



THE establishment of the town of Hastings was an afterthought with the men who settled upon the three homesteads which formed the original parts of the town. Walter M. Micklem, Thomas Johnson and John G. Moore were members of an English colony who came to Adams county from England in May, 1871, with the purpose of engaging in farming.

It was the invasion of the second line of railroad, the St. Joe & Grand Island, that suggested to these settlers the building of a town at this place. Inland and Juniata were already established, but with the second line, which was completed in September, 1872, the few residents became convinced that the location was logical for the development of a city.

Mr. Micklem's homestead has already been described as the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 12. Chas. W. Colt, of Lowell, Neb., began surveying Mr. Micklem's homestead for a town site on October 1, 1872. Some two weeks later Micklem conveyed to Thomas E. Farrell a one-half interest in this town site for \$500.

John G. Moore settled upon the homestead adjoining Micklem's on the west. Moore's addition was platted by N. P. Cook in November, 1872. Thomas Johnson's homestead adjoined Micklem's on the east and was platted as an addition to the town in March, 1873.

Of the first five merchants, four still reside in Hastings and three are actively engaged in business. Samuel Alexander came to Hastings on April 22, 1872, and on July 18 opened the first business house with a general stock of merchandise. C. C. Ingalls and F. J. Benedict shortly afterwards established a lumber and implement business, and next came George H. Pratt and C. K. Lawson, who opened a general store in August.

Mr. Alexander came from Lincoln and hauled his goods from Inland, which was then the western terminus of the Burlington railroad. His store room, which was the first one built on the original town site, was on First street, facing south, between Hastings and Lincoln avenues. On December 1 Mr. Alexander formed a partnership with A. W. Wheeler and erected

a building on the northwest corner of Second street and Hastings avenue.

The Ingalls & Benedict lumber and implement business was established on the north side of First street, between Hastings and Lincoln avenues. The store room built by this firm was occupied by Pratt & Lawson until the completion of the latter's building, east of the Arvanette block, about November 1.

Mr. Alexander and Mr. Pratt are now engaged in the real estate business, Mr. Benedict is retired, and Mr. Lawson is at the head of the Lawson Hardware Company.

E. Steineau opened a clothing and dry goods store on the north side of First street, between Hastings and Denver avenues, in October, 1873.

The first drug store in the city was opened March 24, 1873, by A. Andrus, at the intersection of Second street and Hastings avenue.

W. H. Stock opened the first meat market about January 1, 1873, and was soon followed by Fred Blake in the same line of business.

The firm of Abbott, Batty & Dow began the practice of law on June 2, 1873.

Two of the three men who presided at a meeting called for the purpose of planning the first Fourth of July celebration in Hastings, are still residents of the town. A mass meeting was held on June 17, 1873. It was called to order by R. V. Shockey, as temporary chairman, who was succeeded by T. E. Farrell, as permanent presiding officer. W. F. J. Comley was elected secretary. On motion of M. K. Lewis it was decided to celebrate the Fourth.

In an enthusiastic and perhaps somewhat exaggerated ac-



Nebraska Hospital for Insane.

count of the celebration the Journal declared that fully 1,500 persons participated. Capt. A. D. Yceum led the procession. Divine blessing was invoked by Rev. I. D. Newell and next in order on the program was the reading of the Declaration of Independence by W. A. Smith. In the afternoon W. L. Smith spoke on the subject, "Hastings the Future Metropolis of Nebraska." R. V. Shockey had for his text, "The Ladies of Nebraska, Their Mission and Merits." Other speakers at this memorable celebration were J. M. Abbott, R. A. Batty, M. K. Lewis and A. D. Rust.

The pioneer newspaper in Hastings was the Journal, established by A. L. Wigton and M. K. Lewis. They opened an office on the south side of Second street next to Hastings avenue, and issued their first paper on May 24, 1873. The publication of the initial number of the Journal was an important event and because of the great demand for the first copy which came from the press, it was decided to sell it at auction. S. S. Dow was the lucky bidder, who gave \$10.50 for the first newspaper published in Hastings.

Others were sold in a similar way and it is recorded that the eighteenth copy brought the sum of \$1. Fifty more were sold before the normal price was reached. The Journal was a seven column paper, one-half home print. The first issue contained the advertisements of S. S. Dow, land agent; Geo. W. Dade, contractor; A. W. Cox and Bro., lumber; A. Andrus, drugs; F. S. Wells, building materials; W. H. Stock, meat market; J. H. Ballard, lumber; Andreas Veith, furniture; C. H. Paul, shoes; Humphrey & Fouts, architects and builders; C. B. Nelson, land agent; Nelson & Binderup, real estate; Lowry & Riddle, carpenters and joiners; Thomas A. Linn & Co., builders; Ross & Miller, blacksmiths; Pratt & Lawson, general merchants; A. W. Wheeler, "Departmental Store;" E. Steinau, clothing and dry goods; B. H. Brown & Son, lumber; Moore & Donahey, law and real estate; G. W. Mowrey, painter; W. R. Linton, feed and sale stables; F. S. Wells, Inter-Ocean cottage; M. K. Lewis, land agent; S. K. Bocus, well digger; Geo. A. Mackay, nursery; Silas Crooker, boots and shoes.

The next number, issued on May 31, contained the additional advertisements of J. M. Abbott, attorney; Dr. A. D. Buckworth and J. M. Meecham, Junction House.



Drive in Heartwell Park.