

Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association

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A department devoted to the interests of the volunteer firemen of the state of Nebraska.

Edited by Lloyd C. Thomas, state publicity chairman.

FREMONT GOING TO CRAWFORD IN STYLE

The Fremont department is going to Crawford with a full delegation in style, according to the Fremont Evening Tribune of December 14. The article is as follows:

It is practically settled that the Fremont fire department will go in fine style to the annual firemen's convention next month at Crawford.

The delegates are to meet yet to determine on their plans, but on the strength of advance announcements Chief Harry Hauser has gone ahead and contracted for a Pullman sleeper.

It is assured that the car will be filled, as several of the delegations from neighboring towns have already appealed for accommodations along with Fremont. Cedar Bluffs is among these. In addition, Fremont will probably take the Iowa delegation.

Fremont and the Nebraska association were represented at the Iowa convention recently and the Iowans have promised to send representatives to the Nebraska organization meeting. It is claimed that the Nebraska association far exceeds the Iowa association in point of attendance and enthusiasm. The Iowans are anxious to get a taste of Nebraska firemen methods and have promised surely to have a good delegation on hand.

In addition to the regular Fremont company delegates, several Fremont enthusiasts will go along. Among these are John C. Cleland, Chief Hauser and probably ex-chiefs Mortensen and Johnson.

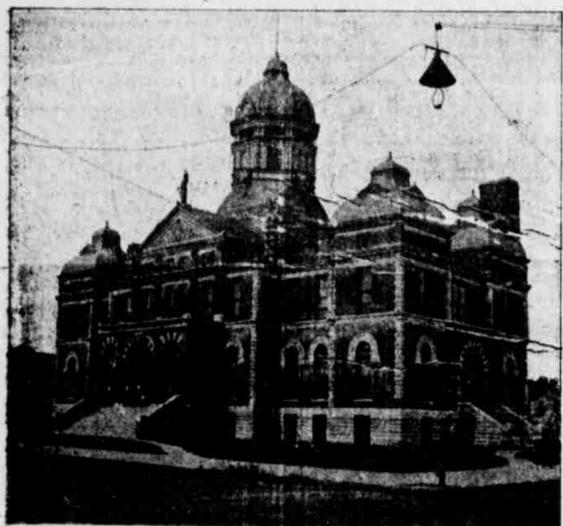
The convention will be held January 18, 19 and 20. It will be the first time the convention has gone as far west as Crawford. Something novel in the entertainment line has been promised. Already the Alliance Herald official state N. S. V. F. A. organ, has issued a special firemen's convention edition, showing up the town in grand style. Alliance has extended an invitation for the firemen to run from Crawford to Alliance on a special train for one day of entertainment.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT FREMONT

The following account of the disastrous fire at Fremont on December 10 is taken from The Fremont Herald of December 10, to whom we are much obliged for the use of the cut of the court house:

Fire destroyed the Dodge county court house early Sunday morning. The building is practically ruined and made useless. The walls still stand and a portion of the floors are intact. The roof is entirely gone, and the condition of the walls is such as give reason to believe they are worthless. The estimated value of the building and contents destroyed is \$80,000, with insurance of \$40,000 on building, and \$4,000 on furnishings and equipment.

The various vaults throughout the building stood the intense heat in splendid manner, and none of the records therein were destroyed. Many of the books were damaged by water, but none of the contents are illegible, and repair of covers of such records is only necessary to make them perfect good for the future. Furniture in several of the rooms was saved, but all was more or less damaged. None of the rooms escaped injury.



Court House before the Fire
 (Cut by Courtesy of Fremont Herald)

The board of supervisors was on the ground Sunday afternoon, and at once took hold of the task of determining locations for the county officers, with the result that quarters were obtained for all in the First National bank building Monday morning. The work of removal of books and documents was then undertaken, and all the officials are now about ready for the resumption of business. The board determined to at once ascertain the condition of the walls of the burned building, and appointed Architect Dyer and Richard Whitfield to make a thorough examination and report. The consensus of advance opinion of members of the board and of business men is that the walls will not permit repair, due to the brick having been laid with time and sand, which have disintegrated through the years. Evidence of this was most noticeable while the fire was burning at a late hour on Sunday. In the solid portions of the walls smoke poured through crevices in the brick, indicating the poor character of material used.

Members of the board practically agreed that the building could not be again used, but decided that no action should be taken until a thoroughly expert examination of the walls had been made. Intense satisfaction was expressed everywhere when it was found that the vaults were all in good shape and that the records were but slightly damaged by water. There are five vaults in the building.

James Johnson, who was passing the court house a few minutes before 5 o'clock Sunday morning, discovered the fire. He ran to the police station and turned in the alarm. The firemen responded promptly, but within ten minutes they found they had a battle before them, and a second alarm was sounded. This brought scores of men to the scene. The fire started in the county treasurer's office. The department believed it had effectually checked the fire, when suddenly flames broke out in the county superintendent's room above the treasurer's office, and then the fire worked incredibly fast. When it was observed in the superintendent's room, a third alarm was given. It was not long before the fire had eaten its way to the immense attic above the second floor, and then it was conceded there was little hope to save the building. The water pressure was strong, and every hose in the department was put into use. Notwithstanding the tons of water poured into the upper part of the court house, the flames made rapid headway in the tinder-like attic. It seemed but a moment when the entire roof was ablaze, and suddenly the roof and the big cupola tumbled into the raging furnace below. The firemen then directed their efforts to protecting the vaults, playing streams on each of them, that the valuable records might

be saved. Within an hour after the fire was discovered the building was practically destroyed. Water was thrown on the building till after 11 o'clock, and it was not until 2 o'clock the firemen ceased their labors.

One of the fireboys, Elmer Giles, received some bad cuts on the face from tin roofing which fell upon him, but his injuries will quickly heal. The weather was cold enough to fairly freeze the water on the clothes of the firemen, but they were kept comfortable with hot coffee while at their work. Considerable satisfaction was felt by the city water plant officials that they were able to give all the pressure needed on hose lines; in fact, at times it was too strong. The streams of water reached nearly to the top of the loam of the building. It was a difficult task for the men to handle the hose, so strong was the pressure.

The fire started, according to Chief Hauser, who with a committee of the department made a thorough examination, in the county treasurer's office. It is their belief that smoldering matches in a spittoon broke into flame, and caught on to the wall of the room. That the fire was smoldering for hours before it was observed is the conviction of the fire chief. Evidence of this is substantiated by reports from the telephone headquarters, where it was noticed the wire leading to the treasurer's room was "in trouble" at as early as 2 a. m. The phone in the treasurer's office was out of commission at 2:45, which indicates that the fire had burned the box from the wall and let the receiver fall at that time.



Photo Taken Just after Six O'clock, during the Fire just after Roof and Dome had Fallen through Second Floor
 (Cut by Courtesy of Fremont Herald)

When it appeared evident to Judge Wintersteen of the county court that the building was in grave danger, all the stationery, library and furniture were at once removed on his order, and practically nothing was lost from his room. Judge Button, of the district court, whose offices were in the southeast rooms on the second floor, likewise saved a large portion of his private library, but many of the books were damaged in throwing them to the ground. The desk and contents and some material on top of the desk in Colonel Hahn's room was untouched by the fire. County Superintendent Matzen lost a large amount of his private possessions, but the important records of his office were found to be practically undamaged. The entire contents of County Surveyor Sanders' room was destroyed, including all his instruments, and considerable of his personal property.

It was twenty-eight years ago the 31st of the present month that the original court house on this site was destroyed by fire. The present structure was erected by Seeley, Sons & Co., in 1889-1890. The contractor's price was \$50,523.50, and it is said the contractors lost heavily, the estimated value of the building as completed at that time being \$75,000.

The county board has leased rooms on the third and fifth floors and a large portion of the basement in the new First National bank building.

County Treasurer Hahn, County Clerk O'Connor and Register of Deeds Klaes will have their offices in the basement, this selection being made because of the availability of a large vault there for the care of the valuable records of their departments.

Judge Button, of the district court, and Luke Mundy, clerk thereof will have their offices on the third floor. When a term of the district court is held, the hearings will probably be in another place, where ample audience room is available. The next regular term of court will not come until in February, 1916.

County Judge Wintersteen, County Superintendent Matzen and County Surveyor Sanders will have quarters on the fifth floor. County Assessor Schaeffer will be accommodated with quarters in the basement, when the duties of his office require them. His work does not involve the need of much space until in the spring and summer.

The Commercial club was prompt to offer every assistance to the board of supervisors and appointed Ross Hammond, O. F. Turner and A. J. Eddy to aid the board in the emergency.

The total of insurance policies carried by the county figures up \$49,800. Of that amount \$40,000 was carried on the court house building, \$4,000 on contents and the balance, \$5,800, covers protection to the county jail and buildings on the poor farm. The insurance is well distributed through the various local agencies, and the representation of companies is as follows: Fireman's of New Jersey, \$1,915.38; National of Hartford, \$1,915.39; Scottish Union, \$1,830.76; St. Paul F. & M., \$1,000; Commercial Union, \$1,000; North American, \$1,915.47; Hartford, \$3,830.76; Aachen & Munich, \$3,830.76; Orient, \$3,830.76; Fireman's Fund, \$1,915.38; Palatine, \$3,830.77; Milwaukee Mechanics, \$3,830.76; Hanover, \$8,830.75; Columbia Fire of Omaha, \$3,830.76; Providence Washington, \$1,330.77; Philadelphia Underwriters, 2,500; American of New Jersey, \$1,915.38; Commercial Union, \$1,915.38; N. Y. Underwriters, \$3,830.76.

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NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS "Dusty"

Diogenes hunted until he was about one hundred years old in his efforts to find an honest man. We are led to believe that he started on this search when but a mere boy, and judging from his pictures at the time he was half way thru hunting he must have been about two hundred and sixty-five. Look it up in the dictionary and you will find that he used eight hundred and ten lanterns and fifty-two barrels of coal oil.

But if old Diog had been looking for a man who kept his new year's resolutions—well, he wouldn't have had half as much chance of finding him as he did the honest man. Like the old farmer said when he saw the bones of the mammoth—"There never was, ain't, and never will be such a thing." Perhaps they didn't have any new year's resolutions when Diogenes was a boy, but Noah took one when he determined to not build the ark, and Diogenes was a descendant of old Noah.

Like the men who intend to be honest, in order to save a modern Diogenes from exerting himself, there are thousands of ordinarily good, hard-tolling, open-hearted men who make new year's resolutions, only to "fall down" on them.

Here is the man that resolves to quit smoking. He manages to keep himself in due bounds of his resolution the first, the second, and—but about this time there comes to town an old boyhood friend who knew Bill when he smoked 'steen cigars a day and was a "good fellow"—just before he was married. "Well, Bill, how are you, anyway," he says—"I'm in and let's have a good cigar."

Then this takes place:
 "Um-m-m—Why I've quit, Henry (Weakly.)"

"What—quit smoking? Why you're crazy, Bill. I didn't think you'd ever pull off any stunts like that," and Henry emphasizes his statement by giving Bill a resounding whack on the back.

"Well," Bill replies, "I promised my wife I'd cut it out, and besides, I don't think it's good for me."

"Not good for you—where did it ever hurt you?"

"Oh, I can't see that it ever hurt me, but I'm afraid it will."

"Aw, you should worry—let's go in and get a good Havana, and then talk about the injurious effects of tobacco afterward." And then he takes Bill by the arm and to a cigar store they go. On emerging you will see them puffing the street arm in arm, each walking lustily at a cigar.

So it goes; maybe the resolution and the circumstances surrounding the breaking of it are a little different, but the same end is always reached. Whether it's a man who resolves to quit drinking, smoking, beating his wife, loving some other man's wife, or walking pigeon-toed—or if it's a young or old lady who is addicted to the vices of the weaker sex—new year's resolutions are out so many lanterns and burned so much oil in his search for the honest man, he would have used twice as

much oil and three times as many lanterns in his search for the man that kept his new year's resolutions—and he would have found both species at the same time.

Want Local Trains Stopped?

The local post of the Travelers Protective Association have written to Burlington officials, asking them to have the local freight from Sidney to Alliance stop every day and carry passengers. C. M. Looney, chairman of the railroad committee of the post, has written the following letter to the railroad officials regarding the matter:

Gentlemen: During the last year the traveling men living in Alliance have made numerous complaints regarding the passenger service from Sidney and Bridgeport to Alliance.

Local trains No. 305 and 306 carry passengers only every other day. This compels the traveling men to stay in Sidney on alternate days until train No. 302, arriving at Sidney at 12:48 a. m., and arriving at Alliance at 3:20 a. m.

If train No. 306 could carry passengers, it would be possible for the traveling men coming in from the south to arrive at home ordinarily early in the evening.

At a regular meeting of Post M. resolutions were passed asking the railroad committee to confer with you gentlemen, asking you to remedy this matter, if within your power, by having train No. 306 carry passengers from Sidney to Alliance every day.

Don't forget the Father and Sons' Banquet January 14th, Pheasant Opera House.

BEGIN HOT WATER DRINKING IF YOU DON'T FEEL RIGHT

Says glass of hot water with phosphate before breakfast washes out poisons.

If you wake up with a bad taste, bad breath and tongue is coated; if your head is dull or aching; if what you eat sours and forms gas and acid in stomach, or you are bilious, constipated, nervous, sallow and can't get feeling just right, begin inside bathing. Drink before breakfast, a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it. This will flush the poisons and toxins from stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels, and cleanse, sweeten and purify the entire alimentary tract. Do your inside bathing immediately upon arising in the morning; to wash out of the system all the previous day's poisonous waste, gases and sour bile before putting more food into the stomach.

To feel like young folks feel; like you felt before your blood, nerves and muscles became loaded with body impurities, get from your pharmacist a quarter pound of limestone phosphate which is inexpensive and almost tasteless, except for a sourish twinge which is not unpleasant.

Just as soap and hot water act on the skin, cleansing, sweetening and freshening, so hot water and limestone phosphate act on the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels. Men and women who are usually constipated, bilious, headachy or have any stomach disorder should begin this inside bathing before breakfast. They are assured they will become real cranks on the subject shortly.