

Bypaths of Kansas History

WESTERN KANSAS REPORTS ON AN INDIANA EDITORIAL EXCURSION
IN 1879

From the *Lakin Eagle*, August 22, 1879.

What queer ideas eastern people have of things in general out west. The editorial excursion that halted at Dodge yesterday, were wonderfully inquisitive when they beheld a large ox train standing near the depot ready for their trip south. The greatest curiosity was manifested by these people from the east. While some were endeavoring to ascertain the number of oxen hitched to one wagon and began counting the animals up one side and down the other others were speculating how it was possible to get the yoke on these cattle with such extended horns, but when told that they had been yoked when quite young, they appeared perfectly satisfied, and were quite certain it was next to improbability to place yokes on oxen with horns six feet from tip to tip. Another was closely scrutinizing the wheels of the wagon, making measurements of the fore wheels and comparing the measurement with the hind wheels, which he found were considerable the largest. Just what particular ideas run through his mind we are unable to guess—unless it was how those small wheels could keep out of the way of the larger ones. Still another picked up one of the drivers long whips, and as he had had early training in driving his father's oxen while turning over the virgin soil of Indiana, he of course could not resist the temptation of giving an exhibition of his skill in handling a bull whip.

The first sweep he made raked three bonnets and two plug hats besides twisting the lash around his own neck several times, which came very near choking him to death—he lost no time in extracting himself and getting to the car, where, no doubt, he was severely censured by the ladies and gentlemen for his actions.—*Ford County Globe*.

Yes, what funny nonsensical ideas Easternites do have of "out-west."

While stopping at Lakin for dinner, some surmised perhaps that even victuals were furnished free, and they ate accordingly; and after the conductor having waited twenty-five minutes longer than the usual time, halloosed "all aboard," a burly Hoosierite, who, from his outward appearance had already taken down an over-sufficiency, remarked:

"Say conductor, it was agreed that we have plenty of time to get our meals, and I ain't fairly commenced yet!"

Another who saw a slow move of the train which was pulling ahead to get more water no doubt to quench the thirst of the weary traveler on his farther sojourn, was about to yell, "hold on!" when his immense understanding covered by a pair of box-toe styled number twelves, struck a clod of ye hard "virgin soil," plunging his helpless remains head-long into a pool of mud, not more than fifteen feet distant from him, terribly dilapidating a fine plug hat, and shamefully plastering his uncommonly huge proboscis.

The third sincerely wanted to know whether it was not "lonesome" out

here? How could it be when we are almost constantly entertained by similar preliminaries as the above?

Notwithstanding "all in all," we were led to believe that the growing and yet forthcoming "Hoosier Press" will be vastly appreciated, as we noticed some very handsome and intelligent looking young lady typographers in the "out-fit," and to those who took occasion to grace our small sanctum we feel very thankful.

When ye take another excursion brethern, take with ye a pilot who will guide you safely through; an interpreter who can demonstrate to you fully those many encumbrances that ye are liable to encounter on such an occasion, and don't fail to bring with ye a "Baron Rothschild" with lots of ready money, for those who erred so ignominiously.

OBSERVER.

A BIBLE FOR THE STATE HOUSE

From the *Salina Evening Journal*, May 10, 1916.

MARSHAL NEEDS BIBLE

State Auditor Surprised When Hussey's Bill for Good Book Was Presented

Topeka, May 10—Of course if Lew T. Hussey, state fire marshal, wants to spend \$1.25 of the state's funds for a Bible, W. E. Davis, state auditor, probably will not turn down the voucher. But when the said voucher was presented at the auditor's office today without a word of explanation Davis' curiosity was aroused.

"Now I wonder what Hussey wants with a Bible in his office," mused Davis. "Of course, as state fire marshal he is always fighting fire. But he hasn't said anything about using the Bible in his war against fire loss."

So Davis sat down and wrote the following letter to Hussey:

"I have the voucher which you have approved for the purchase of one Bible. This item is so unusual that I believe some explanation should be requested. I am returning you the voucher and would be pleased to have you indorse thereon the purpose for which the Book is to be used in the work of your department."

While no official explanation is forthcoming from Hussey's office, it is understood that his able and resourceful assistant, Imri Zumwalt of Bonner Springs, intends to use quotations from the Bible to send out dope urging all good citizens to fight the fire loss. The voucher will probably be allowed in the long run. In fact, Davis says there are several other departments for which he would be glad to approve vouchers for the purchase of Bibles, if the heads of the departments would agree to read all the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule.