

The second annual banquet and the twenty-first anniversary of the Lotos club was celebrated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes on Thursday evening. Two long tables were set in the drawing room with fourteen covers at each table. Two rows of candles on each table banked with white roses and ferns furnished the mellow, tender light which helped the continental belles to look beautiful even after youth had fled far down the past. The president, Mrs. Richards, presided. The menu cards were decorated with exquisite water color pictures by Mrs. Lyon. Every card was unique. There were no replicas and the inscriptions and mottoes fitted the individuals to whom they were presented. The guests were Messieurs and Mesdames Lewis, Richards, Eason, Burnham, Brace, Og-

den, Taylor, Gere, Bessey, Rhodes, Chancellor and Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Jamieson, Miss Harris, Miss Hayden, Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Harris, Mr. E. A. Ross.

The menu: Oyster cocktail, soup, fish, sherbert, chicken and mushrooms, lobster salad and cucumber sandwiches, ice cream and cake, coffee.

After dinner Mrs. Richards, the president, gracefully introduced the following speakers: Mr. C. E. Bessey, "A Tale of the Modern Lotos-eaters," Mr. Burnham, who sang Schubert's "Serenade" and "Taking the year together my dear;" Mr. Ross, "Women of Leisure;" Miss Harris, "Anecdote;" Mr. Burnham, "Bendimir's Stream;" Mr. Lewis, "A Year's Report;" Chancellor Andrews, "The Emancipation of Women."

Last Friday the W. R. P. C. club held a largely attended meeting at the home of Mrs. Houston. The history lesson was read by Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Gregory read a paper on "The Ancient City of Mexico," and Mrs. Butler read a poem by Whittier. Refreshments were served. The club decided to receive New Year's calls. The next meeting will occur on the thirteenth at the home of Mrs. Violet, 1421 L.

The history department of the Woman's Club met last Friday. "The Organization of the Government Under the New Constitution," Mrs. Stanhope, Mrs. E. J. King, Mrs. Hatfield and Mrs. Lyman presented different diversions of the subject. Mrs. Chapman talked of "Hamilton and His Financial System," and Mrs. Broady of "The Rise of Parties."

The next meeting will be devoted to the foreign relations and internal disturbances of Washington's administration. Members are requested to respond to roll call with some anecdote of General or Mrs. Washington.

The Aldine club met Thursday afternoon with Mrs. M. W. Folsom. The club is studying Egyptian history and Mrs. Pickup read a paper on the eighteenth dynasty. Mrs. Folsom gave an interesting review of Eben Holden. The club will meet in two weeks with Mrs. Frankish.

Mr. J. H. Harley entertained the Round Table Monday evening. After dinner Dr. H. O. Rowlands talked of criminals and their treatment.

The Eames Amateurs met Thursday afternoon with Miss Auld.

SOME MEN WHO HAVE BEEN MAYORS

Sketches Reminiscent of the Administrations of A. J. Sawyer and F. A. Graham When They Were at the Head of Lincoln's Municipal Government.



A. J. SAWYER

The autumn of 1887 deserves a separate page in the volume of municipal history, for at that time Mayor A. J. Sawyer and eleven councilmen made a bold stand for the legal rights of the city. Furthermore, the entire municipal government of Lincoln was incarcerated in the Douglas county jail for a whole week. This is how it all happened.

A. J. Sawyer was elected mayor on an independent reform ticket in opposition to the regular republican nominee, E. P. Roggen, in 1887. The city had been "wide open" for some time, and a Law and Order League had been formed to settle things down and purge the city of gamblers and tough all around blacklegs. Of this organization Mr. Sawyer was president. When Mr. Roggen was named by the regular republican convention a large number of the most influential citizens bolted, and, calling a rump convention, nominated Mr. Sawyer. The latter was found to have a majority of 537 when the votes were counted.

Mr. Sawyer promptly made war upon the gamblers. As a result of his operations, charges were preferred against Albert F. Parsons, the police judge, the reformers alleging that he was guilty of malfeasance in office and had not turned over the moneys collected in fines as provided by law. A committee of the council was appointed to investigate the charges. After listening to the testimony this body reported that the police judge was guilty as charged and recommended that he be removed and the office declared vacant.

The ordinance then in force relating to the removal of city officers required that the trial be by the whole council. This was amended and the report of the committee again filed.

But while the resolution declaring the office vacant was pending, Mr. Parsons showed up, accompanied by his attorney, L. C. Burr. The police judge requested that the trial be held before the whole council on a certain day, and if all the members concurred he would be satisfied with the result. To this proposition the mayor and council agreed.

Then Mr. Parsons attempted to steal a march on the city officials. His attorney went before Judge Brewer, of the United States circuit court and ob-

tained an order restraining the mayor and council from taking any further action in the matter until the whole case could be reviewed in his court. This interpretation of the law was very distasteful to the municipal officers. They regarded the order as a direct blow at local government, and, after consultation with several prominent attorneys, concluded to ignore the mandate of Judge Brewer.

The mayor declared the office of police judge vacant and named a successor for the place in the person of H. J. Whitmore. The council confirmed this action. No time was lost by the opposition in calling attention of the circuit court to this action and then the trouble began.

Judge Brewer directed the city officials to appear before him and show why they should not be fined for contempt of court. They presented their reasons for disregarding the order of the court and averred that the court had no right to issue it. This course of reasoning Judge Brewer overruled. As an eye opener he sentenced Mayor Sawyer, and Councilmen Briscoe, Burks, Cooper, Pace and Dean to pay a fine of \$50 each. Councilmen Billingsley, Graham, Hovey, Ensign, Fraas and Dailey were asked to donate \$500 each.

The city officials declared that they would rather suffer imprisonment than pay the fine so the United States marshal quietly gathered them in and took them to comfortably furnished quarters in the Douglas county jail. Here the obdurate prisoners were banqueted and congratulated by everybody while Hon. G. M. Lambertson hurried to Washington to file an application for a writ of habeas corpus with the United States supreme court.

The writ was granted, the prisoners were released and in the following January the stand taken by the mayor and councilmen was vindicated by a decision of the supreme court. In Lincoln there was great rejoicing over the result and all the imprisoned officials were looked upon as heroes.

Mr. Sawyer was born in Ottawa, Ill., in 1844. He came to Lincoln in 1875, and has since practiced law in this city. He has been a democrat from his youth up. At one time he was candidate for district judge on the bourbon ticket and although the normal republican majority was in the neighborhood of 2,000, he came within 500 of being chosen. He served four years as United States district attorney for Nebraska under President Cleveland.

Mr. Sawyer has never lost his ardent belief in the justice of his cause in the Parsons altercation. At the end of his term he refused to be a candidate again. Concerning the state of affairs at present, he said:

"We have a clean city administration now. We have good city officers and a good city council. All of the

officials seem to have the best welfare of the people at heart, and I can suggest no improvement."

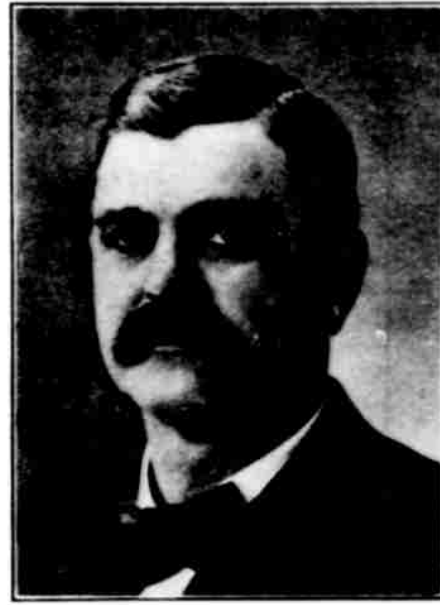
Frank A. Graham has passed most of his life in Lincoln. At but ten years of the time, since he left school to make his own way, have been devoted to the livery business at the old stand. When he came to Lincoln in 1871, at the age of fourteen years the city was not in the least prepossessing. There was not a building between O street and the present site of the capitol and so far as appearance was concerned it did not seem that there ever would be. The city buildings were inconsequential affairs and the jail did not appear to be capable of barring much water out or of barring a very desperate sort of prisoner in. But it was good enough for those days, as were all the buildings.

Gradually the town grew, but it was a long while before it had spread so far that there came a time when there were residents who did not know Frank Graham. When Mr. Graham first struck out for himself, after completing a common school education, he was employed by W. H. B. Stout, the famous politician who had the prison contract and held it. Thus Mr. Graham worked at the penitentiary until the time arrived for him to turn liveryman. Eventually in 1895 the people decided to try him for mayor and he was willing. For two terms he was the chief executive and it was his portion to enjoy a rather stormy administration.

He succeeded Mayor A. H. Weir and it was one of his principles that the city should be run not so "tight" as it had during the administration of Mr. Weir. According to Mr. Graham there was much complaint among the people who had observed from the attempt to run a "tight" city that surreptitious sporting places were in operation squarely under the noses of the nice people of the town. It was his opinion that if the sporting element were apportioned a reservation of the city it could be better kept under control and with less discomfort or disgust to people who deplored its promiscuous existence. When he was elected he forthwith carried his theory into effect.

Another thing to which he gave his immediate attention was a plan for the extermination of the board of public works, of which it was the general opinion that it was an unconscionable expense. It was composed of three members, the chairman who drew a salary of \$1,200 a year and two whose salaries amounted to \$25 a month each. Their duty was to keep their eyes on public improvements and needs of the time, a thing which came to be viewed as wholly unnecessary. In a little while it became property of the past.

Much of the credit for the Mockett



F. A. GRAHAM

well Mr. Graham thinks is in a way due to him, as it was by his advocative communication to the council, he says, that agitation for the well finally evolved its construction. Later an attempt was made to impeach him on the charge of engaging a man to plug it in order to compass its ruin. The council was unable to muster a sufficient number of votes to accomplish this end and the mayor retained his seat.

"The idea that I should want to destroy the well after the efforts I made for its construction is absurd on its face," he says.

While he laments the great quagmire of debt in which the city has sunk Mr. Graham feels that the city is running along about as well as need be. At least he says that so far as the present officers are concerned he thinks they are performing their duties conscientiously and as well as may be asked. If any change were to be made in any respect, he would say, let the council be reduced to seven members, one from each ward or let their salaries be cut off entirely. He would prefer to see the councilmen working as do the members of the school board, without money and without price. Even the office of mayor, he says, ought to be detached from its salary. When he occupied that office suggestions were made that the salary ought to be canceled and he did not oppose the idea. The only question is its practicability. To do these things the charter would have to be revised. This could be done, he says, but it would mean a lot of trouble.

Mr. Graham was born in Herkimer county, New York, in 1856. From there his parents removed to Illinois where they lived four years before coming to Lincoln in 1871. Since leaving politics Mr. Graham, though not having parted with his livery business, has succumbed to the magnetic influence of farm life and passes most of his time on his ranch near town. Though this has been a very discouraging year to those of his profession, he says he is still no less zealous for agriculture.

Personally Mr. Graham is an affable man, his genial manner winning him many staunch friends, who supported him loyally in his political ventures.