

HISTORY OF WESTERN NEBRASKA
AND ITS PEOPLE



G. L. Shumway

HISTORY OF WESTERN NEBRASKA --- AND ITS PEOPLE

GENERAL HISTORY. CHEYENNE, BOX BUTTE, DEUEL, GARDEN,
SIOUX, KIMBALL, MORRILL, SHERIDAN, SCOTTS BLUFF,
BANNER, AND DAWES COUNTIES. A GROUP
OFTEN CALLED THE PANHANDLE
OF NEBRASKA

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V. 2

ISSUED IN THREE ROYAL OCTAVO VOLUMES

VOLUME II.

ILLUSTRATED

THE WESTERN PUBLISHING & ENGRAVING COMPANY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

1921

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CHEYENNE COUNTY

CHAPTER I

HISTORY OF THE COUNTY

Nothing in history exceeds in romantic interest the discovery and settlement of the New World, of which Nebraska and Cheyenne county are a part. The history of Nebraska begins with the Spanish Invasion of Mexico, and settlements at Santa Fe and Taos. Then later with the voyage of La Salle when he took New France, now Canada, and the region of the Great Lakes and the territory of Louisiana, in the name of Louis the Great, King of France. Spain followed by France thus became the first owners of the territory now comprised in Nebraska; in 1763, Louisiana Territory was ceded back to Spain, and what is now Cheyenne county, though unmarked and unnamed was in this territory. In 1802, Spain again ceded the territory to France, which prepared the way for Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, to negotiate the Louisiana purchase by which Louisiana Territory became a part of the young Republic in 1803. Cheyenne county was a part of it.

This section of the country was inhabited only by the roving bands of Indians at that time and little was known of the country this far west. May 30, 1854, Nebraska Territory was created by an act of Congress, and in 1866 the question of the admission of Nebraska as a state was raised. All conditions required by Congress were complied with and on March 1, 1867, the territory ceased to be, and the great state of Nebraska came into existence.

Cheyenne county was created by act of the first state legislature in 1867, and at that time contained the territory since erected into Banner, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill and Scotts Bluff counties. At the present time the county lies in the Panhandle section of Nebraska, in the second tier from the western boundary and the south tier north of the Colorado-Nebraska boundary. Cheyenne county is bounded on the north by Morrill county; on the east by Garden and Deuel counties, on the

south by Colorado, and on the west by Kimball and Banner counties.

The general topography of the country may be described as high rolling plains, ranging from broken cliffs along the Lodgepole to the level lands of tableland and valleys. The land is composed mostly of rich sand loam, occasionally traversed by deep canyons showing some rock out cropping. Profitable farming is extensively carried on in the county. Where much was given over to stock-raising by using the native grasses for forage, and pasture, in early days, it is now secondary in point of importance.

The Lodgepole creek valley leads all the valley in the county in size. It enters the county at the west line south of the center north and south, is several miles wide and runs east entirely across the country in an almost direct east and west direction. In addition to this major stream, the Lodgepole valley has a south branch running northeast from the western line and smaller valleys, many unnamed. Lodgepole valley is generally level, deep soiled and well watered and in an early day was attractive to the homeseekers. The lands were the first lands to be settled and today are the sites of the oldest ranches and farms. In the early days the stream was wooded along its banks with trees native to this locality, while the bluffs bordering the valley contained scattering Cedar and Pine.

CHEYENNE COUNTY WEATHER

No detailed description of climatic conditions in Cheyenne county is necessary. The climate is much the same as in all parts of the western highlands of the state and the middle west, and is admirably adapted to stock-raising and agriculture. It is a very healthful climate.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Contemporaneous with and following the

building of the Union Pacific, the cattlemen came into the country. All was government and railroad land, and the stockmen came to use the ranges. Originally they described their brands and range, thereby indicating a claim for so many miles of prairie that assured plenty of territory. Ranges seldom overlapped, but the cattle became mixed and the round up instituted. After Gates demonstrated efficacy of barbwire some began to build fences. In 1869 and 1870, cattle were wintered in the country now comprised in Cheyenne county though the ranges had been used before that time for oxen. For a number of years no taxes were levied against the cattle, no investments in real estate were necessary and the profits were large. Later the cattlemen and ranchers had to pay their taxes to the organized counties adjacent. They had no benefit from them and no enforcement of the laws and in order to accomplish this it was evident that county organization should be established.

County organization began to be talked over when the Union Pacific began building west through what is now Cheyenne county and the history of the county, and the town of Sidney, are so closely associated that they will be written together.

SIDNEY AND CHEYENNE COUNTY

The story of Cheyenne county and Sidney begins in 1867 when the Union Pacific Railroad reached the site of the present city.

On December 13, 1867, the United States established Sidney Barracks, a sub-post of Fort Sedgewick, Colorado Territory.

On November 28, 1870, it became an independent post.

The first purpose of the soldiers at Fort Sidney was to protect the builders of the railroad; four troops of the Third and Fifth United States Cavalry were stationed there and a portion of the Third Infantry for a time but they were later sent to another post. General Dudley was in command of Sidney Post and remained two years before being relieved by General Merritt. A company of soldiers was stationed at or near the present site of the town of Lodgepole and another twenty miles west, where Potter is now located. In the middle eighties troops from Vancouver and other Pacific coast garrisons were sent to these posts for a time.

Politics, even at this early day, entered into the life of Cheyenne county, as George W. E. Dorsey, member of Congress from the Third Nebraska District, which extended as far east as Fremont, his home, used the threat or

scare regularly to have Fort Sidney abandoned, as an excuse to be returned to Congress. He succeeded in being elected until the farmers' revolution resulted in the election of Omer M. Kem. Four years after he was first elected, or in 1894, the post was abandoned and the government property later sold to the Burlington railroad and used as the site for the present station grounds.

The Union Pacific railroad was built on to the west from Sidney in 1868, and with it went a large part of the population of the town when it was the end of the road. There was a large, nomadic, rough element in the country at the time, which always followed the rail head where it could prey on the laborers. The post was reduced to the mere needs of protection from Indians, which grew less and less each year.

For a period there was little life in the town and county, after the road reached farther west, but, in 1870, things began to liven up, and the people began to consider organization. A partial set of officers were named and plans made for a regular election. This took place October 8, 1871, when Sidney's pioneer attorney, George W. Heist, was elected probate judge, but refused to qualify. He was later appointed and did qualify. George Cook was elected sheriff, but was removed and John Ellis was appointed in his place. James Moore was elected treasurer of the county but was unable to give the county commissioners a satisfactory bond and Thomas Kane was appointed for that office, and D. Cowigan was commissioner, but later resigned. L. Connell, elected county clerk, served. Even at this early day there were indications that a political ring had been formed in Cheyenne county and unless a man was favored by the members he did not succeed in public life.

THE CATTLE BUSINESS

The stagnation of the town and county continued through the next five years. The trail herds passing through the town and county enlivened life occasionally, when cattle were driven from Texas into the country north of Sidney. The cattle business was becoming important in the Nebraska Panhandle where abundant pasture was available. A report of Thomas Kane, secretary of the Cattle Association, made August 5, 1876, indicates that the growth of this industry in Cheyenne county was considerable. The report gives only the cattle actually in the county, though some of the companies or ranchmen had large herds in other counties of the state, and in Colorado

and Wyoming. Some of the most important companies and ranchmen with their holdings are as follows: Adams, Redington & Co., six thousand head; Codd Brothers, five thousand head; Creighton Herd, three thousand head; Tusler Brothers, thirty-five hundred head; Pratt & Ferris, three thousand head; Bostler & Irwin, twenty-five hundred head; Bostler & Lawrence, two thousand head; other men who had large numbers were Maybury, C. A. Moore, Harkinson & Griffin; Thomas Kane, D. B. Lynch, H. Newman, Callihan & Murshied, C. McCarty, Walrath Brothers, Robert Howard, Jesse Montgomery, Merchant & Wheeler.

FIRST EVENTS OF INTEREST

The first white child born in Cheyenne county was Fanny Fisher, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fisher of Sidney. She was born in 1869, as her parents had come to the county some time previously.

The first cemetery was started when it was found necessary to bury a white man killed by the Indians.



postmaster, but also the first treasurer of the county. He was instrumental in the movement to have the county organized. Mr. Kane was a prominent ranchman of this district, located near Bronson where he made good improvements, being among the first to erect a good stone dwelling house. As an early attorney of Cheyenne county, Mr. Kane was naturally a leader in many movements for the development of the country. He became secretary of the Cattle Association of Western Nebraska when it was formed, taking part in the settlement of many of the cattle disputes and diffi-



A FINE RESIDENCE OF SIDNEY

culties of the early days. When the railroad tried to evade paying taxes Mr. Kane siezed an engine on the track. First he order the deputy sheriff, A. Solomonson, to stand in front of the engine; then the engineer started the engine and Solomonson yelled to Kane, who replied, "Stand where you are." "But they will run the engine over me," replied Solomonson. "If they do I will make them pay dearly for it," Kane replied. Solomonson stood in the track and was not hurt as Kane had attached a log chain to the engine and track and the engine did not move until the taxes were paid. Mr. Kane never ran a saloon in the new country and never was prominent in the roystering life of the frontier. Characteristic of his high spirits, he named his three boys, Tom, Dick and Harry.

A log hut served as the first store building in Sidney and was built by a man called "French Louis." It was located about four miles south of the present town site, but when a station was established at Sidney on the railroad, he moved the store to the town. Most of the stock of goods at that day consisted of necessary supplies and whiskey.

In 1868, Charles Moore built a frame hotel, store and saloon, and about the same time Thomas Kane built the second frame store building and became the first postmaster of Sidney.


The name of Tom Kane stands out conspicuously in the development of Sidney and Cheyenne county, as he was naturally a builder and pioneer developer, taking an active part in all public affairs. He was not only the first

The first saloon was built and started in the new town of Sidney, by Dennis Carrigan. Sidney one time had twenty-three saloons in one block between First and Second streets west of Rose street, now Center street. Now there is none. The business died of its own excesses and vice. Carrigan went into other business and became one of the progressive citizens, in later years. Saloon business in a "cow town" was vastly different from the same business in the mining rush. The people to deal with were of different type and character.

In 1876, Sidney suddenly found itself the nearest town of consequence to the Black Hills at the time of the gold rush. Cheyenne entered into a spirited contest for the business which grew with leaps and bounds from the many men rushing in and requiring outfits; Kearney

the head, "Why argue with a man who has no brain?" The satire and sarcasm of the early day newspapers was at its best between Sidney and Cheyenne.

By September, 1876, Sidney had a population of a thousand inhabitants, and the matter




SIDNEY SHORT ROUTE

Clarke's Centennial Express to the Black Hills.

In consideration of the 10 cents paid for this envelope, and of which payment its possession bears evidence, the undersigned agrees to carry it from the Union Pacific Railroad at Sidney, Neb., to Custer City, and Deadwood, Dakota, (as to such other places as his route may supply), or from above place to the Union Pacific Railroad at Sidney, without additional charge.

H. T. CLARKE.

(over)



Care of **H. T. CLARKE,**
Sidney, Neb.

FACSIMILE OF ENVELOPE USED IN THE PONY EXPRESS BUSINESS.

SIDNEY SHORT ROUTE
TO
THE BLACK HILLS.

**The New 61 Span Truss Bridge over the Platte River,
40 Miles North of Sidney,**

IS NOW OPEN FOR TRAVEL, AND, WITH THE ROAD, IS
Guarded by the United States Troops.

ONLY 167 MILES TO CUSTER CITY
FROM THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Wood and Water in abundance, and the Finest Roads in the World by this Route. All Mail sent in care of H. T. CLARKE, Sidney, and Camp Clarke, Platte River Bridge, will be forwarded as directed. Sidney is now a good out-letting point. Large supply of Groceries, Groceries, Hardware, and Fresh produce on hand. Hotel accommodations good.

TOTAL DISTANCE FROM SIDNEY TO CUSTER CITY 167 MILES. This distance is by road the two Agencies, Deadwood and Black Hills. Stage Line leaves this route and Snake River, running through to Red Cloud Indian Agency in 17 hours, and to Custer City in 24 hours. The distance by this route is 158 miles.

Our forwarding houses can furnish transportation for 250,000 POUNDS at a shipment-FREIGHT CHARGES. Sidneys to Custer City, range from 8 to 6 cents per pound. Freight shipped care H. T. Clarke, Sidney, Neb., will be shipped at lowest rate.

PASSENGER RATES - Omaha to Custer City, 1st class \$45, 2d class \$35, 3d class, \$25.
Tickets for sale at Union Pacific Railroad and principal Railroad Ticket Offices East.

REVERSE OF ENVELOPE USED BY MR. CLARKE IN THE PONY EXPRESS COMPANY.

H. T. CLARKE, FORWARDING AND COMMISSION MERCHANT,
 211 N. 3rd St.,
 SIOUX FALLS, S. D.
 All orders, bills and remittances, and all correspondence, to be addressed to H. T. CLARKE, at the above address, or to Sidney and Deadwood, Dakota, which will mail to be addressed to CLARKE'S EXPRESS, Custer City, Dakota, Deadwood and other points. Price 10 cents.

SIDNEY SHORT ROUTE TO BLACK HILLS

also opened a route to the Hills across the sand hills of central Nebraska. Kearney soon dropped out of the running, but Cheyenne kept up for years, though Sidney held its own. Dr. George L. Miller ran the *Omaha Herald* at the time and made mention of the advantages of Sidney; a spirited fight followed in the columns of the Cheyenne papers though it could not be denied that Sidney was sixty miles nearer Deadwood than Cheyenne. The *Sidney Telegraph* quoted extensively from the papers under

of city government and a permanently platted city engaged much attention, although gold was the item of paramount interest to everyone. It was not until May 1, 1877, that a plat of the town was filed.

In 1876 and 1877, there arrived and departed from Sidney about fifteen hundred people daily in the rush to the Black Hills for gold. People were going to and from the Black Hills, except for a few who stopped in Sidney

a few days farther west, also itinerant gamblers and the following of every gold rush.

GROWTH OF BUSINESS

Business grew and was well represented in Sidney in 1876 and 1877, but of the men then engaged in retail trade only two merchants remain in business today, namely: the Oberfelder Brothers, clothiers. During the rush through this section P. J. Cohn & Company,

ture store, Kelley & Cameron and G. H. and J. S. Collins carried harness and saddles. Regular outfitting stores were owned by C. A. Moore, R. S. Van Tassel and the Oberfelders. At the latter the office of the Stevenson stage line was maintained with an all night service. The only jewelry store was owned by B. M. L. Thoeleck; C. E. Borquist was the pioneer druggist of Sidney, establishing his store in 1871, and in 1876 C. F. Goodman opened the second drug house.



SIDNEY IN 1877

operated the Star Clothing House which for a time rivalled the Oberfelder store. P. J. Cohn was the original senior member. His nephews operated the store. Louis and Mike Cohn were cousins and Louis later became sole owner. Mike sold his interest for \$40,000, took it to Chicago, and lost it. William France had a hardware store here in 1876, and among the grocers were Henry Gantz & Son, wholesale merchants; W. J. McDonald, G. W. Dudley and H. T. Clarke. C. A. Morian and Dennis Carrigan each ran a combined dry goods and grocery store while an exclusive dry goods house was owned by Stevens & Wilcox and another by A. S. Brown. Dewey & Stone ran a furni-

The first doctor to locate in Sidney who served the town and a large part of Cheyenne county, was Dr. Boggs, and Dr. J. G. Ivy, physician and surgeon, came in the autumn of 1876. The only dental office in the town was run by the Urmey Brothers.

N. Grant and John Carrier were the first men to run barber shops, the called "fashionable barbers," soon followed by J. H. Surles and Charles M. Rouse.

Pratt and Ferris, well known as the "P F" were the early freighters, doing an extensive business in Cheyenne county and the Black Hills, while G. W. Dudley advertised "Dear's Stage Line to the Black Hills." The main

stage line was run by Stevenson and the Dears line was not long in operation.

Half a dozen hotels and as many restaurants were built and operated to accommodate the rush of travelers, the best known being the Lockwood House, the Germania, the Gilt Edge, the Southern, the Delmonico, the Miners, the American and H. M. McFadden's, not one of which is in business today, having passed with the transient life of that day. All the men who operated them have gone but Mr. McFadden who still maintains his home in Sidney though retired from business. It should be stated that H. M. McFadden advertised in a way that stood out like an island in a tem-



INTERIOR OF OBERFELDERS OUTFITTING STORE, 1877

pestuous sea. "No gambling tables connected with this house."

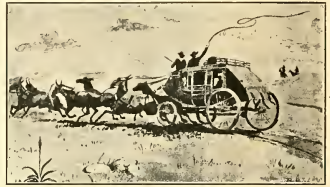
In April, 1876, the only resident lawyers in Sidney were George W. Heist and George R. Ballou, though by the spring of 1877 V. Bierbower, A. M. Stevenson, Guy Barnum, Jr., and Tom Kane were also established in law practice.

MAIL ROUTE

In 1876, the United States established a mail route between Sidney, Nebraska, and Greeley, Colorado. Sidney Probst was the driver from 1876 to 1878, and his many experiences of those early days are interesting and instructive, telling of the life of the vanguard of civilization. Probst died a few years ago in Colorado. This route did not compare in peril with that to the north on the Black Hills' route, for that line ran through hostile Indian country, and the stages were lined with steel for the protection of the passengers. Major North, with his Pawnee scouts, and the Crows, with an hereditary enmity for the Sioux, were valuable assets to the white in subduing the Indian troubles north of the North Platte river.

RIVALRY BETWEEN TOWNS

Kearney's ambition to compete with Sidney and Cheyenne for the Black Hills' business resulted in the establishment of a road, stage line and pony express through the sand hills north into Dakota. This line crossed the Niobrara river at the Newman ranch near the mouth of Antelope creek. It was a longer and



OVERLAND MAIL ON THE "OLD TRAILS" ROUTE FOR SAN FRANCISCO

more dangerous line. Charles Fordyce, one of the pony express riders, was killed by Indians a little north of that station.

In 1877, a white man who had been selling or trying to sell trees in the Hills drove into the Newman station. It was snowing and the Newman outfit tried to persuade him to stay until the storm was over but he pressed on. Later appeared an advertisement asking



PONY EXPRESS AND OVERLAND MAIL OFFICE, FORT KEARNEY

the whereabouts of a tree man, saying last seen on Cheyenne river traveling south. The following spring Hunter & Evans outfit found him. He had perished in the snow.

The Kearney route was given up about January, 1878, and the route through Sidney became the main traveled one to the gold fields.

INDIANS ATTACK SURVEYORS

Indians were hostile to all white advances, especially to surveyors and when I. W. Lamunyon was surveying on Pumpkin creek in 1872, a detachment of soldiers were sent to guard the surveying party. There had been no sign of Indians and one day the soldiers rode out a considerable distance from the surveyors at work and the camp. The Indians then seemed to rise out of the prairie and the surveyors "dug in" making a hole about eight feet square into which they put the provisions and water, then crawled in themselves. The Indians circled about on ponies, swinging over their sides and shooting under the animals necks; but the soldiers heard the firing, returned in haste, and the Indians fled. No one was hurt although a number of Indian ponies were shot by the surveyors.

FIRST NEWSPAPERS

The *Sidney Telegraph* came into existence

in May, 1873, and in 1874 was published by Joseph B. Gossage. George G. Darrow joined the force in the spring of 1875. Darrow later went to Denver and Gossage to the Black Hills, and in 1920, was publishing the *Journal* at Rapid City, South Dakota. The *Telegraph* was not only the first newspaper published in Cheyenne county, but first in the Nebraska Panhandle.

TOLL BRIDGE AND DEATH TOLL

When Henry T. Clarke decided to build a toll bridge across the North Platte river at "Camp Clarke," he sent a number of choppers into the Pumpkin creek hills to cut suitable logs for the piles and necessary timbers for the bridge. It was dangerous work as is testified by the killing of a man named Brocklay, and later Webber, in 1876, near the Tusler ranch, by Indians. The bridge was built, however, and was used by the people passing north and south.

CHAPTER II

SIDNEY'S WILDEST DAYS

Sidney had by this time become a boiling caldron of humanity, some serious and hurried, others serene, methodical and unruffled, all with the one object, gold. The town was wide open, and day and night business houses, saloons, dance halls and theatres were thronged with people. It has been claimed that Sidney introduced to the world, the all-night theatre, with continuous performances.

The *Telegraph* of 1876 refers to the floating population as "freighters, teamsters, herders, 'cowboys,' Mexicans, half-breeds, gamblers, and 'Nymphs du pave.'" The name "cowboy" was apparently just coming into use. In subsequent years the term "herdsman" was made to apply only to those who attended flocks of sheep.

The character of Sidney's Wildest Days, before the vigilantes hung Reed, and partially subdued the town, was such that the Union Pacific railroad issued orders refusing to allow through passengers to get off their trains at the station. This came as a result of complaints of tourists, who were held up or mistreated on the station platform. The men com-

mitting these offenses were "Three-finger Jack," "Hold-'em-up Johnny" and others of their kind. Jack made a tactical blunder in a storm and held up a citizen of the town, following which he and some of the worst citizens "dusted," as a result of public sentiment.

A number of incidents, some tragic, and others nearly so, and some of boisterous humor, are here chronicled, which indicate the life of the time and place with historic accuracy.

"SQUIRE" NEWMAN'S NARROW ESCAPE

All kinds of life had its zest because of the danger involved. Henry Newman had been elected Justice of the Peace, and thereby was called "Squire" or "Jedge" as occasion prompted, but that is not the story.

There were several men engaged in the work of capturing wild horses, and breaking them for domestic uses. Murshied and Pashon, two of the old-timers, had roped a wild horse near Callahan & Murshied's ranch, and had him in a corral. A number were looking him over, this being an especially fine animal,

but of the fighting kind. Newman was nearby in the corral on a horse when the wild animal attacked him, knocking horse and rider down. It then reared, and was on the point of setting his forefeet down on the prostrate man and stamping him to death, when R. S. Van Tassell seized the rope which was trailing from the wild horse's neck, and "set on it," swerving it from its objective by a few feet. Quick action saved a tragedy.

THE SCHAEFER MASSACRE

One of the tragedies of the period occurred in 1878. The Schaefer family came from Plattsburgh and went to work at Tusler's ranch. The man was employed as cook at the mess house, while the family resided in



AN OLD "PRAIRIE SCHOONER"

an independent house near the other ranch building. When Lone Wolf's band went on a rampage, part of them journeyed near here. The incorrigible Sioux passed on, but when they passed this man, his wife, and three children were no more.

THREE DIE AT A DANCE

About the time of Sidney's last lynching episode, that of McDonald in 1881, frightful orgies were common at a road house some distance north of town, at one of the spring creeks leading down to the Platte river. One night, a dance and carouse was going full swing when a soldier accidentally shot himself dead. The others deposited the body in a corner of the room and ordered the music to proceed. After a time a fellow named Jack Page and another had a little altercation, Jack's adversary, dead, was placed into the corner with the soldier, and the dance went wildly on.

Later in the night a third man was killed, and this broke up the dance. The lights were shot out. Daylight found some sleeping off

their drunken stupor and others gone. The three dead were taken to Boot Hill Graveyard.

KILLING OF WILD BILL

Forty hours after the killing of Wild Bill (W. J. Hickok) by John McCall, at Deadwood, which event occurred in a gambling joint, August 2, 1876, the news reached Sidney. It created a profound sensation that a thoroughly established king of gunmen should be taken off by a mere kid.

A hastily selected jury heard the boy's story that Wild Bill had killed his brother in Kansas the year before. He was found "not guilty," according to the code of the times, but was told to get out of the Black Hills. Before the event, Wild Bill had heard that a kid was looking for him, and he had said, "a kid looking for me, is the only kind I am afraid of; he may get me."

A YELLOW AFFAIR

Appearing in the *Telegraph* of August 4, 1877, was the following notice, affording a basis for some range of the imagination:

"Calamity Jane No. 2 has arrived from the Black Hills. She received promotion on the road as assistant wagon boss. She became so powerful as to lead to the discharge of a number of hands. She has now gone west with a bull-whacker to learn the trade. Her husband is not a violent mourner. She is a stubby customer, American, and cus-sed. If she has any conscience, she took it with her, and if she had any virtue, her husband didn't know it. Her child is now in good hands, and the painter is happy.

Evidently the painter was unhappy, and took an unkindly departing shot at his neglectful spouse. According to codes then prevalent, either the Black Hills wagon boss or the painter would have tarried permanently somewhere beside the Trail. One or the other failed to measure up to the standard required by the red-blooded men of the period. True, it was probably better thus, for none of them was the worse, and the "child is now in good hands," which is an objective worthy a temporary humanity.

THE PINKSTON MURDER

James and A. J. Pinkston, father and son, located on Middle creek in 1885, and employed a man named Reynolds to help build a log house. They lived in a tent meanwhile, and cooked and ate their meals in the open,

having an improvised table in front of the tent.

On the night of September 16, from the story told, over a very trifling affair, the Pinkstons were killed and Reynolds later hung.

According to Reynold's story it started at the supper table over a difference of five dollars in wages, whether the amount due was seven dollars or twelve dollars. He said the Pinkstons attacked him with clubs and he used the axe in self defense.

His first story, however, told at Trognitz barn, which then occupied the present site of the U. S. A. Theatre at Sidney, was that a stranger came along, and killed the Pinkstons in a fight, and had compelled him to help bury them. This story not being satisfactory to the officers, he was arrested, and later confessed.

Of the numerous hangings in Cheyenne county, this was conspicuously the only legal execution within its borders.

AN IMAGINARY CALF

It must not be understood that the recitation of these gruesome and sorrowful events indicates all the early history of Sidney and Cheyenne county were of such color. There were lively affairs that possessed only sufficient danger to quicken the pulses, and a modicum of humor to justify the hazard.

There were attempts by swindlers and crooks that sometimes went well, but generally ended in disaster.

There were "Happy Jacks," carefree as the western wind, always with ingenious methods evolved of necessity, when an unlucky chance stripped them of all they possessed. Never discouraged by adverse circumstances, for the darkness of the night meant to them the sun was soon to rise. "Whitie" was one of these genial souls.

"Whitie" had a run of luck that put him "down upon his uppers," and conceived a scheme for a moderate stake. He invented a calf and valued it at ten dollars. He told three companies he had such a calf, and if they would give him two and a half dollars each, he would sit in a game of "freezeout" to see who should own the calf. They "fell for it," and a local man won. Then it was played for again and another won. A dozen times that night the imaginary calf changed hands. This calf was introduced into Sidney in 1876; in 1879 men were still playing for it, always at a value of ten dollars; and no one ever saw the calf.

THE LOCKWOOD HOUSE GANG

Dropping off of the Black Hills travel, due to railroad extension, emptied some of the hotels in Sidney, the Lockwood House being one. This was rented to Wm. Godfrey, his wife and another man. They were a trio of crude swindlers with a unique scheme. They selected the names of several hundred people in all parts of the United States, and wrote letters on "Lockwood House" stationery, of similar import to each. These were to the effect that someone had died in the hotel owing a little bill. Upon examination of his effects they were led to the opinion that the deceased was a relative of the one addressed, that the deceased had left some personal effects ranging in value from six hundred to one thousand dollars, and consisting of bank deposit slips, diamond rings and watches.

The letter continued that the hotel had given the body a decent burial, which cost with the hotel bill, care, and the like, amounted to one hundred, eight dollars or an approximate sum. If the addressed cared to send this amount, the effects would be sent to them; otherwise they would be sold to pay the bill. They reasoned that the recipients of the letters would send the money to get the goods, even though not expecting any legacy, and not having any relation, who would likely be in Sidney to die. They were not mistaken in the weakness of their fellow men. The money came by check, draft and money order.

After they had accumulated about forty thousand dollars, Postmaster Fred Clary became suspicious and reported the facts so far as he knew them to the Federal authorities. The trio were arrested, and Judge Dundy sentenced them to Federal prison. The woman broke down and died in Sidney Jail, the others being taken to Leavenworth.

Clary, who came to Sidney as a telegraph operator, served a term as postmaster and then returned to the Western Union. He is now general superintendent of the eastern district.

A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Reverend Benton, a Methodist minister, came to Kimball about 1890, and satisfied people there and at Sidney with his credentials.

Shortly after the Morgan & Johnson bank blew up and Morgan committed suicide, Benton tried to cash an eight thousand dollar draft at Cheyenne. He wanted three thousand cash immediately, and would leave the other five thousand on deposit. There was little cash available

and the bank did not accept the proffer. Henry St. Rayner and Mr. Donaldson, were at Cheyenne at the time, and when they returned to Sidney, told the local bankers of "the preacher with the eight thousand dollar draft." As expected, Benton came to Sidney, this time willing to take two thousand dollars in cash.

L. W. Bickel, banker at Kimball, had loaned Benton twenty-five dollars, and said he guessed he had "kissed it good by," when he learned that Benton was peddling a big draft. He told Officer Trognitz to get the twenty-five if he could.

Benton was stopping with a Methodist brother named Whitney, although leaving his bag at a hotel. Trognitz got a warrant and searched the bag, finding it contained old clothes, a characteristic tramp's outfit. Then he arrested Benton at the Whitney home. The good people could hardly believe Benton was really a bad character. However, Trognitz found four of the Bickel five dollar bills in the end of his spectacle case, and some silver in his pockets.

The papers headlined a story of "cowboy Sheriff arrests a preacher." Two days later Cashier Stone of Sioux City Savings Bank, arrived and identified Benton, as a swindler named Simpson. His method was to get part cash on a large draft, drop his clergyman's attire, and don the garb of a tramp until well out of the community. He was also wanted at Central City. Sheriff Trognitz received one thousand dollars reward.

FIRST CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH

The first Fourth of July celebration held at Sidney in 1877, was at the same time the first event of the kind held in the Panhandle of Nebraska. An extensive and interesting story of this affair, which lacked the hampering espionage customary in older communities, is told by the *Sidney Telegraph* of July 7, 1877. American humor was a part and parcel of the young west, as evidenced by high lights of the narrative.

"The National salute of one hundred and one guns was fired by Sidney's battery at sunrise. Let it be stated, for once, that more than a hundred shots were fired in Sidney without an accident."

"Fitzpatrick was ruled out of the greased-pole climbing contest because of his great length. He was too near the top of the pole at the start."

"C. K. Allen came within an ace of plucking the persimmon, but just as he was reaching for the nugget, when as luck would have it,

some buttons attaching his suspenders to his trousers in the rear, gave way, and Mr. Allen retired as gracefully as the circumstances would permit."

"Smithy played a 'stopless' organ, and for aught we know he is playing it still."

There was a greased pig, cortests of all sorts, and a race between "bulls" and "mules" attached to freight wagons. "A lot of money changed hands on this affair, for the 'bulls' won by ten feet."

THE AFFAIR AT ZOBEL'S

In 1877, John Zobel ran a restaurant with a bar on the west side of Rose street. It was typical of the time and usually full of customers.

A friend of the Oberfelders from New York had come to Sidney, and Bob, while showing him around, dropped in Zobel's place. At one table sat three distinguished characters; Hank Clifford, from the Stage station on the Niobrara river; Ben Tibbets, beef killer and squawman from Red Cloud agency, and "Arkansas John" Wyseckler. Their bibulous feast had reached a stage of mellowness where they were shampooing one another with tomato ketchup. One of them reached for the pepper sauce bottle, and Bob and his guest "beat it."

One of the celebrating three let out a yell like a Sioux Indian, and the shooting began. When the smoke cleared, all the lights were out of commission, and the front of the building was a total wreck. No one was killed.

CATTLE RUSTLERS

In the few years of change, where ranges gave way to grangers, cattle rustling became common. Early in this period, Doc Middleton committed the offense of killing two dissolute soldiers, and thereby became an outlaw. Contemporaneously others made it a business, using the settler as a "Smoke screen." As often as possible they made the granger an accomplice, giving him meat for domestic needs, which needs were frequently sufficient. Occasionally cowboys and near cowboys became cattle detectives, and sometimes outside detectives were employed.

Jack Crittendon's services were presumed to be on the side of cattlemen, but he evidently "played both ends." When Tom Kane was preparing some cases against offenders of cowmen's ethics, Jack became alarmed that he might not be on the winning side. He sought Kane to give assurance of his dependability. Kane was busy making out some papers and

told Jack to wait, but being nervous and excited he would occasionally interrupt with "I can swear to" this or that. Kane told him to wait "until I finish this," and he continued, "then I will tell you what you have got to swear to." A faithful chronicle of the event is that Jack waited.

The people on lower Pumpkin creek were disturbed during this period by the arrest of Lee Nunn by Detective Talbert. Talbert apparently decided to join in homing making, and as brought out at Nunn's trial, he made the suggestion and induced Nunn to join him in killing a range beef. There was no dispute as to fact, but the question of the value would settle the sentence, whether a fine or the penitentiary. Talbert was the expert witness for the cattlemen who wanted the accused "sent over the road." Judge Isaac Woolf, tangled the detective's testimony, who in fact, was not an expert, but Woolf was. To the general satisfaction of grangers, Nunn was released.

BONANZA DAYS

The bonanza days and big profits in Sidney occurred during the Black Hills rush. Then Colt's revolvers sold for forty dollars and everything else in proportion. Freighters who figured loads at two tons per mule or ox, cursed picks and shovels as "bulky freight." There was not room on a wagon to put the customary ten tons. Two wagons trailing behind ten mules were supposed to carry twenty tons—two tons to the mule.

BACK TO NORMAL

The lean years of the early nineties, broke many cattlemen, and the grangers were "not yet upon their feet." Intense privation and heart-aches covered the broad acres of Cheyenne county. The prices of merchandise dropped very low in Sidney and elsewhere. Brilliant financiers and politicians call it back to normal, and helpless mortals echo the apology

for the crime of financial depression, from time to time.

THE NEW ORDER

Raising of wheat has changed the business of the county which has been settled by farmers and small ranchers and Cheyenne county is today one of the productive areas of the state.

Sidney now has twenty-eight wholesale distribution branches of farm machinery and the like. The city also contains some hundred and twenty-five business houses which handle all kinds of merchandise, including the stocks of autos, trucks, tractors, and all sorts of implements required by the farmer. Her stone quarries and gravel pits have been used extensively in local building and these products are shipped into other parts of the state. While wheat and cattle stand out as the great resources of Cheyenne county, her other agricultural products are many and valuable.

At the present time interest is taken in the Lodgepole valley in oil and natural gas. A deformation, or structure points to oil land, and an old surveyor's report shows oil seeps east of Sidney but up to the present no well has been brought in.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

The United States Land Office was established in Sidney in July, 1887, with the first officers as follows: John M. Adams, register and G. B. Blakely, receiver; G. B. Blanchard, register and L. M. Neeves, receiver, succeeded them. They in turn were succeeded by John M. Adams, register and P. G. Griffith, receiver; George W. Heist, register and R. D. Harris, receiver. Judge Heist died in office after which R. D. Harris was made register with Matt Daugherty receiver. R. D. Harris was reappointed register and J. L. McIntosh receiver, following which these two officials reversed positions which they held until the office was abandoned in March, 1906.

CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATION OF CHEYENNE COUNTY

Before Cheyenne county came into existence, the western part of Nebraska was divided by an arbitrary act into counties. Two of these, Lyons and Taylor counties, and a part of Monroe county comprised the territory which in 1867, was made into Cheyenne county. These counties had no organization and no government was needed. Between 1867 and 1870, Cheyenne county was attached to Lincoln county for all revenue, administrative and judicial purposes. In 1870, Thomas Kane went to Lincoln, the state capital, to prevail upon Governor David Butler, to call an election for choosing officers for Cheyenne county, which was done by a proclamation in August, 1870. The following officers were chosen: Thomas Kane, treasurer; John Ellis, sheriff; C. A. Moore, Fred Glover, and H. L. Ellsworth, commissioners, and H. A. Dygart, clerk. The latter served but a short time and D. A. Martin was appointed to succeed him. October 8, 1871, occurred the first regular general election in the county when the following officials were elected: George W. Heist, probate judge; George C. Cooke, sheriff; L. Connell, clerk; James H. Moore, treasurer; D. Cowigan, commissioner, but he resigned. George Cooke was removed and John Ellis was appointed in his place. George Heist refused to qualify but was later appointed and did qualify. James Moore's bond was not acceptable and Thomas Kane was appointed and qualified. The commissioners elected were: Henry Newman and Joseph Cleburne. The coroner was P. Bailey, who refused to qualify. The superintendent of schools was George R. Ballou; county surveyor, John Griffin, who refused to qualify; while the justices of the peace were Thomas Kane and Frederick Glover.

The early records of the county are very meagre. Some of the early officers performed very little service. Salaries were small, some officers serving without any recompense. The offices were not as attractive as they are now and not sought. A list of the officers of the county down to 1918, follows: 1872, the commissioners were Henry Newman, and Joseph Cleburne; Judge, G. W. Heist; sheriff, J. J. Ellis; coroner, P. Bailey (refused to qualify); treasurer, Thomas Kane; superintendent of schools, George R. Ballou; surveyor, John Griffin (refused to qualify); Justice of the Peace, Thomas Kane and Frederick Glover. Since that time the Cheyenne county judges

have been as follows: D. Carrigan, George Darrow, C. D. Essig, Julius Neubauer, A. Pease, Robert Shuman, Leroy Martin, F. H. DeCastro, A. A. Ricker, M. J. Saunders, James Tucker, Henry E. Gapen and C. P. Chambers.

Succeeding Moore, Glover, Ellsworth, Newman and Cleburne, commissioners serving have been as follows: J. J. McIntosh, H. V. Redington, James Callahan, Henry Newman, R. S. Van Tassel, Henry Tusler, J. F. Simpson, A. J. Walrath, Henry Snyder, J. W. Haas, T. H. Lawrence, Moritz Urbach, John Snodgrass, J. B. Stetson, August Newman, Frank L. Smith, Morris Davis, P. C. Johnson, A. H. Frame, E. S. Crigler, J. W. Vanderhoof, A. W. Atkins, W. R. Wood, J. W. Harper, Frank A. Rowan, Fred Lindburg, Robert Emanuelson, W. C. Dugger, Jerome B. Haiston, Louis R. Bareaw, J. B. Haiston, Lewis Brott, L. R. Barlow, Frank X. Rihn, N. H. Troelstoup, William Godings and J. L. Reed.

COUNTY TREASURERS

A complete roster of the county officers has been hard to obtain. Some of the offices have been created since the organization of the county but the persons who have been trusted with the public funds are as follows: Thomas Kane, Henry Snyder, C. K. Allen, Carl E. Borgquist, James Sutherland, C. D. Essig, Adam Ickes, James L. McIntosh, A. Pease, Fred Lehmkuhl, A. K. Greenlee, J. S. Hagerty, W. R. Wood, Simon Fishman, Mabel Lancaster. The latter is the first woman to occupy this important position, and regrets have been expressed that her efficiency cannot be rewarded by more than two terms under the statute.

COUNTY CLERKS

H. A. Dygart was the first clerk to serve in the county, being named by the governor's proclamation in August, 1870. He has been followed by L. Connell, C. K. Allen, J. J. McIntosh, L. B. Cary, Dan McAleese, C. J. Osborn, William C. Bullock, James Burns, Robert E. Barrett, Henry T. Doran, F. N. Slawson, who splendidly assisted in the compilation of this data.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

The office of superintendent of public in-

struction dates from the organization of the county and first election October 8, 1872. The first superintendent was George R. Ballou, being succeeded in September, 1874, by L. Jenkins, then in 1875, by L. H. Bordwell. Since that time the following men have filled that office: Daniel Hirlihy, E. M. Day, Joseph Oberfelder, Leslie Stevens, Mrs. Julia Shelton, Mrs. E. O. Lee, Mattie McGee, C. P. Chambers, Otis D. Lyon, Mrs. A. B. Knox, Minnie E. Chase, William Ritchie, Jr., Edith H. Morrison, and Anna McFadden. The records of the superintendent's office, and Mrs. McFadden assisted excellently in this work.

OTHER COUNTY OFFICERS

J. J. Ellis was the first sheriff of Cheyenne county; he was first appointed, then elected October 8, 1872, being followed in office by C. McCarty, John Zweifel, F. R. Curran, Robert



OLD COURT, SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE

C. Howard, S. O. Fowler, W. T. Eubank, Charles Trognitz, John Daugherty, Daniel McAleese, Frank King, S. H. Babb, J. W. Lee, J. W. McDaniel, Adam D. Waggy, and then J. W. McDaniel, the present incumbent, returned to duty.

In 1873, precincts for the first time took on importance and elected officers and from this time have continued to elect the necessary officers from time to time.

The first county surveyor was elected in 1872, being John Griffin who refused to qualify; Joseph Callihan was elected in 1873, and refused to qualify, since which time the surveyors elected have served. The first coroner was P. Bailey, who refused to qualify and was followed the next year by George Williams who also refused to qualify, but since that time the men elected have generally served.

In 1881, occurs the first mention of a county attorney, when V. Bierbower's name is given at the returns of the November elections. He has been followed by W. C. Reilly, E. O. Lee,

William P. Miles, Henry Gapen, Mark Spanogle, Henry Gapen, Leroy Martin, Robert W. Devoe, C. S. Radcliffe.

JUDICIAL

William Gaslin, Jr., was the first district judge to sit in Sidney and Cheyenne county, and was the man who made much of western Nebraska bow to the law. He served from 1876 to 1880. Samuel Savage next sat upon the bench but his were not the years of stress that preceded or followed as he held office from 1880 to 1884.

From 1884 to 1888, Francis G. Hamer, afterwards a member of the Nebraska supreme court, served in this district. His record is written in the hearts of the people whose homes he saved by delay of process of law in the interests of justice. In the end everyone was served well.

From 1888 to 1892, A. H. Church was the judge presiding in the western end of the tenth district of Nebraska. Conditions in this section of the state were changing and he had difficulty in meeting the many new demands.

William Neville, one of the best and most able judges that ever sat on a bench, presided over the destinies of Cheyenne county and those counties afterward carved from old Cheyenne, from 1892 to 1896. He then went to Congress.

For fifteen years H. M. Grimes sat in this district, which was divided about ten years ago.

By the creation of the new district, R. W. Hobart was appointed and took over the northern counties that had been carved from Cheyenne. Judge Grimes still presides when court meets in Cheyenne, Deuel, or Kimball counties. He starts now upon his twenty-fifth year as judge of the district in which Cheyenne county is located, which is evidence of a satisfied people.

From 1868 to 1885, the statutes provided for the election of district attorneys. During those years one name stands alone to the credit of the Panhandle of Nebraska, that of Vic Bierbower, of Sidney, who was elected in 1880 and served one term.

CHEYENNE COUNTY COURT HOUSE No. 1

The present Cheyenne County Court House, is of Doric simplicity and is a constant source of pleasure to the eye and satisfaction to the people. It is a little more than a decade old, as \$50,000 worth of bonds were voted for the erection of a court house March 21, 1911. On April 15, of the same year the contract

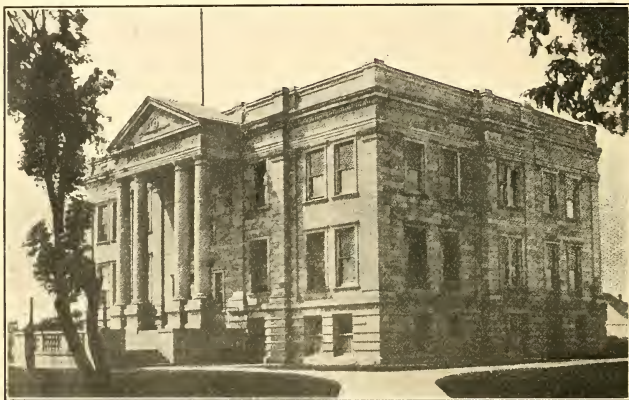
for the new structure was let to C. F. Goodhand of Ord.

The building is sixty by eighty-four feet, exclusive of the portico and is built of white stone. The interior is finished in oak where wood is used and the walls are natural sand finish. The main entrance and rotunda are tiled. The stairway is of steel and slate with banisters of steel and brass. There are three full stories including the basement which is light and airy and contains the jail, the furnace room, and two convenient rest rooms for the public.

ed with it is an office for the judge. On this floor are jury rooms, counsel chambers and the caretaker's apartments. The old county buildings were sold and wrecked when the new court house was placed in use so the grounds today are beautifully laid out in lawns, making the court house yard a real park for Sidney.

SECTION HOMESTEAD BILL GOES INTO EFFECT

As a result of the Congressional measure known as the Section Homestead Bill, passed in 1894, more than two million acres of land were thrown open to homesteaders under provision by which an entryman was entitled to



CHEYENNE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, SIDNEY

The rest room in the northwest corner of the basement, maintained by the Women's Club, is cozy, comfortable and convenient and is free to all the women of the county. The rest room for men practically duplicates this. A fine heating plant is in the basement so that every part of the building is well heated and also well lighted with electricity. All the county offices are located on the first floor and are equipped with every convenience including vaults for the records and county treasurer's papers. The offices include those of the clerk, superintendent, assessor, commissioners, surveyor and county judge, which includes an office and court room. The third floor or second story houses the district court room which is large and convenient. Connect-

six hundred and forty acres, and to such homesteaders under the old law, who had vacant lands adjoining, they could increase their acreage to a section. A thirty day preference was allowed in which to make filing. All the rest was open to the entrymen first coming. This caused a land rush into western Nebraska as hundreds of people wanted to make entries under the new law, Sidney displayed considerable activity some days prior to June 28, when the homestead law took effect. Many new settlers thus came into Cheyenne county who became permanent residents and aided in the further settlement of this section. The enlarged homestead was first introduced by Congressman Wm. Neville for two sections, the fruitful suggestion of Judge Homer Sullivan

of Broken Bow. Congressman M. P. Kincaid followed and reduced the acreage to one section. The law was then confined to Nebraska, but now includes all the western states.

CHEYENNE COUNTY SCHOOLS

District No. 1, was organized in 1871, with C. E. Borgquist, moderator; D. Carrigan, director, and Joseph Cleburne, treasurer. It included Cheyenne county as it then existed, and unorganized Sioux county which then extended eastward to the present line of Holt county. In a period of less than fifty years twenty-three counties have been formed in this first school district, which originally included all northwestern Nebraska.

The first teacher in this district was Irene Sherwood, who taught the school of twelve pupils at her home in Sidney, during the winter of 1871-1872. Ten years later there were four school districts in all this territory, located at Sidney, Big Springs, Antelopeville (now Kimball) and Lodgepole. Sidney reported one hundred and fifty pupils with a two room school. J. M. Brenton was principal and Mrs. N. L. Shelton, assistant.

By 1884, nine districts lined the Union Pacific Railroad from Big Springs to Cheyenne and one district had been created in the still unorganized territory of Sioux county, near Fort Robinson on White river. Miss Mary Delahunty was the teacher, and Daniel Klein, director. The next year two more districts were organized in Cheyenne county; one on Pumpkin creek and the other on the North Platte river. Districts Nos. 2 and 3 were organized in Sioux county with John Tucker and W. V. Pennington directors of the two districts, in the order named.

There seems to have been no county superintendent in Cheyenne county until January, 1871, when George Ballou assumed the duties of that office. He was the first county superintendent of a territory covering nearly a third of the state. On the first Saturday in February, 1873, he held the first teacher's examination at which Rose C. Michael and Mrs. L. M. Ballou were the only applicants and were granted certificates numbered one and two. School moneys available were appropriated for the use of district No. 1, there being only the one district. The board of directors then consisted of Thomas Kane, George W. Heist and John Ellis.

L. Jenkins, the second superintendent, was elected September 1, 1874, and granted a second grade certificate to Miss Mollie A. Pressley, for one year. All moneys again went to

the first district. On September 14, 1875, a second grade certificate was granted to Miss Della A. Sharpless, and district No. 1 had all the school funds. February 19, 1878, County Superintendent L. H. Bordwell created district No. 2, at Big Springs and sent notice of its organization to John McCann. Election was held February 26, 1878, to elect school officers who were as follows: G. W. Banhart, moderator; R. A. J. Walrath, director; a man named Green was treasurer, but the district was abandoned as no school was held. On August 4, 1879, a petition for reorganization of district No. 2, was filed and asked that the following officers be named: R. J. Coerdon, moderator; E. W. Ormsby, director; A. J. Walrath, treasurer. No. 2 district was created by E. M. Day, superintendent, who had been appointed to fill a vacancy July 8, 1879.

District No. 3, at Antelopeville, now Kimball, was created August 8, 1879, with J. J. Kinney, moderator; John J. McIntosh, director and William Gaw, treasurer. There was a contest of "School" and "No School," and it would seem that the "No School" faction had the best of it and had its board appointed. The first election overturned this and, in 1880, Thomas B. Evans, to which "taxable inhabitant" the notice of the district's organization had been sent, and James Lynch and Walter Derrig were elected members of the school board.

The first school was held in a building made of railroad ties set on end, and had a dirt roof and dirt floor. Soon afterward a frame building was bought; it had formerly been used by J. J. McIntosh as a saloon. This served until the school grew and required more room and better quarters, which were provided. The old frame structure was sold to the Swedish Lutheran church and in 1920, was still used for church purposes though remodelled and with additions.

District No. 4, was organized at Lodgepole, August 19, 1879, by E. M. Day, county superintendent. H. Barrett, was moderator; A. C. Drake, director; and James Green, treasurer.

S. V. Livingston became county superintendent in 1880, and no new districts were formed while he was in office. Only six certificates were issued during his term.

Jos. Oberfelder was then elected superintendent, and assumed office in 1882. Eleven certificates were issued by him, and district No. 5, at Potter, came into existence September 8, 1883, when John O'Leary was selected as moderator; James Evans, director; and Adam Gunderson, treasurer.

Leslie Stevens, who served as superintendent

after 1884, discontinued the record of certificates issued, except for the entry of the number, names and address.

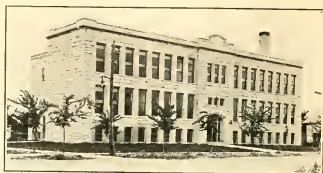
District No. 6, at Bushnell, was organized September 26, 1884, with A. Tracy, Walter Derrig and S. A. Pierce the members of the board. March 7, 1885, district No. 7, was formed at Chappell, with Messrs. Johnson, Newman and McLoskey making up the board. Districts Nos. 8 and 9, were formed on the railroad at Bronson and Colton. District No. 10, the first organized away from the railroad, in Cheyenne county, was on Pumpkin creek at the old Wright ranch, while Leslie Stevens was superintendent. It came into existence in March, 1885, and the district comprised practically all the territory now embraced in Banner county, and all south of the North Platte river in the present Scotts Bluff county. The taxable property consisted of some railroad land and ranch cattle.

Lora Sirpless was the first teacher; John Wright was director, and, in 1887 L. D. Livingston and Hugh Milhollin became members of the board. A local contest appeared here, and the following years Mrs. Ellen Streeks, S. B. Shumway and Jacob Keleton were elected to the school board. The first school house in the district was made of logs with dirt floor and roof, but, in 1887, a frame building about sixteen by twenty-four feet was erected and Clara Shumway was selected teacher in 1888.

Camp Clark district, No. 11, was organized the same month as district 10, being the second away from the railroad. After this, schools were organized thick and fast as the county was settling up and by the autumn of 1888 there were a hundred and thirty-two districts in Cheyenne county. Julia Shelton was superintendent during this period of expansion. The first district organized and holding school in the present Scotts Bluff county was at Tabor, now Minatare, in August, 1886. Basil Decker, Theodore Harshman and Wellington Clark constituted the board. Horseshoe Bend had the first school in the North Platte valley. It was held in an old claim shack, with Gertrude Ashford as teacher. The district was organized March 7, 1886, with George Williams as director. Cheyenne county has since been divided and retains only a small part of its original territory but the schools have maintained a high standard of efficiency in educational work.

The first school in unorganized territory, later Sioux county, and now Sheridan county, was established by Jos. Oberfelder in 1882. It was located near Fort Robinson and Red Cloud Agency, and all the pupils were half breed

Indians. There were forty-two of them, principally the children of Sioux women and white "squaw" men. We are told that the famous chief Red Cloud had descendants in this school. The children of Nick Janis and his Crow Indian wife were among them. Mary Delahunty was the courageous teacher to go into this wilderness to teach.



NEW HIGH SCHOOL, SIDNEY

Cheyenne county as it now exists has seventy districts, which include several that are partly in Cheyenne, and partly in adjoining counties. According to the school census of 1920, there are two thousand seven hundred and forty-eight pupils in the county, ranging in age from five to twenty-one years. There are four accredited city and town high schools as follows. Sidney, with twenty-three teachers; Lodgepole, with nine; Potter, with seven; and Dalton with seven. There are consolidated schools at Sunol and Gurley, the first having five teachers and twelve grades, while Gurley has seven teachers and eleven grades.



CATHOLIC SQUARE, SIDNEY

The rural schools, sixty-five in number do, not seem to be following the extreme consolidation plans of some other counties, it being the general opinion in Cheyenne county that schools of two or three rooms and a teacher's cottage are best. That teaching well all subjects up to the eighth and tenth grades meets

the most demands with highest efficiency and economy in administration.

There are four parochial schools in the county: The Catholic Academy at Sidney, and three others which are Lutheran: one at Sidney, one south of Sidney and the third at Gurley. Each of these three has but one teacher. There has been some friction to get them to qualify under the Simon law but not as much as in other counties. The main difficulty has been to get these schools to supply the required text books. Miss Anna McFadden is the present superintendent of Cheyenne county, and takes much interest in her work.

MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISES

Sidney possesses as good and cheap a water system as can be found in the state. The water is obtained from a well on the north side. This well goes down to second water and never lowers a foot. Its quality is of the purest. It is pumped to the reservoir on the hill and from there distributed to the town by a fall of a hundred and twenty feet. The reservoir will hold a hundred and twenty-five thousand gallons. The system is owned by the city and was put in at a cost of \$25,500. Consumers get a water rate that is very reasonable. A sewer system has been a badly needed innovation and has improved sanitary conditions. This is also owned by the town. The lighting, heating and power plant, known as the Sidney



BIRDSEYE VIEW, SIDNEY

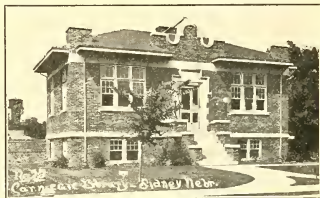
Electric Service Company, is maintained as a private enterprise and its functions are as indicated. The entire town receives the light and power if desiring to and the business section is furnished heat also. The service is excellent in each branch. Rose street is lighted by electroliers.

This plant has a contract for pumping the city water and furnishes lights for the railroad yards and shops and power for the turn table. The Nebraska Telephone Company is

located in the Cleburne Block and enjoys a large patronage. More than four hundred subscribers are served and have connections with about any place in the world. Four girls are busy throughout the twenty-four hours.

Sidney has more than sixteen miles of cement sidewalks, much of it twelve feet wide. These lead to all the better portions of the town and take the pedestrian past houses that are a credit to any city.

Fire protection is as yet quite adequate with two volunteer fire companies, the Citizens and



the Railroad Boys. Fire plugs are placed at frequent intervals over the town, the water supply is unlimited and the pressure great. The town has been remarkably free from fires and to the rare cases the firemen have given the highest degree of service. They are without a suitable home and in conjunction with the Village Board are planning to build a city hall with a fire department. They already have a considerable fund toward that end.

RAILROAD IMPORTANCE

As has been stated Sidney has railroads, the Burlington lying north and south and the Union Pacific traversing her length east and west. The Burlington has four passenger trains a day and two local freight carrying passengers. The U. P. has a division at this point and employs upward of three hundred men. The payroll for the current months has amounted monthly to \$15,000. The round house, car department and coal heavers received \$5,800, monthly, while the roadmaster's office and the five sections within the county total \$2,087.07. There are thirteen passenger trains on this road each day and at this point two local freights carrying passengers. An attractive depot of stone, steam-heated and with every convenience for travelers, is so exquisitely kept that strangers are often heard to remark

upon its unusual neatness. The windows look out upon a pretty and well-kept park.

In truth, the whole of the railroad property is so orderly and neat that the house-keepers could learn lessons by inspection of the buildings and yards, where conditions are so adverse to neatness. It will be readily understood that the Union Pacific railroad is a large part of Sidney.

FIRST IRRIGATION IN WESTERN NEBRASKA

The first irrigation in western Nebraska was in the Lodgepole valley, and was practiced by the soldiers under the command of General Dudley of Sidney in 1871. A dam was built across the creek and the waters thus impounded were used to irrigate the tracts of land allotted to the companies. Rivalry existed between the companies is growing the best gardens. Let it be known to the credit of this early tillage that the soldiers raised nice gardens, but the grasshoppers discouraged their efforts. The first produce was intended to supply two hundred and fifty enlisted men and their officers and finally ended in the addition of several hun-

dred dollars worth of produce being sold in town.

When the fort was abandoned in 1894, trees two or three feet in diameter were flourishing. After the valley was settled more densely, ditches were constructed until irrigation was practiced extensively along the borders of the entire creek. The dams averaged from three to ten feet in height and seventy-five to one hundred feet in length, and were located from a half to three-quarters of a mile apart along the course of the stream. The discharge of Lodgepole Creek is small in comparison with many other streams thus utilized in Nebraska. This is explained by the fact that the stream is fed from numerous springs along its entire course and also by the fact of the valley being from one to three miles in width. The irrigation of such land thus being very close proximity to the stream that water reappears promptly, after being spread over the bordering land. It has been observed frequently that when all the flow was being diverted at one point the stream a half mile further down would flow again the same as if no water had been diverted above.

CHAPTER IV

LODGEPOLE

The town of Lodgepole is the second oldest town in Cheyenne county. It had the first newspaper, the first bank, first business house, and first postoffice in the county outside of Sidney. School district No. 4 was located there, which is the second district organized within the present limits of the county. Its high character of morality, and its religious and educational institutions appeal to people who are looking for a permanent abiding place.

There are now resident there some excellent people who came and located when the cattlemen occupied the wide domain. They have adopted the newer standards of an ownership of acreage, instead of the open range.

There are the first grangers also, who came and remained through the years of stress, a number of which are yet residents after the lapse of a third of a century. Here was born the first white boy in that part of the county; Guy C. Newman. Here also is Col. A. B. Persinger and his Hardscrabble ranch. Here

two of the names that mean much to early history of the region were recently united in marriage. Not the younger generation, but the principals who were in the drama of early years. A. B. Persinger, aforesaid, was a ranchman of the seventies, while Mrs. G. H. Jewett, the bride, was the widow of the first state senator from the Panhandle of Nebraska. He it was who built the first bridge across the South Platte river at Big Springs in the early eighties.

At Lodgepole also is the veteran editor, J. V. Wolfe, who for so long, directed the destinies of the *Express*, recently retiring in favor of Claude Grisham, who is keeping a standard of excellence. This paper was established about 1884.

Lodgepole also had to its credit one of the state's best members of the legislature in 1917-1919, and who in 1921 became regent of the State University, William L. Bates.

Fred Lehmkuhl is another Lodgepole name

that runs steadily through the progress of town, county, and community welfare, from the very beginning. J. R. Young is still another long familiar name, a pioneer in merchandising, and always forefront for the good of the town.

F. H. Wolf, cashier of the Cheyenne County Bank, can tell you stories of forty years ago, when he and his brother Ed, were two of the four pupils attending the first school (a private school) held in the old wreck of a depot at Chappell where John O'Neil, the station master, gave him his first lesson.

Lodgepole is located on the Union Pacific railroad near the east line of Cheyenne county. It is beautifully located, surrounded by many

the main crop Lodgepole has prospered. Irrigation has led to the growing of potatoes and other produce which has given the surrounding country an impetus which is reflected in the town. After its incorporation and the good years of plenty, sidewalks were laid. Miles of concrete walks were laid, and an electric light plant and water system were established that render excellent service and give Lodgepole a metropolitan aspect. The electric plant and water works are housed in the same building. Lodgepole has a modern school house of cut stone and it is rated one of the best in the county. Lumber and coal yards have been established, elevators to handle



NORTH SIDE OF SHELDEN STREET, LODGEPOLE

natural meadows in which are many lakes made by damming Lodgepole creek. This locality is popular with hunters from the eastern part of the state. The town lies in the valley which has a gentle rise to the north and south. It has a park which was established by the railroad, is well kept and has a band stand. A statue of Lincoln marks the spot where Lodgepole's first school house stood, now the center of the park.

The station was first established when the railroad built through the county. At first it was very small, just a section house and improvised depot. Not until 1882 or 1883 was there any town. A school was established in 1879. Merchandising came later when the country began to settle up with permanent farmers. Year by year more homes have been erected and since the introduction of wheat as

the grain, hardware and implement houses have been started and furnished the country side with all machinery and articles needed by the farmers. The leading mercantile house was started in 1888 by a Mr. Young and a large fine building was erected to house the store in 1892. It is an establishment of which Lodgepole may well be proud. A furniture store was one of the early business houses, established by E. Fenske, also handling hardware, harness and monuments and for years he operated the elevator. Lodgepole was established as a postoffice some years after the railroad was built and for years L. R. Barlow, one of the early settlers was postmaster. Today Lodgepole is one of the attractive and prosperous towns of the Panhandle and with its rich surrounding country has thrived and

grown into one of the good shipping and trading points on the Union Pacific.

Lodgepole's shipment of wheat in 1920 totaled three hundred and forty-four cars, approximating a value of \$600,000. Last year (1919) the value of wheat shipments was around \$800,000.

POTTER

Potter, situated in the western part of Cheyenne county, midway north and south, is located on the Union Pacific railroad, not far

stands and also built the building first used for the postoffice after it was removed from the station. William and Andrew McAdam built on the corner where the James Lumber Company now has an office. They were engaged in the furniture business. The McAdams also built the old school house which stood for years on school house hill, which was later remodeled and used for a hotel on Main street. This old school was built about 1887 or 1888, but after being removed from the station the first school was held in a small



from the western boundary. It owes its existence and early establishment to the railroad. The station house of the railroad, built in 1870, was the only building in Potter for a number of years and was at one time, station, postoffice, and school room as the first school was held in this building with a teacher from Omaha. The country around the Potter station was used first by the cattlemen but gradually some settlers came. Among the men prominent in settling up this locality was the Reverend Charles Anderson, who lived at Sidney but was active in locating people in the Potter district. Another family prominent in the promotion of the town was the Brotts, (Andrew and Lewis,) and their families. They established the first hardware store on the corner where the Citizens' State Bank now

frame building where the Thornburg house was built later. The teacher then was Miss Mary O. Strong. By this time Potter had quite a few houses and was becoming a village. One of the first postmasters was Fred Nelson. The old livery barn was built by Frank Hyde and was one of the oldest buildings in Potter outside the section house and depot. He dug a well, the first in Potter and put up a tank and windmill, and even went so far as to pipe water to some of the buildings and houses, installing the first water system in the town, though it is primitive, and of simple construction.

Civic advancement began in real earnest in 1885, when the first hotel was built just west of Thornburg's building, O. L. Erickson being the proprietor. By 1889 Potter was thriving

ing, it had two grocery stores, two hardware stores, a newspaper called the *Potter Press*, one hotel, one restaurant, one blacksmith shop, a furniture store and a feed store. About this time the Lutheran church was built in practically its present form except for the tower and some interior changes. Mr. D. Shultz was one of the prominent men in its organization. The *Potter Press* was short lived and within a couple of years Potter was without a paper. Later the *Potter Review* was started but was likewise abandoned. A third attempt was made when H. Stevens was hired by some enterprising men to reestablish the *Review* and has been published ever since under that name.

By 1890 the farmers who had settled around Potter began to raise grains, mostly wheat and oats and as 1892 was a good year, Potter had to build grain storage houses but not of the type used today. Everything seemed bright for the young village of Potter but the droughts of 1893 to 1895 made great changes. Many settlers left the country and the small country towns suffered from the migration and hard times. Some better years followed but made little change in Potter. After the section homestead bill was passed Potter began to look up a little and, in 1907, the first bank was organized, before which the people of Potter had to bank at Sidney. The next few years saw great changes in Potter, new stores were erected, the Gunderson hotel was built. Dr. Ames put up a building and the Potter State Bank, after organization, was located in a new building.

In the meantime Potter was incorporated and began to put in sidewalks. Bonds were voted and municipal light and water systems were established. The Union Pacific railroad built a new station and tank, while the farmers organized and put up a large grain elevator; later they also erected a flour mill. Mr. Seyfang projected a theatre building and hall for the growing town. New additions were laid out while many fine homes were constructed. Farming was prosperous and was reflected in the growth and development of the town, so that today it is one of the prosperous young towns of the Panhandle with great opportunities for bigger and still better expansion.

The Lutheran church is of stone with furnace heat. It has a large membership with a resident pastor. The Methodist church also has a large membership with resident minister and both organizations have societies for church work.

Potter's school has developed from the old station where it was organized by Joseph Ober-

felder, when county superintendent in 1883, to two rooms in the late eighties and about 1915 to four rooms well equipped, in a brick structure with basement, gymnasium, domestic science and clay molding.

In the winter of 1886-1887 the grangers to the north used to bring in red cedar posts and trade for groceries.

During that winter I was in Potter a number of times on that mission. The first time was with George Hendricks. I believe we broke the road just about as it now stands. I am sure our little pony team was the first to go up that hill with a wagon out of Big Horn canyon on the east side of the place where the principal road now runs. We crossed Lawrence Fork at the same point this road now occupies. We were unable to sell or trade the posts in Potter and drove to Sidney, where we made the necessary exchange with A. Pease, then in business there. On the way in I shot and wounded an antelope, but had only the one cartridge and could not complete the job, for it could still travel.

In someway while there Hendricks managed to get a pair of soldier blankets and a United States rifle, inveigling them out of some disolute soldier. Soldiers were forbidden to sell them but occasionally they needed the money and risked doing so.

Another time in Potter with Martin Draper, we were in a store, and there was a little kitten playing on the counter. Unless one has been used to the domestic animal life of older communities, and has been transplanted into a wilderness where only wild life exists one cannot understand the yearning and homesickness for old associates, when reminded of them.

This feeling proved too strong for Draper and he surreptitiously slipped the kitten into his overcoat pocket. It was taken out to Pumpkin creek, the first domestic cat in the present Banner county limits.

The *Potter Review* calls that town the "biggest little city in Nebraska," which is emphasized by the character of its numerous business houses of today. Among these are Farmers Union Trading Company, Johnson-Cords Company, Thornburg & Hager, Housen-Seyfang Mercantile Company, Potter Lumber Company, Johnson's Implement & Feed Store, Potter Grain Company, Jones Furniture Store, Central Market, Potter Bakery, Gunderson's Hotel, Seyfang Theatre, The City Garage, Hite's Transfer, and numerous others.

The two banks have substantially aided in the progress of the community, furnishing credit for the rapid expansion of agriculture

and the development of the raw prairie into magnificent fields of wheat.

At one time in the county division agitation a "Potter county" was proposed. This proposal which left Sidney on the edge of two counties had much to do with Sidney's sudden change of heart in 1888, and brought that city to support the five-county plan, which carried.

In 1920 Potter shipped 375 cars of wheat, of a value of approximately \$700,000, a drop of probably one-third from last year's total cash, but twenty-five percent of the wheat is yet in the farmers' bins.

DALTON

The high divide north of Sidney was traversed by the overland stage, pony express, and western bound emigrants, before Sidney existed. The Jules Cut-off from the South Platte valley at Fort Sedgewick (now Julesburg) went up Lodgepole creek to near the present site of the town of Lodgepole. Here it crossed the divide to Mud Springs (now Simla) then up the North Platte river on the other old trails.

After the coming into existence of the town of Sidney cattlemen locating in the "North River" county opened new roads across the empire of buffalo grass. Then the Black Hill's trade made one of them of high importance.

A handicap to this territory from the settlement point of view was lack of water. "The Water Holes" offered the one spot where it was possible to obtain shallow water. The freighters and stage routers had located this spot and put down some wells.

So the first locating on the divide aside from timber claims, was in this vicinity, that they could haul water until such a time as they could dig a well. As water was two hundred to three hundred feet below the surface, well-digging was no small undertaking.

These "Water Holes" were some distance southwest of the present town of Dalton. Eventually such beautiful lands were destined to become homes; they were settled upon by homesteaders, many of whom are yet to be found in the prosperous community. At first wells were dug at rare intervals, but later the drill, the windmill, and the gasoline engine have solved the water problem.

The Burlington in 1920 projected its line south from Alliance to the North Platte river, establishing Bridgeport, then up the North river to Guernsey. It connected Bridgeport with Denver by way of Sidney. The stations

on the divide were Dalton, Gurley and Huntsman.

Dalton led off in progress and enterprise, and was a town of growing importance in proportion to the acreage of buffalo grass that was plowed up, and the acres of wheat sown.

Dalton is located on one of the high points in the county and commands a beautiful view. Twenty-five years ago this site was a field of grass; a wagon road leading from the river country wound through this territory, and the location was visited by a party of eastern men, as they passed over the divide in a freighter's wagon, for Sidney was then the first town south of Alliance. On reaching the "highest point," where Dalton, "Queen of the Prairie," today lifts her head, the men stood up and asked why the country was not farmed better and why better stock was not raised



BLIND CANNON NEAR POINT OF ROCKS

and the driver responded that farming did not pay. Great has been the change from that day to this for Dalton is now surrounded by a rich, productive agricultural district. Only three years after the travelers passed the Burlington railroad was built through Cheyenne county and a side track and section house were established on the top of the notch of the divide and named Dalton. Shortly afterward a man put up a store and scales and the scattered people who lived in the district began to come in for supplies saving the longer trip to Sidney. Then settlers east of Dalton told that they had been raising enough wheat and grain for their use. Other farmers questioned why large fields would not yield as well as small ones. Macaroni wheat was introduced, which had drought resisting qualities. Farmers remembered the years of 1893 and 1895, which were well nigh rainless. The pioneer merchant, W. S. Woolsey, became busy and prosperous and another man ventured into the station town to establish the Clough store. During this period farms grew closer to the village and a small school was established. From

this time the town grew; gradually more buildings of good and permanent character were built for commercial purposes. Livery and feed barns sprang up to accommodate the farmers; the postoffice was established in the Woolsey store; J. A. Walford and C. B. Shanks ran a grocery and meat market; the Bridgeport Lumber Company established a lumber yard under the management of Jesse Ewing, and J. C. Franden opened a drug store, while Dr. A. E. Hedlund was the early physician to open an office, and enjoyed a good practice. Not long after, when farm lands began to sell, H. C. Anderson opened a real estate office. The busy blacksmith shop was conducted by Herman Martin and a hardware and furniture store by Charles Veith; a confectionery store by H. C. Christensen and a livery and implement house by C. W. Handley. J. B. Hire managed a restaurant while A. P. Gustin operated a pool hall and barber shop. The garage of Dalton was opened by Ben Carter, while his wife was in charge of the telephone exchange. Steve Davis, the well driller, was a busy man.

Dalton supports four lodges, all of which are thriving; they are the Workmen, the Woodmen, the Yeomen and the Royal Neighbors. Since the town was incorporated many cement sidewalks have been laid which makes the business and residence property most attractive. The Bridgeport Lumber Company established a plumbing and tinware department, always busy and a number of carpenters are active building the new residences with the increase of population.

With the increase in agricultural products it was necessary to have means to handle the immense quantities of grain shipped from Dalton and three of its four elevators were built more than ten years ago; the Central which was then conducted by Ray Clough; the Farmers Co-operative, managed by H. Harmuch, and the Foster Milling Company conducted by James Morrison.

D. R. Jones & Company are large realty dealers of Dalton; they have handled several hundred families in farms and also deal in city property. Due to the growing business Mr. Jones took into partnership in 1913, A. J. Jorgenson, who had been the local manager of the McNish Land Company. The Western Realty Company was organized in 1906 with W. E. Swartzlander as president. This company always has a large list of farm properties for sale or rent with automobiles ready to take the prospective buyer to look at land.

Today Dalton is well represented in church

work and civic improvement institutions. It is remarkable the growth the town has had within such a short period, and as it serves an agricultural community all its business is necessarily such as supplies the wants of the farms and the progressive owners who trade in Dalton. Its main business street has many good and attractive business houses; the stores are up-to-date in stock equipment and service and all are doing a fine business.

A traveler arriving by train sees the two-story hotel just across the street from the station. It is enjoying a fine trade and already is growing small for the accommodation of the traveling public. This house was conducted by W. N. Foster who also kept a ranch ten miles from town.

Dalton now has a population of about three hundred and fifty, two excellent banks, and four elevators. Its mercantile interests are well represented. The Farmers and Merchants Bank, and the Dalton State Bank look after financial affairs, which is an undertaking in a wheat town where elevators of the capacity of those at Dalton are in evidence. Three hundred and forty-one cars of wheat were shipped from Dalton of the 1920 crop to the close of the year. In 1919 the shipments were four hundred and twenty-one cars. The value last year was about \$1,000,000, but this year's wheat shipments fell off in value as well as quantity, being probably \$600,000. About thirty percent of the crop remains unsold.

GURLEY

Gurley, the next town of importance in the progress of Cheyenne county, is five or six miles south of Dalton. It has two banks and is otherwise represented in a business way. Gurley shipped two hundred and fifty-two cars of wheat in 1920.

There was a drop in production in 1920, but owing to the lack of cars there was also a short shipment. This year's crop is only seventy percent marketed, thirty percent being in local elevators and farmers' bins.

The character of the country about Gurley is a continuation of the Dalton community.

HUNTSMAN

Huntsman lies still further south on this tableland, and nearer to Sidney. The town has a bank and mercantile facilities. There being no station agent the grain shipments and other products are billed from and included in the report of the Burlington at Sidney.

LORENZO

Lorenzo is near the Colorado line south of Sidney on the "South Table" as it is called, but is of little commercial interest, except as a shipping station. Its freight business is likewise handled by the Burlington agent at Sidney. The "South Table" did not come into importance until after the "North Table" had been settled. The first homesteaders were attracted north on account of the pine and cedar forests that covered the rough lands, supplying fuel and building materials for the first important needs.

Along the lodgepole valley on the Union Pacific railway, aside from Sidney, Lodgepole and Potter, there are in Cheyenne county a number of shipping points. Colton and Bronson are cared for by the agent at Sidney.

SUNOL

Sunol has an individual identity, and its quota in the shipment of wheat in 1920 was one hundred and six cars, valued at about \$250,000. It has a bank, stores and garage, being on the Lincoln Highway.

Government statistics put the total wheat product of Cheyenne county at 2,900,000 bushels for 1920. Shipments, however, were in excess of that amount. Conservative figures show a total of 2,111 cars of wheat shipped out, or about 3,100,000 bushels, and that represents but seventy percent of the crop. The other thirty percent on hand will bring a grand total yield in 1920 of around four and one-half million bushels. Sidney and the stations handled from there, shipped 693 cars.

Of the 2,111 cars shipped, 1,197 went over the Union Pacific, and 914 over the Burlington, the difference being due to better railroad and car service.

The Lincoln Highway traverses the county east and west, paralleling the Union Pacific railway, and a highway from Denver and Sterling north, passes through Sidney. Its connections are with the North Platte Valley Road, Yellowstone Road, and the Black Hills.

Important community centers in Cheyenne county were established and postoffices located, but generally these have given way to rural routes from railroad stations, and the automobile has shortened the time between the railroad and the interior communities.

CHAPTER V

STATE OFFICIALS

The territory of Lyons, Taylor and Monroe counties later erected into Cheyenne county and the "Beavais Terres" to the north, was included in the district represented by V. Krummer, of Columbus, in 1866, or the last territory legislature. This district included all of western Nebraska. The representative district was limited in 1873, to all territory west of Hastings and Grand Island, while the eastern boundary of the senatorial district was Norfolk, Columbus and Seward. Guy C. Barton of North Platte, was senator in 1873 and in 1875. He was the pioneer ranchman of Nebraska, west of North Platte.

Platte, Colfax, Butler, Merrick, Hall, Buffalo, Lincoln, Dawson, Howard, Sherman, Valley, Greeley, Boon, Antelope, and Cheyenne counties, were by the Act of March 3, 1872, included in this senatorial district. The representative district comprises Lincoln, Daw-

son, Buffalo, Sherman, Valley, Franklin, and Cheyenne counties. Prior to that the man to represent this district was Wells Brewer in 1869-1870. Cheyenne county has never had a state official except in the house and senate.

The time set by law for convening court in Cheyenne county was the third Monday of June, each year. The law at the time required a petition of two hundred of whom ten must be "taxable inhabitants," to organize a county. Sioux county, then unorganized, was attached to Cheyenne for administrative, judicial and taxation purposes.

IN THE SENATE AND LEGISLATURE

G. H. Jewett, of Sidney was state senator in 1879; G. W. Heist, of Sidney, in 1883; D. Carrigan, of Sidney, was representative in 1881; V. Bierbauer, in 1883; J. M. Adams in

1885, and George C. Lingenfelter in 1893. All were from Sidney. In 1913, Lewis Brott, or Sextrop, Cheyenne county, was elected and was followed by William L. Bates, of Lodgepole. Bates served two terms in 1917 and 1918, and was then elected regent of the State University in 1920. He had removed to Kimball county before being elected to this office.

STATE FISH COMMISSION

Robert Oberfelder was appointed State Fish Commissioner by Governor A. H. Holcomb about 1896. He served for six years, proving an efficient and conscientious official. His wide information as to streams and lakes of western Nebraska, enabled the planting of the right kind of fish in the right place. That trout now abound in many western streams is due to his initiation.

BANKING AND FINANCE

In 1876, there was but one bank in the Panhandle of Nebraska. It was located at Sidney. A private bank, the first in this part of the state, was established by Reynolds and Wallace and was called the Cheyenne County Bank." A. H. Reynolds was from Canton, Ohio, and was a relation of President McKinley. William Wallace was for years connected with the Omaha National Bank, and a figure of prominence in the financial world. After establishing and operating their bank for a time Reynolds and Wallace sold to Saxton Brothers, who were also from Ohio, and also related to McKinley. That bank continued to operate and was known as the Exchange Bank. It went to the wall in latter financial depressions, and the assets were taken over by Morgan and Johnson, who ran it for a number of years. About 1889, Mr. Morgan shot himself and the bank became financially embarrassed. The county treasurer, Adam Ickes, had county funds in it and he went broke trying to make good the county losses, turning over all his private funds and property in an effort to save his bondsman.

The American Bank, which had just been established, took over what was left of the wrecked Exchange Bank and J. J. McIntosh, president of the American Bank, was made receiver of the Exchange. Edwin M. Mancourt, of Terre Haute, Indiana, a proficient banker, established the Merchants Bank. He was more conservative than had been his predecessors in Sidney's banking circles. After a few years he liquidated and went east, being a large banker in Detroit, Michigan, today,

and also vice-president of the consolidated coal companies. The third bank in Sidney was established by Milton Ahrends, but it was later merged with the First National Bank.

The fourth bank was called the Sidney State Bank. After operating two years it was taken over and merged with the American Bank, the present officers of the latter institution being: J. C. McNish, president; M. C. Dinnery, G. E. Taylor and G. R. Buckner, vice-presidents; E. D. McAllister, cashier; J. L. McCarthy, assistant cashier. When this bank was organized, A. S. Raymond, now of Raymond Brothers & Clarke, wholesale grocers of Lincoln and Scottsbluff, was president; J. J. McIntosh, vice-president; and George E. Taylor, the present active vice-president was then cashier. S. H. Burnham, now of the First National Bank, of Lincoln, succeeded Raymond as president and he was succeeded by J. J. McIntosh, July 4, 1894. Mr. McNish became president in 1918. The present capital and surplus amounts to \$145,000.

The First National Bank came into existence in 1902. It has a capital and surplus of \$75,800, and its present officers are: W. E. Swartzlander, president; A. K. Greenlee, vice-president; Leslie Neubauer, cashier; Charles L. Mann and Lena L. Jensen, assistant cashiers. The men who were influential in its organization were B. A. Jones, J. W. Harper, Charles Callihan, Milton Ahrends, A. K. Greenlee, C. D. Essig, Daniel Bergman, M. H. Tobin and A. Pease. The original capital was \$25,000.

For fifteen years the two banks stood the test of Sidney's growth in commercial importance. Wheat then began to be a factor of Cheyenne county, and bank accounts, credits and deposits began to swell. The Nebraska State Bank was organized in 1917; with F. M. Wooldridge, president; and M. L. Wooldridge, cashier. It has grown steadily and is firmly established. In 1920, the officers were: F. M. Wooldridge, president; F. D. Wooldridge and J. A. Simones, vice-presidents; M. L. Wooldridge, cashier; and Helen Wooldridge and C. E. Wooldridge, assistant cashiers. The bank has a capital and surplus of \$54,670. The Liberty State Bank came into existence in 1919, with F. N. Slawson, president; H. R. Fuller, vice-president; R. A. Barlow, cashier; and Marius Christenson, assistant cashier. It has prospered since organization and today has a capital and surplus of \$33,000.

The oldest bank in Cheyenne county, outside of Sidney, was established at Lodgepole in 1889, and was called the First State Bank. It

has a capital and surplus of \$32,200. The present officers are: W. G. Milton, president; J. W. Rogers, vice-president and W. J. Chase, cashier.

The Cheyenne County Bank, of Lodgepole, was organized in 1915. It has a capital and surplus of \$31,540, and the officials are as follows: Ray Isenberger, president; Fred Lehmkuhl, vice-president; F. H. Wolf, cashier and W. J. Barrett, assistant cashier.

Potter has two banks, the Potter State Bank being established in 1911. It has a capital and surplus of \$31,500. J. A. Woten is president; C. W. Johnson and P. Jensen, vice-presidents and Thomas Cowger, cashier. A small bank organized in 1907 was the antecedent of this strong organization.

The Citizens State Bank, began business in 1917. It has a capital and surplus of \$18,000, with the following officers: G. A. Roberts, president; Clarence Johnson, vice-president; R. A. Babcock, cashier and D. F. Enevoldsen, assistant cashier.

Dalton has two banks, both established in 1908. The Dalton State Bank has \$33,800 capital and surplus, with W. J. Ewing, president; H. A. Fecht, vice-president; J. L. Willis, cashier and R. Buchanan, assistant cashier.

The Farmers State Bank has a capital and surplus of \$27,640 and the following officers: J. H. Foster, president; P. T. Higgins, vice-president; and Leslie C. Opper, cashier.

The Gurley State Bank, which began business in 1915, has a capital and surplus of \$32,480. C. E. Wyerts is president; A. E. Leclair, vice-president; and S. P. Johnson, cashier.

The Farmers State Bank of Gurley began business in 1917, has a capital and surplus of \$18,500 and the following officers: S. J. Hanson, president; and C. W. Smith, vice-president.

The Farmers State Bank of Sunol, was organized in 1914, and has a capital and surplus of \$24,930, and the following officers: J. W.

Rogers, president; W. G. Nielton, vice-president and G. W. Barlow, cashier.

The Huntsman State Bank, six miles north of Sidney began business in 1919, and now has a surplus of \$4,500 and a capital of \$10,000. Its officers are: W. A. Sparks, president; J. A. Chaon, vice-president, and W. E. Cunningham, cashier.

This concludes the list of financial institutions past and present of Cheyenne county and shows a remarkable history. The first flush of the gold years, the bonanza cattle days, the lean years of the droughts, and now the agricultural years of plenty. The great wide wheat fields with their wealth of grain in this county, is reflected in the volume of business shown in the fourteen banks. The only discordant note in the financial history of Cheyenne county in a quarter of a century has been the attempts of the older banks to keep new ones out. The new banks were needed by the growth of business in Sidney and the surrounding country.

The Farmers State Bank of Sunol was robbed July 28, 1916 at noon. The robbery was supposedly planned by R. G. Lukins and Frank Connell, the former acting as lookout while Connell took the money. He locked C. W. Smith, the cashier in the vault and started away with the loot, but two men were in the road. He shot through the windshield and killed them both. Others headed him off, and he ran his car into a corn field. Lukins was arrested in the town and Connell was captured in the willows near Tobin's ranch. He confessed, and both men were sent to the penitentiary.

Two other concerns handle money in the county though they are not bankers. Oberfelder Brothers handle hundred of thousands of dollars annually, discounting warrants. Dr. Eichner discounts farm paper and other obligations in large amounts.

CHAPTER VI

THE PRESS

There has been no agency employed that is entitled to more credit for the development and advancement of Cheyenne county from its organization than its newspapers. During the first years of the county's history there was not a newspaper published within its boundaries. The *Sidney Telegraph* clearly has the field in priority of journalism, in Cheyenne county and the Nebraska Panhandle. It was first issued in May, 1873, in style being more like a pamphlet than the news sheet of today. It had four pages with four columns to the page. L. Connell was the publisher at its initiation. It was then bought by Joseph B. Gossage in the autumn of 1874, and the next year George C. Darrow became a partner in the ownership. The *Telegraph* was then published under the firm name of Joseph B. Gossage & Company. In 1878, a rival newspaper appeared, the *Plaindealer*, which was started by W. H. Michael. In 1881, this paper was sold to A. C. Drake who consolidated it with the *Telegraph* which he then owned. This gave the *Telegraph-Plaindealer* a clear field for some time. J. C. Bush bought it, and then Charles Callahan was the controlling spirit of the *Telegraph* for a number of years, "Plaindealer" being dropped from the name. For a long time now, H. E. Gapen has been the able editor. He is a good politician as well as an efficient newspaper man and the combination has led to the *Telegraph* taking the leading place in the local newspaper world. Mr. Gapen has served as county attorney five times and was later county judge.

The files of the old *Telegraph* have contributed materially to the history of the county as herein recorded.

J. F. Wellington ran the *Sidney Democrat* for a period about 1886-1887, but owing to a change of administration it ceased to exist.

The *Sidney Journal* came into existence in 1888. It was supported by some politicians who were dissatisfied because the *Telegraph* sold space to the Democrats. They declared that the *Telegraph*, which was then managed by Charles Callahan, "had sold its birthright for a mess of pottage." The new paper won official patronage during 1890-1891, but its owner sold out. The paper was not successful and its publication ceased. The farmers rise in political prominence in 1890, brought new interest and a paper was started by L. C.

Stockwell, but it too faded away in the hard years of 1894 and 1895.

The *Sidney Enterprise* began its fourth year as a newspaper January 6, 1921. Its publishers, Perry and Caroline Coler, came from Kansas. They have a well equipped plant and publish an up-to-date paper. Mrs. Coler is a writer of prose and poetry. She has been known for many fine poems; the Sidney Woman's Club has accepted some of her work and the Choral Society has set some of her poems to music. Sidney with its population of over three thousand is thus well served with newspapers.

Honorable Charles H. Randall, now a member of Congress from southern California, started the *Western Nebraska Observer*, at Antelopeville, now Kimball, in 1885. The paper is now known as the *Kimball Observer*, and was the second newspaper to appear in the Panhandle and Cheyenne county outside of Sidney, for a number of years. Randall later published the "Centropolis World" which became "The World," then "The Early Day." It was consolidated by C. L. Burgess, with "The Advocate," and is now the *Banner County News*, issued at Harrisburg, Nebraska. In 1884 the *Lodgepole Express* was established. It was a small affair, started with donations and insufficient capital, and more than a quarter of a century ago passed into the efficient hands of James C. Wolfe. The town plat had been filed July 10, 1884, shortly before the *Express* was started. James Wolfe was a pioneer of this region as he homesteaded north of Lodgepole in 1885, and is familiar with all the trials and hardships of life here at an early day, also the failures and discouragements of the drought years. He published the *Express* for more than twenty-five years, and only recently sold it to Claude E. Grisham, the present efficient owner and editor. Mr. Grisham was formerly of Scottsbluff, a member of the staff of the *Star-Herald* and later on the *Republican*. In 1920, Lodgepole had a population of five hundred.

The *Pottor Review* was started in 1912, although prior to that date, years ago, there was a newspaper published there from about 1888 to 1891, called the *Press*. The first paper had quite a patronage at the time of final proof of claims for homeseekers but after that discontinued publication. When wheat became

the great agricultural crop in Cheyenne county there was a desire for a local paper for news around Potter and the *Review* was established. For a time it suspended but was revived. The present editor, H. Stevens, also owns the paper. The town plat of Potter was filed May 14, 1885, and today Potter has a population of over five hundred inhabitants. About 1913, J. W. and L. C. Thomas started the *Dalton Herald*. The original name is changed, the first owners gone. Tom Laley succeeded the Thomases. The locality is now served by the *Dalton Dele-*

gate published by Don Fey Ermand. The paper was first established in 1914, and has a good circulation, being in fact the successor to the *Herald*. Dalton itself came into existence with the building of the Burlington railroad in 1901, and the town plat was filed April 4, 1906, and today Dalton has a population of three hundred and fifty people. This completes the roster of the newspapers of Cheyenne county which is well and efficiently served by newsy, well edited papers.

CHAPTER VII

FRATERNAL ORDERS AND CLUBS

The first fraternal organization in Cheyenne county was created by the Masons December 26, 1877. It was the Frank Welsh Lodge No. 75, A. F. & A. M. The charter was granted June 25, 1879, with the following men as charter members: John A. Carley, Master; George W. Russell, Senior Warden; Julius Neubauer, Junior Warden; Norman F. Hazen, Peter Smith, John W. Griffin, Robert G. Howard, Dennis Carrigan, Henry Snyder, Henry Crohurst, Alfred Johnson, Robert S. Oberfelder, John Glickauf, Albert G. Persinger, Edward S. Ebbs and A. C. Drake. Only three of these original members were still alive in 1920; Messrs. Carrigan, Oberfelder and Persinger. The officers of the lodge at the present time are: Frank M. Wooldridge, Master; George Brewer, Senior Warden; John W. Johnson, Junior Warden; Leslie Neubauer, secretary and Leon Fine, treasurer.

In 1908, the building at the corner of Rose street, now Center avenue, and Third street, was erected by the Masonic order and used for all meetings. The lodge is now contemplating the erection of a fine new temple to take the place of the first building. There are sixty Shriners in Sidney and they have a Shrine Club organized which has arranged social events that are attractive, pleasant and instructive. Following the organization of the Masonic lodge, an Order of the Eastern Star came into existence and has had a consistent growth with the Masonic body and in 1920, was an active organization, with the following officers: Mrs. Olive Agnew, Worthy Matron;

Leon Fine, Worthy Patron; Mrs. C. P. Grant, Associate Matron; Mrs. Grace Simondynes, Conductress; Mrs. D. Saxon, Associate Conductress; Miss Esther Devine, secretary; Mrs. Julia Mann, treasurer; Mrs. Grace E. King, Ada; Mrs. A. E. Ahrends, Ruth; Mrs. C. C. Jones, Esther; Miss Kathryn Greenlee, Martha; Mrs. J. J. McIntosh, Electa; Mrs. James Worden, chaplain; Mrs. C. L. Mann, organist; Mrs. Anna Osborn, warden; Mrs. A. J. Jorgenson, marshal, and Herman Schroeder, sentinel.

The Modern Woodmen of America organized in Sidney in 1887, with twenty-two members. The lodge now has a hundred and six members. The Oberfelder brothers were active in establishing the Modern Woodmen in Cheyenne county and Joseph Oberfelder was state consul in 1917. The Woodmen have had a consistent growth from the start and are one of the strong organizations in the county today. The present officers are: Joseph Oberfelder, vice-consul; V. F. Kucero, adviser; F. D. Wooldridge, banker; F. M. Wooldridge, clerk; and C. M. Wright, O. R. Owens and Hugh D. Moore, trustees.

Valiant Lodge No. 98, Knights of Pythias, was organized May 19, 1888, by the Grand Chancellor, O. L. Green of Kearney, with the following charter members: W. C. Reilly, C. S. Ickes, M. L. Tobin, Zig Gutfriend, J. Neubauer, Robert Shuman, J. C. Bush, J. F. Wellington, H. S. Kelter, R. J. Wallace, L. B. Cary, George W. Heist, Morris Davis, H. E. Gapin, J. E. Trimmier, Dr. C. H. Fields, J. W.

Norval, T. B. Dawson, J. W. Vanderhoof, J. E. Van Olinda, W. F. Bassett, Robert S. Oberfelder, J. W. Meyers, W. H. Adams, W. P. Miles, H. D. Meyers, George W. Jenner, T. St. Rayner, P. R. Borgquist, J. J. McIntosh, E. O. Lee, J. A. Carley, J. Z. Denton and J. T. Thoecke. The Knights of Pythias has been a strong organization from the first with most of the prominent men among its members; many of the charter members are still alive and are today active in its councils.

Sidney Lodge No. 196, Ancient Order of United Workmen was started in 1891, with thirty-five members and the following officers: Joseph Oberfelder, past master workman; George F. Blanchard, master workman; Charles Peterson, foreman; James R. Williams, overseer and Albert Armstrong, secretary. The officers in 1920 were: Carl Muller, master workman; Everett Foster, foreman; John Daugherty, overseer; Herman Schroeder, treasurer; Joseph Oberfelder, financial secretary and Everett Foster, A. S. Ayle and W. J. Shoemaker, trustees. Today the Woodmen have a hundred and seventy-six members in Sidney.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was established by the activities of Joseph Oberfelder, Joseph Taylor and J. G. Tate, (now of Portland, Oregon). Joseph Oberfelder has been a member of the State Finance Committee of the Odd Fellows since 1908. The present officers of the Sidney Lodge No. 91 are: Oscar Hatcher, noble grand; J. C. Hatcher, vice grand; C. S. Chambers, past grand, and Mr. Jones, secretary. C. M. Wright is treasurer with N. W. Olson, O. M. Harris and C. P. Chambers, trustees. Charles Couch is district deputy grand master. The Odd Fellows is a very live organization living up to the tradition for charity for which it is noted. Naturally the Daughters of Rebekah are as active and have the usual social affairs in which the brother Odd Fellows participate, especially the popular suppers.

The Degree of Honor has two lodge organi-

zations in Sidney. Degree of Honor No. 122 is headed by Mrs. Anna Minshall as chief of honor; the other officers for 1921 are: Goldie Sweet, lady of honor; Catherine Reiners, chief of ceremonies; Margaret Roth, usher; Minnie Leege, associate usher; Mayme Davis, treasurer; Ella Williams, recording financier; Lizzie Burkhardt, inside watch and V. Kucera, outside watch.

Dora Lodge, Degree of Honor is headed by Mrs. Herman Schroeder, as chief of honor.

The Macabees are also represented in Sidney.

The Knights of Columbus are active in Sidney as large classes are regularly initiated and the Catholic ladies serve fine banquets in St. Patrick's auditorium at such times.

In Sidney the Sidney Community Association looks after all public enterprises and new industries and has a remarkable record for the good done for the city. President Buckner and Secretary Keppler have for the past year set an example of proficiency which the new officers say they are going to excel for the upbuilding of the community. The following men are to make the attempt: M. Dimery, president; E. L. Uptagrove, vice-president; Leon Fine, treasurer, with the following men on the board of directors: C. W. Hornaday, W. P. Miles, Frank Whitelock, W. H. Hodkin, W. E. Swartzlander and G. R. Buckner.

Sidney has an active gun club organized on January 9, 1920, which is booked for ten contests in 1921 with Fort Lupton, Greeley, Longmont, Pueblo, Wray, Yuma, Colorado Springs, Denver and Douglas, Wyoming. Scottsbluff or Alliance may be taken for the one vacant date on the schedule.

All of the fraternal organizations of Cheyenne county have taken an active part in public and municipal affairs and the members are always on the lookout to assist in the development of the county and their own communities which shows the true western and progressive spirit. Twenty-two nights out of each month are lodge nights in Sidney.

CHAPTER VIII

THE CHURCH, THE BAR, THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The story of the church in Cheyenne county is a romance of life in this section of the country. For the first few years after the building of the railroad, there were no towns and Sidney was small. The lack of permanent settlers made church activities of necessity supported almost entirely by outside contributions, and there were not many of these from 1869 to 1875. The "Panic of '73" and the difficulties of obtaining funds are still clearly remembered by the oldest settlers.

It was about 1876 or 1877 that signs of a larger and permanent town became noticeable in Sidney. Elder T. B. Lemon of the Methodist Episcopal church brought a fearless minister of rather erratic tendencies into what

Stevens later, after service as county superintendent, went to China where he died.

The beautiful new Methodist church of today, is built upon the identical spot where the fearless minister established his congregation forty-two years ago. The old building was torn down in 1884, and a larger one erected. L. D. Livingston, later of Pumpkin creek, was one of the men who helped in the building. A parsonage was built in 1889, and, in 1907, the church was remodeled. It served well until the congregation outgrew the building and members desired a newer and larger home. In 1918, the new edifice was built at an approximate cost of seventy thousand dollars and was dedicated April 13, 1919, by Bishop Matt S. Hughes. It is one of the finest church buildings in the Panhandle and, in 1921, there are three hundred members, while the Sunday School has an enrollment of over four hundred. Reverend T. Porter Bennett, the present pastor, is a man of unusual vitality and progressive spirit, and his usefulness is emphasized by a large growth in the membership.

The Episcopal church was the second established in Cheyenne county and Sidney. Reverend William Page Chase came here in 1879, and held services regularly from September, to May, 1880. After he left there were only occasional services held by missionaries of the Episcopal church. On May 2, 1880, Bishop Clarkson confirmed seven persons and then visited Sidney occasionally, holding services until 1884. Reverend John H. Babcock of North Platte, held services in March, 1886. Bishop Worthington, accompanied by Reverend Babcock made one visit in April, 1886, and baptized four children whose parents were members of the church. The Bishop organized a mission by the name of "Christ Mission," and appointed the following officers: Colonel E. W. Stone, warden; Andrew Haskell, treasurer; Fred H. DeCostro, clerk and Lieutenant Daniel Carman, superintendent of the Sunday School. Colonel Stone was also made lay reader. At this time eighteen persons partook of the Holy Communion and it was estimated that twenty families were connected with the church. Sixty dollars a month was pledged for a minister and the Masonic Order volunteered the use of its hall for church purposes. A church guild was organized with Mrs. Fred E. H. Ebstein, president; Mrs. Douglas, treasurer and Mrs. Morgan, secretary. At the request



METHODIST CHURCH, SIDNEY

was then considered the wilderness of sin of Cheyenne county and in the language of the time, "turned him loose." There was a man in Sidney at the time, a former judge, who said that if a church was established in the town he would move out. The minister heard of the remark and accepted the challenge. He began his work among the lowly and unfortunate but he was so earnest that people went to hear him. He gained in popularity, and within two years had raised funds among the people to buy a building in the wildest district. The house which was a dance hall to that date, was renovated and remodeled, and the first Methodist church was established by 1879. By this work this abode of sin and crime, became consecrated ground. As he had promised, the judge left Sidney after the church was founded and went to the Black Hills; later he became a changed man and a pillar of the Methodist church in the home he adopted. Rev. Turner was minister in 1881. A little later Leslie Stevens filled the pulpit.

of the Bishop, Mr. Babcock took charge May 26, 1886, and more than four hundred dollars was raised for church funds at a bazaar held at the Post Theatre in June of that year. A lot was donated by J. Thorn Clarkson and two more adjoining were purchased for three hundred and fifty dollars. Bishop Worthington gave three hundred dollars and the Guild the other fifty for the purchase price. These lots were deeded to the Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese of Nebraska in trust for the use of the church.

During the fall of 1886, a small building fund was raised. F. M. Ellis of Omaha, drew plans for a church building and Thomas W. Walsh in November was awarded a contract for putting in a foundation. The corner stone was laid by the Masonic Order and Bishop Worthington, on November 23, 1886. A. Pease built the church which was completed and consecrated July 28, 1889. Reverend Callaghan McCarthy succeeded Mr. Babcock and Reverend Thomas W. Barry, chaplain of the United States army at Sidney Post, and Reverend Robert G. Osborn followed in turn. In 1920, Reverend Henry Ives has charge and is Dean of western Nebraska, including Kimball and Scottsbluff. He is faithful and unflinching in his stewardship of the trust which has been well rewarded with the results in church work. Right Reverend A. R. Graves and Bishop George A. Beacher, were contemporaneous with this period, men of vast influence and service to the church.

The Presbyterian church was established in this section at a later day. Today the work of this denomination is in the capable hands of Reverend Samuel Light. The church is growing and is representative of Sidney and Cheyenne county.

Reverend L. L. Holmes, of the Christian church is building substantial foundations of his denomination and his church is one of the newer ones that has had a fine growth in Sidney, as well as the county.

The Catholic church, usually a pioneer, was among the first to become established in Sidney. Father Conway used to come here from North Platte, and occasionally a priest from Cheyenne came both before and after 1880. Father Conway had the rectory built in 1883 and Vallie Williams says that there was a small frame church built here a few years earlier, about 1880. Father M. J. Barrett was the first resident priest, coming to Sidney in 1883. The parish then included Paxton and Ogallala, and later was made to include Oshkosh, Lisco, Bridgeport, Scottsbluff, and Dalton. Reverend Waldron was put in charge of

the parish in 1888, being followed by Reverend St. Lawrence in 1891, Reverend J. R. McGrath in 1893; Reverend J. F. McCarthy in 1895, Reverend J. J. Flood in 1899, who died and was buried in Sidney Catholic cemetery in 1902, Rev. J. P. DeVane was placed in charge after the death of Father Flood and was succeeded by Reverend T. D. Sullivan in 1904; Reverend James Dobson in 1907, who remained until 1912. That year the Diocese of Omaha was divided and the Diocese of Kearney created with James M. Duffie, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, as Bishop. Father Dobson left for the east and his first assistant, Reverend Campman was in charge until June, 1913, when Father Anton Link, the present efficient priest was placed in charge, and Chappel, Lodgepole, Kimball and Angora were added to the parish.

In August, 1912, the new stone church was commenced, the corner stone laid in October following, and it was completed and dedicated November 18, 1914. That year the old parish house was wrecked and a new modern parsonage erected. The church cost about thirty-five thousand dollars which was quite an undertaking for the members of the church.

In 1915, a small frame school house was built and school began January 10, 1916. The beginning of the academy was undertaken reluctantly but the building was soon crowded. Five sisters of the Ursuline Community, of Louisville, Kentucky, arrived in December, 1915, to take charge of the school and by the spring of 1916, it was necessary to enlarge the school. The first part of the academy cost twenty-five thousand dollars, and, in 1920 it was enlarged by an addition costing a hundred thousand dollars. This was dedicated January 7, 1921. Fifteen sisters are now members of the teaching force of the school and there is an attendance of a hundred and seventy-five day scholars and a hundred and twenty-five boarders who live at a distance.

Sidney has two Lutheran churches. The English Evangelical Lutheran, presided over by Reverend Kahl, who also has Gurley charge of Reverend Karl Fenske, and the Trinity Lutheran church is under the guidance of E. Borgmeyer and is called Southeast Trinity.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Lodgepole recently dedicated a new church building, Bishop Homer C. Stuntz, officiating, assisted by District Superintendent Dr. M. E. Gilbert and Reverend Henry F. Martens, who was appointed to this charge in 1918. The consecration ceremonies occurred in December, 1920. This church was established in the Union Pacific depot January 1, 1893. A stone church

was dedicated the following year with Reverend Dr. Shank, the editor of the Omaha Christian Advocate, as master of ceremonies. It took nearly ten years to pay off the debt and mortgage on the building. J. R. Young, Fred Lehmkuhl, Lewis A. Ganson, Charles N. Coates and John F. Ganson were the members of the building committee of the old stone church. The building committee of the new church were R. O. Bond, H. L. Lucke, F. H. Wolf, B. J. Watson, W. T. Hafer, and Fred Lehmkuhl. The last named, served on both building committees. The corner stone of the new building was laid July 2, 1920, by Grand Master Joseph B. Fradenburg, of the Masonic order of Nebraska. The edifice cost thirty-five thousand dollars. Reverend A. W. Amsbury held the first quarterly conference here January 21, 1893, and the constitution of the church was drafted by J. F. Ganson and Charles N. Coates.

Curley has a live Methodist Episcopal organization and church with Reverend Coffman in charge.

Potter has three churches, and as has been usual in this county, the Methodist church was pioneer, and is most active. Reverend Chas. O. Troy is pastor.

Trinity Lutheran and Catholic churches each are here provided.

Although not a church organization, the Women's Christian Temperance Union is associated with its work in many particulars. The organization has been in existence in Cheyenne county for many years. The local institution at Potter is particularly virile, and has done much excellent work. Mrs. A. J. Woten is the present executive head and is ably directing it for civic and communal good.

In addition to the churches mentioned and those in the interior of the county rural districts, a tribute should be paid to the congregations that assembled in sod houses, log huts and dug outs in the days when the grangers were spreading over the western prairies and before churches were built. Services and Sunday schools were held in every neighborhood and volunteer laymen were everywhere doing their part in religious work.

BAR BANQUET 1887

Shortly after the re-election of Judge Francis G. Hamer as district judge of the enormous district then comprising the greater portion of the western end of the state, a complimentary banquet was tendered him at the old Railroad eating house at Sidney on December 14, 1887. The mere mention of the time and the place

would prove that in modern parlance, "some time" was had by all those who were fortunate enough to be present. A roster of those who were present will serve to awaken many memories and it will also serve as a pretty complete directory of those who took a prominent part in the local and district governmental affairs of the large territory then embraced in Cheyenne county. Naturally there were not very many resident lawyers in that vicinity at that date, so in this list will be found the mention of numerous other attorneys who used to journey to Sidney when court was in session there. Surviving members of this list have assured the compiler that this occasion was one that had not been forgotten in the thirty-three years since it took place, and that they had experienced no social occasion that could come up to this one.

Those recorded as being present were: Hon. Geo. W. Heist, toastmaster; F. G. Hamer, guest of honor; General H. A. Morrow; Major J. J. McIntosh; Attorneys J. J. Halligan, E. M. Day, of Ogallala; Judge Lacey, of Cheyenne; J. E. Alexander; J. W. Bartholemew, of Grand Island; J. W. Brewster, Court Reporter; J. M. Adams, Register of United States Land Office; C. B. Blakeley, Receiver of United States Land Office; Major George Laing, C. D. Esseg, Judge J. J. Neubauer; City Councilman M. T. Tobin, C. Trognitz, Joseph Oberfelder; County Judge A. Pease, Postmaster A. J. Brennan, L. B. Cary, County Clerk elect, F. L. Smith, County Commissioner, W. P. Miles, Judge Shuman, Judge J. W. Norvell, W. C. Reilley, Thos. Kane, City Marshal; Judge W. S. Beall; Henry St. Rayner; E. O. Lee; J. F. Wellington, of the Democrat, and J. C. Bush of the Telegram.

CHEYENNE COUNTY BAR

The Bar of Cheyenne county has been represented by men of ability and sound judgment since the courts were established. The first lawyers to practice in Sidney and Cheyenne county were Messrs. Heist, Bierbower, Kane and Norval. Many other lawyers have been mentioned on other pages of this history where their many activities in the interests of the county have been recounted. The present members of the Cheyenne County Bar are: W. P. Miles, the oldest member and dean; H. E. Gapen, J. L. McIntosh, Joseph Oberfelder, A. Warren, Paul Martin, C. S. Radcliffe, W. H. Hodgkin, Thomas Powell and J. L. Tewell. Many hard and difficult cases have been fought, won and lost in the county by the well known lawyers and at all times their integrity and

high standards have been maintained. As a rule, the community now is not involved extensively in litigation.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

In the early days there were few physicians in Cheyenne county, but with the gradual settlement, doctors came into this wild, newly settled country and here became established to aid and succor the people. The first physician was Dr. Boggs, who served a large part of the

county around Sidney. He was followed by Dr. J. G. Ivy in the fall of 1878. The first dentists in this section were the Urmy brothers. With the passing years well known professional men have opened offices and today the medical fraternity is well represented by the following: Doctors Mantor, Eichner, Roche, Taylor, Simons, Schwartzlander, regular physicians; Doctors Donahoe, Pettibone, Webster and Witham, dentists; Dr. Montgomery, optician and Dr. Barger, osteopath. Dr. A. J. James is the physician at Potter.

CHAPTER IX

THE WORLD WAR

Immediately upon the entrance of the United States into the World War, Cheyenne county organized for practical co-operation, determined to help the government in every way. The prominent business men and bankers of the different towns formed a county council of defense. The different bond drives were organized and successfully carried out and all went over to the top. The people in every community assembled in their halls, churches and school rooms and the interest manifested by them was remarkable. The complete list of the men who served in the army and navy from Cheyenne county has been sent to National Headquarters but the First National Bank of Sidney compiled as complete a list as it is possible to obtain at this time, which is as follows: Anderson, Royal; Andrews, Glenn M.; Anderson, Emery Evert; Aldrich, J.; Armstrong, Raymond William; Anderson, Emil; Anderson, Edward Christian; Ahlm, Sexton David V.; Bangert, Harry Fred; Brott, John Peter; Bassett, Kenneth; Blackwell, Wesley; Bryan, Ilyod McKinley; Bartholamew, Leo A.; Bentley, Charlton B.; Bolm, William A.; Burkland, Edgar; Borquist, Carl August; Baumbach, Herman R.; Brachtenbach, John; Bennett, Geo. Elmer; Baker, George; Baker, Harry B.; Bixby, Harry L.; Bates, Glen; Bennett, John Wesley; Baliff, Lee M.; Cook, Funston; Costello, John; Collins, John Era; Coons, John Willet; Carey, George Howard; Cheney, Walter Aney; Coder, Ralph; Clark, Robert Glenwood; Christensen, Andrew; Clossman, Esbon John; Couch, Asa Thomas; Coates,

Roy; Calwell, Fred; Couch, James Clarence; Copeman, Andrew C.; Cook, Simmons W.; Cushing, Fred A.; Clinton, Ray Lawrence; Chambers, Allen; Chambers, Guy; Clark, Carl; Cook, Delbert; Davis, James; Davis, Walter F.; Daniel, Lee Marion; Durnell, Lennie; Dedrick, Russell Franklin; Dedrick, Guy Clayton; DiMarks, Joe; Dowing, Oliver Holden; Doofe, Henry; Dunbar, Charles T.; Denny, Alva H.;



"SAMIE GIRLS"

Durnell, Roy Forest; Durnell, Earl; Evans, William; Edner, Alfred; Ells, David; Ehmke, Herman; Farr, Charles; Fenske, Oscar E.; Fuller, James Hubert; Francis, Clarence; Fine, Samuel; Flora, Floyd F.; Fine, Joseph; Greenlee, Roy C.; Greenlee, Albert David; Gould, Ernest P.; Grabill, Blaine Chester; Gregory, Harry Edward; Gross, Charley; Gundel, Fred E.; Grabill, Isaac Elmer, Jr.; Grant, Lawrence C.; Gould, Henry; Gould, William; Griffith,

Ferl; Green, Albert; Heinzman, Paul; Harper, John W.; Hargens, William; Hajek, Alonis; Hatcher, Grover; Herbert, Francis James; Heise, Paul; Henrickson, William August; Harmsen, August; Hite, Guy Victor; Hutchinson, Carl Henry; Hahler, Frank; Henke, Peter; Hopkins, Oliver Lee; Hornyb, Paul D.; Hink, Otto P.; Haiston, Frank E.; Hedges, Roy; Hornyb, Paul; Hedges, Allen; Hulslander, C. A.; Johnson, Henry Iven; Johnson, Oscar N.; Judd, Solomon; Johnson, Bastian J.; Johnson, John; Johnson, Ralph Palmer; Jones, Henry C.; Jones, Hugh T.; Jackson, Glenn; Johnson, Albert; Kluck, Rudolph; Kucera, Joseph T.; Kottwitz, Henry Chas.; Konrloulis, Mike; Knudson, Knud Olaf; Greuger, Elmer Jay; Kelley, Emerson W.; King, F. A.; Kucera, James; Kretz, Winfield; Lawson, Charles A.; Loyal, William Carl; Lingwall, John Albert; Ledbetter, Carl; Lampros, Alex; Lorimore, Kenneth Claire; Langhram, James Arthur; Lauritsen, William; Lindberg, Oscar R.R.; Lund, Leonard F.; Lewis, David G.; Livoni, Max; Ledbetter, Frank; McGrane, James M.; McDaniel, James Willis; McKinnney, Fred Alvin; McMillan, Clyde Harold; McKean, Elroy; McFadden, John; Mills, R. C.; Meier, Marhew; Mauero, Angelo; Mahlke, Ernest; Martin, Llewellyn; Mead, George Wesley; Moore, Sidney Allen; Marvin, Ernest; Mickley, William; Mariotte, Lewis; Mason, Clarence Lewis; Miller, Lawrence William; Martin, Paul L.; Miller, Don Leo; Mann, C. L.; Mohatt, James; Millett, C. P.; Melroes, Harry; Mitchell, James; Mikkelsen, Bert; Neilson, Christian Emil; Neil, Fred Lee; Neilson, Jens; Otten, Oakley; Osborne, Jess; Oberfelder, Irving T.; Pavlat, Frank; Pappis, George; Peetz, John; Price, Milo Earl; Pindell, Isaac Lee; Panabaker, Earling F.; Parks, John Clayton; Perry, Clarence Harvey; Parks, Charles Fred; Pierce, Wm. E.; Perry, Charles; Robinson, Henry Andrew; Roberts, Russell C.; Raddatz, Alfred John; Russell, Verne Wesley; Runge, Frederick; Runge, Edward; Reisdorff, Jake; Ruttner, Edward; Roche, R. E.; Spearow, Herschel; Spearow, Lynn; Simodynes, Joseph; Sauer, Hughlen O.; Schimpy, Frederick C.; Shoemaker, Edward Joseph; Stikal, Joe J.; Straight, Albert Peter; Sullivan, John Lawrence; Semoian, Naazov; Sparks, Harry; Stratta, James; Shea, Thomas Lawrence; Schroeder, Frank Rudolph; Stowell, David; Schwartz, Harry Benjamine; Schroeder, Sidney Albert; Straight, Walter F.; Spitzer, Roy C.; Swanson, Lynn Theodore; Slawson, Hugh; Studt, Fred; Schwartz, Francis; Troidl, Michael; Tewell, James Leonard; Tompsett, Thomas V.; Vacik, Jerry C.;

Vaughn, Fred W.; Venturelli, Antonio; Walsh, William Stephen; Wilburn, John Ernest; Wills, Pearl; Wright, Charles Thomas; Wise, Earl; Wills, Grover Cleveland; Wilson, Alva Williams; Woodbridge, Clark; White, Arthur C.; Willis, Wm.; Wright, Elmer; Wright, Clarence; Wright, Milton; Wallace, Gerald; Wallace, Cyril; Witters, John.

The Legion of Honor was organized at Sidney by the returned soldiers, also at Lodgepole and Potter. The Sidney organization has about a third of the returned veterans of Cheyenne county on its rolls. The organization at Potter was established in January, 1921, that at Lodgepole was earlier. Attorney Martin was the head of the Legion in Sidney last year and the present officers are: Morley Pearson, commander; I. L. Pindell, vice-commander; Frank Schroeder, financier; Roy Greenlee, Adjutant and Charles Marsh, sergeant-at-arms.

THE RED CROSS

Soon after the outbreak of hostilities of the World War a chapter of the American Red Cross was established in Cheyenne county and did valiant service throughout the war, and is now engaged in splendid work of relief at home. Mrs. C. W. West was head of the Sidney organization and proved an excellent executive. Leon Fine, the retiring treasurer of the Sidney Red Cross Society turned over to successor ten thousand, two hundred and seventy-seven dollars, which testifies to the growth and stability of the organization at the present time.

CONCLUSION

In all the history of the Panhandle, Cheyenne county and Sidney will hold their places in the progress and development of the section. From Sidney has radiated that civilization and progressive spirit that has changed the Panhandle from a wilderness to the homes of a rich farming and agricultural community, today a wide reach of land that is rich and fertile. The start was made by the building of the Union Pacific railroad; the building of the Burlington has given Cheyenne county a strategic position, as it has also Sidney, which will become a distributing center for the two lines of railroad. Though Cheyenne county is much reduced in size from the "old Cheyenne" county, it has retained rich land of great fertility. A large proportion of the county is suitable for cultivation. There is little waste land and only a small part is rough. Cheyenne bids well to become one of the richest counties in the Panhandle.