

HUNDREDS HEAR JAMES J. HILL AT BIG COLLEGE CELEBRATION

EMPIRE BUILDER TALKS TO STUDENTS AND PUBLIC IN EARNEST MANNER CONCERNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND ITS BENEFITS

Jim Hill day, as many Warren people have designated Dec. 6, or the North Star College celebration, which marked the formal opening of the new college building, will long be remembered in this section.

On the first hand, it marked a decided step in Red River Valley progress, and taking education as the basis of all success, the new college building plays an important part in the history of this territory.

Secondly, the visit of James J. Hill can be taken in the light of another compliment, which he paid the Red River Valley. This is his favorite section, it is said, and we cheerfully accord him the compliment, in return, as "the original discoverer of the quality of the soil in the Red River Valley."

Mr. Hill, who already has seen "three score and ten" tells his age in many respects. He is no longer the sturdy "Jim" of twenty years ago. Many old settlers of this county remember him otherwise. Not long ago he had a more active step, and his voice could be heard for hundreds of yards in this wilderness about forty years ago. Now business cares, coupled with age, have left indelible marks on the elderly gentleman.

But pioneer days, to which have been added the hard drills of modern progress, have not detracted a iota from his great mind. He has a keen insight into all public affairs, and he rules his commercial forces with as much ease as ever. In this respect his years do not show him a different man. He still is young in spirit, and we have seen him; as has been said of him: "Jim Hill never will grow old."

Mr. Hill came here with words of cheerfulness and blessing. He has assisted us greatly in the past, and he promised again to assist us still more. We are indebted to this great man, and in our humble ways we cannot but wish him all possible joys and blessings. We hope he may be one of us for many years to come. And we live in hopes of having the great pleasure of having another: "Welcome, Mr. Hill!"

VISITS COLLEGE BUILDING; CHEERED BY STUDENT BODY

Mr. Hill, accompanied by Hon. A. D. Stephens, of Crookston, and Prof. Crane, of the Great Northern agricultural bureau, arrived in Warren at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. He was met at the depot by members of the North Star College corporation, city officials and commercial club members. Scores of citizens braved the cold weather to welcome the "empire builder" at the depot.

The party was escorted to the new college building in automobiles by the business men of the town.

On the steps of the college building Mr. Hill and others were welcomed by President Abrahamson and other members of the college faculty. Mr. Hill, accompanied by members of the college corporation, made an inspection of the building.

The railroad chief made several comments during his inspection of the building, which are worthy of mention. Nothing seemed to escape his eagle eye. When the ventilation system was pointed out, Mr. Hill exam-

ined it closely and then gave a little lecture on ventilation, at the same time complimenting the college people for the system installed in the building. He would take particular notice of the woodwork and offer suggestions. When he visited the museum he named nearly all of the specimens, showing he is very familiar with the natural history of this part of the state.

When the honored guest was inspecting the building, the college boys assembled and gave him a rousing cheer. He seemed very pleased and nodded his thanks to the students.

Rev. Wahlund Presides

Many visitors gathered at the building, and at 1:45 they assembled in the commercial room on the second floor to hear Mr. Hill.

Rev. G. Wahlund, president of the board of directors, presided. He called the meeting to order and spoke of the occasion in the following words:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: We have many reasons for feeling happy and grateful today. After two years of hard work we have the pleasure to meet in our new college building. But what today makes us, what I may say, over-happy, is the great honor of having with us one of America's foremost citizens, who, for over fifty years, has been making the wilderness blossom as a lily.

"I will call upon Prof. Abrahamson, president of the college, to welcome our guest:

President's Welcome

Said the president: "Our most highly esteemed guest and friends:

"It is both a pleasure and an honor for me to be permitted to extend to you a hearty welcome to our new North Star College home. We have just moved from our 'Old Homestead' into this new home, and it is to celebrate this most important event that we have assembled.

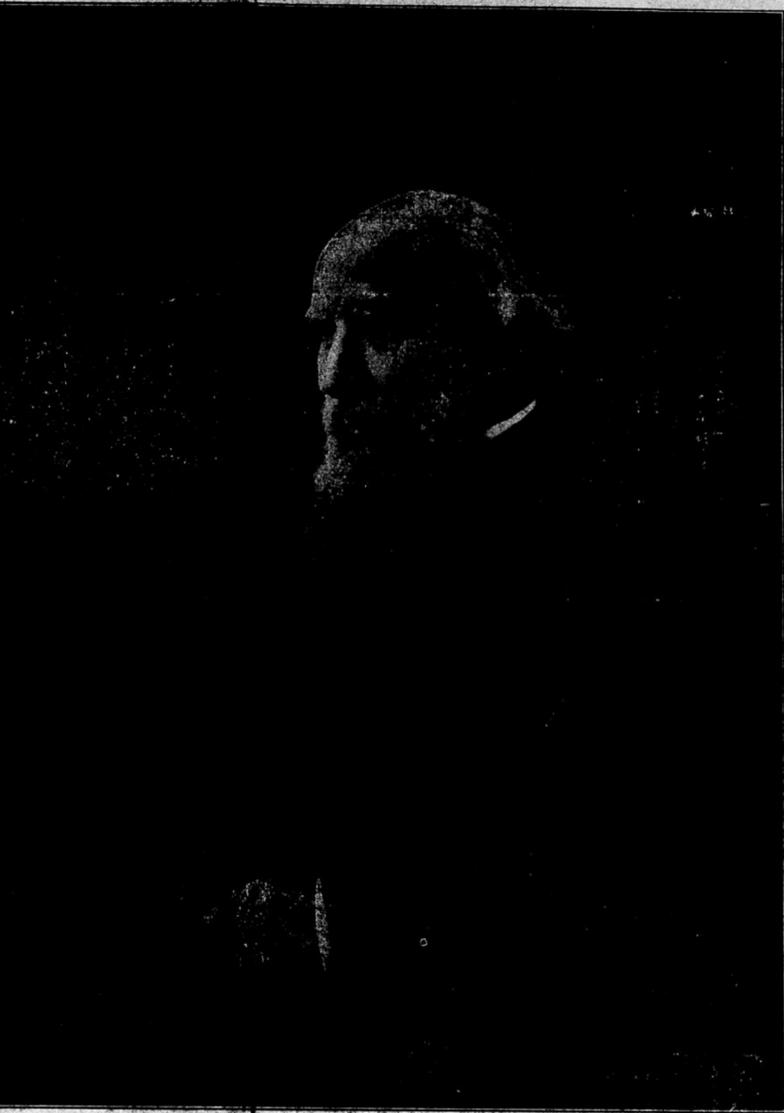
"The Red River Valley is known as the 'Bread Basket of the World.' This title was not attained without much labor and sacrifice on the part of the settlers of this region; but the greatest share in the work falls to one man, whom we are proud to have with us today.

"He has done more for the development of the Red River Valley than any other person—more than many together. Without the facilities which easy transportation gives, the development of the country would be extremely slow. But thru the prudence, the business foresight, of our honored guest, our section from the beginning was greatly favored.

"At the present more than ever before, we are favored by receiving the benefits of his many and varied experiences, not only along material and agricultural lines but also educational and intellectual. Our esteemed guest has always shown his special interest in education; and we are indeed honored today by his presence.

"North Star College is only in its fifth year; but we are glad that it is attracting favorable attention, and that the enrollment is constantly growing. Our building has been occupied only since the beginning of the week, and workmen are still busy; but in a few days we will be permitted the use of the whole building.

"Ladies and Gentlemen! I have the great privilege and the honor to present to you, Mr. James J. Hill, who has promised to address us."



JAMES J. HILL

"Our friends of the Red River Valley have seen the need of our young people; North Star College has come to fill some of the requirements. May it by the grace of God, ever continue to grow and fill its place.

"Our distinguished guest greatly honors us today by being with us, but our interests are his, and his, ours. He is interested in education, because he knows the results; in colleges, because he knows what they send out; in work and progress along all lines, because back of it we find men and women who are not afraid to labor, persons who have a backbone, persons who can do things. Let us not disappoint either him or ourselves; but after the next thirty years we shall find even greater progress than in the past.

"If we be permitted to return after thirty years, may we see not one lone building, but a whole group devoted to the development of the Red River Valley in particular and all education in general.

"Ladies and Gentlemen! I have the great privilege and the honor to present to you, Mr. James J. Hill, who has promised to address us."

Hon. James J. Hill

The honored guest expressed his joy over the occasion and complimented the college friends and students over the new home. He said occasions like these were among his most pleasant experiences.

Mr. Hill said he hoped the people of this part of the state would appreciate what they have in North Star College. He referred to it as the highest type of institution.

It does not require any effort on the part of the railroad magnate to speak upon agriculture or business conditions, and he surprised his hearers at the college when he spoke along religious lines very much as an old minister. His sincerity was evidenced in every word, and he left some truths which will be remembered with the early history of the college.

He paid particular attention to the place of denominational colleges at the present time. He said they do much more good in behalf of the students and communities than many of the state institutions. He emphasized the fact that the morals at an institution like North Star College are safeguarded at all times, and that the students, once they leave such an in-

PIONEER DAYS AND HILL RECALLED BY GRINDELAND

When Mr. Hill and his escort of college officials, city officials and members of the Commercial Club reached the Opera House, the large auditorium was filled. Those present arose when Mr. Hill entered the door. Judge Andrew Grindelund presided. After a selection by the orchestra he introduced Mr. Hill, recalling the early days, in which the honored guest played such a conspicuous part. The judge complimented North Star College for its success and predicted that it would have a good future. He urged the co-operation of all in this territory to make the success of the college permanent.

Mr. Grindelund gave a splendid biographical sketch of Mr. Hill's career in the Northwest, and particularly the Red River Valley. He referred to the railroad man as the first one who saw the worth of the soil in this section and then complimented him as the original discoverer of the quality of the soil in the Red River Valley.

Mr. Hill's efforts to better conditions in farm life were given much attention by the chairman. The judge referred to Mr. Hill's work in behalf of good drainage, saying the venerable guest was the first to suggest such improvements in this section. The

part Mr. Hill took in establishing the agricultural school at Crookston in 1896 was reviewed. His part in the topographical survey, which gave the Red River Valley the basis for an efficient drainage, was spoken of as one of the greatest blessings from the hands of Mr. Hill.

In his closing remarks Judge Grindelund said Mr. Hill was the pioneer of practical education and lamented the fact that his work has not been appreciated fully. Identifying Mr. Hill with the farmer, Judge Grindelund said, in closing:

"Mr. Hill is the man who wants the farm to be recorded as the cornerstone of the nation."

LAYS ASIDE BUSINESS; PREACHES FINE SERMON

James J. Hill's mind, which has evolved some of the greatest business enterprises in the land, is not restricted to commercialism. When he thinks of religious subjects, he talks with more sincerity than on other occasions. He has pleaded with farmers to improve their methods; he has talked earnestly with railroad men about the service; he has counseled statesmen here and in Europe; he has advised young men in regard to their futures, but his eloquence probably never has been so pleasantly felt as last Friday, when he preached a sermon at the Opera House.

Later he confided to some friends that his speech was unusual. He said he cannot remember more than a couple of occasions when he had spoken chiefly of matters relating to Christianity. Therefore, his speech in Warren may be regarded as an important part of the empire builder's biography.

After his introduction by Judge Grindelund, the honored guest was greeted effectively by the audience, which arose when he walked forth on the stage. This seemed to effect the venerable Red River Valley pioneer, and his opening remarks were tinged with a tone of love and affection for the people, among whom were many of his pioneer friends.

Recalls Early Days

His thought must have been in the days of long ago when he said feelingly: "I am very, very pleased to be here on this occasion, because we are advancing and the shadows are growing

longer. When I look back upon the past I think of the men, some of whom I have met here today, who were with me in the '70's. There are many seventy-miners here, and this occasion takes me back to the start of these environments."

He replied indirectly to the introductory remarks, when he declared: "I am careful not to undertake anything I cannot finish. I identify myself with the conditions of the country."

Mr. Hill then referred to matters in general, but speaking of labor and its reward, he said:

"No good thing or good work will ever come out of a bad motive."

"Today we are here to celebrate the opening of an institution of learning—North Star College," he continued. "It is the youngest on my list, but I assure you it is not farthest from my heart."

"I am very glad to see in the center of the Red River Valley such an institution, which is supported by a religious denomination that has been tried in fire and has not been found wanting. I am not a member of any religious denomination, but I take the greatest comfort in the success of all Christian denominations, which bring up young men and women of better character and thus make more permanent the foundation of the nation."

"No nation can long exist without an earnest Christian spirit behind it."

Points to a Creator

The speaker thereupon referred reverently to the history of Christianity and illustrated how there could not be any doubts about a Creator.

"Supposing you picked up a fine watch, which tells the hours, quarters, minutes and seconds of day," he continued, "and somebody told you it had created itself, would you believe it? No, it had been made by an artisan, and whenever someone tries to impress upon you the non-existence of a Creator, you may rest assured that the universe is in the hands of One who rules."

Between smiles and pauses for emphasis, Mr. Hill referred to the attempts of some so-called wise writers, who try to point out a conflict between science and religion.

"To think that there is a conflict between religion and science is a sad thought," he declared. "There never has been a conflict, for how can there be a conflict between the natural and the supernatural?"

He then spoke of the teachings of the lowly Nazarene and proved that His words never conflicted with science. The railroad chief also spoke at length on the Mosaic account of creation, asserting that it was the only one which agreed exactly with scientific reports.

"Creation is divided into six periods from a geological standpoint," he pointed out. "When Moses was writing his account of it, we must remember that he was addressing it to a people who were wandering around in the desert. They were simple people; without education, and he had to tell them the story in a childish way. It was not a scientific discourse; yet his story of creation agrees so well

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HILL URGES ENDOWMENT FOR NORTH STAR COLLEGE

At the close of the exercises in the Opera House last Friday, Mr. James J. Hill addressed some informal remarks to the audience, which prove that he is heart and soul identified with the work carried on in this part of the country. He paid especial attention to the college. He said, in part:

"The growth and the substantial existence of the college comes back to its friends. It has made an excellent beginning and has done great work in a short time.

"Much remains to be done, but it is not so difficult as to avoid it. It is necessary that North Star College have a permanent endowment fund; a fund of money to be placed in good securities. There should be a yearly income of free money; not for speculation, but for general purposes of the college.

"I do not urge you to take this up right away at my suggestion, but when you are ready I suggest that a fund of, say, \$250,000 be raised, which would give from \$12,000 to \$15,000 free money every year.

"When you are ready to consider that, send me word and I will be with you."

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