with emigrant supplies, huddles farrowed to old homes and friends and after delays and disappointments, scenes pathetic and amusing, they landed in Valentine in a blizzard, and just how they reached the promised land no living mortal can tell, but they got there, and were kept too busy building dugouts, log and sod houses, to think of home, Indians or cowboys.

About the same time quite a number of settlers came from other states. A dozen families or more came from Marshall county, Ia. Mr. Messenger, from there, brought with him a saw-mill. Uncle Sam furnished the timber and settlers delivered the logs for one-half of the lumber. As a mill, houses were built and some shelter for stock was provided for what proved to be the hardest winter experienced in this country since its settlement.

Perhaps the greatest amount of courage displayed in the early settling of Dawes county was by Edward E. Egan, who shipped from Illinois to Valentine a printing press and with wagon and team hauled it to the mouth of Chadron Creek, set it up in a tent and began the publication of the Chadron Journal, which proved to be one of the best edited country newspapers in the state, and had much to do with the early organization of our county.

The colony was located in the unorganized territory of Sioux county, which was added into three counties in the winter of 1885, as follows: Sheridan on the east, nine miles north and south, by thirty-five miles east and west; Dawes the same

size and Sioux on the west, sixty-nine miles north and south by thirty miles east and west. In 1887 or 1888, Dawes was divided, the south thirty miles being cut off and called Box Butte county, leaving Dawes thirty-nine by thirty-six miles.

When these counties were organized, F. R. Carly, who is now cashier of the Citizens State bank of Chadron, was appointed county clerk. Dr. Forest Richards, county treasurer, who afterwards became governor of Wyoming; D. Y. Mears, who had spent the best of his life with the regular army in the west, and Moorehead, were appointed county commissioners.

The first convention for the nomination of officers was called through the Chadron Journal, as a non-partisan convention, giving as a reason that all were strangers to each other and the object was to put up the best men for office. Both parties had caucuses and elected delegates to attend this convention. S. G. Canfield from Wisconsin was elected chairman of the convention and over 100 delegates were present. It is seldom one would meet with a more intelligent, fair-minded body of men. Business was transacted orderly and with dispatch. In 1886, a \$50,000 court house and a \$20,000 school house were built at Chadron and following, a gravity water system was installed.

In the latter '80s and up to 1896 crops were good and everybody was prospering. In 1898, a general depression that seemed to cover the whole civilized world set in and hard times was the cry everywhere. Labor was without employment, crops were light, and in many places were total failures. The new homesteaders in Dawes county were poor and many became discouraged and left the country, but those who remained and faced the hardships of pioneer life have been amply rewarded. Many of these farmers, who, a few years ago, were too poor to meet their obligations for the every day necessities of life are now owners and occupants of many of the best residences in the city and have a large bank account to draw on.

It must be remembered that Dawes county is one of the youngest in the state. All that has been accomplished along the line of development and progress has been done in the last twenty years yet we find here today a county of nearly 30,000 population with a valuation of \$2,380,000. Also with ninety miles of railroad within its borders, and seven energetic, prosperous railroad stations. It is not strictly a grain county, yet there are five elevators within its borders, and two good flour mills. While this county has but one developed water power, the White river, passing through the center of the county, an undeveloped power that will furnish from fifty to 250 horse-power each. The county is supplied with five good banks, two at Crawford, one at Marsland, and two at Chadron. The Citizens State Bank of Chadron is presided over by O. W. Hickman, president, and F. B. Carley, cashier. The First National Bank of Chadron is managed by C. F. Coffey as president, and B. L. Sevel as cashier. These five banks have a combined deposit of about \$1,500,000. Ninety per cent of the farmers of this county own their farms. Dawes county is 250,000 acres in farms with 2,750 under cultivation. There is little or no stock in Dawes county, and while it is a cattle country, it is not a cattle range country, as nearly all of the land is under fence. Last year the farmers of this county sold and shipped over 15,000 head of cattle, 2,500 hogs, 4,500 well bred horses and 4,500 mutton sheep. A fair estimate of the wool of this year of this young country can be obtained from that fact that the farmers of this county sold and shipped out 27,000 bushels of wheat, 20,000 bushels of oats and 20,000 bushels of rye. Dawes county is fast coming to the front in the potato industry. Last year the farmers produced 1,200 acres that averaged over 100 bushels per acre.

The farmers of this county have over 3,000 acres of alfalfa growing and in full production, besides many hundred acres recently seeded. New territory is constantly being opened up and new farms established, not only throughout Dawes county, but along the border of South Dakota. Here in Dawes county is going on today one of the largest land rushes in its history. Here are gathered the land-hungry homesteaders from different parts of the middle west. The man from Illinois, with some capital and much confidence, is here. He is in a new country and will have to learn new ways. His bank account will save him much hardship and will ward off the privations the pioneer of older days had to undergo before conquering the prairie.

Dawes county has eighty-seven school districts. The first school districts were organized in 1885. District No. 1 was organized near Crawford, then No. 2 being the

Chadron district. The last one was formed in April, 1898, near Wayside. There are forty-eight frame school houses, three brick, one cement block, seventeen log and one sod, a total of seventy school houses. Last year there were seven schools having nine months of school, thirty-five having less than nine months and fifteen having less than three months. There are four schools having two or more departments. There are 1,389 children of school age in the county.

In the year 1906 there were five graduates from the eighth grade of the country schools. This year, 1907, fifty graduated from the eighth grade from the country schools. Many schools are better furnished than they were two years ago; of course, there is yet room for improvement. The smallest school consists of three pupils, the largest of about thirty pupils. These districts pay their teachers from \$5 to \$9 per month, an average of about \$4.25.

The various Christian churches are well represented in Chadron. The largest congregation is that of St. Patrick's Catholic church, of which Rev. Father M. E. Dolan is the popular pastor. This church has an attractive edifice on King street and is doing a very active work in the city. The oldest congregation in the city is that of the Congregational church. The Congregationalists were the first to establish religious services in Chadron, organized the first church and erected the first church building. They have a very choice location, with their church and parsonage facing the court house park. The Congregational people have always maintained a strong organization in the city. The minister is the Rev. G. W. Mitchell. The Grace Episcopal church was established soon after that of the Congregational and has been a very active factor in the religious and social life of the city. The Rev. Frederick Graves is the pastor of the parish and is especially popular and helpful in all departments of the life of the city. The church has recently completed a very attractive and serviceable Sunday school.

Very early in the life of the city the Methodist church established work in Chadron and has maintained a vigorous organization and has been very influential in the religious life of the city. The Rev. Mr. Whitman has just come to the city as pastor of this church.

The Baptist and the Christian churches are also represented with very active organizations. Rev. Herbert J. Brice being the pastor of the former and the Rev. H. L. Denton of the latter. All of the churches named have good church buildings and the majority of them have parsonages.

A strong spirit of co-operation exists among these churches and each is prosperous and helpful in the life of the city. In addition to those named there is a very active Christian Science church, which holds regular services in one of the halls of the city.

In the year 1888 the Congregational people of Chadron, encouraged by the different church denominations in northwest Nebraska and with the strongest co-operation of the citizens of Chadron, established an academy in Chadron. This institution is located on the slope of the Pine Ridge on a campus of eighty acres adjoining the city on the south. This academy has done a great service to the entire northwest, drawing students from a wide territory in Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota. More remote states have frequently been represented in the student body. The standards of the academy have always been very high and the teachers of marked training and ability.

The property of the Chadron academy has been donated to the state by the city of Chadron for the location of the State Normal school located at Chadron by the state Board of Education.

In December, 1897, a large company of citizens of Chadron met in the risk and organized the Chadron Public Library association. The object of this association was to establish and maintain a free public

library. The library was opened in the March following, with over 400 volumes. It has been supported liberally by citizens, by cash donations and by gifts of books. It has now over 1,000 volumes, and in the fifteen months of its operation has issued about 120 borrowers' cards and loaned over 4,000 volumes.

During the last year the city has taken over the library and voted a tax for its support and it is now in fact as well as in name a free public library. Mrs. Elizabeth Smith has been librarian from its opening, and her management is largely due to the success and popularity obtained.

Money making and the enterprises which makes money making possible are the foundations of the building up of modern city life. Money means, but civilized life is the end and civilized life means something more than three meals a day, a suit of clothes and a bunk to sleep in. While the people of Chadron, pending the early development of their city and its more recent growth, were quite absorbed in laying the foundation of material success and providing the means for the more attractive side of life, they have now reached the point where they can spare some of their characteristic energy and abundant resources to improve their every-day surroundings. Public opinion is ripe for work in this direction. The city is fortunate in having an active Commercial club of 100 members, who are constantly on the alert for anything that will advance the best interests of their city. A sewerage system costing \$60,000 is now being completed. The County Agricultural society holds an annual fair at Chadron each fall and has been successful from every standpoint from the start. It has proven of much value to the county and a decided help to the city as well.

Chadron is the county seat of Dawes county and it draws trade from a wide circle of productive farming and grazing land. The merchants of the city carry a complete stock and all lines of trade are well represented.

A city cannot be beautiful in spots and still lay claim to superiority. It cannot have well paved streets and a well built business district and still the effect with poor residences. Chadron has not been developed in spots or streaks. Viewed from any standpoint, it is a pleasant, prosperous, progressive home city.

The first Fourth of July celebration held at Chadron was in 1885, when Chief Red Cloud addressed fully 2,000 people who had gathered around the speaker's stand. He was well dressed and he tried to make himself appear as a white man. His features were prominent and expressive. Although not an orator, he was a forcible speaker, and what he said on this occasion was repeated by his interpreter. He complained that the government had taken

all his country, including the beautiful hills about Chadron and had not paid for the same. He said he was opposed to education and he opposed all effort to send his tribe to the government Indian schools. His entire speech was of general complaint and an arraignment of the government. The grand parade on this day was a magnificent success. Red Cloud with a band of 1,500 of his tribe was escorted into the city by a band of cowboys. Among this band of cowboys, most of whom are still living in Chadron, were: William Lockler, L. J. F. Jaeger, James Dahman, now mayor of Omaha, W. A. Bivins, F. B. Carley, James Owens and Ben Townsend.

The Chadron Flouring mill was destroyed by fire last year, but in its place completed and in operation is a new mill of 200 barrels per day capacity that is modern in every respect. The grain for supplying this mill is grown entirely in Dawes county. The city also has two brick yards that run full capacity during their entire season.

The city is well lighted with an electric plant located in the city limits. One of the strong features of Chadron is that it is the division station of three lines of the Northwestern road. The city has a population of over 1,000 people and is one of the

most prosperous cities in northern Nebraska. The Chadron public schools rank with any other schools in the state. The students of the high school have access to the Young Men's Christian association gymnasium, which gives them unusual advantages along physical training lines. With the opening of the State Normal school located at Chadron, it will offer educational facilities equal to any city of its size in the state and exceeding any other city in northwest Nebraska.

season one of the best foot ball teams in western Nebraska. They were not defeated at all by any Nebraska team. The students of the high school have access to the Young Men's Christian association gymnasium, which gives them unusual advantages along physical training lines. With the opening of the State Normal school located at Chadron, it will offer educational facilities equal to any city of its size in the state and exceeding any other city in northwest Nebraska.

Region of the Big Wind that Blows for Months

THE "Bad-lead-o'-hist-ruz," the famous wind of 129 days of bluster, is the one feature of the country lying at the junction of Persia, Afghanistan and Baluchistan. This appalling wind dominates life from May to September. It prevails over a stretch of country 100 miles wide and renders existence almost unbearable. It may vary slightly from year to year in strength and duration, but invariably comes from north-northwest, 24 degrees west and 5 degrees on either side of that is its greatest variation.

In quiet years the wind may not exceed sixty-five miles an hour and it seldom less than forty. In bad years it reaches 120 miles an hour. The country is dominated by it. Houses have to be built with a strong wall on the north-northwest side, blank except for one window, generally divided up into small holes, which are stopped up with dabs of mud as the wind increases and which are removed as it falls. No garden can exist without its trunk wall. Tents have to be arranged as to winds and furniture.

A table placed close enough to be within reach of the canvas walls as they sway and sag to the blast wears a hole in the canvas in a day or two, even a walking stick or cane does the same by the mere friction of the end against the stout cloth. The surface of the land is profoundly modified by this persistent force. Driving before it great clouds of dust and gravel, it acts as a perfect sand blast and destroys even the strongest buildings. Loose baked bricks take on an edge like a saw with deep cut teeth. Walls at right angles to its direction are completely removed, those end on are around and pared away. The wind of Solistan wears away the walls of buildings as the whetstone wears away steel.

From the summits of the low plateau that abound in the country, especially at the commencement of the wind, when frost has disintegrated the rock and soil, drifts hundreds of yards long and twenty feet deep are formed. Cattle as well as men need shelter from the fierce north-northwester, the enemy to life in the country. They are penned in chambers dug out of the soil and roofed over for protection. A simple ramp affording means of egress. Cattle and donkeys have pieces of felt placed on their backs to protect them, but sheep and goats, being much better provided by nature with protection against the wind, are herded in pens surrounded by a fence.

Touching the speed of 129 miles an hour, it is interesting to note that forty miles represents a gale, sixty miles a heavy storm and eighty to 120 miles a hurricane sweeping everything before it. The wind of 129 days has very right to be classed with those better known blastic breezes dignified by special names, the simoon, the sirocco, the solano, the harmattan, the puna winds of Peru, the mistral of Marselles, the pampero of Buenos Ayres, or the willy-willy of west Australia.

The wind of 129 days is generally hot, the desert a scorching furnace. Siestan is in the latitude of Cairo and the temperature in the shade rises to 115 degrees. On the sun setting the temperature falls rapidly and in the small hours of the morning a blanket is welcome.—Singapore Free Press.