

HISTORIC FOURTH OF JULY

Notable Date in the Political Records of Nebraska.

EARLY MOVES FOR STATEHOOD

Constitutional Convention of 1864 Talked to Death in a Few Hours—Recollections of a Pioneer.

In the second series, volume 5 of the Nebraska Historical society, a faithful reader of The Bee found on page 58 the following passage, which may be of interest to some old as well as new settlers of Omaha and Nebraska, as it is only partly correct and the balance derives a brief recital, as follows:

"May 23, 1854, the territory of Nebraska was organized and included the Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado. Colorado and all north of 43 degrees was first taken off in 1850, and in 1858 Nebraska was reduced to its present limits.

"In March, 1860, the people refused to be admitted as a state by a vote of 1,867 to 1,577. The chief reason given was that the expense of running a state would be too great. In 1864 congress passed another enabling act, but the people this time ignored the proposition without taking a vote. In 1866 the territorial legislature framed a constitution and the people adopted it on June 23 following, etc."

Without fear of successful contradiction, your humble correspondent begs leave to make the following statement of the facts in the case as briefly as possible:

The first attempt to raise Nebraska to the dignity of statehood was made in the sixth session of the legislature, which met in Omaha, December 3, 1853. In his address Governor Samuel G. Black had discussed the question of statehood, but gave it as his opinion that the population of the territory was hardly large enough. In spite of the governor's views, however, the legislature, having a good working democratic majority, passed a bill entitled, "An act to frame a constitution and state government for the state of Nebraska."

The proposition embodied in the bill was submitted to a vote of the people on March 4, 1860, and was rejected by a vote of 1,872 to 2,084, as the country was near the critical period of the anti-slavery question and Nebraska was fairly passing into the hands of the republican party, which did not wish to increase the pro-slavery strength by the two expected United States senators from Nebraska. Whatever I may say in this communication will not, I hope, be construed as in any way intended to awaken any of the passions or feelings or feelings that existed fifty years ago, but to set forth the facts for the simple purpose of giving as near as I may, the true history of our final admission—and no more.

First Enabling Act.

On April 19, 1854, the first and only "enabling act" was passed and signed by President Abraham Lincoln, who was a warm advocate of the admission of western states. Its object was doubtless to give strength to the loyal states and to forever do away with that question which seemed at that time to haunt the fancy of many of our leading men, and that was a balance of power between the northern and southern states in the senate of the United States. Lincoln then hoped that Grant's plan for crushing the rebellion would succeed and that his administration would soon be called upon to reconstruct and bring back the erring states who had seceded in their attempt to get out of the union, and that it would therefore be necessary to have independent of the southern states, a two-thirds majority to ratify any amendment to the constitution, in order to fully adjust matters to the new order of things and to more fully reap the fruits of the terrible struggle. As the boot was now on the other leg, the democratic party of Nebraska, desiring in their platform of May, 1864, their strong opposition to state government, although the territory had stippled its population of 1860 had wonderfully increased its material wealth and was on the high road to prosperity.

The republican party, of course, was in favor of Lincoln's policy, but several county editors, bearing a line of their representation by a new appointment, which would follow of necessity on assuming statehood, and the republican party of a large number of tax-payers, joined the hue and cry of the democrats, who were daily gaining by a heavy influx from Missouri and other refugees from border states.

The enabling act of 1864 prescribed merely that a convention of delegates, elected from districts, according to population, by all persons legally qualified to vote for members of the territorial assembly, should meet at the capital (Omaha) on the first Monday in July of that year and form a constitution republican in form and not repugnant to the constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

Both parties nominated candidates for delegates to the constitutional convention and after a short but vigorous campaign the republican election in May resulted in a large majority for the republican ticket, but in opposition to the admission as a state. It was quite remarkable that in this county of Douglas only forty-five votes were cast for state organization. Although the "federal birds," as they were termed, resided here, but few knew they acted on the principle

Members of National Association of Chambers of Commerce Visiting Here Today



Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States will arrive in Omaha this morning and be entertained throughout the day by the executive committee of the Omaha Commercial club. A special reception committee will meet the visitors at 9 o'clock in the morning and take them to the Commercial club, where breakfast will be served. It will be the first time a morning meal or even a Sunday meal has been served at the club.

Following breakfast, at which they will be shown moving pictures of Omaha, the directors will be taken for an automobile

trip over the city. They will follow a route over the rebuilt tornado district.

At 1 o'clock dinner will be served at the Field club. George H. Kelly, president of the club and one of the directors at the national chamber, and Casper E. Yost, chairman of the executive committee, will preside at the noon dinner.

The directors of the national organization come to Omaha from Chicago. This will be their first stop on their tour to the Pacific coast. The national chamber is endeavoring to bring closer together the interests of the organization. It is yet under a year old, but its membership

includes boards of trade and commercial clubs from coast to coast. The present trip of the directors is for the purpose of getting closer in touch with the business interests of the west. Practically every important center in the west will be visited by them.

The delegation will be headed by President Harry A. Wheeler of Chicago. The delegates from the eastern, southern and central states gathered at Chicago preparatory for the western trip. John H. Fahry, chairman of the executive committee, on his arrival in Chicago, announced that the present trip will be

the most important ever undertaken in the interest of commerce and industry in the western states.

"With the increasing tendency toward federal regulation of domestic commerce and with the fast-growing importance of our foreign trade, business becomes more dependent upon national than state or local regulation and legislation. The national chamber of commerce handles only the broader or national issues," he said.

The directors will leave Omaha this afternoon on the Union Pacific at 2:50 o'clock.

AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Sons of Liberty and Suffragists Talk at Celebration.

A. M. MORRISSEY THE ORATOR

Governor's Private Secretary Delivers Address Before the Public of Magic City—Vesper Services on School Campus.

Woman suffragists predominated in the South Omaha Fourth of July celebration yesterday afternoon on the high school grounds. Numerous legal lights like J. W. Woodrough of Omaha and A. M. Morrissey of Lincoln portrayed the duties and obligations of citizenship but the real feature of the celebration was the address of Mrs. J. B. Hednar of Idaho, a woman engaged in propagating the cause of suffrage.

The affair was the only patriotic celebration in South Omaha. It was under the united auspices of the Sons of Liberty and the Women Suffragists. Jeremiah Howard, who worked early and late to arrange the affair along lines which he says are more elevating than parades under the domination of saloons, sat back with a satisfied smile on his face as the different orators crisscrossed the enthusiasm of the audience gathered at the high school grounds.

The day was exceedingly hot and a large crowd did not materialize, but it was a choice gathering, in which the best citizenship of the town was represented.

Mrs. J. B. Hednar told of the activities of women from the beginning of the world, tracing her story from biblical times down through ancient and modern history, and dwell especially on the part women have taken in the development of the American nation. She told of her experiences as a voter in Idaho and gave answers to questions bearing on woman suffrage proposed by herself.

Jerome Curran, president of the Sons of Liberty, introduced the speakers. Dr. Wheeler pronounced the benediction and applauded the statement of Mrs. Hednar, who said that a larger participation in public affairs would give women something to talk about besides gossiping. Dr. Wheeler approved the sentiment by a fervent "amen," which drew a smile from the audience.

Union Vesper Services. The Union Vesper services of the united churches of the city will begin Sunday, at 7 o'clock on the high school campus. The vesper services will continue throughout the city and are intended for the many who wish to attend church services and who dislike the discomfort of a hot night inside the church buildings. Rev. W. R. Hill, pastor of the First Baptist church will preach and Rev. Doctor R. L. Wheeler of the First Presbyterian church will

Small Boy Lights Crackers in House

The 8-year-old son of Mrs. J. R. Harrison, 146 South Sixteenth street yesterday lit some firecrackers inside the house. A burning fragment lodged in a curtain and considerable damage was caused.

Fire destroyed the roof of the porch of Dr. C. Richardson's home, 1204 North Twenty-sixth street. The blaze was started by a small boy's firecracker.

The falling of a skyrocket landed on the roof of the A. Turpin home at 215 Dewey avenue last night and fire caused \$300 damage.

A stack of hay at Third and Pierce streets was destroyed last night when a skyrocket landed upon it. The loss is about \$12.

Biplanes Collide in Air; Aviator Killed

JOHANNESBURG, July 4.—A collision between aeroplanes this evening resulted in the death of one of the men and the serious injury of the other. Biplanes piloted respectively by the German aviator Heischer and Captain Friedel, came together in the dusk at an altitude of sixty feet. Both crashed to the ground. Heischer died shortly afterward. Friedel's plane was badly injured.

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Fourth Celebration Less Deadly Than on Previous Occasions

Magic City Gossip. A number of young men spent the day at a picnic yesterday in Syndicate park.

Mrs. Nance Cooper and son of Fort Madison, Ia., are the guests of Mrs. C. E. Scarr at the Barry home Twenty-seventh and B streets.

Mayor Hoctor and the city council did not attend the Fourth of July celebration yesterday. Their absence was remarked by the out of town visitors.

The new organ for the First Presbyterian church has arrived and will be set up during the week. Soon after the completion of the work of setting up the instrument a recital is proposed.

Congressman C. O. Lobeck who has been visiting in South Omaha recently will return Monday night for the purpose of telling his constituents what he has done in the present session of congress.

Chief of Police John Briggs spent yesterday patrolling the streets of South Omaha. He in the police motorcycle. The chief will operate the machine himself until one of the police has been broken in as a motor cycle cop.

Mrs. Ann Ryan, 1207 North Twenty-fourth street, aged 74 years, died this morning. Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence to St. Bridget's church. Burial in St. Mary's cemetery.

Many thanks to Dr. J. W. Koutsky for attending our family in the many times of illness and especially the illness of our daughter, Rosie, whose life he saved, and for his prompt attendance at any hour of the night. We are satisfied with his services and recommend him to others. Joseph and Josephine Kopecky.

OUR FIRST Semi-Annual Clearance Sale IS NOW RUNNING FULL BLAST \$13.75 Takes any of the Suits that brought \$16.50 until now, and which were worth \$5 more even at regular price \$19.75 Allows you choice of all \$25 suits; suits that could rightly carry a \$30 price tag. Precise fit assured. We Have a Different Idea About "Sales" and "Suits" In setting up this business we laid within the foundation stones, two principles; two resolves; the first was that we should never abuse the word "Sale." We figured that the men and young men of Omaha would stay with us longer if we offered sales only upon necessary occasions. Our second principle or resolve, was to market better styled clothes for less money at ALL times. Therefore, you may believe us when we say that the suits now offered you at \$13.75 and \$19.75 are worth even \$5.00 more than their regular prices, \$16.50 and \$25.00. WILCOX & ALLEN 203 South 16th St., Omaha

"BE GAME" Don't allow a weak stomach, lazy liver and clogged bowels to put you "in bad." Always be game, and help nature overcome such trouble by taking Hostetter's STOMACH BITTERS It strengthens the entire "innocent man" and drives out all Stomach, Liver and Bowel Ailments. Make the start today.