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Department of History

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FORMAL OPENING OF THE GAS ENGINE PLANT.

A Large Crowd Present to Celebrate The Event and Hear the Speakers and See The Machinery In Action.

The most important event in the history of Canton, in a commercial way, took place last Saturday afternoon when at least 500 men and a number of ladies assembled in the big machinery building to do honor to the genius and patriotism of Jefferson Knowlton, the founder of the Knowlton Manufacturing Co., and to see for themselves the extent and value of the new works.

The elegant and costly automatic machinery was set in motion for the benefit of the visitors and all marveled at the beauty and perfect action of the machines. When the machinery was stilled the Gate City band, under tee leadership of Prof. Indseth opened the proceedings with music half an hour before the time announced, but a large crowd was present and all anxious to hear the speakers.

Judge Kennedy was the first speaker and opened with a review of the Sioux Valley, covering his residence in Canton for 40 years. He told of coming here and looking the country over and was satisfied that there was no better country any where. He pinned his faith on Lincoln county and he believes his judgment of 40 years ago had been amply verified. He spoke of the growth and development of the Sioux Valley and was proud to say he had done his share in the glorious work, and that the present evidence of prosperity justified the establishment of the Knowlton Manufacturing plant, and predicted a brilliant future for the company, and spoke in flattering terms of the industry, energy and public spirit of the men who had shown their faith in Canton.

Prof. Indseth and his band gave a number that was fine and then came the next speaker.

Attorney A. R. Brown followed Judge Kennedy and he felt enthusiastic over the event. He confined his remarks largely to the future of the gas engine and spoke in flattering terms of Mr. Knowlton and his long struggle to accomplish and establish one of the most perfect gas engine factories in the United States, a plant that contained the best machinery made and buildings that were modern in every detail. He predicted a glorious future for the Company.

More music by the band followed Attorney Brown's fine address and then came Judge Gifford as the next speaker.

Judge Gifford spoke of the Sioux Valley as one of the greatest, corn, cattle and hog producing sections in the northwest and of the necessity for modern facilities to meet the progressive spirit of the age. The day of the wind mill is passed, the day of the gas engine is here, and Canton's new gas engine factory comes in time to meet the progressive spirit of our farmers. The handy gas engine will do all kinds of work on the farm where power is needed and the factory and printing office can't get along without them. He paid a high compliment to Mr. Knowlton and the men associated with him in his great enterprise and predicted a splendid future for the plant, and substantial financial reward for those who have backed their faith with their money.

Music by the band.

Henry Bradshaw, of Worthing, was the next and last speaker of the program. He told of his faith and friendship for Jeff Knowlton, and how he had watched his efforts from the beginning, and was convinced that Mr. Knowlton would succeed, because of his unceasing efforts to overcome every obstacle, always facing the future with a light heart and a smile that carried conviction. He told of his inventions to produce the best and simplest and most powerful engine made and of his success in that line, and believed that the Knowlton gas engines are the best made at least there are none better. "I was so thoroughly convinced of Mr. Knowlton's success," said the speaker, "that I always stood ready to back him for any amount he might require in the development and building of his engines." Mr. Bradshaw said that Canton was indeed fortunate in securing the Knowlton Manufacturing plant, because the benefits to be derived from such a splendid industry was beyond the estimate of the most enthusiastic.

The band gave the big crowd some lively music and then Jeff Knowlton was called for.

Mr. Knowlton got upon the platform, and it was not hard to figure out that he was about the happiest man in Canton. He smiled and returned thanks to his friends for their generous confidence, and all the time he was talking his face wore a smile that wouldn't come off, and he talked like a man that was happy over success and with the knowledge that his friends had confidence in the future of the Knowlton Manufacturing Company. As he stepped down on that big cement floor Judge C. B. Kennedy called for three cheers for Mr. Knowlton and that big crowd responded, and then Prof. Indseth and the band closed a program that everybody enjoyed.

John W. Brenner, an active member of the company, announced that the original stock issued previous to the organization of the company, would be redeemed with the new company stock at the office of the secretary.

Carl Glaettli, of the Sioux Valley Hardware and Implement Company, had a small engine, a little fellow about a horse and a half power, hitched onto a washing machine and a corn sheller in the east end of the big building, connected with a wire, and gave an example of how a small engine can be used on the farm. The demonstration was watched by a big crowd for a couple of hours.

The formal opening of the gas engine plant was a big event in the history of Canton and the Sioux Valley.

John O. Stensland vs. Frank Noel.

The above entitled action has just been decided by the Supreme Court of the state in favor of Frank Noel. It is one of such importance that it will be interesting to the readers of the LEADER to be informed of the facts.

In August 1908 John O. Stensland sold to Frank Noel, by a verbal contract, a quarter section of land in LaValley township. It was agreed between them that Mr. Noel should pay $1,500 on or before January 1st, 1909, and make and deliver a mortgage to Stensland for $6,500 and then Stensland would make the deed. It was also agreed that Noel could take possession and put such buildings and improvements on the place as he desired.

That Noel in the fall of 1908 built a dwelling house and barn and plowed about ninety acres ready for the next crop. That before January 1st, 1909, the time in which the papers were to be made out Noel offered to Stensland the $1,500 and also his note and mortgage for $6,500, the purchase price agreed on being $8,000, or fifty dollars per acre. Mr. Stensland would not accept the money; said he had changed his mind and would not sell the land. Land had advanced greatly in the meantime and is now worth at least $100 per acre. Mr. Noel employed Mr. Kennedy to bring an action in court to compel Stensland to perform his contract, and Asa Forrest, Jr. was employed by Stensland to eject Noel from the farm. One of the hardest fought cases ever tried in this county was tried before Judge Jones and he gave his decision in favor of Noel. Then Mr. Steensland employed Mr. Egan to advise him where he was at, and also employed Senator Kittredge and Winans to assist Mr. Forest to procure a new trial.

Exhaustive arguments and briefs were met and furnished. Judge Jones took the matter under advisement and after several months consideration denied the motion for a new trial. Steensland then took the case to the Supreme Court and over 200 pages of records and briefs were filed and exhaustive arguments made by Mr. Kennedy for Noel, and Forrest and Winans for Steensland. The Supreme Court has affirmed the judgement of Judge Jones and now the farm belongs to Mr. Noel.

Very difficult and close law questions were involved in this case which only lawyers can appreciate. No contract having been made in writing and it being a real estate sale the validity of the contract was very close on the line and only taking of possession and building of buildings saved the case to Mr. Noel. Mr. Kennedy tried the case all the way through alone and was up against as good lawyers as there was in the state and his suceess in this case is another illustration of his general success in the Supreme Court.

Lincoln Co. Proud of Miss Wimple.

The Parker Press-Leader recently lauded the lady county superintendents, saying that their work is above the average, and that they have been just as successful as the male superintendents. Miss Dilia Wimple, Lincoln county's efficient county superintendent has most assuredly made good, and the schools under her supervision were never better managed, which is going some, for her predecessor, Supt. Lawrence, now state superintendent, and recognized as one of the best instructors in the west certainly set an example that was a hard one to follow, but Miss Wimple has done it and has shown her capability and efficiency clearly ever since she assumed the office she is filling so splendidly. Lincoln county is proud of its lady superintendent. Hudsonite.

Ole Branson Popular.

Argus Leader: Ole Branson of Mitchell is not making a great deal of noise in his candidacy for the republican nomination for congressman in this district, but reports which reach the Argus Leader from every point of the district indicate that his strength is fast growing, and point to his nomination on the fourth of June. Mr. Branson will make a congressman of whom the people of this district will be very proud, as the years roll by.

GAMBLE'S TREACHERY FORETOLD

The Editor of the Aberdeen Daily News Knew Gamble Better Than The Men He Betrayed the Last Time.

While Public Opinion has not always been in position to agree with the Aberdeen News upon questions of politics, it at all times has had a very high regard for the shrewdness and sagacity of that paper. It is pleased to find that this opinion has not been misguided, and further pleased to find that the News entertains a view very similar to its own upon the worth of Senator Robert J. Gamble as a representative of the people of South Dakota in the United States senate.

In January 1907, immediately following the election of Gamble by the South Dakota legislature, the News, commenting upon the election, with what has proven to be remarkable foresight, presented its views of what Gamble would do in the senate. It said:

"The re-election of Robert J. Gamble to the senate of the United States is a calamity. He will hold the position for six years, and during every day of that term he will be a discredited man, both at home and at the national capitol, shorn of power to properly represent his constituents and his state.

In an older community in fact, from a purely material standpoint, it might not be so important, but to a new state like South Dakota that is constantly in need of special representation before the departments and in the way of legislation, the loss must fall heavily. And this condition will be accentuated by the fact that the state's two veteran congressmen are to be replaced March 4 by representatives who for some time will be unfamiliar with the requirements of their office.

The news has felt and stated from the outset that no other outcome than the election of Mr. Gamble was possible under the existing alignment. That such a condition should exist—that a political combination should be so blind to every sense of public obligation as to stand able for the election of a tainted man to the highest office in the gift of the state—is a sad reflection upon the shibboleth of reform.

Mr. Gamble returns to Washington, with his certificate of election, but with nothing else. Two-thirds of the legislators who voted for him did so under mental protest, knowing that their action could not be justified on any moral ground; that the only, justification for their vote lay in the endorsement of the state convention.

Every charge laid at Mr. Gamble's door was admitted by him to be true, his only excuse being that the petty grafting to which he confessed was quite generally practiced by others—that the $1,800 or so that was paid to his son for nothing was lying around loose and that he thought he might as well annex it. Had the amount disclosed been $18,000 or ten times that sum, justification for swiping it would no doubt have been made on the same ground. A man who would stoop to take a little might be suspicioned of a desire to take more, should opportunity offer.

No amount of denunciation of the "machine" can change the facts in the case. The published charges are admitted, and at that they do not by any means constitute the entire case.

Henceforth, during his public career, Mr. Gamble will be a man apart and his usefulness to the state will be small indeed."

History has borne out the News. It has brought to pass everything it forecasted, and a few other things, more especially the Lorimer disgrace. Gamble's usefulness has been small indeed, and in many places it has amounted to positive detriment. Certainly the News can have little heart for six years more of a useless senator, a man of whom it prophesized, "every day of that term he will be a discredited man," and which prophecy it has lived to see worked out to the very letter—Watertown Daily Public Opinion, January 18, 1912.

Congregational Church Notices.

On February 4th, at 10:45 a. m., Pastor's subject: "Sweet Meditations." In the evening at 7:30 sharp, the chorister will conduct a song rally for twenty minutes. Subject of Pastor's sermonette: "A New Fight on an Old Field." All are welcome to the Church of God. May we so live and labor that you may say with the man of old "I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord."

Rev. Geo. Edward Lewis, Pastor.

Inwood Concert.

The Inwood Juvenile Band will give a grand concert at Inwood on Friday evening, February 2, assisted by Miss Stella Sogn, vocal soloist. The event promises to be decidedly interesting and worth a trip from Canton.

McCoy-Dean Wedding.

One of the prettiest home weddings of the season was an event of high noon today, when Miss Nettie Irene McCoy became the bride of Ralph Parker Dean of Canton, S. D., the nuptials being celebrated at the bride's home on Rockton avenue.

The Lohengrin wedding march was played by Mrs. Laura Grant Short, as the couple, unattended, took their place beneath an arch of smilax in the living room, where the ring service of the Episcopal church was read by the Rev. Nev. N. B. Clinch, from an antique prayer book, an inheritance from the bride's grandfather, the late George Baxter of Windsor, Wis.

The bride was charming in a gown of white satin trimmed with duchesse lace, her fichu being held in place by a rare brooch of old gold, the gift from her father to her mother, who wore it at her own wedding. Instead of a veil the bride wore on her head bands of pearl. Her bouquet was of bride roses.

A wedding luncheon was served after the ceremony, the bride's table having a center piece of pink Kilarney roses from which pink ribbon streamers marked the guests' places.

Mrs. Dean, who has made her home in Rockford for the last eight years with her sister, Mrs. G. R. Coolidge, is a daughter of the late Andrew R. McCoy, long a resident of Madison, Wisconsin, and the greater part of the bride's life has been spent in the capital city. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and also has had a year's graduate work in the same institution. She also has had a year's post graduate work in the University of Chicago. For four years, she was a successful high school teacher, her last position being principal of the high school at Canton.

The groom is in the abstract and real estate business in Canton and was for some time mayor of that city.

The bride and groom departed immediately for Canton, where on the evening of Jan 31, a large wedding reception will be tendered them by the parents of the groom, after which a wedding trip to the east will be taken. The wedding guests included only near relatives and intimate friends.

Those from out of town to attend the ceremony were: Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McCoy and daughter, Sun Prairie, Wis.; Edgar Dean, father of the groom, Canton, S. D.; Mrs. Warren Hoyt, Walter and Staley Hoyt, Rosendale, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. Danforth, Genoa, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parker, Mrs. C. W. Parker and Miss Jessie Parker, Kingston, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Divine, Genoa, Ill., and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adams, Beloit, Wis.

GEN. SHEAFE O. K.

If there is anything that Gen. Mark W. Sheafe of Watertown wants from South Dakota democrats, he is entitled to it. The Watertown Public Opinion says he wants to go to the National Democratic convention at Baltimore and he is entitled to that honor. The writer remembers that Mark Sheafe used to come to the territorial legislature, in the early 70s, from Union county, a firm and solid believer in democracy, and he had a host of friends who made his rooms at the Merchants Hotel a meeting place to discuss good things and enjoy his hospitality. Mark tried to convert a republican legislature to his political views and only failed for lack of votes. There is another veteran democrat in the state that out ranks all other democrats, and that's our old friend Frank Zeibach. If the South Dakota democrats want to honor themselves and two of the most prominent democrats in the state, Mark Sheafe and Frank Zeibach will head the delegation to Baltimore. Zeibach and Sheafe have been democrats for over 40 years to the writer's knowledge and they never flinched in their profession of faith in Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and Samuel J. Tilden when lonesome, and we believe they are progressive enough to look with favor upon Woodrow Wilson.

Corn Belt Races.

At a meeting of the members of the Corn Belt Racing Circuit at Mitchell the following dates were selected for June and July:

Flandreau, June 19, 20 and 21; Pipestone, June 26, 27 and 28; Miller, July 3, 4 and 5; Pierre, July 9, 10 and 11; Mitchell, July 16, 17 and 18; Canton, July 23, 24 and 25.

Entries for the first three towns close June 8. Entries for the last three towns close July 8.

An election of officers was held which resulted in the following being elected for 1912.

Dr. W. A. Mathews, Flandreau, S. D., president; C. F. Erickson, Miller, S. D., vice president; Harry Stevens, Pipestone, Minn., circuit secretary and treasurer.

Each town expects to put on a stake race, $500 to $1,000. All purses to be $400, except the stakes.

The classes are as follows:

Trot: 2:30, 2:25, 2:20, 2:15. Pace: 2:25 2:20, 2:15, 2:10.

The War Fifty Years Ago

Sailing of a Big Federal War Fleet From Hampton Roads. Its Destination Unknown, but Supposed to Be to Attack a Seaport on the Atlantic Coast---The Ships Were Wooden and Roughly Handled In a Storm Off Hatteras. McClellan Succeeds Scott at the Head of the United States Army---General Fremont Relieved of His Command In Missouri --- General Robert E. Lee Sent Away South.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

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ON Oct. 29, 1861, there left Hampton Roads for the south the greatest fleet ever gathered up to that time in American waters. It sailed under sealed orders, and so jealously had its secret been kept that hardly one of the officers knew its destination. In the north there was excitement over the movement and in the south apprehension. The wildest rumors were afloat. Popular gossip had the expedition headed toward practically every port between Hatteras and Galveston. Charleston especially was expecting attack. Yet at least one man in the Confederacy knew. On Nov. 1 Judah P. Benjamin, acting secretary of war, sent a telegram to those most concerned informing them that the Union fleet was headed toward Port Royal.

The Federal navy had decided that it must have a southern harbor that would serve as a coaling and repair station. Port Royal is perhaps the finest harbor along the southern coast. It is at the confluence of several streams and is in the midst of the richest cotton plantations of South Carolina, where the famous sea island cotton is produced. It is also the entrance to Beaufort, where southern aristocracy then congregated.

The fact that Union ships had to go north to coal and repair weakened the southern blockade. With a harbor like that of Port Royal, which is about midway between Charleston and Savannah, this difficulty would be in part overcome. Therefore with Port Royal as the objective the great expedition was organized. It was commanded by Flag Officer S. F. Dupont and consisted of the flagship Wabash and about fourteen other war vessels, besides a large number of transports and smaller craft. The land forces were made up of three brigades and some unattached troops, possibly 12,000 in all, under the command of General Thomas W. Sherman.

Fleet Scattered In a Storm.

In steaming out of Hampton Roads the expedition took the form of a gigantic inverted V, with the Wabash at the apex and the warships and transports commingled in two long lines streaming out behind. The vessels forming this immense fleet had been improvised from every sort of craft, even New York ferryboats having been pressed into service. Many of the boats were not seaworthy, especially in a gale. The trip around Hatteras, where storms are nearly always in evidence, was dreaded, yet there was nothing else for it. The vessels were needed, and even a converted ferryboat was better than nothing. To maintain a blockade of a coast line thousands of miles long was a severe task for a nation that less than one year before had possessed no navy worthy the name.

Cape Hatteras lived up to her reputation as a breeder of storms. Up to Nov. 1 there was good weather, but on the afternoon of that day came on a gale that increased in fury with the approach of night. The fleet became widely scattered, and the gravest fears were entertained for its safety, especial apprehension being felt for the transports. It was necessary that the officers keep the decks all night, and occasionally they could see through the driving rain some of the companion ships staggering through the wind lashed sea. In the driving gale the rain whipped their faces like hail. To add to the wildness of the spectacle the sea had a phosphorescent brightness observed sometimes in this latitude. When morning broke there was but one gunboat in sight from the flagship, but in the next five days others came straggling to the rendezvous in front of Port Royal. It was found that the transport Governor, loaded with marines and stores, had gone down, but that all except seven of the men had been saved by the Isaac Smith, which was compelled to throw all her battery but one gun overboard in order to effect the rescue. The transport Peerless had also capsized, her crew having been saved by the Mohican. One other transport was injured, and three more failed to come into port until after the fight. One or two transports were compelled to put back to Hampton Roads.

Anxiety of the North.

The suspense before felt at the south now shifted to the north. Days passed before certain news was heard of the fleet's safety. One southern paper took it as an omen that God was fighting on the side of the Confederates. The same storm that scattered the Union ships also played havoc with the Federal garrison at Hatteras inlet. An immense tidal wave submerged the island, stores were swept away and for a time it appeared that everything was doomed. After a terrible night, however, the waters receded.

To return to the expedition. The fleet on arriving at Port Royal found all the channel marks obliterated and it was necessary to make soundings and replace these marks under fire. The Union gunboats and transports were then taken safely over the bar. By the morning of the 5th the Federals were ready to reconnoiter the enemy's position in force, and the Ottawa, Commander John Rodgers, with the Seneca, Curlew and Smith, went forward for this purpose.

There were two forts guarding the channel, one on each side, being about two and one-half miles apart. To the south on a point known as Hilton Head was Fort Walker, with twenty-two guns, and on the opposite side at Bay point was Fort Beauregard, with thirteen guns in the fort proper and seven more in the outworks. For three-quarters of an hour the four Union gunboats felt out the strength of the enemy's guns, receiving an answering fire through their rigging, but suffering no other damage.

Later in the day three Confederate gunboats under command of Commodore Tatnall, who had seen service in the war of 1812, ventured too near the Federal fleet and were chased under the guns of the forts. Tatnall's flagship, the Savannah, sent in one broadside, but received a shot which pierced her just abaft the wheelhouse that sent her scurrying out of range. At flood tide on the 5th the Union flagship, the Wabash, which had been of too heavy draft to get over the bar before, came in and joined the fleet, and a consultation was called to prepare for battle. Thus matters stood on the evening of the 5th.

McClellan General In Chief.

While this thrilling action was going forward at sea important changes were being made in the command of the Union armies. On Oct. 31 General Winfield Scott, general in chief of all the armies of the United States, asked to be retired because of physical disability, and the next day General George B. McClellan, builder and head of the Army of the Potomac, was advanced to the supreme command.

As the conqueror of Mexico Scott had made a worldwide reputation as an able general. By his refusal to go out of the Union with his native state of Virginia he had endeared himself to the north. He was now an old man, however, unequal to the gigantic task of leading the armies in what was to prove the greatest war in history. At this time Scott was a few months past seventy-five, while McClellan was not quite thirty-five. Despite the friction between the two and the things the young general was saying of the older one in private letters, McClellan now paid a tribute to Scott. There are two or three significant passages in McClellan's correspondence at this time. On Oct. 31 he writes:

"'Our George' they have taken it into their heads to call me. I ought to take good care of these men, for I believe they love me from the bottom of their hearts; I can see it in their faces when I pass among them. I presume the Scott war will culminate this week."

Finds "The Army" Disorganized.

On Nov. 2 he has evidently begun to feel out his new duties, for he writes:

"I find 'the army' just about as much disorganized as was the army of the Potomac when I assumed command; everything at sixes and sevens; no system, no order, perfect chaos. I can and will reduce it to order. I will soon have it working smoothly."

That is a most remarkable letter to be written by a man who has just assumed chief command of the forces of a great nation in the crucial hour of its history. Can he not forget himself even now? Can he not eliminate the "big I and little you" attitude that sticks out all over it? Here the leading military men of the nation had been laboring for months and had succeeded in evolving nothing but "perfect chaos." Yet he alone will straighten it out in short order.

The next letter sounds a humbler note:

"I have already been up once this morning—that was at 4 o'clock, to escort General Scott to the depot. It was pitch dark and a pouring rain; but with most of my staff and a squadron of cavalry I saw the old man off. He was very polite to me; sent various kind messages to you and the baby; so we parted. The old man said his sensations were very peculiar, leaving Washington and active life. I can easily understand them, and it may be that at some distant day I, too, shall totter away from Washington, a worn out soldier, with naught to do but make my peace with God. The sight of this morning was a lesson to me which I hope not soon to forget. I saw there the end of a long, active and ambitious life, the end of the career of the first soldier of his nation, and it was a feeble old man scarce able to walk, hardly any one there to see him off but his successor. Should I ever become vainglorious and ambitious, remind me of that spectacle."

Was there a note of prophecy here? McClellan was to quit in a manner not entirely dissimilar, and the day was not so "distant" as he here predicts.

The Removal of Fremont.

A change even more troublesome to the administration was that involving the command of the western armies. There had long been complaint of General Fremont, the charges against him ranging all the way from inefficiency to extravagance and lax financial management. For one thing it was said that he was inaccessible to those having business with him and for another that he overstepped his powers on several occasions. Peculation of some of his under officers was also alleged. The chief objection to him had been, however, that he had not accomplished anything and that he had failed to reenforce General Lyon at Wilson's creek in August and Mulligan at Lexington in September, thus being indirectly responsible for the disaster at both places. Fremont was exceedingly popular in the west and among the more radical anti-slavery men, and trouble was threatened should he be displaced. Nevertheless, the president determined to relieve him, and on Nov. 2 General David Hunter temporarily took command of the western armies

There was no land fighting of any moment during the week ending Nov. 5. In western Virginia General Floyd attempted a bombardment of General Rosecrans' lines of communication, but little came of it, although it brought about a counter movement by the Union commander that later forced Floyd out of the state.

On Nov. 5 General Robert E. Lee was assigned to the command of the department of South Carolina, Georgia and eastern Florida, his task being the protection of the Atlantic coast, which the Union fleets were seriously threatening.

DUPONT'S NAVAL EXPEDITION—1, A SHELL GUN ON BOARD THE WABASH; 2, GENERAL T. W. SHERMAN, U. S. A.; 3, COMMODORE JOSIAH TATNALL, C. S. N., IN THE UNIFORM OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY BEFORE THE WAR; 4, MAP OF THE CHANNEL AT PORT ROYAL.