

self of that oppressive monster, debt, and now, with pride she points to an overflowing treasury, and her thousands of industrious and intelligent citizens, unoppressed by heavy taxation. Financially she stands among her sister states without a rival, and, like Saul, of Tarsus, head and shoulders above them all. Well may she be proud, and her citizens say, with unfeigned pride, "*I am a citizen of Iowa.*"

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NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

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BY D. C. BLOOMER.

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NO. 9.

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[Continued from page 351.]

WE commence our record of the year 1867 with the meeting of the board of supervisors, early in January. This was always an important event in the history of the county, as it brought to the court house a large number of people from all parts of the county, who, in common parlance, had "axes to grind." Edward McBride was elected chairman of the board, and the new members were Wm. Turner, from Knox; David Groom, from Macedonia; Richard Allen, from Rockford; Perry Reel, from Crescent; J. L. Felter, from James; and I. M. Sigler, from Boomer. A resolution was promptly adopted finally assigning all the interest of the county in its shares in the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad to Willis Phelps, in consideration of his having completed the road to the Missouri state line. It was also voted at this session to pay a large amount of swamp land orders, issued in 1857, by Judge Sherman, just prior to his removal from office by the decree of the district court. This claim had been for a long time before the board, and

its action in finally allowing it, met with pretty general condemnation.

A good deal of indignation was aroused during the spring, on its being announced that a contract had been entered into between a committee of the board and several prominent lawyers, by which the latter were to be paid a large sum—stated to be \$38,000—for procuring a perpetual injunction against the collection of bonds voted to the M. & M. Railroad. The subject was most elaborately and earnestly discussed, and with a good deal of bitterness on the part of several persons, but the result of all was that the contract was voluntarily abandoned. Meantime proceedings were commenced by several public-spirited citizens and finally the desired injunction was obtained in the district court, without any cost whatever to the county.

The work on the court house went steadily forward during the year, and it was so far completed that the county officers were enabled to move into the rooms provided for them, late in December. The commissioners were authorized to sell the bonds of the county, from time to time, to raise money for the contractors, the lowest price for which they were disposed of being eighty cents on the dollar. Various plans were discussed that year for taking charge of the poor, and at one time a resolution was adopted to buy the Reel place in Crescent for a poor house and farm, but this was finally rescinded. At the June session, Lewis Beard was appointed supervisor of York township, in place of Samuel Ellis, resigned, and S. J. Hanna, at the same session, was appointed county judge, in place of John Bratton, resigned.

Passenger trains commenced running on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in February, but were greatly retarded, and great expense was incurred in keeping the road open during this and the following month, in consequence of severe snow-storms in the central and western parts of the state. Merchants, who had ordered on their usual spring stocks by this road, were greatly delayed in receiving them.

In February, nearly one thousand acres of land, situated in the southwestern part of the city, and extending westward from the Missouri river about two miles and a half, was purchased by Dr. T. C. Durant, at that time the foremost man in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. The price paid for it was about one hundred thousand dollars. The people reasonably concluded that the future bridge would be located on this land, and also the headquarters of the company, in the good time coming, and were not a little elated over the prospect thus held out to them. Every man, therefore, who owned any property in Council Bluffs felt about one hundred per cent richer after that purchase was made. In April, Oliver Ames, the president, together with officers of the road, visited the city, and some of them made considerable purchases of real estate within its limits.

During the winter and spring a course of lectures were delivered before the Young Men's Library Association. Among the lecturers were Hon. J. M. Woolworth and A. J. Poppleton, of Omaha; Rev. J. B. Chase, and Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, of Council Bluffs. In May the annual election of officers of the library was held, when L. W. Ross was elected president; C. B. Jacquemin, vice-president; J. P. Casady, treasurer; and F. M. Streamer, secretary. Later in the year (August) a Young Men's Christian Association was organized, mainly through the efforts of the Rev. Geo. L. Little, who was made its first president. Rooms were rented and a commencement made towards establishing a reading room.

March 11th, city election in Council Bluffs. Full party tickets were nominated by both parties, both for city and school officers. Babbitt and Street were the opposing candidates for mayor, and there was a very full vote polled. The following were elected: Mayor, Frank Street; recorder, T. P. Treyner; city marshal, A. J. Bump; treasurer, H. P. Warren; assessor, Mansel Wicks; aldermen, J. B. Lewis, C. Johnson, J. M. Phillips, Sam Haas, and John

✓ Hammer. For school officers: President, D. C. Bloomer; vice-president, L. W. Ross; treasurer, A. Slyter; secretary, C. H. Street; director, D. B. Clark. A school house tax of five mills was voted for the erection of two new school houses.

The spring was unusually late and cold, and the river did not open until the 7th of April. On the 13th of this month the market report in the city papers gave wheat at two dollars; corn, eighty-five cents; oats, fifty cents; and barley, ninety cents per bushel. Flour, five to six dollars per hundred.

But times were good and money plenty. A theatrical company playing in Burhop's Hall was well patronized, and a masquerade ball given in the same place early in March was pronounced a success. Preparation for the erection of new buildings were made, and a prosperous year was anticipated by all, nor were their expectations disappointed.

On the 14th of June, early in the morning, two brothers, named William and Patrick F. Lawn, were aroused from their slumbers in the Farmers' Hotel, by a band of men from Mills county, forced into a wagon which was driven rapidly out of the city into the limits of Mills county, and both hanged by their necks to the limbs of trees until they were dead. This outrage excited great indignation in our sister county, but none of the perpetrators were ever brought to justice, although several of them were compelled to flee from their homes. The Lawns do not appear to have been guilty of any acts meriting the terrible death which they suffered.

✓ In June, W. W. Maynard sold out his interest in the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* to Mr. S. T. Walker, who was, during the remainder of the year, associated with Mr. Chapman in the publication of the paper. In September the publication of a German paper, the Council Bluffs *Presse*, was commenced by Wenbore & Norden. It was neutral in politics.

Council Bluffs Lodge, No. 49, of Odd Fellows, was reor-

ganized this summer, and began an active and vigorous existence. New members were rapidly enrolled on its lists, and a convenient hall secured in the eastern part of the city and handsomely fitted up. The Masons and Good Templars also were unusually prosperous this season.

On the night of the 24th of June Council Bluffs was visited by an extensive fire, resulting in the destruction of the Empire block, consisting of four three-story brick buildings, and of three frame buildings. Two of the latter were warehouses, in one of which the fire originated. As the city, at the time, was entirely destitute of apparatus for an extinguishment of fires, the citizens could do but little more than look on and see this valuable property destroyed. The total loss was about \$100,000, and the total insurance about \$80,000. The buildings in the block were occupied by J. B. Hoffman, and R. P. Snow for general merchandise, and Brewster & Co., general groceries. The *Nonpareil* office was in the third story of the west building, and was entirely destroyed. The Young Men's library in this building was also nearly all burned up. The U. S. Register's office was in the second story of the east building, but the papers were nearly all safely removed. The destruction of this valuable block, the best in the city at this time, was a great business calamity. It has since been rebuilt.

During the summer the Episcopal church was greatly enlarged, at a cost of about three thousand dollars, nearly one half of which was raised through the efforts of the ladies of the congregation.

Two new brick school houses were erected in Council Bluffs this summer, in the eastern and western parts of the city, at a cost of about \$12,000.

The German school society also purchased a lot and erected a handsome school building, at a cost of about \$6,000. Schools taught exclusively in the German language have been maintained in it almost continuously.

This year the Young Ladies' Seminary was erected, and late in the fall went into operation, under the charge of Rev.

Geo. L. Little as principal. The building occupied by this institution, together with the lots on which it was situated, cost about \$10,000, fully one-half of which was raised by the voluntary subscriptions of the citizens of Council Bluffs. Although an excellent school was taught in it for several years, yet the institution did not prove a success. It could not compete with the free public schools of the city, which each year increased in efficiency and public confidence, and the property finally in 1870 passed into private hands and the seminary was abandoned.

The depot of the Northwestern Railroad, which was at first fixed in the northern part of the city, was this fall moved to lower Broadway, and permanently located at a point much more convenient of access than the one first occupied. Marshal Turley earnestly protested against this action on the part of the company, on the ground of its being in violation of the conditions on which it accepted from him the grant of a valuable tract of land on which its first depot was situated.

In August the Council Bluffs iron works company was organized, the first directors being Charles Hendrie, G. M. Dodge, Samuel Clinton, C. F. Hendrie, and J. W. Morse. The property, commonly known as the foundry, was owned by this company. The business was largely increased in this and subsequent years, and additional buildings erected and furnished with improved machinery. It was the first manufactory of any kind established in the county, and has always done, it is believed, a profitable business.

In August the first public exhibition of the Council Bluffs Turneverin Society was held, and was also attended by a similar association from Omaha. The exercises in the grove were witnessed by a large number of spectators. In the trial of skill, the first prize, a silver butter dish, worth thirty dollars, was awarded to John Epeneter, and the second, a silver cup, worth twenty-five dollars, to Henry Lehman, of Omaha. This society had been first organized three years previous, and like others of a similar character, both in this

country and the old world, gave much attention to athletic sports.

Early in September the county was visited by myriads of grasshoppers. They came from the southwest, and filled the sky and covered the ground for many miles up and down the Missouri river, and the country bordering upon it. They devoured every green thing that came in their way, doing irreparable damage to the corn, sorghum, and whatever else could furnish them with food. They remained, however, but a short time, disappearing almost as suddenly as they came. They were much larger than the ordinary insect of that name, having more the appearance of locusts.

Several railroad excursions passed through the city this summer. One party, composed of about two hundred and fifty leading capitalists, bankers, politicians, and railroad men, visited us on June 8th, arriving on Saturday and remaining until Monday. An editorial party from the eastern cities and states, over the Northwestern and Union Pacific roads, came in October and were about two hundred strong. A great deal of expense was incurred in giving them a suitable reception. They were driven over the city in carriages, had a reception in the evening at Burhop's Hall, and a supper at the Pacific House. The citizens fully opened their houses for the entertainment of these visitors, and no pains were spared to make this visit a pleasant one. The bills were paid by the city council, and amounted to about three thousand dollars.

The October election this year was contested with a good deal of spirit. The republican nominees were nearly all young men, and mostly soldiers and officers in the war then just closed. The democratic candidates, on the other hand, were chiefly old residents of the county, who had remained at home during the contest. Babbitt, for representative, and Casady, for senator, headed the latter ticket, while Lyman and Anderson led the former. The county was thoroughly canvassed, every town and almost every school district being visited. The democrats succeeded, by an average

majority of about one hundred and twenty, electing the following officers: J. P. Casady, senator; L. W. Babbitt, representative; William Porterfield, treasurer; Perry Reel, sheriff; E. W. Bennett, county superintendent of schools; and R. Caywood, county surveyor. The whole vote of the county was one thousand seven hundred and eighty, of which for Governor, Mason received nine hundred and sixty-six, and Merrill eight hundred and thirty-four. The number of votes in Kane township was one thousand one hundred and nine.

Early this year Messrs. Stewart & Haas, who had been for a number of years engaged in the sale of groceries and provisions, discontinued the retail branch of the business, and confined themselves in the future entirely to their wholesale trade. To accommodate their large and constantly increasing business, they erected a large two-story brick store, one hundred feet in depth by about forty in width, extending from Main to Pearl street. Completing it in the month of October, they had just fairly got it filled with a most extensive and valuable stock of goods, when on the 9th day of November, without a moment's warning, the central supporting pillars in the basement gave way and the whole building fell down with a terrible crash. A number of persons were in it at the time, several of whom were buried in the ruins, but all were extricated without serious damage. The loss to the owners by this disaster amounted to several thousand dollars, but the building was speedily and securely rebuilt. The other buildings erected in this block were two by Mr. J. T. Baldwin, one by Mrs. Martha Krepper, one by Stewart & Haas, one by S. Bloom, and one by G. M. Dodge, the last two being three stories high, the third story of both being finished off and fitted up in elegant style by Messrs. Dodge and Bloom as a public hall.

December 17th the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad was finished and opened for business to Hamburg at the Missouri state line. The directors of this road, elected in July preceding, were Willis Phelps, E. W. Bond, W. M. Carson,

G. T. M. Davis, Horace Everett, J. P. Casady, and L. W. Babbitt.

On Christmas night, December 25th, a large and joyous party was given in the new court house by Messrs. Johnson & Hammer, the contractors, in commemoration of its near completion. The building was handsomely illuminated, a substantial supper was provided, and dancing was continued until well into the following morning.

On December 26th the first locomotive crossed the Missouri river on a temporary bridge erected for that purpose. The occasion was duly celebrated by a public meeting, speeches, &c. A great quantity of iron, which had been brought here over the Northwestern Railroad for the Union Pacific, was taken over during the following month. The bridge did good service until the breaking up of the ice in the spring, when it was removed.

On the night of the first day of January, 1868, the frame building on Broadway, occupied as the county clerk's office, was burned to the ground, together with one or two adjoining buildings. A portion of the records, books, and papers of the office were saved, but quite a number were destroyed. The fire was clearly the work of an incendiary, and although the supposed guilty one was arrested, indicted and tried for the offence, yet it was found impossible to secure a conviction.

When the new board of supervisors assembled, a few days afterward, in the new court house, they found the books and papers connected with their labors in great confusion. Proceeding to organize, it elected J. L. Felter, chairman, and admitted the following new members to seats: From Kane, Wm. Garner and J. F. Kaffres; Crescent, David Dunkill; Silver Creek, H. Owen; Walnut, Otis C. Whipple; Macedonia, David Groom; York, J. P. Maxfield. The stock of the county in the C., B. & St. Joseph Railroad was finally assigned to Willis Phelps, in consideration of the completion of the road to the Missouri state line, and the board were treated to a free ride over the road. Large

appropriations were made for the support of the poor, and this year, in order to reduce expenses, the old Union Hotel building was rented and used for several years as a poor house. Wm. Garner, Charles Allen, and J. D. Edmondson were appointed directors. All taxes levied previous to 1862 were remitted to the board, satisfactory settlements were made with Mr. Tostion, the former county treasurer; also with the court house commissioners, who were ordered to procure iron cells for the jail, and not to sell bonds for less than ninety cents on the dollar. A bounty of four dollars was ordered to be paid for scalps of wolves, wild cats, lynx, and catamounts; and three dollars per dozen for gopher skins, and the clerk of the district court was ordered "to decapitate the tails from the same."

At the June session the commissioners reported the new court house completed by the contractors, and the June term of the district court was held in it. The accounts of the commissioners were closed, and the building accepted by the board. The building is a fine structure, eighty-six by fifty-five feet, and, as finally finished and furnished, is one of the largest and most convenient court houses in the state. The total expenditures in erecting and furnishing it have not fallen much below \$50,000.

The attention of the board was called at its June session to the manner in which the school fund and other funds of the county had been managed by Mr. E. F. Burdick, the clerk of the county, and of the board. A committee of investigation was appointed, and after a thorough examination it was found that although some irregularities had been practiced, yet the county had lost nothing, and all the funds passing through the hands of the clerk had been accounted for.

The court house tax this year was four mills, the other taxes being the usual rate. At the September session, the board, by resolution, submitted the question of bonding the indebtedness of the county to the people at the November election. The proposition was favorably received, there be-

ing five hundred and eighty-one votes in the affirmative, and two hundred and ninety-two in the negative. A proposition submitted to the same electors for a one mill tax for a poor farm was defeated.

On the 20th of February, the safe of the Harrison county treasurer was broken open and robbed, and on the 27th of the same month a similar operation was effected on the Mills county safe, many thousand dollars being secured by the robbers in each case. They were finally traced to Council Bluffs, and Michael Rogers, a resident of the city, together with five others, were arrested, on the 25th of February, charged with the offence. Rogers was captured in his own house, and on examining the stove a quantity of currency, amounting to many thousands of dollars, was found, which he was attempting to burn up, he having had a few moments' notice of the approach of the officers. His guilt was too manifest to admit of a particle of doubt, and the feeling in favor of lynching him and his gang was pretty decided, but they were taken to Fremont county for confinement, and all made their escape from the jail within a few weeks after. Rogers had resided for a couple of years in Council Bluffs, and had borne a good reputation, but subsequent developments proved him to have been connected with a gang of robbers and counterfeiterers, whose operations extended over several states. He fled to Canada, and was never brought to justice.

March 10th, the annual election in Council Bluffs resulted, after an animated contest, in the choice of the following officers: Mayor, Thomas Tostevin; city recorder, T. P. Treynor; marshal, A. J. Bump; treasurer, H. P. Warren; assessor, J. D. Edmundson; aldermen, J. F. Evans, L. Kirscht, J. P. Williams, Jas. McFere, H. D. Washburn, S. Stern, all republicans except the last. The school election was held on the same day, and D. C. Bloomer was elected president; C. B. Jacquemin, vice-president; Wm. A. Green, secretary; A. Slyter, treasurer; and C. E. Provost, director.

Col. Babbitt, who as a member of the General Assembly,

largely filled the columns of the *Bugle*, this spring, with letters from Des Moines. He made a quiet and discreet legislator. Judge Casady, also of this county, was at the same time a member of the senate, and through their exertions a bill was passed appropriating \$125,000 for the erection of the deaf and dumb asylum, previously located here. During this session Col. Babbitt introduced a joint resolution in the house, in favor of making Council Bluffs the capital of the United States, and assigning many good and weighty reasons in favor of the proposition.

On the 5th of April the new and spacious Methodist Episcopal church on Broadway was dedicated, the sermon being preached by Dr. Eddy, of Chicago. A large congregation attended the services. August 20th, the annual meeting of the Methodist conference in western Iowa was held in this church. It was presided over by Bishop Simpson, who delivered a lecture while here. In July, a small but convenient church building, erected by the United Brethren, was dedicated. In June a Christian convention was held in the city, its meetings continuing for upwards of a week, and were participated in by large congregations from this and adjoining counties, both in Iowa and Nebraska. Its object was to promote concert of action among Christians of all denominations. September 6th, the first anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association was held. Rev. Geo. L. Little was re-elected president.

On the 26th of April, the Odd Fellows celebrated the 49th anniversary of their order. A large delegation from the lodges in Omaha were met by the members of our own lodge in the western part of the city, and thence all marched in procession, in full regalia, to the Methodist church. Here several addresses were delivered, after which the procession re-formed and proceeded to the court house, where an excellent dinner had been prepared for all, by the ladies. The day was fine, and the celebration passed off very successfully. The order rapidly increased in numbers during the year.

The Council Bluffs Daily and Weekly *Democrat* made its first appearance on the 3d of May, 1868. Its publishers were Alf. S. Kierolf & Co. It was an exceedingly earnest democratic organ, and in its editorials attacked its opponents with unsparing vigor. Nor did it confine its censures to political enemies only, but often attacked friend and foe alike. In September, Kierolf & Co. sold out to B. F. Montgomery, who published it a few weeks, but on the first of October Kierolf again assumed charge, and finally published his last number on the 31st of that month, under the title of "*Red Hot.*" In December the press and material were sold to M. H. Pomeroy, on a mortgage, and lay idle for some months.

On the 25th day of June, 1868, a special election was held in Council Bluffs, at which a resolution was adopted appropriating \$20,000, of the \$60,000 loan of 1866, for the purchase of a steam fire engine, and the necessary apparatus connected therewith, and for furnishing a supply of water, and the erection of an engine house. The full amount of bonds voted was issued, the engine house built, and the other apparatus procured. The new steam fire engine arrived on the 17th of September. It was duly and fully tested by the firemen, and pronounced all right. A hand engine was also purchased, and a second engine house built during the following year.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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