

GENERAL COMMITTEE

FIRST INTERNATIONAL ODD FELLOWS FIELD DAY
FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE



No. 1—E. E. SCATES, P. G., Chairman, Fort Fairfield. No. 2—
W. B. HALLETT, Ashland. No. 3—D. L. DUNCAN, P. G., Washburn.
No. 4—H. W. VARNEY, P. G., Fort Fairfield. No. 5—G. E. PITCHER,
P. G., Mars Hill. No. 6—F. E. PETERSON, N. G., Fort Fairfield. No.
7—F. P. JACQUES, P. G., Presque Isle, No. 8—E. E. TRASK, P. G.,
Caribou. No. 9—C. H. DINSMORE, P. G., Fort Fairfield. No. 10—J. G.
CHADWICK, P. G., Houlton. No. 11—A. W. Kneeland, P. G., Easton.

WELCOME TO FORT FAIRFIELD



Our brothers from all over our fair State and from the Maritime Provinces, the land where our beloved Longfellow found his Evangeline, the Odd Fellows and citizens of Fort Fairfield, Maine, extend a right royal and hearty welcome to our town. We trust that your visit to the "Garden of Maine," on the occasion of this first International Odd Fellows Field Day, will be marked with pleasure and profit to yourselves and be of great and lasting good to our noble Order. Our arms, homes and hearts are open wide to receive you. We rejoice in the knowledge that, in this its ninetieth year, our beloved Order has, in Canada as well as in America, been so signally blessed by Divine Providence.

What a change a few years have wrought in this historic town! Seventy-odd years ago we were trying to drive the Provincials from our borders. Now, under the banner of Friendship, Love and Truth, we are



MAIN STREET, FORT FAIRFIELD

our Order is represented in our town by a prosperous organization; and these organizations, together with the people of the town, who are warm-hearted and hospitable, extend to you the right hand of fellowship.

During your stay in Fort Fairfield we invite you to visit our various business institutions, and hope you will make yourselves at home wherever you may be. Whatever you desire, ask of our committee, and we shall endeavor to provide for your requirements.

We are pleased to inform you that our young and progressive town has developed quite rapidly, and is at present enjoying a period of prosperity which has attracted the attention of our State and neighboring Provinces.

Our lands are rich beyond our fondest dreams, we have a just pride in the marvelous progress our farmers have made, and we entertain the highest hopes for our future. There is not an acre of waste land in our town of more than six by twelve miles, and our lands have increased in value two hundred per cent in the last twelve or fifteen years.

It is the desire of the publishers of this Official Souvenir Book to make it as complete, interesting and instructive as possible, and we hope that the special articles contained herein, which are from the pens of some of the most gifted members of our Order, will be pleasing and acceptable to you, and that you will treasure this work as a souvenir of a most pleasant and enjoyable visit to Fort Fairfield, to which town we cordially invite you to return soon, and "bring your things and stay."

as a united family, knowing no unhappy differences. All sit together in harmony and love. The spear of the warrior is broken. The sword of the conqueror lies rusting in its scabbard; and we trust that discord and strife between these great nations will be forever unknown.

Every branch of



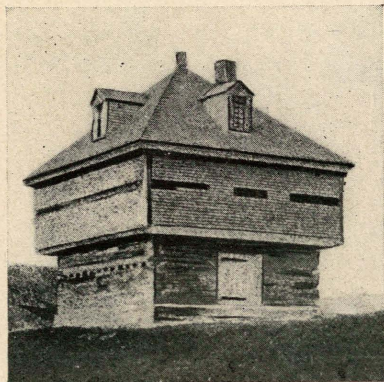
SCENE I., POTATO PLANTING---TWO-ROW MACHINE READY FOR FIFTEEN ACRES A DAY



SCENE II., POTATO DIGGING---GATHERING IN THE PRODUCT OF A HUNDRED-ACRE FIELD

A SKETCH OF FORT FAIRFIELD

BY E. E. SCATES, FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE



THE OLD FORT
Fort Fairfield, Maine.



IN preparing a sketch of this historic town, one would naturally expect the writer to go back and trace step by step the interesting events which have transpired during the more than four score years since the first settler made this his home in the trackless forest, and to show how year by year the early pioneers of the town overcame difficulties, fought a bloodless war, cleared away the forests, and laid the foundation for the future—all culminating in the present enviable conditions which we as a town today are privileged to enjoy.

Only by comparing the past with the present can one form an accurate conception of the marvelous advancement made during the interim of years.

We are unable with any degree of certainty to fix the date of the first settlement, which was probably about 1820.

In 1820 Maine became an independent State, and the question of the northeastern boundary began to be agitated. As the fact became generally known that lumber was being taken from her public lands and shipped to a foreign market, dissatisfaction increased, until the breaking out of hostilities in 1839.

The early settlers all came from homes on the St. John river, and recognized no authority except that derived from the English crown. These were really squatters and depended upon lumbering for a livelihood. At this time the only roads north of Houlton were paths marked by spotted trees.

Such were the situation and conditions when in February, 1839, Governor Fairfield sent Land Agent McIntyre with his posse of Maine militia to this place. Later more troops were sent, and a fort and barracks built. This was the beginning of the famous bloodless "Arcostook war."

One of the early incidents of this famous war was the capturing of Land Agent McIntyre, which gave rise to the parody in which occurs the oft repeated

"Run, Strickland, run; fire, Stover, fire!"
Were the last words of McIntyre."

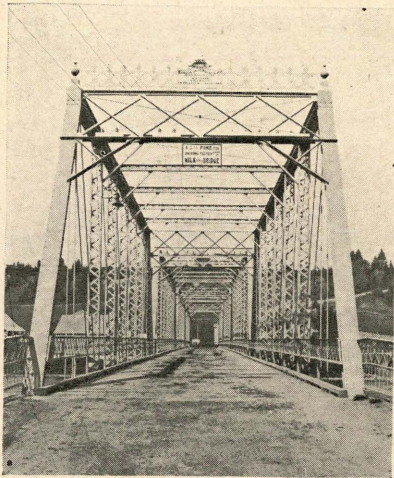
The capture of McIntyre led to a falling back, for a time, of the forces to Masardis, and Major Strickland, it is said, did not stop running until he got to Bangor. The soldiers remained on duty here until 1843 at the ratification of the Webster-Ashburton treaty.

This town when incorporated was named Fort Fairfield—in honor of Governor Fairfield.

The young men who had come for war, began to engage in the peaceful enterprise of



OFFICERS' QUARTERS DURING AROOSTOOK WAR
Fort Fairfield, Maine



AROOSTOOK RIVER BRIDGE
Fort Fairfield, Maine

securing wives and making homes, which was the first opening up of a fully established settlement. These brave men and noble women who endured the hardships and privations of this lonely military pioneer life and who laid the foundation for our beautiful, prosperous town and homes, deserve as a record of their heroic deeds a monument more enduring than the imperishable rocks of the everlasting hills.

While we contrast the valley of the Aroostook, the "Garden of Maine," with what it was sixty-odd years ago, and then look forward to the transforming power of another sixty years, we may realize something of the great value of the bright jewel saved and developed through their vigilance and energy.

Up to 1845 or 1846 Fort Fairfield had no mail facilities except those paid for by private subscription, and even after a post office had been established, there were only two mails a month. This was the condition up to 1850. Today there are received and sent out four mails each way daily, thus

keeping the place in touch with the great commercial, intellectual and social centers of the world. Besides this service there is the Rural Free Delivery, which delivers the mail daily at the door of every farmer.

Instead of requiring a ten days' trip to Bangor, supplies can now be brought from there in as many hours.

Out of the past unrest, uncertainty, toil and privation, has emerged a beautiful picturesque modern town of five thousand people. The hustling village is prettily located on the banks of the Aroostook river. The forty or more well stocked stores will compare favorably, as regards quantity and quality of goods carried and the way in which they are displayed, with the stores of any town in New England. There are two banking institutions, a national bank and a trust company, with deposits aggregating six hundred thousand dollars; two hotels; four livery stables; eight blacksmith shops, including the biggest and best shop in Maine; ten starch-factories, more than any other town in the world; saw mills, wood-working mills, machine shops, and in fact all the usual industries found in any enterprising town.

In 1850 there was but one school in the town and that in a little old log hut on Fort Hill. Today there are in the village a magnificent High School building and two fine graded-school buildings. In the rural districts there are twenty schools. In these various buildings 1,500 scholars are trained for future citizenship and usefulness.

There are eight fine edifices for religious worship, besides the Friends meeting-house, a few miles out of the village.

There are five halls for the accommodation of the public, besides the Odd Fellows, Masonic and Knights of Pythias halls for their own respective societies. There are also



MAIN STREET, FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE



P. H. REED'S RESIDENCE, FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE

several other secret orders here, so there ought to be found a society home for every one. These, together with two lodges of the Patrons of Husbandry, one in the village and the other three miles out in the country, and the W. C. T. U. and the Philomathian Literary Club, are each fulfilling their respective missions.

So this town, with the legal, medical and theological professions well filled, with the town practically free from debt, with a good system of water works, and one of the best electric-lighting plants in the State, which supplies the electric fluid to most of the principal towns of the county, is one of the up-to-date places of the famous Aroostook valley, in fact one of the best as a residential town.

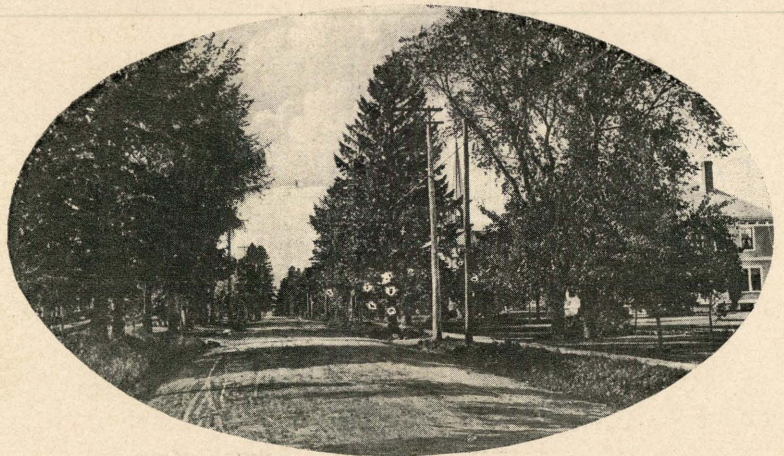
The REVIEW, a bright weekly 12-page newspaper, which has much the largest circulation of any paper north of the Maine cities, and is owned and edited by C. C. Harvey, reflects the passing show, and is a pride to the community. The beauty, style and workmanship of this Souvenir Book speak in stronger terms than we can of the superior work of the REVIEW'S job-printing department.

Fort Fairfield is one of the largest towns in the State, being in theory six miles wide by twelve long, and in reality considerably overrunning these limits. It is the finest farming town in New England and the greatest potato-raising town in all the world. No one was ever heard to claim that any potatoes grown anywhere are superior to those grown in Fort Fairfield. It has also the best herd of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle in New England, and is famous for its horses. Stallions with records from 2:04 3-4 to 2:20 are common here, while our farmers think nothing of paying from seven hundred to one thousand dollars for a span of work horses.

Fort Fairfield is the only town in the State without an acre of waste land. P. H. Reed in 1892 raised on one acre 745 bushels and 46 pounds of potatoes, all quantities measured, witnessed and sworn to, the greatest yield ever produced in America east of Colorado. The first starch-factory in the county was located here in 1875.

The work on our farms, from the turning of the sod in the spring to the harvesting of the crops in the fall, is done almost exclusively by machinery, only the latest and most approved makes being employed.

While potatoes stand at the head, and will continue to do so as long as Aroostook tubers maintain their high standard of excellence, wheat is also receiving marked attention. Fine crops of this cereal, both in



HIGH STREET, FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE

quality and quantity are being raised. Fort Fairfield has one of the finest wheat roller mills in the county, the S. Nightingale mill, the first mill of the kind in the State. Oats are always a staple crop, buckwheat and other cereals of course receive a share of attention. The hay crop is assuming large proportions.

Farms that twenty-five years ago were worth only two thousand dollars, are today being sold for twenty and twenty-five thousand dollars. The soil is free from stones and easily cultivated,

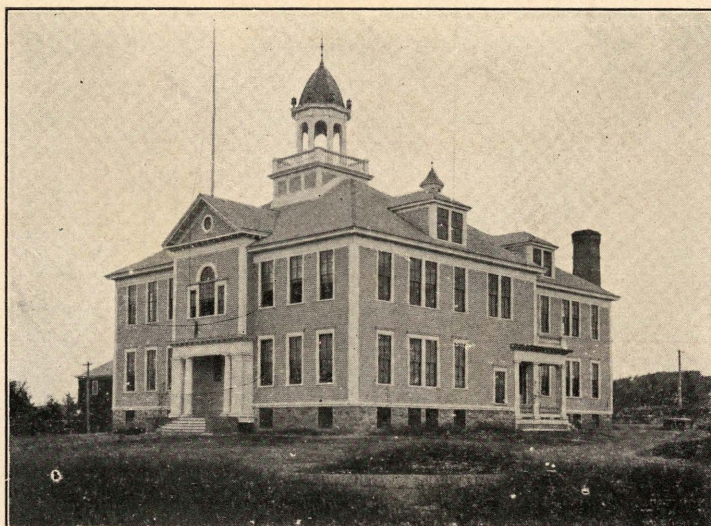
crops of potatoes remove. Each successive crop of potatoes seems to be larger than the preceding. The area planted to potatoes by a well regulated farmer in Fort Fairfield is from twenty to seventy-five acres, with an average of about one hundred barrels an acre and an average price of about \$1.50 a barrel.

The two railways—the Canadian Pacific and Bangor & Aroostook—are being taxed to their full capacity to transport the products of these farms. Over sixteen thousand full carloads of the products of our farms are shipped from Fort Fairfield yearly. This year the shipments will be very much larger, for the potato crop is about 50 per cent greater.

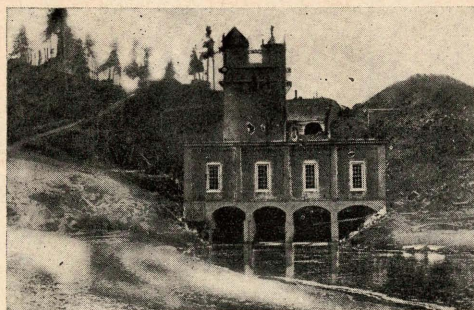
This increase in production is giving the farmer greater profits, and as a result he is erecting larger and better buildings, with pleasanter surroundings. These well furnished, beautifully located, delightful homes form a grand panorama upon every hillside and along every

valley, and make it all that the words imply—“The Garden of Maine.” One may trace the world over without finding such returns for the money invested as can be secured from our Aroostook farms—farms whose soil has merely to be tickled to make it laugh.

There is much more that would be of interest to the readers of this sketch, but which, for lack of space, the writer is obliged to omit. In conclusion we would say, that, to the wide-awake hustler desirous of making farming a business, or to the investor of capital, we know of no town offering more liberal and flattering inducements than does Fort Fairfield.



FORT FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING



ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE AT AROOSTOOK FALLS

and is remarkably strong and productive, but recent developments have proved that fertilizers can be used with very profitable results, particularly to the potato crop. These fertilizers supply to the soil the properties which successive

THE EARLY HISTORY OF ODD FELLOWSHIP IN AROOSTOOK

BY REV. GEORGE M. PARK, P. G., PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE

UNTIL the year 1880 Odd Fellowship, although in the older parts of the State and in nearly every part of the nation and in many parts of the world well known as a growing and prosperous institution among fraternal societies, in Aroostook as an organization was new and untried.

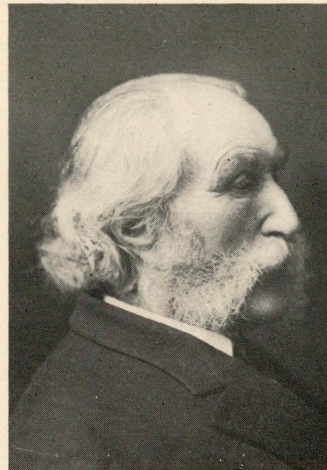
Here and there were to be found, scattered and isolated from each other, members of this Order, who had left their home lodges and come to this country to become a part of its young and growing life.

Such was the condition of the Order when in the winter of 1881, two Odd Fellows met for the first time in the old Union church in Fort Fairfield. One of the two had just moved into Fort Fairfield from Dexter, Maine, to engage in business; this was J. A. Bridges. The other was Rev. Geo. M. Park, who came from the city of Manchester, N. H., to take the pastorates of the Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle and Easton Free Baptist churches.

These two met in the same church as members, one a member of the choir and the other as pastor. They became friends, and soon, by ways they have, discovered that they were brothers, members of the same fraternal Order, I. O. O. F. As they missed the associations they had enjoyed and the meetings they had been accustomed to attend, they

father, became deeply interested in the movement and proved of great assistance in starting the work of the Order in the county.

In the early part of the winter 1881, an application signed by Rev. Geo. M. Park of Presque Isle, J. A. Bridges of Fort Fairfield, Freeland Jones, E. W. Lowney and F. A. Buzzell of Caribou, was sent to the Grand Lodge of Maine to grant a dispensation and institute a lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Fort Fairfield. Favorable action being taken upon the application, the following officers of the Grand Lodge, Deputy Grand Master Byron Kimball, Grand Secretary Joshua Davis, Grand Warden Owen W. Bridges, Grand Marshal J. F. Clark, came to Fort Fairfield February 22, 1881, and instituted Pioneer Lodge, No. 77, the above named brothers being the charter members. Immediately upon the institution of the lodge the following were elected to membership and duly



REV. GEORGE M. PARK
Father of Aroostook Odd Fellowship

initiated: Frank P. Grant, W. R. Grant, Sylvester M. Grant, Joseph C. Lunt, A. O. French, Nelson Gilbert, H. D. Mills, H. N. Goodhue, Dr. A. G. Young, C. D. Cutts, E. C. Powers, and N. H. Martin, constituting the original membership of Pioneer Lodge. Besides the above named, W. D. Shaw, Samuel Lane, W. C. Donnell, Dr. C. L. Robinson, S. A. Gray, C. C. West of Houlton, were also elected and initiated, and given withdrawal cards for the purpose of instituting a lodge in that town.

The following officers were then elected and installed for Pioneer Lodge for the ensuing year: Noble Grand, Rev. Geo. M. Park; Vice Grand, J. A. Bridges; Secretary, N. H. Martin; Treasurer, J. C. Lunt; Warden, H. N. Goodhue; Conductor, C. D. Cutts; Inside Guardian, H. D. Mills; R. S. N. G., S. M. Grant; L. S. N. G., F. A. Buzzell; R. S. S., F. P. Grant; L. S. S., E. C. Powers; Chaplain, W. R. Grant; R. S. V. G., A. O. French; L. S. V. G., N. Gilbert. Rev. G. M. Park was appointed District Deputy. The work of the night was not completed till between three and four o'clock the next morning.

The representatives of the Grand Lodge accompanied by Rev. Geo. M. Park as Chaplain, went to Houlton the next day, and in the evening instituted Rockabema Lodge, No. 78. Judge F. A. Powers was elected and installed as first Noble Grand of Rockabema Lodge, and was afterward appointed District Deputy from the southern district of Aroostook.

Pioneer Lodge proved to have in it some very excellent members, and although the work then was poorly and imperfectly done, if compared with the work as now done, and notwithstanding the place of meeting was not then as attractive as are the halls of today, yet Pioneer Lodge grew and was so successful in its increase in membership that it became a good leader for the future growth of the Order in central Aroostook.

Such was the growth and influence of Pioneer Lodge that the following winter two more applications were sent to the Grand Lodge, for the institution of lodges in Caribou and Presque Isle. These applications being accepted and dispensations granted, the Grand Lodge officers came again to Aroostook, Wednesday, February 8, 1882, and, aided by District Deputy G. M. Park and several brothers from Pioneer Lodge, instituted Aroostook Valley Lodge, No. 88, of Caribou, with C. B. Roberts, J. M. Howes, Freeland Jones, W. H. Taylor, E. W. Lowney, E. H. Pushor, F. M. York and J. I. Roberts as charter members, with seventeen initiates added the night of the institution.

The next evening, February 9, Presque Isle Lodge, No. 89, was instituted, with A. D. Park, W. R. Pipes, C. H. Richardson, G. D. A. Smith and Geo. M. Park as charter members, and eight initiates, among whom were Alden B. Chandler, J. K. Damon, E. A. Smith and Albert Ball.

Presque Isle Lodge had quite a part of Easton, Mapleton and Washburn to draw from for several years, which added very much strength numerically to its numbers. For years its place of meeting was a great hindrance to its prosperity, but it survived all difficulties, rose above all misfortunes, and with the help of Pioneer Lodge became the mother of Ridgely Lodge, No. 108, of Easton, and Industry Lodge, No. 112, of Washburn.

Albert D. Park, now of South Paris, Maine, who is serving the county as Register of Probate for his fifth term and seventeenth year, was elected the first Noble Grand of Presque Isle Lodge.

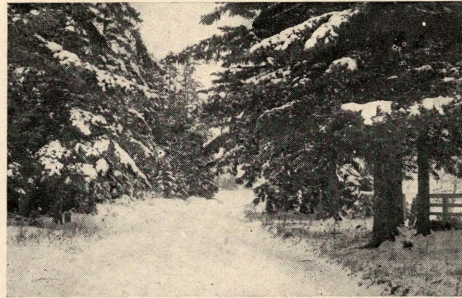
In a little less than two years after the institution of Presque Isle Lodge, the number of Odd Fellows in Easton had increased so fast, and seen the need of a lodge nearer home, that they organized a stock company, and built a large, nice and convenient hall. They then asked clearance cards from Pioneer and Presque Isle Lodges, and the officers of the Grand Lodge came for the third time, and instituted Ridgely Lodge, No. 108, November 12, 1884, with twenty charter members, electing for its first Noble Grand, Dura Stanchfield.

Industry Lodge, No. 112, was instituted next, June 3, 1885, with five charter members, M. D. Estes being its first Noble Grand.

Since then lodges have been instituted in Blaine, Bridgewater, Ashland and Westfield.

Passing over many matters of interest, we cannot overlook or fail to mention the first Odd Fellows' funeral in the county. It was that of Sylvester M. Grant of Fort Fairfield, one of the original members of Pioneer Lodge, which took place on July 21, 1882. Pioneer Lodge took charge of the service, assisted by Aroostook Valley and Presque Isle Lodges. There were a very large number present and in the procession. The service was held in the Union church, conducted by the writer of this article. The service at the grave was very impressive and its influence upon the minds of many present resulted favorably to the growth of the Order.

Another branch of the Order, the leaving out of which from this historical sketch would render it very incomplete, is the Rebekahs. This part of the organization in our county was not so easily established as the other. It took a long time to talk it up and awaken an interest. The author of this sketch was a Rebekah before coming to the county, and is more responsible than any other person for all that has come out of it as an Order.



AFTER THE SNOW STORM

Marshall, duly conferred the Rebekah degree upon the following named persons to enable them to become petitioners for a Rebekah Lodge to be known and hailed as Aroostook Rebekah Degree Lodge, No. 32, viz.: Lucinda E. Hall, Isabelle H. Bean, Eleanor Chandler, Mary F. Stetson, Evelyn L. Damon, Hester Porter, Hannah Brown, Melissa Dunn, Deborah Ervin, A. Beatrice Damon, Adwina Richardson, Frances A. Park, Vina Greenwood, Abbie Leonard, George M. Park, J. K. Damon, Timothy Ervin, C. H. Richardson, J. J. Hone, John Bartlett, George E. Dennett, S. R. Greenwood, Alden B. Chandler, F. A. Leonard, Benjamin Sharp and Woodford Brown.

"A petition was then presented, signed by the above named, for a charter, and Aroostook Rebekah Degree Lodge, No. 32, was duly instituted with the above named charter members. The following officers were nominated and installed: Noble Grand, May Frances Stetson; Vice Grand, Hannah Brown; Secretary, A. Beatrice Damon; Treasurer, Frances A. Park. The Noble Grand made the following appointments: Warden, Isabelle Bean; Conductor, Evelyn Damon; Outside Guard, J. J. Hone; Inside Guard, Deborah Ervin; Chaplain, Lucinda E. Hall; R. S. N. G., Eleanor Chandler; L. S. N. G., Vina Greenwood; R. S. V. G., Addie Richardson; L. S. V. G., Hester Porter.

"It should be said in justice to those whose names do not appear as applicants for the first Rebekah Degree Lodge that the petitioners numbered twenty-five sisters and nineteen brothers, so many that the grand officers were unable to confer the degree upon all upon the evening of the institution."

This is the record of the commencement of the Order of Rebekahs in our county, which has resulted in a strong body united together, a helpful link in the tie of friendship,

The first Rebekah Lodge instituted was in Presque Isle, May 22, 1890. The record reads as follows: "The Board of Grand officers, consisting of A. S. Kimball, Grand Master; Nicholas Fessenden, Grand Warden; Joshua Davis, Grand Secretary, and A. L. F. Pike, as Grand

love and truth, which is proving a most important and worthy factor in the growth and strength of the Fraternity.

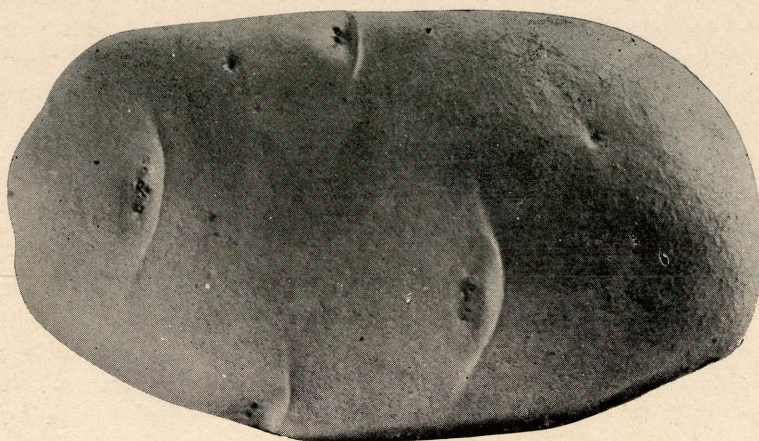
The Rebekahs now have lodges in Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield, Houlton, Easton, Washburn, Blaine, Bridgewater and Westfield.

The first Encampment, Northern Light, No. 42, of Fort Fairfield, was instituted with 13 charter members, February 27, 1884, with E. E. Scates as the first Chief Patriarch. Now there are Encampments in Houlton, Presque Isle and Easton.

February 27, Canton Wabasso, No. 22, P. M., was mustered in at Fort Fairfield, with twenty-seven uniformed charter members. On June 29, 1893, Canton Houlton, No. 27, was mustered in. Thus every branch of the Order is firmly established in Aroostook county.

The Grand Lodge of the State, in appreciation of the establishment and growth of the Order in the county, has recognized the fact by electing Hon. Nicholas Fessenden Grand Master for the years of 1891-2, and appointing Rev. George M. Park Grand Chaplain, and by electing another of its most active supporters, the Hon. Ira G. Hersey, Grand Master for the present year.

It may be said in closing this historical sketch—which might include many other things of interest to the members, and contain useful data, did not space forbid—that the organization, taken as a whole, was never in a more prosperous and united condition than at this time, and never had brighter prospects for the future.



THE PRIDE OF AROOSTOOK COUNTY