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OMAHA MEMORIES

Recollections of Events, Men and Affairs
in Omaha, Nebraska, from
1879 to 1917

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hibition and both were defeated, yet the amendment was carried by 30,000 majority. President Wilson carried the state by 41,000. United States Senator Hitchcock was returned to the senate by 12,000 majority and Keith Neville, also a democrat, defeated his republican opponent by 10,000 votes, and for the first time in the history of the state all the state offices were filled by democrats. In this congressional district the present incumbent, C. O. Lobeck, defeated his republican opponent, Judge Benjamin Baker, by the unheard of majority of 6,000 votes. •

On the county ticket the republicans elected but three men, Robert Smith succeeding himself as clerk of the District Court, Frank Dewey also succeeding himself as county clerk, both republicans. Mike Clark, republican, defeated ~~Phil~~ ^{J. Wiley} McShane, the present incumbent of the office of sheriff, a democrat. Two republican county commissioners were defeated for re-election—Gus Heart and Frank Best, their successors being Jeff Bedford and A. D. Compton, giving the democrats control of the board of county commissioners for the first time in years. For the second time in the history of the county, the democrats elected a county superintendent of schools, T. J. Keenan, a recent graduate of Creighton College. M. L. Endres, democrat, was elected county treasurer, defeating E. G. Saloman, republican. George A. Magney, democrat, and one of the most obliging, capable and competent men who ever filled public office, was re-elected county attorney by 10,000 majority.

The present judges of the District Court, Willis G. Sears, Lee Estelle, A. C. Troup, William A. Redick, George A. Day, Charles Leslie and Arthur Wakely, were re-elected. It will be remembered that Judge Wakely was filling a vacancy caused by the death of Judge English. This appointment was made by Governor Moorhead March 1 of this year. Bryce Crawford was re-elected county judge for the third consecutive time. Lou Adams was re-elected as county surveyor.

It is with much pleasure that I note the appointment of J. W. Woodrough of Omaha to the office of United States District Judge of this district. He was appointed to this office April 3 by President Wilson, was confirmed by the senate a few days thereafter, taking his seat April 24, succeeding the late W. H. Munger, who was appointed by President Cleveland March 1, 1897—being his last official act. Mr. Woodrough is one of the youngest judges on the federal bench, and is proving himself in every way equal to the task reposed in him. He is a man of charming personality, courteous and accommodating. A brief biography of him will be found in another chapter of this book.

On June 1, George Parks of the South Side was appointed by the city commissioners to fill the vacancy on that board caused by the death of John C. Drexel. He was given the department formerly held by Mr. Drexel, superintendent of street cleaning

the master mechanic's office at the shops of that road in Omaha, which position he held until 1886, when he resigned to accept the office of deputy county treasurer of Douglas County under Henry Bolln. He remained there until 1890, when he was appointed city clerk, holding this appointive position for two years. When the office became elective he was elected for two years. He died in 1896, survived by his wife and two daughters. John Groves was a loyal, reliable, patriotic American, true to his family, his God, his country and his friends, yet a lover of his native land, a hater of oppression and tyranny and a sworn avenger of Ireland's wrongs.

Joseph W. Woodrough.

Joseph W. Woodrough was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 29, 1875, and educated at Dresden, Germany. He came to Omaha in 1893 and entered the law office of his uncle, Wm. D. Beckett, where he spent one year. Leaving here that year, he went to Ward County, Texas, where he was shortly afterward elected county judge at the age of twenty-two. In 1897 he returned to Omaha and engaged in the practice of law, and in 1899 he formed a partnership with Wm. F. Gurley and Ralph W. Breckenridge, the law firm being known as Breckenridge, Gurley & Woodrough. While a member of that firm he tried single-handed many civil and criminal cases that won for him a statewide reputation. In 1902 he was the democratic candidate for county judge of Douglas County, but was defeated by Charles Leslie, now judge of the District Court. In the campaign of 1912 he worked and organized day and night for the election of Woodrow Wilson for president. He is one of the most agreeable lawyers that I have ever opposed in the trial of a lawsuit, being pleasant and agreeable, both to the court and the opposing counsel. He is an able lawyer and had his party been in the majority in this district, he would long since have been on the district bench.

Patrick Ford.

Patrick Ford was born in Sligo, Ireland, May 12, 1841, and came to Omaha in 1877. He worked for two years at the Union Pacific shops, was appointed on the police force by Mayor James E. Boyd in 1881, serving two years in that capacity. In 1884 he was elected a member of the Omaha city council from the Third ward, serving continuously until 1891, when he retired to enter the hotel business. He served one term in the Nebraska legislature. I knew him from 1880 to the time of his death, both in private and public life, he serving one year in the council at the time I did, and I found him to be a man of unquestionable honesty. He died in 1904, survived by a son and daughter.