

Ramparts of a Famous Old Fort Are Now Hidden by Fields of Grain



BREASTWORKS TAKEN DURING A RE-UNION

A SHADY DRIVE LEADING FROM THE FORT



THE OLD POWDER MAGAZINE



PIONEERS WHO ATTEND THE RE-UNIONS

FORT KEARNEY, five years ago was doomed to be forgotten. Few people, living almost in the immediate vicinity of the old site, hardly knew its location, much less did they realize that it had played an important part in the settlement of the west. Had the site not fallen into the hands of a man who knew and appreciated the traditions of the old fort it would now be impossible to find even a landmark. John Dungan, the present owner of the land where the fort proper stood, knew each landmark and so dearly loved the old parade grounds that he would not allow a single furrow turned. Although he would have profited in dollars, he refused to let even a shovel full of dirt to be taken from the earthworks and for years he guarded the old stump of the flag staff until at last he saw it dug up and placed in the hands of the state historical society at Lincoln.

Fort Kearney was established by the United States government in May, 1848. In August of the same year, Lieutenant Colonel Powell made a treaty with the four confederate tribes of the Pawnee Indians and they relinquished to the government for military purposes a tract ten miles square. It also included a strip of land sixty miles long and about ten miles wide extending from a point five miles west of the fort eastward to a point opposite the village of Chappell, in Hall county. In width it took in practically the Platte valley, extending from the crest of the hills on the south to the crest on the north. All of the "Thousand Islands" in the Platte were also relinquished by this treaty. At this time the Mexican war had just closed. The troops from Fort Des Moines had been removed and Fort Kearney was the most important post in the west. It was located on and near a common meeting point of the old Oregon trail. Trails coming up from St. Louis, Independence and St. Joseph met and joined trails coming from Bellevue and Florence in the immediate

vicinity of Fort Kearney. There are no official figures, but from various reports it is estimated that about four thousand wagons passed over this trail from March to August of each year. Fort Kearney was their stopping place in the earlier days of the fort, and the troops stationed there afforded protection to the emigrants and to the few white settlers. These soldiers lived hard, fought hard and many died hard, as there were at that time about 100,000 Indians west of the Mississippi who were warlike and cruel. A Mormon official counted five hundred graves between Fort Kearney and Laramie, and this does not near number the dead, as at times a whole emigrant train would be murdered by the

Indians and their bodies placed in one grave. Fort Kearney troops would march as far west as Laramie, Wyo., and conduct campaigns against the Indians. In 1865 General Harney fought a fierce battle with the Indians at Ash Hollow, in Deuel county. This battle was decisive, and save for a few skirmishes, was the last important encounter with Indians that troops from Fort Kearney participated in. In 1871 the old post was abandoned by the major portion of the soldiers and Sergeant Cooky remained at the post for four years, disposing of a vast amount of property, consisting of farming tools and government goods. Then by a special act

of congress the whole reservation was thrown open to settlement. The buildings were moved away, and nothing but the trees planted by the soldiers remained. Later the piece of ground where the buildings and corral were located was homesteaded by John Dungan. Mr. Dungan has lived there for nearly thirty-five years, and he has kept uppermost in his mind the preservation of the grounds. A knoll of bare ground here represents the spot where the powder magazine was located. A large, open place, surrounded by rows of large cottonwood trees, is the old parade grounds. Out in a pasture can be seen the almost invisible earthworks thrown up around the garrison. Aside from this, there

are few other landmarks. Now and then they have held a three-day re-union and they have formed what is known as the Fort Kearney National Park association. General John Maxon of Minden is president of the association and the other officers consist of secretary, treasurer and quartermaster. Last year the re-union had reached the point where it was regarded as the idea was first conceived to make of Fort Kearney a national park and have

it set aside as such. Each year since then they have held a three-day re-union and they have formed what is known as the Fort Kearney National Park association. General John Maxon of Minden is president of the association and the other officers consist of secretary, treasurer and quartermaster. Last year the re-union had reached the point where it was regarded as the idea was first conceived to make of Fort Kearney a national park and have

Wherever there can be found a soldier who served at the old post, an effort will be made to have him attend the re-union. On the second day of the assembly a large granite monument will be unveiled marking the spot where the old trail crossed the Platte. Each year hereafter another monument will mark a historic spot, until even nature cannot wipe from the memory of man the traditions of the old military post on the prairies of Nebraska.

Choice Samples from the Story Tellers' Pack

It Is Different Now.
HE late Professor William P. Blake, whose encouraging mineralogical reports induced the United States to buy Alaska, believed firmly in his country's future.
Professor Blake, in a Fourth of July address that Tucson still remembers, pointed out the forward strides that Arizona had made.
"Think of the ignorance and illiteracy of the past, all vanished now," he said. "Once while out on a mineralogical trip, I wandered into a courthouse in an Arizona village.
"The case afoot concerned a letter. The prosecution wanted this letter admitted in evidence, but the defense wanted it barred out. Finally the judge reluctantly:
"Hand the pesky thing up here and I'll decide on it."
"So the letter was handed up to the judge, and he put on his spectacles and looked at it sideways and crosswise, and a loud laugh went up from the spectators.
"What are they laughing at? I asked the man next to me.
"Why, at the judge's bluff, of course," was the reply. "The old fool can't read readin'-writin', let alone writin'-writin'."
—New York Tribune.

"Waiter," he said, "I'm in a hurry. Put on another porterhouse and bring me his!"—Washington Star.
Cupid in the Schoolroom.
Miss Bertha Kramer, a young school teacher, tells the following story of one of her pupils who lives in Nazareth, Pa.
It seems that this child asks more questions than the average youngster and rarely forgets what he said.
"One morning he went to the teacher.
"Miss Bertha, does every pretty girl get married?" he asked in a solemn tone.
"Why, Henry," replied Miss Kramer, "what makes you ask that? Most of the pretty girls do, but sometimes they never have the chance."
"Well, we had an argument at home last night about that and I said all pretty girls get married. Why don't you get married, too—you are the prettiest teacher I know?"
"I suppose it is because no one ever asked me, Henry. You see, I couldn't write well, anyhow."
"Oh, say Miss Bertha, you're only kiddin'. There are lots of fellows who'd have you besides, between you and me, you'd have a better time lookin' after kids of your own rather than other people's kids!"
—Philadelphia Times.

"The lawyer class?" said the reporter, puzzled.
"Yes," said Mr. Parr, "the lawyer class. The junior and senior partner of a law firm, you know, once put their heads together to draw a client's bill."
"We've won the will contest for him," said the junior partner, rubbing his hands. "Suppose we charge him \$300,000."
"But the senior partner frowned.
"Go on!" he said. "He's worth more than that!"—Detroit Free Press.
Studying the Law.
In the old days when oral examinations were still the thing, an examining board was punning an applicant with questions from Shakespeare, Kent and other famous legal lights.
"I didn't study anything about those fellows," complained the applicant.
"What did you study?" asked one of the judges.
"I studied the statutes of the state," he replied. "I studied them hard. Ask me a question about them and I'll show you. That is where I got all my legal knowledge."
"My young friend," said one austere judge on the examining board, "you had better be very careful, for some day the legislature might meet and repeal every thing you know!"—Kansas City Journal.

Why He Was Excluded.
A friend of James Whitcomb Riley tells of an occasion when the humorist, who usually dislikes social functions, was invited to attend a "dinner" in Indianapolis given in honor of one of the novelists who live there. Mr. Riley had been used to live in to dinner a sister of the poet, an excellent woman, but not literary.
The conversation touched upon the beauties of Chaucer, about whom a certain set of the city was then cultivating a fad. A spirited discussion ensued, during which the bewildered sister caught from time to time only the name "Chaucer." At last she whispered to Mr. Riley:
"Who is this Mr. Chaucer they're talking so much about? Is he very popular in society?"
"Chaucer," solemnly responded Riley, "that man did something that forever shuts him out of society."
"Mercy!" exclaimed the worthy woman.
"He died several hundred years ago," said Riley.—Indianapolis News.

The Telephone Current.
THE Electrical Review an article on the history of the telephone thus describes the minute electric current required in transmitting speech: "The peculiar electric telephone current is the quickest, feeblest and most elusive force in the world. It is so amazing a thing that its description it seems irrational. It is as gentle as the touch of a baby sunbeam and as swift as the lightning flash. It is so small that the electric current of a single incandescent lamp is greater—50,000,000 times. Cool a spoonful of hot water just 1 degree, and the energy set free by the cooling will operate a telephone for 10,000 years. Catch the falling tear drop of a child and there will be sufficient water power to carry a spoken message from one city to another.
"Such is the tiny genie of the wire that had to be protected and trained into obedience."
The appearance of these particles at first suggested the idea that they were particles of dust, but it was proved by many experiments that they are something very different. On careful examination, similar particles were observed to accumulate at the cathodes, where they formed a fluorescent crystal, which must be regarded as products of electrolysis. The strongest argument, however, against the dust hypothesis is furnished by the fact that the particles do not disappear gradually, as would be the case with dust, but that on the contrary, they steadily increase in number during the flow of the current. When the liquid is placed in a magnetic field the lines of force of which are perpendicular to the direction of the current, the paths of the moving particles are altered in accordance with Ampere's law. Hence, says the Scientific American, it is inferred that these bright points bear some close relation to the flow of electricity, and that they are probably the carriers of electricity—i. e., the ions. This view is confirmed by the discovery that the velocity of the bright points is approximately equal to the velocity of ions, as measured by Kohlrausch.

Electricity in Marine Work.
The Electrician contains a supplement of 100 pages devoted to the applications of electricity in marine work. Already a large proportion of the auxiliary power required on a modern liner or battleship is supplied by electricity, but the electrical engineer looks forward to the near future when electricity will play an important part in the propulsion of vessels. Three possible systems of electro-mechanical propulsion are described in this supplement. In each the prime mover is coupled direct to one or more dynamos, which in turn drive motors on the screw shafts. The great flexibility of the electrical method of transmission makes it possible to vary the speed of the vessel between wide limits without running the machinery at low efficiency. The question of the prime mover of the future is obviously an important one, and several of the writers of the articles expect the oil engine to displace the turbine, or rather to displace, the reciprocating steam engine.
Working Off the Surplus.
President Taft is trying to reduce his weight. Every morning when most persons on vacations are sleeping peacefully, Mr. Taft rolls reluctantly out of bed, gets into trunks and running shirt and hastens toward the gymnasium. This is at 7 o'clock, and as if the hour were not enough to keep the curious away, the secret service guards double their vigilance at this time. The president's gymnasium is a large room at one corner of the cottage, far removed from the family sleeping apartments. It is equipped with chest weights, rings, bars and other athletic appliances. There is also a wrestling mat and two sets of boxing gloves.
Mr. Taft started in last week to take off twenty-five pounds. When he left Beverly last summer he weighed 265 pounds, which was fighting weight for him. During the winter he has been so busy that his exercise has been omitted, and he has accumulated a large quantity of additional tissue. Dr. Charles E. Baker, President Taft's trainer, has three months in which to get the fat off, and he started right in the day Mr. Taft arrived in Beverly. The president's weight is about 285 pounds, his height six feet, one inch, and his reach about seventy-three inches. Barker weighs about 140 pounds, is about five feet, nine inches tall and has a reach of about sixty-six inches. Yet Barker stands up against the president every morning and bangs away at him with boxing gloves while he receives the blows of the chief executive on his arms. The president moves rather slowly, and about the only damage he does is to the atmosphere, but this helps him take off weight.
After the boxing ordeal the president walks over to the wrestling mat. Dr. Barker wrestles as well as he boxes, and contrives to be on top most of the time. After Mr. Taft has boxed and wrestled and worked at the chest weights for an hour and had a shower bath and a rub-down he is ready for breakfast.—New York Times.

How the Electrical World is Advancing

Eye Openers.
Some years ago in a southern state, a small boy had some puppies in a basket and he was trying to persuade a man to purchase one of them.
"Wouldn't you like to buy a puppy, sir," he asked.
"What are your puppies, my boy," the man questioned, "are they republicans or are they democrats?"
"They are republicans," the boy answered quickly and with conviction.
"Much pleased the gentleman bought one of them. Two weeks later the boy met the same man and tried to sell him another puppy.
"Well," asked the man, "what kind of puppies have you today?" He glanced into the basket and saw that they were from the same lot as that of his recent purchase.
"Democrats," the little fellow responded promptly.
"Ah," the man exclaimed, "but two weeks ago, I had one from the same family and you said that they were republican puppies. How do you account for that?"
"Oh! Oh! Mister, you see they have their own open now."—Norman E. Mack's National Monthly.

Twelve Minutes Saved.
"Experience," said Mark Twain in the smoking room of the Bermudian, "makes us wise, but it also makes us hard."
"Consider the old, experienced man in the luncheon restaurant. He took a seat, looked around him, and pointing to a well dressed gentleman who had not yet been served, he said to the waiter:
"Waiter, how long has that gentleman been waiting?"
"About twelve minutes, sir," the waiter answered.
"What's his order?"
"Porterhouse and French fried, sir, with mince pie and coffee to come."
The old man, hardened by experience, slipped a quarter in the waiter's hand.

The Basis of a Lawyer's Fee.
Richard Parr, the discoverer of the sugar trust frauds, was talking in New York about the generous reward granted him by the government.
"Some folks thought I was going to get a reward of \$2,000,000 or so," said Mr. Parr.
"What was it?"
"Doctor," cried little Bingle, over his telephone, "my car has lost her voice. What the dickens shall I do?"
"Why," said the doctor, gravely, "if I were you I'd remember the fact when Thanksgiving day comes around and act accordingly."
Whereupon the doctor chuckled as he charged little Bingle 25¢ for professional services.—Harper's Weekly.
Mark Twain and Others.
In the early '70s, writes Henry Watterson

The Cook's Wedding Guests.
More than five hundred dogs and cats in the Bide-a-Wee home at 24 East Sixty-fifth street, New York, were guests when their old friend and cook, Frederick D. Planer, married Miss Carrie Schmidt one day last week.
After the wedding the cats were fed by the bride, while her husband, who is cook no longer, looked out for the dogs.
About a year ago the couple met in Frankfurt, Germany, when about to journey to America. They became good friends on the ship, and when each settled in New York city the acquaintance ripened by frequent meetings. Soon they became engaged. Fred got a job in the Bide-a-Wee home and soon was a cook there.
The Bide-a-Wee managers furnished a home for the couple on the top floor of the house, and when Carrie became Mrs. Planer she took part in feeding the cats of the home, for her Fred has been promoted to the proud rank of "head man" over the dogs. Mrs. Kibbie, president of the Bide-a-Wee home, saw fit to increase the couple's happiness by that advancement.
Part of the roof garden has been devoted to the comfort of the cat boarders. They even have hammocks, which certainly are not known to the street cats.

Military Orders by Wireless.
A new wireless apparatus for the transmission of military orders during a battle from one body of troops to another has been invented by Major Beddington of the British army, who has devised and made the necessary easily portable "plant," which can be carried on horseback and accompany any cavalry or infantry force. It does not require half a day to erect, nor even half an hour, and messages can be sent for miles—five miles or less—by the apparatus. The whole arrangement seems to be ideal, and the very thing needed, particularly for cavalry operating in the field or for detached outposts.
It links up and makes verterate and efficient a leader's whole strength in the field for offense or defence. The new wireless apparatus for the use of troops in the field is carried on horseback and can be set up in the course of a few minutes. The materials employed consist of an ordinary two-horsepower motorcycle engine, which drives a dynamo to produce the electric discharges. These impulses are sent through 100 yards of double copper

wires suspended between twenty-four-foot poles placed at the distance named. Each connection is simply achieved by laying down a copper wire gauze mat on the ground. The mat is the heaviest lead to be carried, and that is not more than 200 pounds, while the motor engine and dynamo weigh but 100 pounds. As for the poles, they are carried on the horse or pony's pack saddle in six-foot pointed lengths. Experiment has proved that a "station" can be made ready and messages received within fifteen minutes. In one instance messages were sent and received over a distance of sixteen and one-fourth miles near Kewick, and a huge fell 1,700 feet in height interposed between the two stations. Yet the signals were clear and distinct, and there seems to be no difficulty in passing them over a distance of forty miles or more.
Electric Sparks in Liquids.
A very interesting research has been carried on at the University of Kieff by Prof. Kosogonoff, who has employed the microscope for the examination of liquids during electrolysis. The beam of light converged upon the liquid had previously traversed a solution of ammonium chloride, which absorbed much of the heat-producing rays. When the liquid was examined through the microscope, with the electric circuit broken, scattered bright points were seen, which, in almost all cases, exhibited the peculiar Brownian motion. In a solution of copper, in which the current passes between copper electrodes, these bright points were seen to move in the direction of the electric current. Some of the particles, however, exhibited no tendency to move in any particular direction. Similar phenomena were observed in a solution of silver nitrate, with silver electrodes. In non-electrolytic liquids, such as benzol, neither movements nor bright points were seen. When the current was reversed in an electrolyte, the direction of motion of the bright points was reversed also. When the current was allowed to flow for a few seconds, the number of bright particles between the electrodes increased.

Petrol and Electric Motors.
In a new petrol-electric motor omnibus, constructed by the Daimler company, two powerful units are fitted, one at each side of the frame under the seat line, each capable of developing 12-horse-power. The engines are of the new Daimler type, with crank shafts and frames extended for the dynamotors by which term is meant an ordinary continuous-current dynamo which is used as a motor. Each dynamo is normally rated at three kilowatts, but has a give-and-take capacity of three or four times this rating. It is stated that almost impossible to cause this new omnibus to skid or slide to any appreciable degree and nothing in the nature of a dangerous accident has been experienced in 3,500 miles of driving. This omnibus is attributed to the following factors: the extreme flexibility of the double-unit system; the better weight distribution obtainable by the construction adopted; the distribution of braking over the front and rear wheels and the improved methods of braking employed; the improved co-axial pivot steering, and the comparative ab-