

## THE NORTH-WEST TRIBUNE

Since the January number of the *Quarterly* came from the press I have "re-discovered" in the Spokane Public Library almost a complete file of *The North-West Tribune*, the second newspaper to be started in Spokane County. This file was preserved by the publishers. For several years I had searched for such a file, and had all but come to the conclusion that none was in existence. On January 31, 1925, I made an inquiry at the Spokane Public Library, and a thorough search resulted in the discovery. This file, consisting of several unbound volumes, had been lying in the basement for years, uncatalogued, and apparently only one person in the library knew of its existence.

Miss Jennie Boughton, an employee of the Spokane Public Library, is a friend of the family of George F. Schorr, who apparently was the last publisher of this newspaper. Several years ago Mr. Schorr gave this file to Miss Boughton, and she took it to the library. One volume, 1888-1889, is missing; and perhaps there is no volume in the file that is entirely complete; but from the inception of this newspaper in June, 1880, to 1891 there is a file that is very "workable." Number one of volume one is missing.

The Spokane Library will get these volumes repaired and bound, and hereafter they will be available for research to students of the history of Spokane County.

Many erroneous statements relative to this newspaper have appeared in histories of the Pacific Northwest, and I want to take this occasion to give a few dates. *The North-West Tribune* was started in Colfax on June 16, 1880, by L. E. Kellogg. It was a four-page, seven-column weekly. Concerning the first number, *The Spokane Times*, under date of June 19, 1880, said: "The first number of this new enterprise in journalism, edited and published by Lucian E. Kellogg at Colfax, comes to us a welcome acquisition to our exchange list. It is brim full of enterprising news, dignified and well written editorials, and useful general intelligence. We bespeak for it a generous share of public patronage." This was perhaps the most complimentary comment that Francis H. Cook, the editor of *The Spokane Times*, ever made on *The North-West Tribune*, for soon he and Mr. Kellogg became bitter rivals in the Spokane county-seat contest.

Cheney had been laid out as a town in Spokane County in the summer of 1880, and at once entered the race with Spokane Falls for the possession of the county seat at the general election in that year. Mr. Kellogg was induced to remove his plant from Colfax to Cheney to support Cheney's candidacy for the county seat. One may believe that not a great deal of persuasion was needed to induce Mr. Kellogg to make the change, for on October 6, as he made his final bow to Colfax, he said in an editorial: "The expenses of the *Tribune* since its establishment have far exceeded the receipts; or more plainly it has not received sufficient of support to insure its financial success. We established this paper in good faith, worked hard, tried to attain success, but steadily run behind."

Volume 1, No. 18, dated October 13, 1880, was issued in Cheney. Here *The North-West Tribune* was published for six years. Mr. Kellogg sold it on May 1, 1884, to George F. Schorr, who had recently come into Washington Territory from California. Mr. Schorr enlarged the paper, although it is questionable whether he improved it by so doing. On October 14, 1886, a few weeks before the general election which was to give to Spokane Falls the permanent possession of the county seat took place, Mr. Schorr saw the hopelessness of the situation for Cheney. In that issue he made the following announcement:

"It has been found necessary to change our base of operations. All things change, and we are compelled to change with them. After this week *The North-West Tribune* will be published from Spokane Falls, instead of Cheney. . . . We do not leave Cheney because she is too small, but we go to Spokane Falls because she is larger."

One week later, located in the little city that it had abused for so long, the *Tribune* spoke out as follows:

"This is our first issue in Spokane Falls. We will go back to our original six pages again as soon as we are settled, and will endeavor to make the *Tribune* exclusively the farmer's paper. We will endeavor to give the news of Cheney, Sprague and Spokane Falls alike without special partiality to any place. We will endeavor to have all our country correspondence renewed. We will give telegraphic news in a condensed form, supplementing with farm notes, short stories, cooking receipts, etc. Subscription will remain for the present \$2.50 per year in advance."

After its removal to Spokane Falls the *Tribune* was overshadowed by Frank Dallam's *Review*. A perusal of the columns

of the *Tribune* in the later years of the decade of the eighties leads one to the conclusion that it could not have been considered a high-class newspaper. However, it endeavored to give a resume of Inland Empire news, and it is probable that it had a considerable circulation in the communities of Eastern Washington outside Spokane Falls. I have not as yet been able to determine the year in which the publication of this newspaper was suspended.

Mr. Kellogg, the founder of *The North-West Tribune*, is now living in retirement near Wenatchee. He has had an interesting newspaper career in Eastern Washington. In 1877 he and a partner, C. B. Hopkins, started in Colfax *The Palouse Gazette*. This is said to be the first newspaper published in Eastern Washington north of the Snake river. It is now called *The Colfax Gazette*. In 1879 Mr. Kellogg withdrew from this partnership, and in the following year started a rival newspaper in Colfax. After disposing of the *Tribune* in 1884 Mr. Kellogg engaged in farming, but did not like this work. Farming never was as exciting as a county-seat fight. When the last stage of the Spokane county-seat warfare broke out in 1886 Mr. Kellogg started in Cheney another newspaper, *The Cheney Leader*. This newspaper was suspended immediately after the election in November of that year. It had lasted but three months. Mr. Kellogg afterward started in Waterville *The Big Bend Empire*. This was the first newspaper published in Douglas county. A complete sketch of the life of Mr. Kellogg, however, must be reserved for another time.

Mr. Schorr, who bought the *Tribune* in 1884, is dead. His widow is living in California.

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