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Henry D. Post Published a Column in the Holland City News About the Impact That Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte Made on the Holland Community

Henry D. Post

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1 August 1896

Holland, Michigan

On this date, Henry D. Post published a column in the *Holland City News* about the impact that Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte made on the Holland community. Post had met Van Raalte in 1847. He went on to say that “after listening to his [Van Raalte’s] glowing prophesies of the future city of the eastern shore, based upon his keen judgment of its great advantages of position and future resources, I caught the infection of his enthusiasm, and when he asked me to come and help lay the foundations of the future commonwealth, I enlisted with him, heart and hand, in the service.

We are only beginning to realize what Van Raalte saw with the eye of faith, near[ly] fifty years ago. Would he were here to see the fruit of his labors at the fiftieth anniversary!”

Original in the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College.

And if the members of our board of public works are to be contractors on the construction of their own work, there may be a shadow of influence in favor of a good fat job.

My opinion is, that a competent and disinterested engineer, could devise plans for a system of drainage covering our whole city, as fast as needed, without requiring an outlay of more than \$10,000 to \$12,000 for two or three years to come.

Let the discussion continue; if it should give us the best methods for the money expended, it will be time well spent.

Your readers may pertinently ask why a private citizen should trouble himself so much about the affairs of our city, so well provided with officials whose business it is to attend to them.

May I tell them why I feel so much interest in the city of Holland?

In the year 1817 my first visit of curiosity was made to the new colony at Black Lake; on my return from there, never expecting to see the place again, much less of making the camping ground of the Dutch settlers at the head of Black Lake my home, and the field of my life labor, I casually met Van Raalte and was introduced to him by a friend. Very naturally, my recent visit to the colony was mentioned, and the project became the subject of our conversation. After listening to his glowing prophesies of the future city of the eastern shore, based upon his keen judgment of its great advantages of position and future resources, I caught the infection of his enthusiasm, and when he asked me to come and help lay the foundations of the future commonwealth, I assented with him, heart and hand, in the service.

We are only beginning to realize what Van Raalte saw with the eye of faith, near fifty years ago. Would he were here to see the fruit of his labors at the fiftieth anniversary!

In looking back over our work, I can see few mistakes; with us, our beautiful lake harbor was one of the tenderest and most important interests. If our successors will build as well as the foundations were laid, Holland must become the Queen City of Western Michigan. Already our neighbor city eastward sees what is coming, and is making frantic efforts to get somebody else to bring Lake Michigan to her doors, to maintain her prestige, while the level heads and the willing hands of many of her people are quietly moving their homes to Holland by the Lake.

Michigan in connection with Pearl, Fennville, Ganges, Douglas, Saugauck, Glenn, South Haven, Holland, Hudsonville, Grand Rapids, and Monerey. The business men of Allegan subscribed liberally towards the enterprise.

The veterans of the 9th Mich. Inf. will hold their twenty-third annual reunion at Otsego, Aug. 26.

Senator Burrows spoke in Otsego Thursday afternoon, in the grove at Island park.

At a meeting of the directors of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co., in assessment of two and one half mills per cent was ordered.

Fennville.

Fifty of the leading fruit growers of this belt have signed and forwarded to Prosecutor Attorney Fish a demand that the law requiring fruit packages to be marked, showing the capacity of the packages, be vigorously enforced. The prosecutor has therefore notified all the local dealers that, while the present law stands, violators of its provisions will have to take their chances of its prosecution for every offense.

Fennville is now looking forward to an electric light plant and Ira Hutchinson is figuring to pull it in. He has nearly enough lumps engaged to make a certainty of its success and as soon as 250 lamps are taken he will get to work on the plant.

Hamilton.

Prosecuting Attorney Fish spoke on local option, in the Presbyterian church, Sunday evening.

There are plenty of whortleberries in the marshes around this village, but for every ten or fifteen berries there are at least three pickers. We mention this to stop the tide of useless emigration.

Black bass fishing in the Rabbit river at this place, is excellent just now. It isn't much of a catch if our anglers don't come home with a dozen or more good sized fish in one afternoon.

The enormous crop of water and musk melons raised in these parts this year, will probably net the grower about one cent apiece. The recent rains, just in time, is the cause of the big yield, and never before in the history of the state has there been such a yield of grapes as will be harvested this fall in this region.—News.

Zeeland.

The delegates to the Republican county convention, upon their return home Monday evening, met with a most hearty welcome at the depot, in recognition of their untiring efforts and glorious success.

The announcement in a local paper that one of our young ladies would "suspend herself," created quite a stir until it was ascertained what the editor's meaning really was.

Pitcher's Castoria.
Children Cry for

Excursion
The O. & W. M. R'y
at usual low rates on
train leaving Holland
rate 50 cents. Return
Grand Rapids at 6:30 a
GEO. DELIAV

\$4.00
Potoskey
Excursion
via
O. & W. M. R'y
Sept. 1st, 1896.
Tickets
Good 10 days.
\$5.00 from all stations
of and including Bent-
\$1.50 from stations bet
Caloma and Bravo and
\$4.00 from stations north
Fennville.
DON'T MISS THIS.
Chance to visit
the north country.
GEO. DELIAV

Mortgage

DEFAULT HAVING BEEN
condition of payment
made and executed by Mr.
George W. Caswell, of the
county of Ottawa and state
of the first part, to Jacob V.
city of Grand Rapids, county
of Michigan, party of the
on the 25th day of January,
recorded in the office of the
Ottawa county, Michigan, on
February, A. D. 1897, in lib-
on Page 169; on which
is claimed to be due at the
time the sum of One Hundred
and Fifty Cents, besides an a-
teen Dollars, provided for
and proceedings having
law or in equity to recover the
said mortgage, or any part of
Notice is therefore hereby
of the power of sale
contained, and the statute in
and provided, said mortgage
sale at public vendue of the m-
or so much thereof as may be
the amount due on said
interest and costs of foreclose-
cluding an attorney fee of Fi-
sale to take place at the
the Ottawa County Court Room
Grand Haven, Ottawa Count-
being the place where the ob-
county of Ottawa is holden o-
Monday, the Twelfth day of
at 10 o'clock in the forenoon
said mortgaged premises to be
scribed in said mortgage a-
piece or parcel of land situa-
ship of Holland, County of Ot-
Michigan, known and desc-
The south half of the north
west quarter of section num-
township numbered Ave (5) p-
teen (16) west, containing ac-
States survey, forty (40) acres
ss.
Dated Holland, July 16th,
JACOB VAN DER
G. J. DINKWA, Attorney for
21-127

HCV
8/8/1896

Holland, Mich

FOR THE HOLLAND CITY NEWS.

The Sewerage Question.

MR. Editor: The discussion of this question in the papers, and at the public meeting, is waking our people up to the necessity of being careful to avoid making great mistakes in a matter of such vital importance to our future welfare.

In a matter of such moment, we should avoid hasty conclusions from superficial observation. We sometimes express an off hand opinion about matters regarding which we feel no personal responsibility.

In the course of the discussion at the meeting, it is said that a gentleman thought if the people of West Troy could run their sewage into the Hudson, there could be no harm in outletting ours as proposed, into our lake; perhaps not thinking at the moment that the flow of the river Hudson, draining a large part of the state of New York, sweeps an immense volume of water past Albany down to the sea, constantly. We have no river Hudson here.

Another gentleman, who has traveled abroad, thought that if great Amsterdam could empty its sewage into canals at its doors, there would be no danger in letting ours run into Black Lake in the manner Mr. Alford suggests. Though not so fortunate as to have seen Amsterdam, I have learned enough about that great city to see some important points of difference in the situation there, and here. Amsterdam is a seaport, connected with the North Sea by two great ship canals, as well as with the Zuider Zee. By the shortest of these canals, it is fifteen miles from the North Sea, where the tide rises from four to six feet. We have no tide at Holland. As long ago as 1830, in spite of the advantage of the ebb and flow of tide to change the canal waters, it had "the disadvantage of an offensive mephitic smell, which often rises, in summer from the canals."

The comparison of the situation at Muskegon with ours, is not just, for the reason that there is the constant flow of one of the largest rivers in our state, compared with which our Black River cannot be mentioned; and here too opinions differ, and a gentleman well-acquainted there, says that the water in the vicinity of the sewer outlet, smells very much like that near the outlet of Tannery creek into our lake when the boats stir it up.

The situation most like ours, in all the mention made of other sewer outlets, is that of Jamaica Bay, L. I. and we have the testimony of Prof. Bergson, that the emptying of sewage into the bay there, has become an offensive nuisance.

Mr. Alford's explanation of the perfect decomposition of sewage by the thirty-to-one process, must be taken with due allowance. In considering his plans, while we raise no question of his great ability and high character as a sanitary engineer, we must remember, that like any other engineer proposing work, his interest lies in extensive and expensive plans, as the larger the project, the more credit to the engineer, and the more expensive, the more profit to him.

And if the members of our board of public works are to be contractors on the construction of their own work, there may be a shadow of influence in favor of a good fat job.

My opinion is, that a competent and disinterested engineer, could devise plans for a system of drainage covering our whole city, as fast as needed, and the decomposition method.

Nothing can check our continuous growth and prosperity, unless, through mismanagement of our own municipal affairs. Wasteful and reckless expenditures, bringing debt, and excessive taxation, would do our city more injury than all the efforts of outside enemies.

Henry D. Post.

OUR NEIGHBORS.

Grand Haven.

The Silver Cornet Band contemplates an excursion to Macatawa Park.

In thick weather the members of the life-saving crew are a great help to in-coming ships, by standing on the north pier hallooing and directing them in.

The Atlas warehouse is being converted into a neat and commodious structure.

At Chicago the old and well-known schooner Tempest, which had been dismantled and allowed to remain idle for a period of ten years or more, was towed out into the lake and sunk.

The Grand Rapids bicycle path committee were in the city, having come down over the proposed path. They found everything very fine, except that portion of the road from Nunl to Spring Lake, which will cost several hundred dollars per mile to put in shape.

The Second Ref. church Sunday-school picniced at Fruitport Thursday.

Saugatuck.

The boat lines between this port and Chicago have cut the freight on fifth baskets to 24 cents, half bushels to 5 cents, and bushels to 10 cents. They were obliged to make the cut in order to compete with the Holland lines.

Many thousands of bushels of early peaches have been destroyed by rotting during the last few days. In fact the crop of early fruit is a failure. The great amount of rain, followed by sultry and extremely hot weather has been the cause. The loss, if any, to the grower, will be made up by increase of prices from now on, as the scarcity of fruit will give the commission merchants a chance to clear up the market.—Douglas Record.

Allegan County.

The third annual reunion of company "L," 4th Mich. Cav., will be held at the home of Gen. B. D. Pritchard, Allegan, Wednesday afternoon, August 10.

The new waterworks at Plainwell have been tested and proved highly successful. Four lines of hose were laid and water was thrown nearly twice as far as it could be formerly.

The recent storm caused considerable damage at the county farm. The cupola on the large barn was blown off; part of the roof of the long stock shed was torn off, and standing crops and fruit trees suffered severely.

The new telephone line between Allegan and the Lake Shore is assured, and surveyors are at work setting stakes for the poles. The material has also been ordered and the work will be pushed forward as fast as possible. When the line is completed it will put Allegan in connection with Pearl, Fennville, Ganges, Douglas, Saugatuck, Glenn, South Haven, Holland, Hudsonville, Grand Rapids, and Monerey. The business men of Allegan subscribed liberally towards the enterprise.

The veterans of the 6th Mich. Inf. will hold their twenty-third annual

C. & W. M. RY ANNUAL POTOSKEY EXCURSION

Tuesday, September 1st, the C. & W. M. Ry will run the annual low rate excursion to Traverse City and Potoskey. These excursions are so well known that an extended description is unnecessary. It is sufficient to say that they afford an opportunity for many who cannot otherwise do so to visit the northern resorts at small expense.

Trains will leave Holland at 10:50 a. m., and arrive at Potoskey at 8:10 p. m., stopping at Traverse City and stations north to let off passengers. Rate for tickets good to return on any regular train until September 10th, inclusive, will be \$5.00 from stations South of Benton Harbor; \$4.40 from stations between Benton Harbor and Bravo; and \$4.00 from all other stations.

Full particulars may be had upon application to C. & W. M. Ry. Agents or GEO. DEHAVEN, G. P. A., 28-3w.

Which will Win—McKinley or Bryan!

That's the question of to-day. But do you know that Lokker & Rutgers are selling \$1.25 Slippers for 40 cents?

Their line of Summer Clothing and Furnishing Goods is the best and most complete in the city.

Lokker & Rutgers are leaders; others follow.

Columbia Block, Eighth street, Holland. 28-8w

We aim to dispense the finest Soda in the city. Bangs sells Drugs. Next door to Hosman Bros. 28-6f

Get on to the Prices.

- 4lbs Beefsteak.....25c
- 4 lbs Porksteak.....25c
- Roasts, per pound.....3 and 5 cts
- Bolling Meat, per pound...3 and 5c
- Steaks.....8c
- Lard.....6c
- Ham.....61c
- Salt Pork.....41c
- Boneless Ham.....10c
- Dried Beef.....10c

We are the people that will save you money.

F. J. KURTZ, River street.

Our Jeweler Stevenson has just laid in a large and varied assortment of Leather Belts, Bicycle Belts, fine Pocket Books, Gold, Silver and Aluminum Buckles, Blouse Sets, Belt Pins etc. Our lady friends would do well to examine his stock before buying.

SUNDAY EXCURSIONS,

AUGUST 9th, MUSKEGON, SYLVAN BEACH, OCEANA BEACH.

The C. & W. M. Ry will run an excursion train to Pentwater on above date and sell tickets at very low rates to Muskegon, Whitehall and Pentwater.

Train will leave Holland at 9:10 a. m., and leave Pentwater at 6:00 p. m. Rate \$1.00. Whitehall 7.00 p. m. rate 75 cents. Muskegon 7:45 p. m. rate 50 cents. Bicycles carried free. Steamers will meet train at Whitehall for Sylvan Beach and at Pentwater for Oceana Beach. All pleasant places to spend a Sunday.

GEO. DEHAVEN, G. P. A. 28-2w

AUGUST 9th,

EXCURSION TO GRAND RAPIDS.

The C. & W. M. Ry will sell tickets at usual low rates on above date for train leaving Holland at 9:10 a. m., rate 50 cents. Return trains leave Grand Rapids at 8:30 and 11:30 p. m. GEO. DEHAVEN, G. P. A. 28-2w

STATE OF MICHIGAN. In Probate Court for the County of Ottawa. At a session of said Court, held at Ottawa, Michigan, this 1st day of August, 1896. Present, J. O. Probate.

In the matter of the estate of James Brannan, deceased.

On reading of the will of said deceased in said estate and all the same being found to be in accordance with the law of said state, the same is hereby confirmed.

Thereupon it is ordered that

Twenty

at ten o'clock

of the hearing of

law of said deceased

in said estate of said

Probate Office

said county, and

why the prayer

granted; and

petitioner give

in said estate,

and the hearing

order to be published

a newspaper published

of Ottawa for

to said day of the

A true copy.

27-3w

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Dated July 22,

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