

## CHAPTER XLII.

### LATER EVENTS.

**502. Twentieth Century Kansas.**—Since 1899 when Noble L. Prentis laid down his pen, his task of history writing ended, the years have more than fulfilled his prophesy, that the people of Kansas would be found in the future, “still achieving, still pursuing,” (as they always have been found in the past). In the progressive thought of the twentieth century Kansas men and women have become a part. In the development of their own State the young years of the century bear a wonderful record of “achieving and pursuing.” The shorter the perspective on history the more difficult it is to delineate. A few brief paragraphs must suffice to show in a general way the steps of progress since 1899.

**503. Agricultural Development.**—The increased acreage under cultivation, and the variety of crops produced have greatly increased the wealth of the State during its fifth decade. Kaffir corn, of which until 1893 no official record was kept, ten years later bore a crop valued at more than six millions of dollars. Other forage crops have become elements of prosperity. Alfalfa is becoming the easy “mortgage lifter.” The western part of the State seems like one vast wheat field while eastern parts are shut in by “walls of corn.”

Very properly it may be noted here that stock-raising vies with the tilling of the soil in record making. Well-bred Kansas horses and cattle wear medals captured at great national expositions, and every year the State forges a little nearer to the front in the rural industries.

**504. The Mineral Output.**—The tale of minerals here reads like a fairy story. Especially has there been rapid development of mineral resources since 1899. The production of salt from 1899 to 1903 inclusive amounted to more than eight millions of barrels and was valued at more than four millions of dollars. Gypsum and clay products are among our leading forces for creating wealth. The cement plant at Iola, one of the largest in the world, began operations in September, 1899. Enormous quantities of this cement were used at St. Louis in construction of the World's Fair structures for 1904. The mineral value of Kansas is shown in her lead and zinc and coal mines that bring an annual income of millions of dollars. The yearly average output of coal alone from 1899 to 1903 inclusive was more than six millions of dollars. Oil and gas have become a source of great profit. The most productive field for these is the southeastern area of the State.

It is interesting to note that Lieutenant Pike considered the Kansas plains uninhabitable. Later they were valued as mere grazing lands. Then Kansas became an agricultural State; and now the mines beneath the surface divide honors with the crops upon it. What next? The student of Kansas history today must answer that tomorrow.

**505. Educational Advancement.**—While the "earth and the fulness thereof" has engaged the mind of the State it has not been wholly given over to money making and

material improvement. Kansas has learned to manufacture glass and grow cotton. Its wheat belt has a national reputation. Its salt mines are wonderful. The cattle of the prairie grazing lands augment its bank clearings while the derricks of its oil and gas wells puncture the landscape like windmills in Holland. But the spirit of the grand old pioneer is with it still, and the generous education of its people is no less dear now than it was when the foundation for the university was laid before the grass had had time to cover the ground left bare by the Indian tepee. The twentieth century has not forgotten the need for scholars, and right generously has the State provided for her own. The State schools at Lawrence and Emporia and Manhattan have each had a phenomenal growth since this century began. A branch of the State Normal School has been established at Hays City, and a State Manual Training School at Pittsburg. The large denominational institutions have kept pace with those of the State. Friends University at Wichita, endowed by Bartlett Davis, is one of the growing young colleges. Bethany College at Lindsborg and "Old Baker" at Baldwin have enjoyed great prosperity, while Washburn College at Topeka has merged into a well equipped university, adding to its liberal arts, schools of medicine, law, dentistry, and fine arts. Other colleges over the State have been proportionally successful.

The development of the manual training idea has been rapid in Kansas. In most of the larger cities it has become a part of the public school system of education. At the great World's Fair at St. Louis in 1904 the Kansas educational exhibit was most creditable, showing the high rank the State holds in educational matters.

Closely associated with education is the library movement of the twentieth century. There has been a general demand for libraries and even the remoter places, through the stimulus of the traveling library, have begun the making of an institution of their own. Carnegie bequests have also been obtained and a half dozen or more Carnegie libraries are to be found in Kansas. Leavenworth, Newton, Lawrence, Hutchinson, Ottawa, Kansas City, Fort Scott, Washburn College (Topeka) and Emporia have all been favored.

**506. Three Flood Years.**—The years 1902, 1903 and 1904 will go down in history as the flood years in Kansas. The loss of life although comparatively small, and the loss of property enormously large made each a year of calamity to the State. In 1902 few lives were lost but extensive damage was done to property in the Neosho river valley and neighboring regions in the central and southeast portions of the State. The year 1903 saw the great Kansas river flood. In May of that year there was an unprecedented rainfall in the valleys of the Blue, the Republican, the Saline, the Solomon and the Smoky Hill rivers. These streams all empty their waters into the Kansas river. Nearly all the towns along these rivers were flooded and thousands of acres of farm land were inundated. There were many lives lost in these valleys. But the greatest calamity fell upon Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City. At Topeka the river broke over its banks and swept down upon North Topeka, covering this entire portion of the city for almost a week. Nearly two-score of lives were swept out by the waters, and wreck and ruin indescribable were left in the wake of the flood. Lawrence (in proportion to

its size) experienced the same condition that befell Topeka. At Kansas City the loss of life was less appalling, while the property loss was much greater.

For this strange fortune another appeal for help came out of Kansas. The State has been harassed by border ruffianism; drouth has scorched it; Indians have terrorized it, and the grasshopper has been a burden. But never since the great flood of 1844 has a call for aid been heard because of much water in Kansas. Right generously the response to this cry came from cities and individuals all over the nation. And again the sturdy Kansas people rebuilt their homes and business houses and replanted their crops, and the year 1903 outranked all previous years in agricultural wealth. In 1904 every large river of the State was out of its banks and small creeks became raging rivers. The disaster outclassed the two preceding years but the tragical feature of human suffering and loss of life was but a small part of the incident. Wichita, Hutchinson, Emporia, Coffeyville, Winfield, Ottawa, and all the cities and towns of the Kansas river valley alike endured calamity. "White man heap big fool to build big house near river" the Kaw Indians were wont to declare, but unfortunately nobody listened to the Indians' warning. The three successive flood years, however, have shown what the State may expect as a possibility, and what the ignorant Indian could not teach experience has driven home.

**507. State Elections.**—The election of 1900 returned to office the State officials elected in 1898. The legislature of 1901 elected Joseph Ralph Burton, of Abilene, United States senator to succeed Lucien Baker.

In 1902 W. J. Bailey was elected Governor; David J. Hanna, Lieutenant-Governor; J. R. Burrow, Secretary of State; Seth G. Wells, Auditor; T. T. Kelly, Treasurer; C. C. Coleman, Attorney-General; I. L. Dayhoff, Supt. of Public Instruction; Chester I. Long, of Medicine Lodge, was made United States Senator and George A. Clark, State Printer, by the Legislature of 1903.



Governor W. J. Bailey.

**508. Louisiana Purchase Exposition.**—The Legislature of 1901 appropriated \$75,000 for the purpose of a State display at the great Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1904.

The Legislature of 1903 added to this sum \$100,000. Kansas was the first State to make appropriation for the Exposition. Fine exhibits were made in the educational, mining, agricultural, horticultural, dairy and live stock departments, winning many prizes and medals, Kansas taking the second place as a mineral State. A beautiful State building was erected in a most desirable location, was exquisitely furnished and became at once a home for all visiting Kansans and their friends. A comprehensive art exhibit, the work of Kansas artists, was a very attractive feature of the building and was universally admired by the thousands who saw it. This exhibit was collected and arranged by Mrs. C. F. W. Dassler, of Leavenworth.

The Commission, desiring to give the greatest publicity possible to the intelligence, wealth and resources of the State, had published in very attractive form 175,000 booklets, of 120 pages, which were judiciously distributed, going to all parts of the United States, and a considerable number

to foreign countries. The Commission gave out to Kansas people alone over 100,000 souvenir buttons, which was a very successful way of advertising the State and the Fair.

On September 30th the sunflower became an emblem of honor, for this was Kansas Day, and Kansans by thousands were in attendance. The Governor and his staff were present. In the morning a monster military parade was followed by a program in which the Governor of the State, President Francis, and Henry Allen and David Overmeyer, two of the most eloquent sons of Kansas, took part. The exercises were held in the Plaza of St. Louis. The reception that evening in honor of Governor and Mrs. Bailey was one of the most beautiful functions given on the terrace of states. The Commission in charge of the State's affairs were: John C. Carpenter, J. C. Morrow, C. L. Luling, R. T. Simon, W. P. Waggoner. Mrs. Noble Prentiss was hostess of the Kansas building.

**509. The Passing of Noted Kansans.**—Half a century has gone by since the famous Kansas-Nebraska bill created a territory that was destined to know the heights and depth of victory and defeat. Here the comedy and the tragedy of life have each played their grand parts. The history-makers of fifty years ago were many of them young men and women, and it will be the task of the historian of the early decades of the twentieth century to record their passing on to the life beyond life.



Edward W. Hoch.

**510.** In 1904 Edward W. Hoch was elected governor. With this exception the state officers elected in 1902 were re-elected in 1904.

FRANKLIN G. ADAMS was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., May 13, 1824, and died in Topeka, December 2, 1899. For a quarter of a century he was the secretary of the State Historical Society. He early espoused the cause of the anti-slavery party, was a strong believer in the prohibition of the sale and use of intoxicants, and he was an avowed supporter of the woman's right to the ballot. Among the works that remain it may be recorded that he was the prime mover in establishing county normal institutes, and he early favored industrial training and the teaching of sciences in the public schools. He was the father of kindergarten schools in Topeka. He organized the State Agricultural Society, now the State Board of Agriculture, in 1862, and was for two years its first secretary. Judge Adams was the first man in any State to make a complete collection of local newspaper files and periodicals for historic preservation. In memory of him the State Editorial Association has placed a bronze tablet on the walls of the Society's rooms in the State House. But his real monument is in the rare and valuable collection he gathered into the state capitol, and in the history his strong, beautiful, blameless life helped to shape.

NOBLE L. PRENTIS was born in a frontier cabin near Mt. Sterling, Brown County, Illinois, April 8, 1839, and while visiting his daughter died at La Harpe, Illinois, about fifty miles from his birthplace, July 6, 1900. His parents were pioneers from Vermont and both died of cholera at Quincy, Illinois, during the epidemic of 1849. The son, then ten years of age, returned to relatives in Vermont, where he lived for about eight years, going from Vermont to Connecticut to learn the printer's trade. Leaving Connecticut he returned to Illinois, where he worked in a printing office at Carthage. Later he taught school, and at the close of one term of school enlisted in the 16th Illinois Infantry at the breaking out of the war. In this company he served until he was mustered out four years later. After the war he edited a paper in Alexandria, Missouri, and another in Carthage, Illinois. In 1869 he came to Topeka as editor of the *Topeka Record*. He was induced to make this change by Captain Henry King, then editor of the *Topeka Record*, afterwards editor of the *Topeka Capitol*, and now editor of the *Globe-Democrat* in St. Louis. His subsequent newspaper connections were with the *Topeka Commonwealth* with T. Dwight Thacher, the *Lawrence Journal* with Floyd P. Baker, the *Junction City Union* with George W. Martin, again with the *Topeka Commonwealth*, the *Atchison Champion* with Governor John A. Martin, the *Newton Republican*, and the *Kansas City Star*. At the time of his death he had been with the *Star* ten years. Of his voluminous literary products, only enough to make five books have ever been put into book form. These books are, "A Kansan Abroad," "Southern Letters," "Southwestern Letters," "Kansas Miscellany," and the "History of Kansas." The first four were composed of letters and articles he had written for various newspapers, the first being a fascinating series of letters from Europe written in 1877. Many other books could well be compiled of his lectures, sermons, addresses, editorials and descriptive articles. Mr. Prentis was a good listener, an omnivorous reader and great observer. He forgot nothing that he ever heard or read or saw. His memory was marvelous, but this did not prevent

the work of his pen from being at all times strikingly original. His talent for narrative was wonderful. His sense of humor was unfalling, and he was in every way a remarkable conversationalist. As an orator, although he did not attempt public speaking to a considerable extent until middle life, he was singularly powerful. No Kansan was ever more widely loved and respected and no one could have been better fitted to write the state's history.

C. S. GLEED.

JOHN JAMES INGALLS was born in Middleton, Massachusetts, December 29, 1833, and died at Las Vegas, New Mexico, on August 16, 1900. He graduated from Williams College in 1855. In 1859 he came to Kansas and settled at Sumner, a frontier town. Two years later he moved to Atchison, which place was his home for forty years. He was associated with all the early political struggles of the State. For eighteen years, from 1873 to 1891, he represented Kansas in the United States Senate, serving that body in its most responsible requirements. In the absence of a Vice-President he was made President of the Senate where he distinguished himself as one of the most capable presiding officers the body has ever known. The last ten years of his life were spent in comparative retirement. But during the period of home building in Kansas, the period of Indian raid and grasshopper invasion, the time of marvelous growth and collapsing boom, John James Ingalls stood always a graceful figure at Washington defending his State before the nation. Oratory was his weapon, and he was a force to be reckoned with in every contest in Congress, a power to be feared in every word-battle.

Ex-Governor L. D. LEWELLING died suddenly at Arkansas City on September 3, 1900. He was a man of fine personal qualities and of uprightness of character. He was a native of Iowa. His death was mourned by a wide circle of friends and business and political associates. He was elected Governor in 1892 and served two years.

MOTHER BICKERDYKE.—Among the men and women who have brought honor to the State is Mary A. Bickerdyke, better known as "Mother" Bickerdyke, who died at Bunker Hill, Kansas, November 8, 1901. In the beginning of the great rebellion she was one of the first to comprehend that "war means sickness." For four years, first without orders, and later under commission, she cared for thousands of the brave boys in blue. After the war Mother Bickerdyke helped to settle Kansas with ex-soldiers of the Union Army and their families. At the age of 70 Congress grudgingly gave her a pension of \$25 per month. The Mother Bickerdyke Home for soldiers' widows is a beautiful monument to this great souled woman.

**SAMUEL A. KINGMAN.**—Of the men who laid the foundation stones, and erected the superstructure of Kansas, none deserves more from posterity than Samuel A. Kingman, who lived to see the practical and beneficial results of those early efforts. At the time of the Wyandotte convention, Judge Kingman was at the very fullness of life, having been born June 26, 1818, at Worthington, Mass. At the age of 18, he started westward, stopping in Kentucky, where he studied law, served as a member of the legislature and as prosecuting attorney, and finally reached Kansas in the year 1857, locating at Hiawatha. He called that place his home until 1872, when he moved his family to the capital city, where most of his life in the State was spent. Judge Kingman was of the very beginning of Kansas, serving as associate justice of the supreme court from 1861 to 1865, and as chief justice from 1867 to 1876, when ill health caused him to resign. He died September 9, 1901.

**REV. CARL A. SWENSSON, PH. D.**,—president of Bethany College, Lindsborg, McPherson county, died at Los Angeles, Cal., February 16, 1901. He was buried at Lindsborg, Tuesday, February 23. Doctor Swensson's efforts brought Bethany College to a high rank among the institutions of its kind in the United States. King Oscar of Sweden was so impressed by Doctor Swensson's work for Swedes in America that he conferred upon him the Order of the North Star. This carries with it Swedish knighthood.