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11-11-1926

It Was Noted in Holland City News, that, "Dr. Van Raalte Passed Away Fifty Years Ago."

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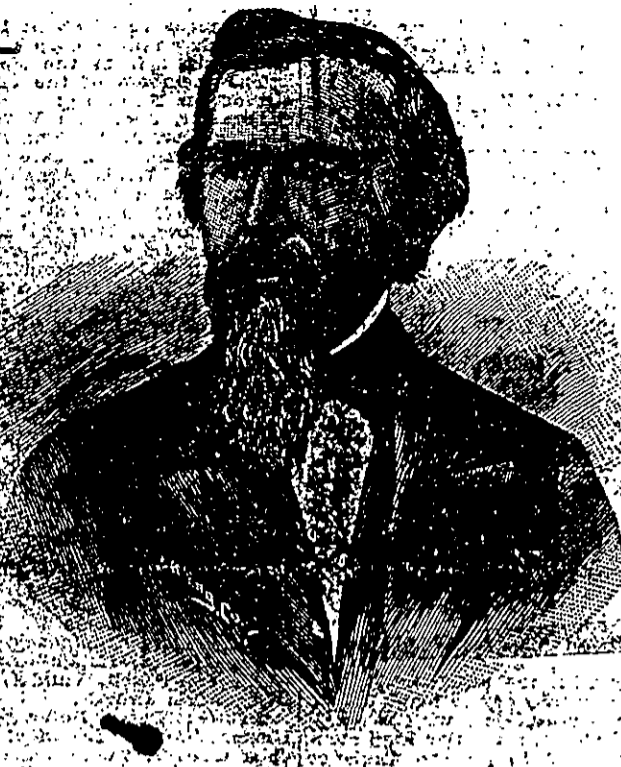
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11 November 1926

Holland, Michigan

It was noted in a local paper, name not given, that "Dr. Van Raalte Passed Away Fifty Years Ago."

Original clipping is located in the Van Raalte collection, no. 300, at Heritage Hall, Calvin College.



Wood Cut of Dr. A. C. Van Raalte "In Possession of the News For Half a Century"

Papers of Tegen
 Holland City News
 Borrowed originally to
 E. J. Hoffman of
 Overland, Mo.

Cubor
 Van Raalte
 call 300
 Nov 22

11 Nov
 1926

DR. VAN RAALTE PASSED AWAY FIFTY YEARS AGO

NEWSPAPERS AT THAT TIME
 WERE ALL IN MOURNING

Death Occurred On Election Day
 While a Bitter Political Fight
 Was Going On

The fiftieth anniversary of the death of Dr. Van Raalte, founder of Holland, passed by unnoticed. In looking up old files of Holland newspapers, printed at that time it was apparent that the death of Dominie Van Raalte, as he was then called, was a tragic affair. Holland was in the midst of a most bitter presidential campaign, as was the nation, for it was the campaign of Hayes and Wheeler and Tilden and Hendricks.

Although Holland was in the grip of this campaign, the death of Dr. Van Raalte put a stop to all activities in this vicinity. In a file copy of the Holland City News the following appears: "Every voice was hushed and every heart was saddened as by the sound of a death knell amid joy and excitement of a great festivity for Holland was taking part in one of the most exciting and perhaps the most important political contests this nation has ever witnessed."

The Holland City News, De Grondwet and De Hollander, local newspapers were issued in heavy black. All the column rules of the paper were turned bottomside up, bringing out broad black columns, significant of mourning.

The Holland City News, printed on Nov. 11, 1876, states that the day before Nov. 10 the editor had witnessed the most imposing and largest funeral that had ever taken place in this city, and that was the funeral of Dr. A. C. Van Raalte, and that the ceremonies were so extensive and elaborate that there was no time to give notice to it in that issue of November 11. Furthermore he was so overcome with grief that the writeup would have to wait until the next week.

In eulogizing Mr. Van Raalte the following week, the editor gave a history of the coming of Dr. Van Raalte, well known to local citizens today.

It appears from the eulogy that different localities were proposed to Dr. Van Raalte as a place suitable to colonize. The Dutch government offered him encouragement on the island of Java, Dutch possessions just then in the colonizing stage. "America the Land of the Free" was chosen and Holland as the central point was selected for the colonization of Michigan by the Dutch.

The editor speaks of the energy of the dory and eloquent man, and

of the leaders for evangelical Reformed in the Dutch National church, which resulted in secession. A bitter persecution of these leaders by the government followed, which practically meant the expulsion of Dr. Van Raalte from the Netherlands.

During these trying periods the editor goes on to say, Dominie Van Raalte became acquainted with a lady, Christian Johanna de Moen to whom he was united in marriage on March 15, 1836. She shared his joys and his sorrows, proving herself a noble and true helpmeet until June 30, 1871, when she went before him to her rest.

The editor of the News then goes on to enumerate the qualifications and the noble character of Dr. Van Raalte that have been told and retold from the platform and in the press at intervals since that time.

The following week the News gives a description of the funeral, stating that it was held on Friday, November 10, on a most beautiful day. It was like summer the News file copy states.

Among the distinguished guests from abroad were noticed Hon. T. W. Ferry, Vice President Protem of the United States, and his brother, Wm. M. Ferry. All business was suspended throughout the city by proclamation of Mayor John Van Landegend.

The college and public schools were closed and all public buildings were draped in mourning and many other buildings were draped in black.

Before the corpse was brought to the large First church on Ninth Street, services for relatives were held at the home. The main entrance to the church edifice was draped as were the pulpit and pulpit lamps. The article goes on further and states that the large church could not hold one-half of the people who attempted to gain an entrance.

Rev. A. Pieters and Rev. Uitwerlk were in charge of the services, Rev. Pieters preaching the funeral sermon in Dutch while Dr. Phillips, first president of Hope college, gave a eulogy in English.

The procession was then formed and a difficult task it was, under the superintendency of Ex-mayor Cappon and Alderman Kanters, and proceeded to the grave in the following order: Common Council and Town Board, Rev. R. Pieters, hearse and pallbearers on each side, carriages containing family and friends, clergymen and elders, President and Council of Hope College, Faculty of Hope College and representatives of the public schools; Justice of Peace, The Press, Students of Hope college, citizens, carriages then followed to the number of about 80.

Arriving at the grave, and after having lowered the handsome coffin into its resting place, the sad ceremony was closed with a few words by Rev. Uitwerlk in Dutch, and a prayer by Dr. Crispell in English.

Nov 11 1926

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"The application was approved by C. A. Bishop, general manager of the Associated Truck Lines, who contended that the lines which he represented gave an adequate service between the points mentioned.
 "That the Goodrich Transit company contemplates operating trucks between Holland and Grand Rapids to handle freight to and from Chicago became known at the hearing. As this would be part of an interstate shipment, no permit from the Michigan Public Utilities commission is needed, it was said."

FISH SWIMS 1,200 MILES IN THREE MONTHS' TIME

A tagged fish released off Fort Maitland, Nova Scotia, traveled nearly 1,200 miles in three months, before it was caught in the Madis River, Quebec.

**BIG ELK IS COM-
ING TO HOLLAND**

**CHARLES J. DOVEL TO SPEAK
TO HOLLAND'S
B. P. O. E.**

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, Holland Lodge of Elks will have a prominent visitor in the person of Charles J. Dovel, who represents the Grand Exalted Ruler of Elksdom.

Mr. Dovel will bring a large delegation to Holland and the officers of the local order are urging every member to be present next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Dovel has a message for the local Elks and no doubt some of our local speakers in the order will respond. There will also be a program of music followed by refreshment.

Secretary John E. Klekentrud is sending notices to every member, requesting their presence at the lodge room under the Tower clock Tuesday evening.

Two refrigerator trucks leave Hamilton each night laden with celery which reaches the Chicago early morning market. The product is of very high quality and growers of it are understood to have made large profits in recent years. They call it Hamilton Golden Brittle brand. Some of the growers were inventors of a machine for setting celery plants which is now extensively used.

**PAPER FROM THE
OLD HOME TOWN**

- Talk about your literature
- And paper up-to-date.
- About the legislature
- And doin's through the state—
- To me they ain't comparin'
- Though I look the world around
- To the little newsy paper
- From the old home town.

- There's something brewin' in the air
- The day the paper comes: Ma, she goes about her work
- And either sings or hums. But I just get so restless
- Till the postman brings it down.
- And I'm first to grab the paper.
- From the old home town.

- Ma comes in the sittin' room
- And lets the dishes go
- And listens while I read about
- The folks we used to know;
- For births and deaths and land deals
- And weddin's too, abound
- All are mighty interestin'
- From the old home town.

- I know it ain't so classical
- As these big dailies are
- That tell about prize fights
- And later movie stars
- But just for my enjoyment
- There's nothin' I have found
- Like the little newsy paper
- From the old home town
- —Publisher's Auxiliary



Wood Cut of Dr. A. C. Van Raalte, In Possession of the News For Half a Century

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FIFTY YEARS AGO**

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land Rod and Gun club to stock the fields in this vicinity with game—

These birds, released March 27, 1896, on the Henry Harrington farm at Haurton, north of Holland, were actually English ring-neck pheasants, and, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, were the first of any variety of pheasant to be liberated in Michigan.

How did it come about? My father was a sportsman in the true sense of the word. His talks to my brother and myself on "obedience to game and fish laws, self-imposed bag limits, etc.," were to the point. He also maintained that one should put back into any activity in which he is engaged more than he takes out of it. So much for parental teaching and an inherited love for the great outdoors!

To Replacc Quail
 A serious illness bringing to me doctor's orders to remain in the open air or go to happier "hunting grounds," for two years all the time possible was spent outside, resulting in complete restoration to health, an intensification of the inherited love of nature, a knowledge of flagrant violations of game and fish laws, and a resolution on my part to do something to alter conditions and increase the attractiveness of the "open places" so that those needing the "medicine" so beneficial to me would be induced to partake.

Knowing of the success attending the introduction of the Chinese pheasant into Oregon by Judge Denney in 1880, and that it was a resident of the cold portions of its native country, it occurred to me it could be successfully introduced into Michigan and in measure take the place of the quail (whose numbers were reduced more by the severe winters than by the gun), and also relieve the pressure on the vanishing ruffed grouse or partridge. In this much encouragement was given me by Emerson Hough (author of "The Covered Wagon" and other works, then western representative of "Forest and Stream") in a conference held with him in Chicago.

Then there was another reason for the introduction of this bird: realizing that there is no interest much stronger than the financial, it seemed to me that if the sportsmen of Holland could be induced to participate in the expense of securing the initial stock and of thereafter rearing the birds for liberation, they would naturally take action looking toward their protection and incidentally that of other game.

After arranging for the passage of a law protecting the birds when released, a meeting was held May 1, 1893, in the office of Squire Fairbanks at which final plans were laid and subscriptions paid. Both the Mongolian and the English ringneck were ordered from a New Jersey game farm, but only the latter were delivered in Holland, August 4, 1893, and were placed in quarters previously prepared at my residence.

As anticipated, interest in the project was widespread, and through newspaper publicity in the form of news items, editorials, and contributed articles, interest in fish and other game protection was also awakened.

The time being deemed ripe, January 13, 1894, the Holland Rod and Gun club was formed with the writer as secretary-treasurer. What that organization accomplished is a matter of Holland history. Suffice it to say that finally a reward of \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a violator of the game or fish laws was unclaimed. At one time some of the local people resented, out kearning funds for fish protection from Grand Rapids people having cottages on Macatawa bays, but opposition subsided when we secured passage of a law prohibiting the shooting of ducks from power boats. That law covered only Macatawa Bay (or Black Lake as it was then generally called) and it is my recollection it was the first law of its kind enacted in Michigan, though now quite generally in effect in the United States.

To return to the pheasant, about 25 were brought to maturity in 1894, but it was decided to release none until the following year. Those turned out in the spring have bred. Three young from appearing in the Holland City

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