

# Governor and Members of Legislature Guests of Omaha



H.H. BALDRIGE — Toastmaster



E.G. MCGILTON  
Former Lieut-Gov



Before the start into the Armour plant. Gov. ALDRICH in center foreground.



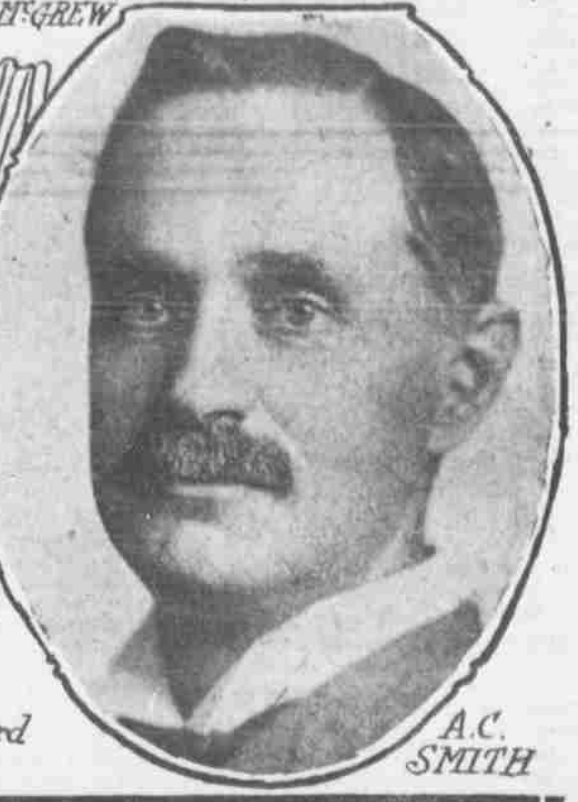
Left to Right - Rep. BULLA, EVERETT BURBINK - HAM, C.F. MCGREW



DAVID COLE  
PRESIDENT  
COMMERCIAL CLUB



Rep. SCHEELLE of Seward  
Only man whose seat is contested



A.C. SMITH

FOR THE second time in four years Omaha entertained the Nebraska legislature Tuesday. On the first occasion, January 29, 1907, the McKinley club gave a complimentary banquet at the Millard hotel to Governor Sheldon, the state officers and members of the legislature.

Tuesday last South Omaha joined with Omaha in entertaining Governor Aldrich, the state officers and the senators and representatives. On both occasions special trains were furnished to bring the state officials from Lincoln, and on this most recent visit, as on the earlier one, the governor and the spokesmen for the legislature found themselves able to give voice to sentiments of good will and appreciation that gave decided pleasure to their hosts. On both occasions the hospitality extended was unstinted and the welcome most hearty, and found acceptance in the same spirit in which it was tendered.

Governor Aldrich, speaking at the luncheon at the Exchange building in South Omaha, made one of the best short addresses of his career. It was spoken in a broad spirit and brought home to the minds of his hearers the truth that, no matter what walk men follow in life, they are inspired by the same motives and meet with the same difficulties.

"The men in charge of this tremendous industry, involving, as it does, great amounts of capital, have to meet every day about the same problems that we are compelled to face in our various lines of effort," he said. "They are continually worrying over the question of making the balance show on the right side, just as we are compelled to struggle to make ends meet. Their hearts are the same, and they must wrestle with obstacles of many kinds that perhaps we have no conception of. After an inspection of these immense packing plants we cannot fail to realize how much they mean to the farmers of Nebraska in furnishing a ready market for their live stock. All things considered, these packing houses can be considered among the greatest in the world. In dealing with measures affecting their interests the legislature must exercise the fullest degree of caution, so that we do not put our foot down until we know just where we are going to light."



Going into Live Stock Exchange for Luncheon

M.R. HOPEWELL  
Lieut-Governor

Kuhl and Morehead Respond. Speaker of the House John Kuhl and Senator Morehead, president pro tem of the senate, also made brief addresses when called on by T. B. McPherson, who presided at the luncheon. Both expressed the view that the visit could not fail to bring to the minds of the legislative members a better understanding of the extent and importance of the stock yards and packing house industry and their intimate association with the material prosperity of Nebraska. The two legislative officials gave warm expression to the thanks and appreciation of the members of their respective houses for the arrangements made to give them an inside view of the packing plants and for the entertainment so generously provided.

Incidentally, it may be said that the luncheon served in the Exchange dining hall was complete in every detail, from oysters to ice cream and cigars.

Mr. McPherson extended the formal welcome on behalf of the Union Stock Yards company and in doing so he said the only object the entertainers had was to give the legislators an opportunity to see everything at first hand and examine for themselves into the conditions surrounding the buying, handling and packing of the live stock products of the farms of Nebraska and the country west.

Through the Packing Plants. The special train on the Burlington from Lincoln arrived at the South Omaha depot at 10 o'clock. Automobiles were in waiting and carried the party to the Cudahy plant. The inspection here was confined to the hog-killing department, because of the great amount of ground to be covered before the luncheon. Methods of receiving, killing, cleaning and dressing the hog were explained by experts. The members saw the work in actual operation, and from the government inspectors here and in the other houses they learned the thorough-going character of that branch of government supervision of meat products.

"Uncle Sam has certainly made the packers toe the mark in great shape," was the comment of an observing member of the senate, after he had seen the close attention given by the inspectors to every single carcass before it gets the official stamp.

At the Armour plant the visitors saw the work in all departments "in the raw." Beef steers were killed and dressed while the lawmakers watched the operation. They had opportunity to see the butchers, trimmers and cutters perform their various tasks with an astonishing celerity, and the method of cleansing every part of the beef with stiff brooms to which a hose spouting hot water was attached was not the least interesting part of the work.

In the Armour plant Manager "Bob" Howe and Superintendent O'Hearn had evidently determined that dress parade arrangements should not be attempted, with the result that their visitors got a first

hand impression of the daily work of a big packing plant such as they never had before.

The oleo manufacturing department of Armour's was keenly inspected by the legislators. It was found in full operation, and the manner of treating the fat from start to finish was shown and explained. A close view was also given of the means of smoking the hams and bacon and salting the side meat.

In the Swift plant attention was devoted mainly to the rooms wherein are hung up the finished products of beef, pork and mutton. Such a view as was given of these rooms was a revelation to most of the visitors; and, indeed, the same thing may be said of the whole proceeding. Those of the party already familiar with the operation of the stock yards and the packing houses found themselves becoming as interested and as enthusiastic over the fine showing as the people who were getting their first view of the industry.

Even the most critical among the visitors had little or no unfavorable comment to make as the long procession wound its way through the hot, the cool and the wet and dry rooms of the different plants.

Inspected the Land Show. After the luncheon the automobiles were again brought into use to take the guests for trips through Omaha and to the Land show. As a goodly proportion of the visitors are practical farmers themselves, or farm owners, the exhibits at the Land show were intensely interesting to them. But one regret was expressed, and that was given voice by Lieutenant Governor Hopewell and Secretary of State Wait.

"It is very much to be regretted," said Secretary Wait, "that Nebraska has so far failed to provide a fund to be used in gathering and placing a state exhibit, under a competent man, at such shows as this. We have the material to put up a display of Nebraska products that would compare more than favorably with that of any other state, and yet for years we have been letting our opportunity slip by without grasping it. I hope that from now on this state will be properly put before the people at exhibitions of this character."

Lieutenant Governor Hopewell spoke in the same strain. "Such a show as this, of western enterprise and productivity, must prove of immeasurable benefit," he said. "The men who conceived and organized it deserve the highest commendation; and our neighbors of other states have very practically indicated to the people of Nebraska wherein we are weak. There is not only an insistent demand for good land, but those seeking it want to see for themselves what it will produce. Nebraska can, if it will, make as good a showing as any state, and in certain crops a

better showing than many, and the lesson of this most enlightening exhibition of the prolific character of western soils should not be lost on our people."

Several hours were spent most profitably by a big majority of the visitors in examining the various exhibits of the Land show. In fact, to many this exposition of western crop possibilities was more interesting and pleasing than the sights of the morning at the live stock center.

Some of the legislators and state officers were compelled by other engagements to return to Lincoln before the banquet given at the Commercial club in the evening, but enough remained to test the capacity of the club rooms. Chief Clerk Richmond of the house and Secretary Smith of the senate, who handled the distribution of tickets, saw to it that every member of the legislature was properly cared for, and the committee of the Commercial club was indefatigable in caring for the comfort of the guests, both before and after the banquet.

President Cole Leads Off. After extending the welcome of the city's commercial body to the city President David Cole said Omaha is very proud of the fact, as Nebraska should be, that "While we are the thirty-seventh city in population, we are fifteenth in business transacted, outstripping twenty-five other cities with a population ranging up to 425,000."

"I desire to congratulate you that no grand juries are investigating your election; that no scandal attaches to our state the same as now appears so common in many of the other states of the union. This I think is an evidence of the intelligence of the average voter of the state of Nebraska. This is no soil in which vice and corruption can thrive, and it is complimentary to our people that they cannot be driven to the voting precinct and sold as cattle in the market."

"We are here tonight because one of our members had a dream, and from that dream first built an air castle in his mind's eye. To C. C. Rosewater should be given credit for the air castle which he first built and which now has taken shape in the magnificent Land Products exhibit in our Auditorium. In years to come there will be many people who will bless the enterprise that will result from the things that are shown to be possible to the most humble citizen."

"During the year 1910 there were imported more people than are in the state of Nebraska. These people will fill up the eastern cities. If we had an immigration commissioner those with strong arms and sound constitutions could with profit to themselves be placed on our unoccupied lands and in turn would add to the material prosperity of this commonwealth."

Farm at Base of Prosperity. "The products of the soil are the basis of our prosperity. No city can be great unless it has a supporting territory surrounding it. Taking Omaha as a center and 200 miles as a radius, there is no such other 200 miles of productive soil in the world. The land within this 200-mile radius has never known a total crop failure. Year in and year out there is a constant output from this territory that affords food enough not only for its own inhabitants, but for a very large part of the balance of the country."

"In times gone by our farmers found the surplus products of their soil, which were abundant enough after supplying their physical needs, were of little value until the railroad enabled them to transport the same to a profitable market. While the railroad alone is not the basis of the prosperity which is now ours, without the railroad we could do nothing; with it no part of Nebraska is too remote to be able to ship its surpluses wherever needed."

"The invention of the modern cold storage gave a new value to the products of the farm. Butter, eggs and poultry represent in Nebraska greater value

than the wheat crop, corn crop or any other single crop produced. Until the invention of the modern cold storage butter, eggs and poultry were negligible quantities; therefore, these are the things that have paid off the mortgage from the average Nebraska farm and made the owners of the same the automobilists of today, when there are more automobiles on Nebraska farms than in Nebraska cities."

"However, the farmer who succeeds must be like the business man that succeeds; he must know his business. It is for the successful, progressive farmer that the Land Products Exhibit is now being held, and the community at large is indebted to the thought that has crystallized in the finished exhibit, which brings so many people together at this time from all parts of the country."

Baldrige Happy as Toastmaster. President Cole introduced Howard H. Baldrige as toastmaster, and in assuming the chair Mr. Baldrige put everybody in good humor by remarking, "However much you may desire to see us, we are really more anxious and delighted to see you."

"This being one of the few times the legislature has met in Omaha since 1867, you have never had such a glorious chance before to learn what we want," said Mr. Baldrige, still in facetious vein, "and we have never had a better chance to get what we want. It has been said that Omaha wants much, and if she got all she wants she would not get more than she deserves."

The guests were assured that the Omaha welcome was sincere and without strings. "We have thrown away the keys to all the doors within the city walls and they will swing inward to your touch. Our homes and our hearts are open to you. We have removed all the 'Keep off the grass' signs and want you to take home nothing but the recollections of a most delightful and profitable visit with us."

Paying tribute to the Commercial club as the most potential factor in the growth and development of Omaha, Mr. Baldrige said:

"In the last analysis the prosperity of a city depends, not on the many material evidences of its greatness, but on the character of its citizenship. We have in this organization a body of the most active, energetic, far-sighted, up-to-date young business men of any city in the west. Their citizenship means progress, and their whole effort is centered in adding, by their work and their genius, to the greatness of Nebraska and Omaha."

Interests of City and State Identical. Arthur C. Smith, responding to the toast, "The Commercial Club," laid emphasis on the thought that the organization stands for the advancement of the interests of Nebraska no less than of Omaha, "because the welfare of the state involves the welfare of the city." He was felicitous in his analysis of the relations of the business men of the metropolis to the general interest of the state and pleaded for a greater publicity of the undeveloped resources and opportunities of Nebraska, to which movement the Commercial club is unreservedly committed.

Senator Morehead followed the same line of thought as to the decided need for good understanding and willing co-operation among the civic divisions of the state. He expressed the view that, with the tremendous extent of grazing country it draws from, the South Omaha market can, with everybody pulling together, be made the greatest in the United States.

Nebraska's Material Greatness. Lieutenant Governor Hopewell and former Lieutenant Governor McGilton, in responding to calls, dealt succinctly with the material greatness of Nebraska and the possibilities still dormant. Mr. McGilton, analyzing the figures of Nebraska production, said the total, divided, would provide \$400 for each man, woman and child, and \$2,000 or more for each family in the state. Mr. Hopewell, in a reminiscent vein, recalled the day when the idea prevailed that farm crops could not be profitably grown outside the eastern counties of the state. From this premise he passed to the surpassing development of production that has come about and predicted the wealth of the state can be doubled, possibly trebled, in the next twenty years, because of modern methods and a higher degree of agricultural education.

Toasts were called for and drunk standing to the president of the United States by Toastmaster Baldrige; to Governor Aldrich by A. W. Jeffers, and to the Omaha Commercial club by Chief Clerk Richmond. Enthusiastic cheers accompanied each toast. Later Representatives Prince and Gustafson moved a vote of thanks to the club for its hospitality, and this met with a glad response.



In foreground - Left to Right - Secy Smith of Senate, Pres. Pro Tem Morehead, Speaker Kuhl and Chief Clerk Richmond