

Spring 2010

Progressive municipal reform as reflected in Dodge City newspapers: The progressive agendas of Robert Wright, George Hoover, and Adolph Gluck

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PROGRESSIVE MUNICIPAL REFORM AS REFLECTED IN DODGE CITY
NEWSPAPERS: THE PROGRESSIVE AGENDAS OF ROBERT WRIGHT,
GEORGE HOOVER, AND ADOLPH GLUCK

being

A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty
of the Fort Hays State University in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Arts

by

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ABSTRACT

Dodge City was founded in a prairie in the Southwest corner of Kansas in 1872 and was incorporated three years later. The region benefited from large buffalo herds, a nearby U. S. Army Fort, the expansion of the railroad into the area, and the lucrative cattle trade. The Westward movement of the quarantine line ended the cattle trade in Dodge City in the mid 1880s but the little city with a wicked reputation prevailed. The emphasis on agriculture increased, businesses adapted, and three of the city's proficient leaders stepped forward once again. Robert Wright, George Hoover, and Adolph Gluck were leaders in Dodge City before the end of the cattle trade and in the city's darkest hour; they remained in Dodge City, they invested and started additional businesses, and they guided the city into the Progressive Era.

The development of services and modern amenities such as water, electricity, natural gas, sewer, and graded and paved streets were developed in Dodge City under the initial leadership and persistence of Wright, Hoover, and Gluck. They did not always agree on the next step the city ought to take, nor did they agree on the pace in which new developments should be leveraged against a city that suffered from indebtedness, but they were in unison on the preservation and growth of Dodge City. They were progressive, not socially, as they challenged prohibition vehemently, and not necessarily politically, as they were more concerned with municipal development and reform than they were with political strategy.

These three were assisted by other notable residents such as Samuel J. Crumbine, who practiced medicine in early Dodge City, and later served as Secretary of the State

Board of Health. Crumbine played an influential role in Dodge City's first city-wide sewer system at the request of Jess C. Denious, the editor of a prominent newspaper in Dodge City. Crumbine went on to publish a book, *Frontier Doctor*, and Denious went on to serve in the state legislature and then as Lieutenant Governor of Kansas. Wright, Hoover, and Gluck all passed by 1917, leaving behind a modern city with strong agriculture and commerce, and a growing population. Dodge City sprang up in less than half a century and became a sustainable city, a tribute to Wright, Hoover, and Gluck. An account of their progressive agendas is preserved in the city's early newspapers, which is examined in this thesis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a pleasure to thank those who made this thesis possible, especially my thesis director, Dr. Raymond Wilson, the members of my thesis committee, Dr. David Goodlett and Dr. Steven Kite, and Dr. Kim Perez and Dr. Douglas Harvey for their role in preparing me to pursue my thesis. I feel very fortunate that I was given the chance to work under the direction of these historians at FHSU, as they made me a stronger writer and a better student of history.

I would like to thank the staff at the Kansas Heritage Center in Dodge City where I spent countless hours reviewing old newspapers, the staff of *Western States Jewish History* for assisting me with research on Adolph Gluck, and I want to thank Patti Nicholas, Head of Special Collections and Archives at Fort Hays State University, for allowing me to utilize the Western Collection. Their patience and advice were invaluable.

I also wish to thank my undergraduate professors during my studies at Newman University, Sr. Tarcisia Roths, Dr. Cheryl Golden, and Dr. Randall Austin, and Professor Ken King from my time at Tabor College. Their interest in history made them exceptional professors and helped me develop my own appreciation.

Most importantly, I want to say thank you to my parents, my family, and my friends. They have guided me and encouraged me as I pursued my faith and my goals, and they have been a blessing.

Brian A. Weber

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Leading up to, and during the Progressive Era, 1900 to 1920, Dodge City experienced growth, the establishment of infrastructure, modernization, and social reform. These developments and changes are documented and presented in newspapers during this time, which stands as a reflection of the progressivism, especially municipal reform, that was taking place. In less than half a century Dodge City was founded, incorporated, and its dirt streets were graded and later paved. During this time Dodge City residents came to enjoy both water and sewer from municipal plants, as well as electricity, natural gas, and the growth of both agriculture and the area's population. This progressivism also entailed political progressivism and social progressivism, part of a nationwide response to the advancements of industrialism, an understanding of what the nation had achieved and the pursuit of where it could proceed. This progress was driven by many leaders. Among them are those who have been forgotten, and those who are remembered, but the extent to which they contributed and progressed Dodge City has not withstood the test of time. Three of the most progressive leaders in Dodge City during this time are considered progressive not because of any political affiliation with the Populist or People's Party, or Progressive Party, and not for their leadership on social issues, as they largely resisted social progress in Dodge City. They are the three most progressive leaders in Dodge City during this time for their leadership and commitments, both politically and financially, to the development and modernization of Dodge City. All of the reform and progress in Dodge City during this time was contingent on one thing; a

sustainable Dodge City, and that is where these three focused their time, resources, and energy. Newspapers played a vital role in this process, not only reporting and informing the residents of Dodge City, but in some instances assisting to progress Dodge City, themselves.

Newspapers reported and reflected the progressivism, as shown by the content of various papers published during the period. These include, with some being printed prior to the period but merging or developing into another paper: *The Dodge City Times*, the *Livestock Farmer*, the *Ford County Globe*, which became *The Globe Livestock Journal* and later merged with the *Ford County Republican*, taking the name *The Globe Republican*. It was later renamed *The Dodge City Globe* and went on to become *The Dodge City Daily Globe*. The *Dodge City Democrat* was founded, later renamed *The Journal Democrat*, and became *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, and later the *High Plains Journal*. These newspapers provide a wealth of knowledge. Utilizing printed news stories, editorials, opinions, city council and commission meeting notes, they reflect the progressivism of this period in Dodge City.

Dodge City developed international renown for its history in the 1870s and early 1880s. Similarly, much of the historical research on Dodge City focuses on that period. Works such as Odie B. Faulk's *Dodge City, The Most Western Town of All*, Stanley Vestal's *Queen of the Cowtowns, Dodge City*, Charles C. Lowther's *Dodge City, Kansas*, Dorothy Hammond and George Henrichs's *The Dodge City Story*, and the reprinting of works by Heinie Schmidt in *Ashes of My Campfire: Historical Anecdotes of Old Dodge*

City, are dominated by this period, giving less attention to the later years of Dodge City.¹ Other historical works, such as Lola A. Crum's *Dodge City and Ford County, Kansas, 1870-1920: Pioneer Histories and Stories*, Ida E. Rath's *Early Ford County*, and Fredric Young's *Dodge City: Up Through a Century in Story and Pictures*, are leveraged heavily on the same earlier period, but do cite some highlights of the later years.² The first book is largely devoted to biographies of former Dodge City and Ford County residents, and the early history of towns in Ford County. Young offers extensive research on early Dodge City, while focusing on early families, and then emphasizing historical buildings from Dodge City's history. Timothy F. Wenzl's *Dodge City Landmarks* is likewise a great resource for understanding historical buildings and landmarks from Dodge City's past.³

Betty Braddock and Jeanie Covalt's *Dodge City: Cowboy Capital, Beautiful Bibulous Babylon, Queen of the Cowntowns, Wicked Little City, the Delectable Berg* offers information pertaining to the maturing of Dodge City, including some of the development of city services, but offers this information primarily via chronological timelines, with little or no information on the process, politics, or the full extent to which many

¹ Odie B. Faulk, *Dodge City: The Most Western Town of All* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977); Stanley Vestal, *Queen of Cowntowns: Dodge City* (New York: Harper Brothers, 1952); Charles C. Lowther, *Dodge City, Kansas* (Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, 1940); Dorothy Hammond and George Henrichs, *The Dodge City Story* (Kansas City: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1964); Heinie Schmidt, *Ashes of My Campfire: Historical Anecdotes of Old Dodge City* (Dodge City: Journal Inc., 1952).

² Lola A. Crum et al., *Dodge City and Ford County, Kansas, 1870-1920: Pioneer Histories and Stories*, ed. Ford County Historical Society (Spearville: Spearville News Inc., 1996); Ida E. Rath, *Early Ford County* (North Newton: Mennonite Press, 1963); Fredric R. Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century in Story and Pictures* (Dodge City: Boot Hill Museum Inc., 1972).

³ Timothy F. Wenzl, *Dodge City Landmarks* (Spearville: Spearville News, 1986).

individuals were involved.⁴ C. Robert Haywood's *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City: The Life and Times of Robert M. Wright* is useful for tracing Wright's early activities specifically, and Robert M. Wright himself presents a first hand account to the goings on in the early years in his work *Dodge City, The Cowboy Capital*.⁵ Like Wright's work, Samuel J. Crumbine's *Frontier Doctor* presents his own account, but again is largely devoted to early Dodge City as he left Dodge City in the early twentieth century.⁶

O. Gene Clanton's "A Rose by Any Other Name: Kansas Populism and Progressivism" provides an overview of reform and progress in Kansas prior to and during the Progressive Era.⁷ Topics such as energy, irrigation, and prohibition are examined in C. Robert Haywood's "Coal Fever: Fuel Scarcity in Early Southwestern Kansas," O. Solomon Okobiah's "Socio-Demographic Implications of Irrigation in Southwestern Kansas," and Patrick G. O'Brien's "Prohibition and the Kansas Progressive Example."⁸ Owen D. Wiggins's *A History of Dodge City, Kansas* offers a broad account of Dodge City history, skimming the period before and during Progressive Era, and also

⁴ Betty Braddock and Jeanie Covalt, *Dodge City: Cowboy Capital, Beautiful Bibulous Babylon, Queen of the Cowtowns, Wicked Little City, the Delectable Berg* (Dodge City: Kansas Heritage Center, 1982).

⁵ C. Robert Haywood, *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City: The Life and Times of Robert M. Wright* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998); Robert M. Wright, *Dodge City: The Cowboy Capital and The Great Southwest* (Wichita: Wichita Eagle Press, 1913).

⁶ Samuel J. Crumbine M.D., *Frontier Doctor* (Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, 1948).

⁷ O. Gene Clanton, "A Rose by Any Other Name: Kansas Populism and Progressivism," *Kansas Quarterly* 1 (Fall 1969): 105.

⁸ C. Robert Haywood, "Coal Fever: Fuel Scarcity in Early Southwestern Kansas," *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 3 (Spring 1980): 26-37; O. Solomon Okobiah's "Socio-Demographic Implications of Irrigation in Southwestern Kansas," *The Kansas Geographer* (Spring 1974): 14-28; Patrick G. O'Brien, "Prohibition and the Kansas Progressive Example," *Great Plains Quarterly* 7 (Fall 1987): 219-231.

offers a brief account of the city's financial situation at the turn of the century in his introduction. Wiggans advises historians to build on his work and admits that he largely took the same beaten path as those before him regarding the perpetuation of popular Dodge City history. He observes that "much has been written about the Sheriff's of Dodge City, while the work of men like R. M. Wright, G. M. Hoover . . . and a host others who saw and helped the city grow, has been neglected."⁹ There is a degree of irony in Wiggans's desire for Wright and Hoover to be further researched, and yet he excludes Adolph Gluck. This is likely due in part to Gluck's later arrival in Dodge City, and even later entrance into city politics. Popular Dodge City history begins in the 1870s and ends in the 1880s, where as Gluck's first term as mayor of Dodge City came in 1891. Even research on Robert Wright and George Hoover is often focused largely on this popular period. A small amount of information on Gluck is available in *Western States Jewish History* and also in Bernard Postal and Lionel Koppman's *American Jewish Landmarks: A Travel Guide and History*.¹⁰

This thesis is in no way meant to discredit any of these works, as they offer a tremendous amount of information on early Dodge City, and offer some assistance on aspects of Dodge City during the Progressive Era. The goal of this thesis is to evaluate progressivism and its leaders in Dodge City through its newspapers. To understand

⁹ Owen D. Wiggans, "A History of Dodge City, Kansas" (M.A. Thesis, Colorado State College of Education, 1938), v.

¹⁰ "Adolph Gluck, "The Jewish Mayor Of Wild And Wooly Dodge City, Kansas," *Western States Jewish History*, XXIX, 4 (July, 1997): 249-253; "Adolph Gluck, "The Jewish Mayor of Wild and Wooly Dodge City, Retires," *Western States Jewish History*, XXX, 2 (January, 1998): 126; Bernard Postal and Lionel Koppman, *American Jewish Landmarks: A Travel Guide and History*, Vol. 3 (New York: Fleet Press, 1984).

Dodge City in the Progressive Era, one must understand the leaders at that time, and to do so one must acknowledge the beginning of some aspects of progressivism in Dodge City, which largely took off in 1886. Arthur Stanley Link and Richard L. McCormick's *Progressivism* addresses the broad nature and definition of progressivism, including the founding of political progressivism, the call for social control, and the empowering of reform professionals.¹¹ Robert S. La Forte's *Leaders of Reform: Progressive Republicans in Kansas, 1900-1916* addresses the issues and persons tied to the progressive movement within the Republican Party in Kansas, and John De Witt McKee's *William Allen White: Maverick on Main Street* observes the life of one Kansas progressive, who garnered international attention with his efforts in politics, journalism, and literature.¹²

Very little exhaustive history has been presented on Dodge City in the Progressive Era. Certain individuals, such as Robert Wright and George Hoover, are known for their early efforts in Dodge City, but less for their actions after the mid 1880s. Others seem to have been largely overlooked. Furthermore, prior works utilize newspapers to supplement points and arguments, but they do not look at newspapers themselves as a means to a progressive Dodge City. This thesis does not present Dodge City history in the Progressive Era in its entirety, but it does aim to build a foundation on which the body of knowledge on Dodge City in the Progressive Era can continue to grow.

¹¹ Arthur Stanley Link and Richard L. McCormick, *Progressivism* (Arlington Heights: Harlan Davidson, 1983).

¹² Robert S. La Forte, *Leaders of Reform: Progressive Republicans in Kansas, 1900-1916* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1974); John De Witt McKee, *William Allen White: Maverick on Main Street* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1975).

It was during this period of progressivism that Dodge City acquired amenities such as water, electricity, gas, and paved streets. Likewise, it was during this period that issues such as public health and concerns for sanitation led to the construction of the first city-wide sewer system. These were not simple tasks, many of which included planning that dates back to the late 1880s, nor were they free from disagreement among city leaders. Change also occurred in city government. The local system of government was initially a mayor-council system with elective wards and a mayor who was elected at large. During this period, the city changed to a commission form of government, whereby a mayor and two commissioners were elected at-large. This professionalized the city's government in many respects, better equipping it to oversee the construction of infrastructure, to seek ways to manage the city's growth, to address social issues, and to guide the city as it came into its own. In this way Dodge City is consistent with trends of progressivism that occurred in and around other cities during the same period.¹³ Dodge City experienced political progressivism and social progressivism, not always working together, and witnessed the rise of agriculture. City government was modernized and addressed ineffective public utilities, but managed the city's growth with irresponsible fiscal practices. Likewise, issues such as prostitution, alcoholism and inadequate sanitation were addressed.

¹³ Link and McCormick, *Progressivism*, 29-39, 67-69.

CHAPTER II

KEY LEADERS, TRANSITION, AND THE COST OF GROWTH

Dodge City was founded in 1872 in the area that would soon become Ford County; and it was incorporated in 1875. Wyatt Earp's presence in Dodge City is largely confined to the period between 1876 and 1878, three years prior to his legendary battle at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. Earp, Doc Holliday, and Bat Masterson are synonymous with Dodge City history, but those who are synonymous with progressivism in Dodge City require introduction. Dodge City is complete with reformers, town-builders and progressives, many of whom were in Dodge City even before Earp walked its streets.

Three individuals from this unsung period in Dodge City's history are Robert M. (R. M.) Wright, George M. (G. M.) Hoover, and Adolphus (Adolph or A.) Gluck. These individuals were heavily involved in nineteenth century Dodge City's history. Midway through the Progressive Era, these individuals were joined by Jess (J. C.) Denious. Denious will be later introduced at the appropriate time for his role in Dodge City's history. Other progressives who invested in Dodge City, such as Asa Soule, or spent time in Dodge City, such as Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, will be referenced as they pertain. Crumbine's impact on Dodge City during this period of progressivism specifically, is not as extensive to that of Wright, Hoover, and Gluck's, though his contributions must be observed. His contributions to public health education in Kansas and the nation are noted by his successful campaign against communal drinking cups, and health slogans such as:

“Don’t Spit on the Sidewalk,” “Swat the Fly,” and “Bat the Rat.”¹ Crumbine and a business partner purchased a pharmacy in Dodge City in January 1888, and he was appointed to the State Board of Health in 1899.² Crumbine’s greatest influence on Dodge City’s growth, which will be introduced at the appropriate time, came in the second decade of the twentieth century, after he had already left Dodge City.

In August 1872, the original “Charter Of The Dodge City Town Company” was signed, and Dodge City was created. The charter states that the seven directors “do hereby associate ourselves together as a private Corporation to be known as the Dodge City Town Company, for the purpose of creating a Town to be located in the County of Ford, State of Kansas, and to be designated and known as “Dodge City” – Kansas.”³ Robert M. Wright is listed among the names of these seven directors.

Wright came to the area, outside nearby Fort Dodge, in 1865 and became the operator of the Sutler Store. He owned several stores in Dodge City, and offered banking services prior to the establishment of the first bank. Wright successfully campaigned in 1874 to represent the area in the Kansas state legislature and was seated as the Representative of the 103rd District at the beginning of session in January 1875. He served four terms, not successive, in the state legislature in 1875, 1877, 1879, and 1881. Wright is listed in the minutes of a Dodge City Council meeting on December 4, 1877 petitioning his belief that the current Police Judge was not in fact a resident of Dodge City, but instead lived outside the city limits on his claim. He asked that the position of

¹ Crumbine, *Frontier Doctor*, 147, 156.

² *The Dodge City Times*, 26 January 1888.

³ Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century*, 29.

Police Judge be declared vacant, which was a failed attempt. Despite this eye for technicality, he was not always a proponent of the law.

During the time in which Dodge City was a cattle town, and lawmen were pitted against cowboys or cattlemen, some cattlemen claimed that they were victims of injustice, or selective justice, from the lawmen. There is supposition that Wright took matters into his own hands in September 1878 as Wyatt Earp claimed that Robert Wright hired Clay Allison to kill him during his time in Dodge City. Two decades after the conflict, Earp shared what happened in an interview with *The San Francisco Examiner*. According to the newspaper, Earp explains that he responded, with Bat Masterson joining him, to reports of Allison making threats against him outside of the Longbranch Saloon. Masterson positioned himself across the street from Wright's store, where Allison had supporters waiting, and Earp confronted Allison. Allison climbed on to his horse, and began making a scene, when according to Earp, Masterson crossed the street and told Wright, "If this fight comes up, Wright, you're the first man I'm going to kill," which prompted Wright to run "down the street to urge Allison to go out of town."⁴ Allison then turned to Wright and said "Earp, I believe you're a pretty good man from what I've seen of you. Do you know that these coyotes sent for me to make a fight with you and kill you? Well, I'm going to ride out of town, and I wish you good luck."⁵ There are other accounts of how the conflict played out, but this is Earp's first hand account. This is just one example of the lawmaker's unique relationship with the law. Less than a decade later, during his sole term as mayor of Dodge City, he owned a saloon during prohibition.

⁴ *The San Francisco Examiner*, 16 August 1896.

⁵ *Ibid.*

Wright served as mayor of Dodge City from 1885 to 1886, and he also developed a portion of land in Dodge City that was formally named Wright Park in 1899.⁶

A fellow connoisseur of liquor and politics, G. M. Hoover arrived in the Dodge City area in June 1872, just months before the city was founded. He sold liquor from a makeshift bar; a board set between two pieces of sod.⁷ Hoover had responded to the demand for whiskey from soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Dodge, where the sale of whiskey was not permitted. He quickly opened a saloon but made a name for himself selling wholesale liquor to large number of saloons that opened. When Dodge City was incorporated on November 2, 1875 the first mayor, P. L. Beatty, was appointed, but when elections were next held, Hoover became the first elected mayor of Dodge City. Hoover remained active, owned several businesses in Dodge City, and opened the first bank in Dodge City in 1882.⁸ Hoover served two terms in the state legislature, beginning in 1883, and worked nearly a decade, serving as mayor of Dodge City. He served from 1876 to 1877, 1884 to 1885, 1901 to 1907, and 1911 to 1912. He served as a Ford County Commissioner from 1879 to 1882.

In 1878, three years after Dodge City's incorporation, Adolph Gluck arrived in Dodge City, purchased a building and opened a jewelry store.⁹ Gluck, a Hungarian Jew and Civil War veteran that moved from St. Louis, owned several businesses in Dodge

⁶ Wright, *Dodge City: The Cowboy Capital and The Great Southwest*, 328; Wenzl, *Dodge City Landmarks*, 68.

⁷ "Early History," *Dodge City Democrat*, 19 June 1903.

⁸ Braddock and Covalt, *Dodge City*, 39.

⁹ *Ford County Globe*, 23 July 1878.

City, namely an opera house, and was also involved in the spirited nature of politics.¹⁰ 12

Not dissimilar to Wright or Hoover, he too violated prohibition while serving as mayor of Dodge City. Gluck served as mayor for a brief six month period in 1891, his term ended early due to his violation of prohibition; but he went on to serve again from 1893 to 1895, and then 1909 to 1911. It is by no coincidence, as will be later discussed, that 1911 marks the end of Gluck's tenure, and the start of Hoover's final term as mayor of Dodge City.

Just as these three individuals are synonymous with progressivism in Dodge City, they are likewise synonymous with violating prohibition, as many were in Dodge City. This presents a dynamic of political progressivism rooted in the same three individuals who, at least in earlier years, opposed social progressivism. Kansas was the first state to impose statewide prohibition, which was accomplished by amending the Kansas Constitution in 1880, whereby prohibition in Kansas began in January 1881. Of the three mayors, Hoover had the calmest experiences. Though he violated prohibition for four years, during only one of those years did he serve as mayor. In February 1885, near the end of Hoover's second term as mayor, the Kansas prohibition law was revisited by the state legislature. The law was changed to allow any citizen to hire an attorney to bring charges against a violator of prohibition, whereas the law had previously required the action of a county attorney to file such charges. It is understood that Hoover ended his violation at that point.¹¹ Wright and Gluck were not so quiet, nor did they conform peacefully.

¹⁰ Bernard Postal and Lionel Koppman, *American Jewish Landmarks: A Travel Guide and History*, 104.

¹¹ Faulk, *Dodge City: The Most Western Town Of All*, 185.

One month after prohibition began, Wright facetiously lobbied the state legislature to exempt the area West of the 100th meridian from prohibition, stating that the Western part of the state may otherwise secede from Kansas. He insisted that alcohol was a necessity due to the large number of snakes in the area. He suggested that if people were bitten by a snake while under the influence of alcohol, their life would be preserved to the detriment of the snake, but if bitten while sober, the bite was likely to be fatal.¹² His proposal failed, but prohibition was not largely enforced in Dodge City until four years later in 1885, and only then because of a citizen's complaint, which brought brief adherence. The first temperance meeting in Dodge City was held in June of that year, but most violators paid a monthly fine, a cost of doing business. Facetiously, The Long Branch Saloon ran an advertisement in June in *The Globe Livestock Journal* calling itself the "Long Branch Temperance Hall" offering "old-time lemonade and temperance drink mixers."¹³ The citizen complaint came from a prohibitionist named Mike Sutton, a Dodge City attorney who had served as the county attorney in Ford County. Sutton wrote to Kansas Governor John Martin asking for assistance in closing the saloons in Dodge City, which prompted Wright to espouse his agenda as well. Wright's letter to the Governor was largely an attempt to discredit Sutton, and he stated:

[They] pretend to be Moralists but are wolves in sheep's clothing . . . Sutton is a good lawyer and I admire his ability, but I know his motives. He pretends to be a great temperance man and he drinks more Whiskey in a week than I do in a year.¹⁴

¹² *The Kinsley Graphic*, 26 February 1881.

¹³ *The Globe Livestock Journal*, 9 June 1885.

¹⁴ Robert R. Dykstra, *The Cattle Towns* (University of Nebraska Press, 1983), 155.

On the Governor's order, the Kansas Attorney General came to Dodge City in November 1885 and closed all of the saloons between November 24 and 26. He left on the evening of November 26 and the saloons reopened the next morning.¹⁵ Ironically, a fire broke out that night, November 27 and destroyed several saloons and buildings, including Mayor Wright's. Hours later, Wright was seen firing shots into the home of Sutton, but he maintained that he was firing at an intruder who he saw enter the home. He was not charged for any unlawful activities, but he did face charges in later years on two separate counts of violating prohibition.¹⁶

Six years later, Gluck did not receive the same pardon from justice. Dodge City was still notorious for violations of prohibition, but churches and social organizations had advocated strongly against the use of alcohol, so in April 1891 Gluck ran for mayor and promoted the issue of temperance, while illegally allowing alcohol to be served out of a building he owned. Gluck pulled votes from both sides of the issue, wooing his temperance supporters while satisfying the whims of connoisseurs, and he was elected mayor of Dodge City. Four months later he was a guest speaker at a temperance meeting in neighboring Garden City where he was quoted as saying, "Ladies and gentlemen: it is true I am a reformer, not only in municipal matters, but I am a reformed drunkard . . . I feel that I owe to those berole movements of reform such as you are to-night engaged in

¹⁵ Braddock and Covalt, *Dodge City*, 18.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*; Haywood, *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City*, 164.

all the success I have achieved in life and my present official position.”¹⁷ The next month, September 1891, Gluck was reported for violating prohibition.¹⁸ R. N.

Hutchinson, a businessman, reported Gluck after he had so adamantly pushed for Hutchinson to pay the occupation tax he owed the city for operating his business. Gluck was charged with failing to notify the county attorney of the violation of prohibition. The charges brought against him stated:

On the 7th day of April, 1891, in said county of Ford and state of Kansas, one Adolph Gluck was duly elected mayor of the city of Dodge City, Kas., and thereafter said Adolph Gluck duly qualified as required by law and entered upon the discharge of the duties of mayor of said city . . . on or about the 27th day of June, 1891, in the county of Ford and state of Kansas, said Adolph Gluck became possessed of actual notice and knowledge that one Chas. Heinz and one Chas. Wright were then and there keeping and maintaining and operating certain rooms on the second floor of the brick building . . . the property of said Adolph Gluck, as a place where intoxicating liquor was sold, bartered and given away contrary to the law, and as a place where persons were permitted to resort for the purpose of drinking intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and as a place where intoxicating liquors were kept for sale . . . that said, Adolph Gluck has, in said county and state, unlawfully, wholly, and entirely failed and neglected to notify the county attorney of Ford county of said described violation of law, or to furnish said county attorney with the names of persons by whom said violation could be proven . . . The information in this case was held sufficient. The defendant was convicted.¹⁹

Gluck was convicted, fined \$100, and he was forced to forfeit the office of mayor of Dodge City. Following the ruling against him in September 1891, Gluck specifically asked the *Dodge City Democrat* to note the fact that he was a Jew. The newspaper noted

¹⁷ “Mayor Gluck Addresses A Temperance Meeting At Garden City,” *The Globe Republican*, 5 April 1891.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 24 September 1891.

¹⁹ The initial case set a precedent and was reprinted in collection of precedents in 1902: *State of Kansas v. Adolph Gluck*, No. 16782, 1891 49 Kan. 538. *Encyclopedia of Forms and Precedents*, Vol. XV (Northport: Cockcroft, 1902), 114.

his wishes and criticized the insinuation that it had any bearing on his conviction and

wrote:

Mayor Gluck requests us to state that he is a Jew . . . Gluck has been a resident of Dodge for fifteen years and has always been a first class, enterprising citizen. The editor of this paper has the most profound respect for true and devout believers in any religion or creed, whether it be Catholic, Hebrew, Protestant, Mohammedan or any other faith of the people of the earth. But for hypocrites who use religion as a disguise whereby they may gain the confidence of true believers, as a cloak under which they may commit crimes with impunity, we have not only contempt, but feel it to be proper and right that such cloak be torn off and the pretenders exposed in their true character. It is the worst outrage that could be perpetrated upon a religious creed for a law breaker to be permitted to wear unchallenged the semblance of that faith If Mr. Gluck had a proper respect for the Jewish religion he would not prefer to be of that faith at the same time bring discredit upon it by his unlawful acts. Instead of taking this occasion, while in disgrace, to boast of being a Jew, he would admit that he is unworthy the high privilege of being called a son of Israel.²⁰

Gluck holds the distinction of being the only mayor ever to be impeached in Dodge City, but he did not go quietly. He opted to file an appeal with the Kansas Supreme Court. The foremost arguments in his appeal were that the prosecution failed to name the county attorney who Gluck allegedly failed to notify of the alleged violation, arguing that the prosecution failing to prove if and whom the county attorney was, and not proving his presence in the county at the time, therefore failed to prove their case. Secondly, Gluck argued that the judge manipulated the jury by entering the deliberation room when he was not called for by the jury. His appeal stated:

If there was no county attorney, there would be no such offense. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that the information should allege that at the time of the alleged offense some particular person was either de jure or de facto county attorney – in short that there was a county attorney, naming him It is not sufficient to allege simply that he failed to notify the county attorney; such an allegation is not the equivalent of an allegation that some person, naming him, was county attorney It is clear that, in a case like the case at bar, the

²⁰ *Dodge City Democrat*, 17 September 1891.

information must allege not only that some particular person was county attorney, but that he was acting as such within the county at the time of the alleged offense of failing to notify him What business the judge had to linger around the jury-room for the space of 10 minutes, talking to jurors, is not explained. It is a fact, however, that before he went to the jury-room the jury were about to disagree, indeed, had disagreed, and reported to him that they could not agree, and that after he visited them they did agree, and that their verdict was “guilty.” In going to the jury-room and talking with them there, either separately or collectively, the judge was guilty of gross misconduct If he wanted to find out anything about the state of their deliberations . . . it was his duty to call them into court, and do the thing decently, openly, regularly, and in order.²¹

The county attorney filed a response to Gluck’s appeal which stated:

It is unnecessary to allege that a particular person was acting as county attorney for any period of the time prior to the filing of the information. It makes no difference what citizen of the county was county attorney . . . it is sufficient to allege that the defendant failed to notify the county attorney of the county in which the crime was committed . . . in the case at bar no wrong is done the county attorney. He is a passive individual in the transaction. The notice is to the office The trial judge, on being compelled to leave the city, went into the jury-room – the first time at the request of the jury, who desired to inform him that they could not agree upon a verdict, and the second time for the purpose, and for that purpose alone, of informing the jury that he must leave the city, and telling them what arrangements had been made about keeping them together . . . no harm or prejudice occurred to the defendant . . . we submit that there was nothing done or said that would warrant a reversal.²²

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled in favor of the county attorney, but it did find partial agreement with Gluck on the improper actions of the lower judge. Their ruling declared:

It was not necessary to allege the particular person who was acting as county attorney. It is not analogous to an action for obstructing legal process . . . it does not make any difference who was county attorney, or whether he was a de jure or de facto officer. “County attorney” is the designation of an office, and it is immaterial what person was discharging the duties of that office The evidence of the jurors, as well as that of the trial judge, shows that the conversations had with the jury were to the effect that they must act according to

²¹ *State of Kansas v. Adolph Gluck, Appeal from Ford District Court*, 49 Kan. 538. (KS July, 1892) *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas*, Vol. XLIX (Topeka, KS, 1893), 533-541.

²² *Ibid.*

the evidence, and take the law as given them by instructions. We impute nothing wrong to the trial judge in this particular instance, and it is plain that he said nothing tending to prejudice the jury against the defendant; and yet such visits ought not be permitted under any circumstances; but while the court criticises the practice, and in a proper case would hold it, if accompanied by any evidence tending to show a prejudicial effect, a sufficient cause for reversal, there is nothing to show in this record that any such result was either anticipated or attempted in this particular case.

We recommend that the judgment of conviction be affirmed.

By the Court: It is so ordered.

All the Justices concurring.²³

Despite this blemish on his political career, Gluck ran for mayor again a year and a half later in 1893 and was elected. His term ended in April 1895, and the *Jewish Voice* noted his emotional response to a medal that was presented to him by the community:

After his farewell address had been read Hon. W. J. Fitzgerald, president of the city council, on behalf of the citizens and business men of Dodge City . . . presented Mr. Gluck with a handsome gold medal. It was in the shape of a star, with a diamond in the center One side is engraved “Mayor A. Gluck, Dodge City, KS, 1895” on the reverse was inscribed “Presented by the citizens of Dodge City in recognition of his official services.” Mr. Gluck was greatly surprised and so overcome that he was moved to tears and could scarcely find words to reply, but he finally answered in a few well chosen sentences It was only by Mr. Gluck’s continued refusal that he was not again chosen as mayor.²⁴

He then served again over a decade later.²⁵

Dodge City’s growth and sustainability was due in part to its ability to adapt with its surroundings. Not long after the city was incorporated, the region lost Fort Dodge, one of the primary reasons for the founding of Dodge City. As Dodge City adjusted, Fort Dodge was closed. In the 1880’s proposals were heard to locate a college at the old fort,

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Quote from “Adolph Gluck, The Jewish Mayor Of Wild and Woolly Dodge City, Retires,” *Jewish Voice*, 26 April 1895, reprinted in *Western States Jewish History*, 126.

²⁵ Braddock and Covalt, *Dodge City*, 38.

but Wright and Hoover successfully advocated for it to be used as a soldier's home.²⁶

From the short-lived buffalo industry, the cattle drives, and then the rise of agriculture, it shifted with the winds of change. Dodge City sprang up quickly as it catered to the needs of Fort Dodge, benefited from early rail service, and serviced the shipment of hides for the buffalo industry. Prior to being named Dodge City, the name of the town was actually Buffalo City, but it was changed to Dodge City as another town in Kansas was already using the name. With the depletion of the buffalo, one beast gave way to another. An abundance of longhorn cattle in Texas and a demand for meat in the Eastern United States set the stage for Dodge City's transition into the cattle industry. Cattle herds began arriving the same year Dodge City was incorporated and peaked two years later. The desires of those who worked the cattle drives were different from those of the buffalo hunters, which required the store owners to adapt to their new clientele. During this time, Robert Wright advertised along the trail, promoting Dodge City and its merchants.²⁷

The *Ford County Globe* reported that the drives to Dodge City, in comparison to drives to other cattle towns, were said to be the largest brought up from Texas.²⁸ The cattle industry brought cowboys, fighting, gambling, drinking and prostitution. This lawlessness invoked the response of lawmen. In August 1878 *The Dodge City Times* observed that funding for the increased need for law enforcement was offset, in part, by a city ordinance that fined the widespread prostitution and gambling in Dodge City.²⁹ This

²⁶ Haywood, *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City*, 117.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 12.

²⁸ "Cattle Doing Well," *Ford County Globe*, 14 May 1880.

²⁹ "Gambling and Prostitution," *The Dodge City Times*, 10 August 1878.

was a way of permitting the abuses of the law to continue, while assessing a regular tax to provide revenue to the city. The next month *The Dodge City Times* stated that the city's prostitutes organized in protest and hired two attorneys to represent them against what they felt was a discriminatory law against their legal interests.³⁰ Later newspapers do not reveal the result of their efforts to garner an injunction against the city in favor of not taxing the illegal practice of prostitution, but no change to the law was recorded.

The aggressive dynamic of lawmen and cowboys interacting during this time is epitomized by the enforcement of gun control. In June 1879 the *Ford County Globe* reported, "The police undertook to disarm a squad of cowboys who had neglected to lay aside their six-shooters. The cowboys protested and war was declared."³¹ Dodge City's notoriety was well covered by newspapers both in Kansas and out of state. *The Hays Sentinel* and *The Corpus Christi Gazette* declared:

Dodge is a fast town . . . the employment of many citizens is gambling, her virtue is prostitution and her beverage is whiskey More than occasionally some dark-eyed virago or some brazen-faced blonde . . . will saunter in among the roughs of the gambling-houses and saloons, entering with inexplicable zest into the disgusting sport, breathing the immoral atmosphere with a gusto The town is full of prostitutes and every other house is a brothel Even the mayor of the city indulges in the giddy dance with the girls and with his cigar in one corner of his mouth and his hat tilted to one side, he makes a charming looking officer . . . the city marshal and assistant are gamblers and each keep a woman – as does the mayor also . . . The Sheriff owns a saloon and the deputy sheriff is a bartender in a saloon.³²

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 7 September 1878.

³¹ *Ford County Globe*, 16 June 1879.

³² Quotes from *The Hays Sentinel* and *The Corpus Christi Gazette*, reprinted by Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century*, 39-41.

It was a wild chapter in the town's history, one that brought it infamy. *The Oskaloosa Herald*, an Iowa newspaper, told of an account in which a Santa Fe Railroad conductor in Kansas encountered an inebriated man from Texas who was aboard his train without a ticket. The conductor asked the man where he was going, to which the man replied that he was going to hell. To this the conductor said, "All right, give me fifty cents and get off at Dodge."³³

Dodge City obtained the image that it was a homicide-ridden, dangerous cattle town, and if one were looking for trouble, it certainly would not have been hard to find in early Dodge City. That said, the image is not entirely accurate. Statistically, Dodge City's average homicide rate, which was relatively low during this time, was equal to that of surrounding cattle towns. For example, there is only one recorded homicide in Dodge City in 1880. Statistically it was far more dangerous to serve in the military fighting in the Indian Wars, or coupling railroad cars working for the railroad companies, than it was to walk the streets of Dodge City.³⁴ There was not a complete absence of violence in Dodge City, but such tension did not always play out in the streets, and sometimes spilled in to the newspapers.

Newspapers preserve the adverse image that Dodge City developed but also offer insight on the interaction between those who are synonymous with popular Dodge City history, and the lesser known names associated with progressivism in Dodge City. In

³³ Quote from *The Oskaloosa Herald*, reprinted by Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century*, 41.

³⁴ Robert R. Dykstra, "Postscript: Overdosing on Dodge City," in *Major Problems in the History of the American West*, Second Edition (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997), 219-221.

November 1879 Bat Masterson, who held strong ties to a gang that included the Earp brothers, clashed with an associate of G. M. Hoover. Masterson was seeking a third term as Sheriff of Ford County when George Hinkle, a property owner and bartender for Hoover, entered the race for Sheriff as well. Hoover backed Hinkle, and was campaigning for a county commission seat in the same election. This election represented a potential shift from gang control of Dodge City, part of the dynamic by which Wright allegedly hired Clay Allison to kill Wyatt Earp, resulting in both Hinkle and Hoover being elected.³⁵ An editorial in the *Spearville News* observed Masterson's loss. It reported that Masterson said he was going to "whip every son of a bitch, that worked and voted against him in the county," to which Masterson colorfully responded with a letter to the editor of the *The Dodge City Times*:

In answer to the publication made by . . . the Spearville News, asserting that I made threats that I would lick any son of a bitch that voted or worked against me at the last election, I will say it is as false and as flagrant a lie as was ever uttered; but I did say this: that I would lick him the son of a bitch if he made any more dirty talk about me; and the words son of a bitch I strictly confined to the Spearville editor.³⁶

Following the results of the election, the *Ford County Globe* stated, "The 'Gang' is no more in existence. It failed . . . and has lost its grip forever."³⁷ Though it would take more time to curb the nature of Dodge City and its social ailments, it did not stop some from trying. The first temperance society was formed in 1882, and in 1883 the city council passed well intentioned policy against vice, immorality, prostitution, ownership or

³⁵ Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century*, 115-116.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 116.

³⁷ "A Wicked Dodge," *Ford County Globe*, 4 November 1879.

operation of a brothel, vagrancy, gambling, violating prohibition, and public intoxication. Some of these social issues had been addressed five years prior, but at that time they were being utilized more for city revenue, whereas in 1883, there was a true effort to socially progress Dodge City. Following these changes, businesses were largely forced to close on Sundays, and singing was no longer permitted in saloons.³⁸ This marked the beginning of the rules, not necessarily the immediate adherence to them. The next year, 1884, Hoover was elected mayor while currently violating prohibition, but he did come into compliance early the next year. However, seven years later Gluck was impeached for his violation, which proved there was still a market.

Economically speaking, the cattle trade was short-lived in Dodge City and ended only a decade after it had started, in 1885. The demise of the cattle trade in Dodge City owes itself first and foremost to the enforcement of the quarantine law that was passed by the state legislature. Wright's last term in the state legislature began in 1881, and as chair of the committee that addressed the quarantine line, he kept it from moving West to encompass Dodge City. Hoover began serving in the state legislature in 1883, chaired the same committee, and likewise kept the line from moving west. Hoover accomplished this in 1884 amidst a special session that was called to address the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Kansas cattle.³⁹ Despite this early success, the line was extended in 1885. The end of the trade meant an end to the essence of Dodge City's notoriety. Kansas Governor John Martin was considering sending the militia in to address the wild situation in Dodge

³⁸ Faulk, *Dodge City: The Most Western Town of All*, 168-173.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 181.

City, but a letter from Jeremiah C. Strang, the district court judge in Dodge City, assured him that Dodge City was behaving itself. Strang stated:

The quarantine law passed . . . is quietly working out the salvation of Dodge City. The festive cowboy is already becoming conspicuous by his absence in Dodge, and ere long he will be seen and heard there, in his glory, no more forever. The cowboy gone, the gamblers and prostitutes will find their occupations gone, and from necessity must follow. The bulk of the saloons will then die out because there be not sufficient support left, and the temperance people can close the rest as easily as they could in any other city in Kansas.⁴⁰

An end to some of the violence and lawlessness due to the quarantine law did not necessarily mean that everyone came into accordance with the quarantine law itself. In the summer of 1885, Governor Martin called for the enforcement of the quarantine law, but a small group of businessmen in Dodge City formed a committee to circumvent the law, plot a way around the restrictions, and then issue a public statement. This three person committee included “R. M. Wright” as treasurer and “Adolphus Gluck” as Secretary. The *Dodge City Democrat* printed the statement in July 1885:

On account of the late quarantine laws of South Texas Stock, many ranchmen in Indian Territory, Panhandle of Texas, and the Neutral Strip, have been led to believe that all cattle trails leading to Dodge City stock yards were closed, and that beef cattle could no longer be shipped from there. This is erroneous, not only as the legal right to bring for shipment to market all cattle from North of parallel thirty-four into the State of Kansas, but as to the beef trail which has at all times been held open, and is now permanently located, to which action was taken by a citizen’s committee of Dodge City, in connection with an authorized representative of the Santa Fe Railroad, early in the season. The committee have selected an experienced guide, who will receive all beef cattle en route for Dodge City stock yards, at the south line of Perry’s fence, on the Neutral Strip, thence to a point about one mile east of the C.O.D. ranch, where it intersects the old Tuttle Trail leading to Dodge City. All people who desire to drive beef cattle to the Dodge City stock yards, and who will inform the committee of the time they propose to ship, will receive the services of said agent to guide them through the

⁴⁰ Ibid., 185-186.

south line of the state, free of charge, and if drovers will follow the trail accordingly to the instructions given by said agent or guide, the committee will hold themselves responsible for all damages that said cattle may do to growing crops along the said trail.⁴¹

This attempt to counter the effects of the quarantine law failed, and 1885 marked the end of the cattle trade. In March 1885 *The Topeka Capital* reported, “The cowboy must go and with him will go the gamblers, the courtesans, the desperadoes and the saloons.”⁴² Dodge City became calmer, but it did not become a model for upholding the law.

During this time the historic Boot Hill Cemetery, a defining aspect of Dodge City, had already given way to progress. The city was growing and developing and the cemetery was in its way. The *Ford County Globe* observed that in January 1879 the “project to remove the human bones from Boot Hill to a more secure resting place will be discussed at the next meeting of the city council . . . the city has been growing rapidly within the past few years, this land now comes in demand for building sites.”⁴³ In May 1878 *The Dodge City Times* noted that lots were made available at the newly developed Prairie Grove Cemetery, Northeast of town.⁴⁴ Just one year later, it reported that the graves were “resting side by side, like one happy family, at the lower end of Prairie Grove Cemetery.”⁴⁵ Prairie Grove was financed by five businessmen, R.M. Wright among them. Dodge City grew North, and just nine years later the graves needed to be moved again. Wright spent upwards of \$400 to acquire forty acres of land to the West of

⁴¹ “Notice,” *Dodge City Democrat*, 18 July 1885.

⁴² *The Topeka Capital*, 23 March 1885.

⁴³ *Ford County Globe*, 1 January 1879.

⁴⁴ “Prairie Grove Cemetery,” *The Dodge City Times*, 18 May 1878.

⁴⁵ *Ford County Globe*, 4 February 1879.

Dodge City, and the bodies were arbitrarily relocated to the newly established Maple Grove Cemetery.

Just as the buffalo industry gave way to the cattle trade, Dodge City was at a turning point, and would have to rely on the developing role of farming to sustain itself. The endeavor of farming the land near Dodge City began a full decade before the city was founded, but only on a small scale. Attempts to mechanize the picking and husking of corn occurred in the 1860's, and the Kansas State Agricultural College began tracing wheat types that were planted in the Dodge City area during this same time. Farmers used horses, often teams of eight on a sweep to pull plows and threshers. Dodge City was maturing, and during this time the first bridge across the Arkansas River at Dodge City was built in 1874.⁴⁶ Although this structure spanned the width of the river, guiding its patrons to the other side, agriculture offered no such support for Dodge City's immediate future. Amidst the nationwide Panic of 1873, Western Kansas fell on hard times as a result of drought and grasshopper infestation that depleted the regions food, seed for planting, and left the region in financial ruin.

An 1874 survey commissioned by the State Board of Agriculture found that the Western Kansas was in a dire situation. Specific to the area, out of Ford County's 333 residents, it was determined that 150 required public assistance. The state legislature created the Kansas Central Relief Committee to disburse private contributions but refused to appropriate state aid, other than loans, allowing counties to sell relief bonds that would then be purchased by state bonds. The state's own financial situation brought cries of

⁴⁶ Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century*, 158.

unconstitutionality to proposals for state appropriations. Kansas Lieutenant Governor E. S. Stover, head of the Kansas Central Relief Committee, largely dismissed the situation, suggesting that the majority of sufferers were immigrants that had settled in Western Kansas. He remarked, “Strictly speaking, they are not citizens of Kansas at all,” which led some in Western Kansas to begin calling for secession from the state.⁴⁷ Wright campaigned for a seat in the state legislature in 1874, and under these conditions, first represented the 103rd District in 1875. Because proposed appropriations were defeated on the basis of constitutionality, Wright offered a facetious resolution:

“Resolved: That 100,000 copies of the constitution be printed in pamphlet form for distribution among destitute people of western Kansas to enable them to get through the winter and to furnish seed wheat for planting . . . and in order that no expenditure be made for expressage and freight on the same, each member is expected to carry home in his carpet sack the quota belonging to his county.”⁴⁸

At the close of this decade, farming was gaining steam, as steam engines were replacing teams of horses, and more and more land was converted for crops.⁴⁹

In 1879 Wright advocated for an early farm credit system. Logically, if there were more farmers growing wheat around Dodge City, that would then increase the number of patrons hiring the railroad to ship their harvests. In June 1879 the *Ford County Globe* reported that Wright arranged for the Santa Fe Railroad to ship wheat to Dodge City for the cost of the seed and sacks, but no freight, and by 1881 the railroad offered the seed on

⁴⁷ Craig Miner, *West of Wichita: Settling the High Plains of Kansas, 1865-1890* (Lawrence, University Press of Kansas, 1986), 54-59.

⁴⁸ *Western Times*, 1 May 1958. Reprinted in Miner, *West of Wichita*, 59.

⁴⁹ Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 9-10, 13.

full credit, payable with interest at the time of harvest.⁵⁰ However, the growing interest in farming, coupled with the decline of the cattle trade, brought the sad realization that the area suffered from periodic drought, and that land around Dodge City was dry. In February 1880 the *Ford County Globe* presented a piece written by the *Prairie Farmer* that addressed the issue of the dry soil in the area surrounding Dodge City. The piece read:

A report has been prepared by a Congressional Committee in favor of withdrawing from sale and pre-emption all public lands west of the 100th meridian, and leasing them for grazing purposes. The reason assigned for this change in the land policy of the government is that these lands – aggregate not less than 100,000,000 acres – are not adapted to the general farming, and never will be, even with irrigation.⁵¹

The report from the Congressional Committee did not result in the change in policy that was advised, thus leaving the farmers around Dodge City to address the dry soil.

The increasing focus on agriculture brought attention to the desire for irrigation. In 1884 a plan to divert water from the Arkansas River for the purpose of irrigating croplands came to fruition. The project was referred to as the Eureka Irrigation Canal, or Soule Canal, and it was the largest attempt of any irrigation canal in the state up to that point.⁵² In April 1884, the *Ford County Globe* reported, “Tuesday, April 8th, 1884, will no doubt be known for future generations in this part of the country as an eventful day in the history of our town and other towns that will be benefited by the construction of the

⁵⁰ *Ford County Globe*, 17 June 1879; Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 16.

⁵¹ “West Of The 100th Meridian,” *Ford County Globe*, 17 February 1880.

⁵² Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 3.

great Eureka irrigation canal.”⁵³ The project was financed by an investor from New York, Asa T. Soule, with the main canal being finished within two years. Wright bought a half section of land on the canal route, but the water never arrived.⁵⁴ The onset of drought, the decreased water from Colorado, engineering oversight, problems with the embankments and a break in the dam plagued the canal into the turn of the century. The canal consistently failed to work correctly, and crops were lost year after year. Soule sold his interests in the failed canal to an English syndicate in 1897.⁵⁵ Soule’s interest’s in Dodge City also included the construction of a small Presbyterian college, Soule College, with development beginning in 1887, and the purchase or development of other businesses and enterprises.⁵⁶

Despite the canal’s failure, agriculture continued to develop even without large-scale irrigation, especially in the planting of wheat. In the year that it was incorporated, Dodge City area farmers planted 1,116 acres of wheat, but this grew to just over 7,000 acres by 1890.⁵⁷ In May 1892 *The Globe Republican* reported that alfalfa was being grown more heavily around Dodge City and that Wright purchased modern haying equipment to harvest his fields.⁵⁸ By the turn of the century, only fifteen years from

⁵³ “Irrigation,” *Ford County Globe*, 15 April 1884.

⁵⁴ Haywood, *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City*, 149.

⁵⁵ Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 4.

⁵⁶ “College Notes,” *Dodge City Democrat*, 15 October 1887.

⁵⁷ Wheat acreage statistics from Wiggins, *History of Dodge City*, 58.

⁵⁸ *The Globe Republican*, 23 May 1892.

Dodge City's incorporation, area farmers planted over 23,000 acres of wheat.⁵⁹ While farmers in and around Dodge City were seeking to advance agricultural practices, some of the citizens in Dodge City were seeking progress in municipal practices as well.

Just over a decade after Dodge City was incorporated in 1875, the city began to pursue the progressive interests of developing city services, infrastructure, and modern amenities. This progressivism was propelled by several residents in Dodge City, namely Wright, Hoover, and Gluck, though their involvement varied by year. Dodge City had treated them well, they had profited, and they sought to develop the city further. Tax records from March 1885 indicate that the largest taxpayer in Ford County that year was Wright. The second largest tax payer in Ford County that year was Hoover.⁶⁰ Eighteen Eighty Six witnessed a paramount year of seeking progress in Dodge City. Some attempts failed, some brought the first aspects of infrastructure, and others laid the base by which the city would grow in later years. The influx of development in 1886 is so important because it came in the face of disaster. Between November 1885 and January 1886, Dodge City lost nearly two city blocks to fire, followed by the loss of almost three-fourths of area cattle to blizzards and subzero temperatures. Dodge City relied on a volunteer fire department with three teams, which were led by Wright and two others. Each team consisted of fifteen volunteers.⁶¹ In a matter of months, the livelihood of several Dodge City residents, especially the uninsured, was decreased or gone. The

⁵⁹ Wheat acreage statistics from Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, 58.

⁶⁰ Faulk, *Dodge City: The Most Western Town of All*, 91.

⁶¹ Braddock and Covalt, *Dodge City*, 32.

American Hebrew and Jewish Tribune later reported that, “The great and tragic blizzards of January, 1886, exterminated Gluck’s herds” and Wright, the wealthiest man in Ford County, sold off 7,000 acres of land in order to pay his taxes.⁶² With his fortune in decline, Wright’s store was listed as available for rent by *The Globe Republican* in September 1890.⁶³ Wright owned another store in El Reno, Oklahoma at this time, and began spending more time there. In May 1892 *The Globe Republican* reported that new surplus Indian territory had been opened up in Caddo Springs, near El Reno. While inebriated, Wright and two friends reportedly joined in the land rush, arrived at a plot, elected Wright mayor, and then left.⁶⁴ By the end of the nineteenth century, personal letters revealed that Wright had turned to drug use.⁶⁵ Wright Park was officially named at the end of the century as *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported that Wright had planned in his “days of prosperity to give the park to the city, but when overtaken by adversity he was compelled to mortgage it for \$7,000.”⁶⁶ Other members of the community came forward and preserved the park for the city, whereby it was named Wright Park. Despite these tragedies, and the fact that not everyone regained their stature quickly, Dodge City rebuilt, and a period of progressivism began.

⁶² Quote from “Adolph Gluck, The Jewish Mayor Of Wild And Woolly Dodge City, Kansas,” *American Hebrew and Jewish Tribune*, 10 August 1934, reprinted in *Western States Jewish History*, 252; Braddock and Covalt, *Dodge City*, 188.

⁶³ “For Rent,” *The Globe Republican*, 17 September 1890.

⁶⁴ “Wild Ride To Caddo,” *Ibid.*, 9 May 1892; Haywood, *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City*, 163-164.

⁶⁵ Haywood, *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City*, 168.

⁶⁶ “Robert M. Wright Dead,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 8 January 1915.

The city's first sewer, a partial sewer that only serviced a portion of the city, was proposed and passed with a special election in 1886. It was constructed, and was expanded two years later, but still only serviced a portion of the city.⁶⁷ Dodge City was burdened by inadequate dirt streets, so in 1886 the city council sought an ordinance levying five mills for developing and grading streets. The vote passed the citizens of Dodge City and street improvement bonds were issued the next year. The bonds were financed on a twenty year note.⁶⁸ In the spring of 1886, the *Dodge City Democrat* noted that the city council awarded franchises to three companies: the Dodge City Gas and Mining Company, a company with strong ties to Adolph Gluck that planned to prospect for coal and desired to provide natural gas service in Dodge City, the Incandescent Electric Light Company, which became the Dodge City Light Company, and the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company.⁶⁹

The Dodge City Gas and Mining Company received a twenty year charter in 1886, and then two years later the city purchased \$8,000 of company stock, but no gas services were developed for the citizens of Dodge City, nor was any coal found.⁷⁰ The Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company defaulted, as did the next four companies that were given franchises. Wright and a few others installed telephone lines between their homes and businesses, but most residents went without telephone service

⁶⁷ Dodge City Council Proceedings, 5 November 1886.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 24 August 1887.

⁶⁹ "Notice," *Dodge City Democrat*, 6 March 1886; "A Substantial Boom," *Ibid.*, 22 May 1886.

⁷⁰ Dodge City Council Proceedings, 5 November 1886; Carl Etrick, *Dodge City Semi-Centennial* (Dodge City: Etrick Company, 1922), 10.

for the remainder of the nineteenth century.⁷¹ In February 1886, the *Dodge City Democrat* reported, “Dodge City is soon to be lighted with electricity; a company is being organized for that purpose . . . yet they do not stop at this, they insist on putting in water works for the city . . . such are the contemplated public improvements for the commercial metropolis for Dodge City.”⁷² Water was critical not only for agricultural purposes, but for municipal uses as well. Dodge City’s first town well was built in 1872, the year it was founded, and offered water accessible via two buckets that were attached to a pulley system.⁷³

In 1886, the city allowed the Dodge City Water-supply Company, which would operate as an entirely separate company from the Dodge City Light Company for the first twelve years, to construct the first water plant to provide water services to Dodge City. The water works were installed in accordance with the Dodge City Water-supply Company, and accepted for municipal use by the city council in January 1887.⁷⁴ The Dodge City Water-supply Company laid water-mains, and leased hydrants to the city. The company was purchased almost immediately by Asa Soule, who sought to develop a new area North of the city. A legal dispute in later years records the history of the company during this time, in which the brief stated:

⁷¹ “How Phone Service Has Developed Here Since 1904,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*. 1 August 1946.

⁷² “New Enterprises,” *Dodge City Democrat*, 23 February 1886.

⁷³ *Kansas, A Guide to the Sunflower State: Federal Writer’s Project of the Works Projects Administration for the state of Kansas* (New York: The Viking Press, 1939).

⁷⁴ Dodge City Council Proceedings, 16 June 1886; *Ibid.* 22 January 1887.

Prior to September 1, 1887, the Dodge City Water-supply Company, a Kansas Corporation, had been granted a franchise by the city of Dodge City to lay water-mains in the streets of that city and supply the inhabitants thereof with water, and it had erected and was then maintaining a water-works system in said city. Its stand-pipe was very near the north line of the corporate limits in said city. Shortly prior to that date one A. T. Soule had purchased all of the stock of the water-works company, which consisted of 1000 shares, of which he took 996 shares in his own name and gave the other four shares to four other persons, so that there might be a sufficient number of shareholders to constitute a full board of directors. On September 1 a complete transfer of the possession and management of the water-works system was made to the new board of directors thus constituted. Mr. Soule at the time owned a section of land immediately to the north of Dodge City, which he had platted into lots and blocks, and had named Lakeview addition . . . north of this section of land he had erected a college building and was evidently expecting to build up a town upon the section of which he had platted. To aid in accomplishing this, he bought and laid a large quantity of four-inch wrought-iron water-pipe or main in the streets of his proposed addition to the city of Dodge City. This was done before the new directors took charge of the water-works plant. This pipe was laid connecting with the pipe of the old system near the stand-pipe . . . to connect with the main system of water-works, thereby forming a circulatory system and avoiding dead ends. From a point where the pipe turns south he extended the line still further west and then north clear across the platted section to the college building.⁷⁵

The college building mentioned is the Presbyterian college, and Soule was likewise the financier of the aforementioned Eureka Irrigation Canal.

The Dodge City Light Company was operational in 1886, the same year that their franchise was awarded, and the first electric light shone on August 21. This occurred “only seven years after Thomas Alva Edison first succeeded in making an incandescent lamp in which a loop of carbonized cotton thread glowed in a vacuum,” and the company was organized by “a group of enterprising citizens” that included G.M. Hoover, and R.

⁷⁵ *Dodge City Water and Light Company v. The Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company*, No. 12,544, 1902 67 Pac. 462, (KS January 11, 1902). *Reports Of Cases Argued and Determined In The Supreme Court of The State of Kansas*, Vol. LXIV (Topeka, KS, 1902), 248-249.

M. Wright.⁷⁶ In August 1886 The *Dodge City Democrat* observed, “This will put the finishing touches on the streets . . . this city will be second to none in the state, in the way of improvements,” and in March of the following year the same newspaper reports that Adolph Gluck became involved with the company.⁷⁷ The next year “lights were to be found in quite a number of residences in town and one lawn was lighted,” and by 1888 merchants “were advertising the convenience of shopping in electrically lighted stores.”⁷⁸ Ten years after the first light, arc lights started appearing in the streets of Dodge City. However, a problem arose in September 1897 and the city clerk was instructed to discontinue purchasing lights from the company, though the city did continue to do so.⁷⁹ In November 1897 a larger generator was installed capable of handling “1,600 incandescent lights,” then in January 1898 “electrical pressure was increased from 110 to 220 volts,” and the next month “the light and water plants of Dodge City were consolidated.”⁸⁰ The February 1898 consolidation of the light and water plants organized them under a new company name, the Dodge City Water and Light Company. Between the eleven years in which Soule organized the Dodge City Water-supply Company under a board of directors, and the water and light plants were consolidated into the Dodge City

⁷⁶ “Dodge City Has Had Juice Since August 21, 1886,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 26 July 1946.

⁷⁷ “The Electric Light,” *Dodge City Democrat*, 28 August 1886; *Ibid.*, 5 March 1887.

⁷⁸ “Dodge City Has Had Juice Since August 21, 1886,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 26 July 1946.

⁷⁹ Dodge City Council Proceedings, 23 September 1897.

⁸⁰ “Dodge City Has Had Juice Since August 21, 1886,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 26 July 1946.

Water and Light Company, the ownership of the water works legally changed hands twice over. The brief from the legal dispute stated:

Several mortgages had been made by the Dodge City Water-supply Company to different mortgagees covering all of its water-plant and appurtenances thereto. These mortgages were foreclosed, and the entire plant was sold under order of the court to Marilla S. Soule on the 31st day of July, 1895. Marilla S. Soule was the widow of A. T. Soule, he having died some years before this purchase by her. The [Dodge City Water-supply Company] holds title to the water-works plant under a deed from Mrs. Soule made December 19, 1895. This deed described the property conveyed . . . heretofore owned by the . . . Dodge City Water-supply Company . . . In 1889 the streets and alleys of this Lakeview addition were vacated by the act of the legislature, no inhabitants having located homes thereon, and this land is now and has been since it was vacated ordinary farming or pasture land . . . the Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company, is now the owner thereof, having purchased it from Marilla S. Soule . . . and holds title by quitclaim deeds dated December 19, 1895, and after Marilla S. Soule had sold the water-works plant.⁸¹

The Lakeview addition had failed in less than two years, and along with the water works, was separated from Asa Soule's widow. The water works were conveyed, or transferred, to the Dodge City Water-supply Company, whereby it became part of the Dodge City Water and Light Company three years later in 1898, somewhat fulfilling the February 1886 report by the *Dodge City Democrat* that the developers of the light plant "insist on putting in water works for the city."⁸² Dodge City was progressing, and its future appeared bright, but the reason for the city council's initial reservation to continuing to purchase street lights in 1897 was due to a problem that had been mounting over the last decade. It was the result of the city's financial situation.

⁸¹ *Dodge City Water and Light Company v. The Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company.*

⁸² "New Enterprises," *Dodge City Democrat*, 23 February 1886.

In 1888 Dodge City had a soda factory, carriage factory, tobacco and candy works, a plumbing company, planing mill, galvanized iron works, and a further boom was anticipated. In January 1888, *The Dodge City Times* expressed optimism and wrote:

Why not have a boom in Dodge City? We have all the natural advantages. We have railroads. We have a large population of prosperous citizens If the proper united effort is made by our people Dodge will be a city with a population of twenty thousand people in the next five years Give inducements to manufacturing industries. Tell your friends of our rich soil and glorious climate, and our boom will excel . . . look for it, and work for it. It will come.⁸³

Such development and further development required infrastructure and utilities, which came at a price; a price that the city could not afford.⁸⁴ Beginning in 1886, the desire to serve Dodge City's citizens with lights, sewer, water, telephone service, and graded streets, had been met with great enthusiasm. This led the city into a period of great public indebtedness, which was not uncommon nationwide, as during this period "borrowing was looked upon as an extraordinary means of securing revenue. This method was to be employed when all others failed, and the ordinary sources of revenue were inadequate to meet such sudden demands."⁸⁵ Dodge City's growth and subsequent spending had outpaced its revenues, and its bookkeeping had lapsed as well:

All this activity brought on a financial crisis after 1891, for the city could not meet its scrip obligations, either interest or principal, and as a result many issues were taken into court and judgments were rendered against the city. This became so critical in 1897 that the city refused to acknowledge any scrip and finally admitted that it did not know the amount of its indebtedness, for the records of the city clerk and the city treasurer did not agree.⁸⁶

⁸³ "Dodge Will Boom," *The Dodge City Times*, 26 January 1888.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 4 February 1888.

⁸⁵ Merlin Harold Hunter, *Outlines of Public Finance* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1921), 201.

⁸⁶ Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, iii-iv.

In the instance of the city's water service provider, which the council approved in 1887, the financial burden came far earlier than 1891, as the city began struggling to meet its financial commitments to the company by July of the same year.⁸⁷ The city's struggles continued and led to legal confrontation just over a decade later.

The original contract with the Dodge City Water-supply Company gave the city the option to purchase the plant after ten years, a deadline that had already passed, but the city did not have the necessary funds to do so.⁸⁸ In April 1898 the city's council sought ways to decrease its financial obligation to the company, as it struggled to uphold the contract. The company advised the city to cut off forty nine of the water hydrants, which the city was leasing, to reduce costs. The city followed their advice, and a month later, May 1898, the city council made a unique statement that cites the reasons for their decision. The council maintained that due to "decrease in population of the city . . . and insufficient pressure in certain localities, certain fire plugs have become useless."⁸⁹ Even with this change, the city could not meet its obligations, so at the end of May 1898, the city passed a resolution that heavily decreased their monthly payments to the company. The company was not consulted regarding this change, nor was the new amount negotiated. The company was not pleased with the change and declared it a breach of their contract. Hoover suggested the city consider an amendment to the resolution, increasing the amount the city authorized for monthly expenditures, but no change to the

⁸⁷ Dodge City Council Proceedings, 22 January 1887.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 16 June 1886.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 18 May 1898.

resolution was made. The Dodge City Water and Light Company subsequently sued the city for \$16,000.⁹⁰

At the turn of the century, a still young Dodge City, with its recent wild West past, and its current public indebtedness, stepped into the dawn of what would become the Progressive Era. Several members of its small but growing population of 2,208 people had watched Dodge City begin to progress around them.⁹¹ This progressivism, largely political, was guided by Robert Wright, George Hoover, and Adolph Gluck, but it was only the beginning, a glimmer of the progress that awaited Dodge City.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 27 May 1898.

⁹¹ Population statistic from Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, 51.

CHAPTER III

A NEW CENTURY AND PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS, 1900 to 1906

In the late 1880s Dodge City shifted from a cattle town to an agricultural community. By 1900 farmers around Dodge City were planting over 23,000 acres of wheat, and steam-powered threshers continued to replace horse-drawn plows and threshers. As more land was converted for crops, mechanized farming increased yields. Area farmers planted close to 87,000 acres of wheat in 1905, and in 1906 gas tractors with steel rims were starting to replace steam engines.¹ Dodge City continued to mature from 1900 to 1906, and the population grew from over 2,300 in 1900 to 3,700 in 1906.² In January 1901, *The Globe Republican* reported the organization of a Carrie Nation Club in town, and the last saloon in Dodge City was closed in 1903.³ After five companies failed to deliver telephone services to Dodge City residents in the late nineteenth century, another charter was issued, and a telephone exchange was finally built in 1904 and citywide telephone lines were installed.⁴ The wooden bridge that was built in 1874 across the Arkansas River at Dodge City was torn down in 1906 and a steel one was constructed in its place.⁵ During the early years of the twentieth century Robert Wright served as the Kansas State Forestry Commissioner. Wright was appointed in 1899 and served through

¹ Wheat acreage statistics from Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, 59; Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 12.

² Population statistics from Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, 51-52.

³ *The Globe Republican*, 31 January 1901; Etrick, *Dodge City Semi-Centennial*, 9.

⁴ Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 32.

⁵ Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century*, 158.

1905.⁶ In 1905 he was elected President of the Kansas State Historical Society, which was the first time the position was held by a resident of Dodge City. George Hoover, Dodge City's first elected mayor, served two terms as mayor in the nineteenth century, not successive, and after a fifteen year absence from the position, he was elected again and served from 1901 to 1907. In July 1904, *The Globe Republican* reported that Dr. Samuel Crumbine was appointed Secretary of the Kansas Board of Health and moved to Topeka.⁷ Crumbine was appointed to the Board in 1899, but with his appointment as Secretary in 1904, he was placed in a position that would be critical in the progress of Dodge City in the second decade of the twentieth century. In his book *Frontier Doctor*, Crumbine later wrote, "Very early in my new career I became convinced that public health education is of first importance to a complete public health practice," and in 1905 the board began issuing monthly health bulletins.⁸

Despite the maturing that occurred at the beginning of the twentieth century, Dodge City was hindered by early infrastructure that was inadequate and beginning to fail, including a sewer system that only serviced a portion of the city and public indebtedness as a result of the city's progressivism. In January 1902, the city issued \$47,000 in bonds to cover city hall bonds, street improvement bonds, matured coupons, and other expenses.⁹ In January 1903, *The Livestock Farmer* shared frustration with the undependability of the electric services in Dodge City, and the management of the

⁶ Haywood, *The Merchant Prince of Dodge City*, 169.

⁷ "Dr. Crumbine Moves," *The Globe Republican*, 7 July 1904.

⁸ Crumbine, *Frontier Doctor*, 125.

⁹ Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, 137.

company. At this point electricity was expanding throughout the city but was not citywide. The newspaper reported:

Last Sunday night about 9 o' clock the city was clothed in complete darkness on account of a hot box in the dynamo engine, and it took about 4 hours to put in new boxes, or rather hunt up some babbit metal and rebabbit the old ones It appears to be the policy of the present management to give as little for services rendered as possible.¹⁰

The newspaper criticized the company itself, but later that year the city faced a continuing financial situation. In 1897 the city stopped purchasing street lights for a period of time and stopped acknowledging scrip as internal records were inconsistent, but in December 1903, the city council considered turning off the street lights and reducing staff or their salaries to save money. *The Globe Republican* noted that an initial meeting was held and a public meeting was scheduled for late December at Gluck's opera house:

The city council met last night to vote on an ordinance providing for shutting off lights and dismissing city officers to curtail expenses for the coming year . . . the matter was postponed to give the citizens an opportunity to examine into the matter and consult together regarding the best plan to adopt The council has only one determination that they are not willing to depart from. That determination is to not go into debt any further. The old debts have been growing smaller and in the same proportion property value has been increasing. No action will be taken now until the whole matter is submitted to a mass meeting A mass meeting will be held at Gluck's opera house on next Tuesday evening December 22.¹¹

A month later in January 1904, the *Dodge City Democrat* reported that both ideas were passed by the city council, but not unanimously, as Mayor Hoover and Councilman Gluck disagreed:

Thursday a new city law went into effect and with it several changes in the affairs of the city It was one of the liveliest meetings ever held by that body and on

¹⁰ "Our Lame Waterworks," *The Livestock Farmer*, 29 January 1903.

¹¹ "Mass Meeting Next Tuesday," *The Globe Republican*, 17 December 1903.

nearly every question the vote was decided by the mayor All members except . . . Madden were present at the opening of the council and he arrived in time to cast his vote on the new ordinance Mayor Hoover briefly stated to the council that the present expenses of the city government could not be met with the present income and that an ordinance had been prepared providing for the reduction of expenses. The ordinance was called for and the real fight began. Originally the ordinance provided for the total abolition of the salaries of the marshal, treasurer, street commissioner, city attorney and police judge. This was changed to read “reduction” Mayor Hoover cast the deciding vote for the passage of the ordinance and was called to time by Alderman Petillon, who contended that the mayor had no vote unless in a tie. The argument ended in dispatching Marshal Rhoades after . . . Madden, who, when he arrived cast his vote with the Gluck faction, making even strength in the board. Then Mayor Hoover cast the deciding vote and the ordinance became law The same fight again arose and Mayor Hoover cast the deciding vote and ordered the lights cut off, beginning last night The contention . . . was that the city could do without lights for several years.¹²

This lively council meeting was a clash between supporters of Hoover and what the newspaper deemed the Gluck faction. In the end, salaries were reduced and the streets of Dodge City went dark.

In January 1903, the same month *The Livestock Farmer* criticized the electrical services in Dodge City; the newspaper began a persistent campaign on the issue of water, and started a recurring column called “Our Lame Waterworks.” *The Livestock Farmer* observed the need for repairs and cited the fire hazard of a faulty water system. It also asserted that the city should own its own water and light plant, as the city still contracted for these services. The newspaper referenced the city’s public indebtedness, cited the water system as a hindrance to the town’s progress, and challenged local officials to act:

Our water problem is getting to be a very serious affair. The pipes are old and getting worn, and will not stand a sufficient pressure in case of a fire. This was plainly shown in the last fire we had Water service is poor and the rates are so high that the property owners can’t afford to use it. This doesn’t speak well for

¹² “Expenses Reduced, No Street Lights,” *Dodge City Democrat*, 8 January 1904.

a progressive town like Dodge City A third of the towns in Kansas own their waterworks . . . the state laws provide an easy way to acquire certain public utilities, among them water and light. Other indebtedness is no bar to acquire these Dodge City is heavily in debt, contracted in the boom days, and as we need more revenue to pay off these bonds and for other purposes, ownership of the water and light plant would point to a way out, as a handsome revenue could be derived from this source . . . if our present city officials stand in the way of the city's progress, put in new one's at the coming election.¹³

In early February *The Livestock Farmer* again criticized the water system, noted the necessity of fighting fires, and further inserted monetary issues by suggesting some residents were benefiting from city services without paying city taxes:

It is apparent that something must be done with our present system, or lack there of system, of supplying water, not alone to household consumers, but also for fire protection It is said that "taxes and death are sure." This may be true as regards death, but not in regard to taxes, at least in a measure, for we find that while some of our richest citizens apparently live in the city, yet in reality they are not. They thus evade city taxes on property that rightfully belongs in the city.¹⁴

Later the same month, *The Livestock Farmer* reported that the current provider held the charter for three more years saying, "There is a general impression that the city cannot acquire the waterworks nor build a new one for 3 years yet, as that is the time when the charter for the present waterworks company expires. The city appears to be tied up with the present company and can't see the way out"¹⁵ A week later the newspaper again referenced progress when it claimed, "It is not the intention of fomenting any quarrels with the city officials in regard to the waterworks problem . . . the fact remains that our

¹³ "Our Lame Waterworks," *The Livestock Farmer*, 29 January 1903.

¹⁴ "Our Lame Waterworks," *Ibid.*, 5 February 1903.

¹⁵ "Our Lame Waterworks," *Ibid.*, 12 February 1903.

water service is poor, and entirely unsatisfactory from every standpoint . . . Dodge City shouldn't be behind in the 20th century progress.”¹⁶

During this same time, the Kansas Supreme Court heard a case that was argued over the issue of water lines specifically. In January 1902, the same month and year that the city refinanced its debt, the court determined a case that stemmed from Asa Soule's failed Lakeview addition, North of Dodge City. The issue is complex, as is the history behind it. In February 1886, the *Dodge City Democrat* reported that Dodge City was soon to be “lighted with electricity” by a company that was being organized, which also planned on “putting in water works for the city.”¹⁷ The company was established by “a group of enterprising individuals” that included George Hoover and Robert Wright, and the *Dodge City Democrat* noted that Adolph Gluck joined the group in March 1887.¹⁸ The efforts of electricity and the water works were divided into two separate companies: the Dodge City Light Company, and the Dodge City Water-supply Company, both of which received charters from the city in 1886. The first light shone in August, and the water works were completed at the beginning of the next year, January 1887. Prior to September 1887, Soule bought the Dodge City Water-supply Company and laid four-inch water lines in his Lakeview addition, connecting them to the water mains for the city's water works. In September Soule established a Board of Directors for the company, but he retained an overwhelming majority of the ownership of the company. The Lakeview

¹⁶ “Our Lame Waterworks,” *Ibid.*, 19 February 1903.

¹⁷ “New Enterprises,” *Dodge City Democrat*, 23 February 1886.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 5 March 1887; “Dodge City Has Had Juice Since August 21, 1886,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 26 July 1946.

addition was a failure and was vacated by the state legislature in 1889. Soule passed away, and mortgage holders foreclosed on the water works. Marilla Soule, Asa's widow, took possession of the water works in July 1895, and she conveyed ownership of the water works back to the Dodge City Water-supply Company in December 1895. That same month she sold the Lakeview addition, which was pasture land, to the Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company for farming purposes. In February 1898, the Dodge City Light Company and Dodge City Water-supply Company consolidated to become the Dodge City Water and Light Company. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Dodge City Water and Light Company removed the four-inch water lines that Asa Soule had buried in the Lakeview addition, which were tied into the water works. They adjusted the water connections, rerouted the main, and retained the four-inch pipe. The Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company sued the Dodge City Water and Light Company for possession of the pipe, and won, but the Dodge City Water and Light Company brought error, or challenge, which led to the case being heard by the Kansas Supreme Court. A writ of replevin was filed, which caused the holding of the pipe until the matter was determined by the court.

The case, *Dodge City Water and Light Company v. The Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company* was argued over which company owned the four-inch water pipe that was buried in the Lakeview addition but connected to the water works, at the time the water works and land were conveyed and sold in December 1895. The case read:

All of these lines of pipe were laid in the streets of his platted addition. That portion of the line spoken of as running north from the stand-pipe and west five blocks was, from that time until shortly before the bringing of this action, a material and necessary part of the water-works system of the Dodge City Water

and Light Company and its successors. A short time before the commencement of this action, its successor, the Dodge City Water and Light Company, removed this portion of the pipe from the soil and made a return connection farther south, taking the pipe that it had removed from this portion of the line into its own possession. This was an action in replevin to recover the possession of this pipe Inasmuch as A. T. Soule purchased the water-pipe and laid it upon the land then his own, which was afterward purchased by it from his heirs, with the title to this land passed the right to this disputed water pipe, it being a fixture, and that as the water company went upon this land and removed the pipe, therefore the defendant in error was entitled to maintain replevin to recover possession of it.¹⁹

In its decision the court cited the following observations:

We very much doubt whether the pipe ever became a fixture to the land within which it was laid in any proper sense and use of the term . . . this pipe was a material portion of the water-works plant at this time It can hardly be contended that Mrs. Soule or the legatees or heirs of A. T. Soule could maintain this action of replevin We must look into the entire transaction to determine whether it was laid as an addition to his water-works plant or as a fixture to his land. It was connected with the mains at both ends and was a necessary portion of the water works system, and was so used at the time the mortgages . . . were given and title acquired It was not attached to the land in which it was placed so that its removal would interfere with practical use of the land or in any way injure it for agricultural purposes What adaptation and connection would a water-works system with four-inch pipe have to the ordinary use of a piece of agricultural land The pipe in question, being at the time of the sale of the water-works system by Mrs. Soule to the present owners an essential part of that system, passed by her conveyance The judgment of the court below must be reversed, with directions to proceed further in accordance with this opinion.²⁰

The court determined that the water lines were used when the mortgages on the water works were established, and it noted that the pipes were attached to the water mains.

Because the lines were an essential part of the water works, and served no purpose to the agricultural use of the property, the court found that they were not part of the land. The

Kansas Supreme Court ruled in January 1902, that the pipes were transferred to the

¹⁹ *Dodge City Water and Light Company v. The Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company*, No. 12,544, 1902 67 Pac. 462, (KS January 11, 1902). *Reports Of Cases Argued and Determined In The Supreme Court of The State of Kansas*, Vol. LXIV (Topeka, KS, 1902), 251.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 251-253.

Dodge City Water-supply Company when the water works was conveyed in 1895 by Marilla Soule, and it reversed the order made by the lower court in favor of the Alfalfa Land and Irrigation Company.

The Dodge City Water and Light Company built a new ice plant in the later months of 1902, changed its name to the Dodge City Water, Light, and Ice Company and started offering ice the same year.²¹ In 1903, one year later, the English syndicate that bought the Eureka Canal in the 1880s from Asa Soule abandoned it.²² In the summer of 1904 the Midland Water, Light, and Ice Company purchased the Dodge City Water, Light, and Ice Company, and the company was granted a new charter to provide electricity to Dodge City Residents.²³ Dodge City experienced its first electric light in 1886, but only portions of the city had electricity at the turn of the century. Because of the Midland Water, Light, and Ice Company, the entire city had access to electricity by the end of 1904.²⁴ From 1900 to 1906 Mayor George Hoover led the city through its rising population, public indebtedness, insufficient and failing infrastructure, and the pursuit of progress.

²¹ “Dodge City Has Had Juice Since August 21, 1886,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 26 July 1946.

²² Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 4.

²³ *Ibid.*, 32.

²⁴ *Ibid.*; “The Electric Light,” *Dodge City Democrat*, 28 August 1886.

CHAPTER IV

THE POLITICS OF GROWTH AND THE SMELL OF PROGRESS, 1907 to 1911

The period between 1907 and 1911 encompasses the ongoing issues of progressivism and public indebtedness, but during this period the desire for city-owned services were not in conjunction with correcting inadequate infrastructure, but rather the two were pitted against each other. By 1907 area farmers were planting over 142,000 acres of wheat; the population of Dodge City had grown to over 4,300, but the city was still serviced by a sewer system that was built in 1886, one year after the city was incorporated.¹ A minor expansion to the sewer was completed two years after its construction, but the partial sewer was far from extending citywide. Residents of Dodge City who were not connected to the sewer gathered their waste and dumped it on to the ground outside. In 1907 Kansas Board of Health Secretary Crumbine assisted in pushing a Food and Drug Act through the Kansas legislature, and a water and sewerage law was passed.² In 1909 the legislature passed what Crumbine later called “a flood of laws in relation to public health.”³ During this time, another eastern investor took interest in the Eureka Canal. Asa Soule sold the canal in the 1880s but the owner abandoned it in 1903, however, in 1908 a new owner purchased it hoping to utilize the river’s underflow with two centrifugal pumps capable of throwing 30,000 gallons of water per minute. *The Globe Republican* covered the new “Traylor Idea” in September 1909 and wrote:

¹ Wheat acreage and population statistics from Wiggins, *History of Dodge City*, 52; Dodge City Council Proceedings, 5 November 1886.

² Crumbine, *Frontier Doctor*, 115.

³ *Ibid.*, 198.

People along the Arkansas Valley are beginning to sit up and take notice, as they realize that one of the greatest projects of the present time is being worked out directly before their eyes. The raising of the Arkansas underflow by the “sump” intake plan is something new, big and altogether striking in irrigation and engineering lines. It has been of some for many years, but a hopeless dream Even the source of the “underflow” is a matter which is not agreed upon by the experts who have studied it. Engineer Traylor believes that he has measured fairly accurately the supply of the water . . . that by the “sump” intake plan he can collect at will the waters of the underflow and distribute moisture through the aid of the Eureka Canal wherever a ditch from the canal leads across a farm, the value of the land will jump from \$25 an acre to \$250 in value.⁴

The pumps worked, but too much water was lost in transit due to evaporation. The canal, with the pumps, was again abandoned.⁵ As water for irrigation purposes was again being sought, Adolph Gluck opted to pursue municipal, city-owned, water and electric plants.

The Livestock Farmer had previously reported that the city could not make other arrangements for three years, when the charter with the Dodge City Water, Light and Ice Company expired.⁶ The Midland Water, Light, and Ice Company purchased the company in 1904, and by 1907 the conditions of the charter were no longer valid.

In February 1907, Gluck was serving as a committee chairman for the Commercial Club and presented a report on the need for Dodge City to invest in a water plant and electric plant. Gluck’s report cited the city’s growth, criticized the Midland Water, Light, and Ice Company for the price of their services, and advocated for the city to purchase or construct plants. Gluck’s report was printed in *The Journal Democrat* and read:

⁴ “Eureka Canal A Gigantic Project,” *The Globe Republican*, 9 September 1909.

⁵ Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 4.

⁶ “Our Lame Waterworks,” *The Livestock Farmer*, 12 February 1903.

We do not favor the contract now being considered by the city nor in fact any contract except from year to year until such time as the city can purchase the plant or build and operate a new one All cities from which we have information and where the plant is owned by the city, the rates seem to be lower and in nearly all cases the city saves the expense of fire hydrants. People are generally well satisfied with the city ownership and would not give a private corporation a franchise The growth of our city, the increased consumption of water, the consolidation of water plant, electric light, and ice plant thereby reducing the cost of operation, we think should operate to give us better and more reasonable rates.⁷

Within weeks the Midland Water, Light, and Ice Company responded in *The Journal Democrat*. It cited Dodge City's anticipated growth, attacked Gluck, challenged the premise of his arguments, and proclaimed a fallacy in his logic:

Up to this time we have refrained from giving out or making any published statement in regard to the water works question in Dodge City, but after such a gross misrepresentation of the facts presented by Mr. Gluck . . . we feel it is our duty to make a statement at this time There are many other expenses connected with a water plant besides that of operation, interest on bonds must be raised and a sinking fund set aside, to meet these bonds when due. The expense of all betterments and depreciation such as extensions of mains, renewal and repair of mains, replacing of all worn out machinery, repairs, etc . . . Mr. Gluck's report "does not favor any contract with the present water company except from year to year." The fallacy of such a contract to any sound business man, unbiased and unprejudiced, is seen at the first glance. What company, corporation or municipality would make any improvements, extensions or betterments on such a contract? Dodge City is constantly growing and has a bright future ahead of it, there will soon need to be several extensions made, additional fire hydrants furnished, repairs and betterments that will need to come with the increased growth and prosperity in the city If it is the desire of the city that these rates be raised and the minimum lowered, or that rates for protection be raised and other rates lowered we stand ready at any time.⁸

The issue was put on hold, but *The Journal Democrat* started lobbying for more electric street lights the next year in August 1908. The paper observed an increase in property

⁷ "The Water Question," *The Journal Democrat*, 1 February 1907.

⁸ "So That The People May Know," *Ibid.*, 15 February 1907.

values, noted the city was growing, encouraged citizens to reach out to elected officials, and wrote:

At the meeting of the council at which the tax levy was made it is learned that the council considered the question of street lighting This is a question that has not been discussed recently because of seeming burden which would fall on the taxpayers. But the large increase in the taxable property valuations and the generally prosperous condition hereabouts, makes possible the necessity Citizens interested should confer with their councilmen and express their views so that the council may know the will of the people Dodge City is growing.⁹

In October 1908, *The Journal Democrat* reported that neighboring Garden City, a comparable city just over 50 miles West of Dodge City, passed bonds and was building an electric plant, but these issues continued to be debated in Dodge City.¹⁰ During this time a new charter was issued by the city for natural gas services. A company tied to Gluck, the Dodge City Gas and Mining Company, was given a 20 year charter for gas services in 1886 but did not provide any.¹¹ A new charter for natural gas services was issued to Hoover in 1908.¹²

Similar to Hoover who ended a fifteen year absence from the position of mayor of Dodge City by serving from 1901 to 1907, Gluck decided to return to public office after a similar absence. In 1909 Gluck was once again elected mayor of Dodge City, and he convinced the city council that the city needed to purchase the water works, except for the engine and building, from the Midland Water, Light, and Ice Company. In September

⁹ "Should This Town Have Street Lights," *Ibid.*, 28 August 1908.

¹⁰ "Electric Bonds Voted In Finney County," *Ibid.*, 16 October, 1908.

¹¹ Dodge City Council Proceedings, 5 November 1886.

¹² Braddock and Covalt. *Dodge City*, 34.

1909, *The Globe Republican* reported that thirty year bonds were passed for the water works project:

The city council at its meeting last night took official action for issuing \$100,000 in bonds of \$500 and \$1000. The ordinance calling for this issue of bonds is published in this paper today and is now in effect, so that the bonds may be issued at any time. The mayor and councilmen . . . recently made a trip to several towns to examine the water plants and get cost on building and operating. One of the best showings made by a municipal plant by the information secured by Mayor Gluck, is at Anthony The bond issue will be dated September 30, and made payable September 30, 1939, and they are to bear interest not to exceed 5 per cent.¹³

The water works were purchased and in October the newspaper noted the site selected for the new plant. The newspaper also reported on the anticipated approval of the State Board of Health, addressed water quality concerns, and observed that a contract had been negotiated with the water company to manage the city's water works:

The site for a new water works building has been selected by the city council. It is on the Rock Island west of the north end of the race track. The site will be approved by the state board of health providing the wells are sunk at least to second water The council in its last meeting held Wednesday evening, authorized the advertising for bids for \$75,000 four and one-half per cent bonds. This issue will, of course, be offered to the state school fund in compliance with the law Some of the members of the present council believe that the test water is none too good for the city, and they will hold out for putting down wells to the best water. The council will no doubt figure out some way to get soft water without being too expensive to pump it. The present council has done a good deal of work in the past on this question, in connection with figuring with the water company on a contract.¹⁴

¹³ "The Bond Issue," *The Globe Republican*, 16 September 1909.

¹⁴ "Site Selected," *Ibid.*, 21 October 1909.

The *American Hebrew and Jewish Tribune* later noted that Gluck was, “Always a stout believer in municipal ownership of public utilities,” and that he had “fought almost single-handedly, and won the city’s battle for control of its waterworks plant.”¹⁵

At that point construction began on the new building, and nearly a year later in September 1910, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported on the construction of the new building, noting that “the boilers are hung and the workmen are doing the brickwork to support them. The boxing is in for the oil tanks and the pipe connections are being laid.”¹⁶ Mayor Gluck hired the Freeborn Company to oversee construction, but it did not install the water hydrants to specification. The hydrants were to be excavated with crushed rock to ensure water did not gather at the surface, but the company neglectfully used dirt. Gluck addressed the issue with the Freeborn Company, and the issue was resolved as quickly as possible.¹⁷ Dodge City’s first municipal water plant was operational by the end of the year, but numerous issues and complications with the plant continued to occupy the city’s time and resources. During this time, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* also noted that the city’s deep well was in need of repair. In October 1910 *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported that Hoover, who had already contributed to the project, personally covered the \$2,000.00 repair.¹⁸

¹⁵ Quote from “Adolph Gluck, The Jewish Mayor Of Wild And Wooly Dodge City, Kansas,” *American Hebrew and Jewish Tribune*, 10 August 1934, reprinted in *Western States Jewish History*, 252.

¹⁶ “Council Passes The Monthly Budget And Routine Business,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 9 September 1910.

¹⁷ *The Dodge City Globe*, 29 December 1910.

¹⁸ “Commercial Club For A Deeper Bore,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 21 October 1910.

Gluck's persistence and the city's first municipal water plant were significant events in 1910, but the year also brought other changes, including the arrival of a new progressive leader to Dodge City: J. C. (Jess) Denious came to Dodge City in the fall of 1910 while working as an editor for the *Wichita Beacon*.¹⁹ Following up on a lead of a new southwesterly railroad line rumored of being built out of Dodge City, Denious decided to stay and purchased a large interest in *The Globe Republican*.²⁰ Denious found the old newspaper accounts of Dodge City's wilder days to be fascinating and began reprinting the stories, until members of the community complained that he was perpetuating an image that they worked hard to overcome.²¹ While Denious was getting settled in, in September 1910, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported that Gluck was presented with "a legal petition asking the council to call an election to submit the proposition of a commission form of government to the citizens for their approval or rejection."²² This left the mayor with little or no options as all the legal requirements had been met, and unless the council voted to disband itself, there would in fact be a vote to decide if the city council would change to a commission form of government.

A basic difference between the two forms of local government is that the commission system would do away with the present elected offices of mayor and the

¹⁹ Larry N. Lane. *J. C. Denious: Public Servant and State Promoter of Southwest Kansas*. Fort Hays Studies – History Series No. 5. (Hays: Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1968): 4.

²⁰ Jess C. Denious, "Address to the Kansas State Historical Society," *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, XV (February, 1947): 93.

²¹ Faulk, *Dodge City: The Most Western Town of All*, 193.

²² "Call Will Be Made For Commission Form," *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 23 September 1910.

respected nine council members from each ward, opting instead, for the election of a three member commission; a mayor and two commissioners. This proposed change, the modernization of the city government, was consistent with the progressivism of other cities during this period. City commissions offered a more efficient method of addressing irresponsible fiscal practices and ineffective public utilities.²³ *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported that it was decided that the vote to change the local government system would be included with the 1910 general election.²⁴ If passed, the new mayor and commissioners would be elected in the spring election in 1911. Less than a month before the vote, an article by *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* advocated for the proposed commission form. The article pointed out an important difference in the two systems:

Everyday people are asking what they can do to stop the city council in its present proceedings. Possibly nothing. At least nothing that doesn't involve a more or less expensive court proceeding. Under the commission form of government, however, a small part of the people who are objecting could call for a referendum vote on the matter and would be able to get it. And the commission would have to act in accordance with this vote.²⁵

With everything that was happening at this time, Gluck's desire to add a municipal electric plant to the municipal water plant, and the fact that if the vote for a city commission form of government passed it would essentially eliminate his position, Gluck surprised everyone. In October 1910, at a time when caution was expected and Gluck was only six months away from having to run for his position under the commission form if the November vote passed, he became hostile. Gluck, who had been impeached from the

²³ Link and McCormick, *Progressivism*, 29, 34-35.

²⁴ "Calls Election On Commission Form," *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 30 September 1910.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 7 October 1910.

office of mayor in 1891 for violating prohibition, was visiting his home state of Missouri and spoke negatively about prohibition in Kansas, and ill about Dodge City. In a statement taken during an interview with *The St. Louis Democrat*, Gluck was quoted as saying, “I trust that Missouri which was my early home will not make the mistake Kansas did when prohibition was adopted. There is more drunkenness in Kansas today than ever. The depreciation of property in my own city under the prohibitory law is something that a St. Louisan can scarcely conceive.”²⁶ In the year in which Gluck made this comment, 1910, the legendary Long Branch Saloon, which had been closed for many years, was being used a barber shop.²⁷

The backlash from Dodge City newspapers was swift and brutal. *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* ran an editorial that said it wished Gluck had gone to hell instead of St. Louis. The editorial stated:

Shades of the Hebrew scholar: What could the Mayor of Dodge City have been thinking about. Certainly not his opera house property. Now there is an example of depreciation The income on it when he bought it was probably less than a hundred dollars a month He believes in saloons. Has always believed in them – if he could get his. The opera house property is now returning the mayor nearly \$400 a month in rentals. It is assessed at \$13,000 and the mayor has within a short period offered to sell it for \$25,000 A lot of people wished he had gone to hell instead of St. Louis then his tale would not have been printed . . . instead of a testimonial to assist the liquor interests of Missouri at the expense of his own city, Mayor Gluck should be proclaiming the facts.²⁸

²⁶ *The St. Louis Democrat*, 24 October 1910.

²⁷ Young, *Dodge City: Up Through a Century*, 173.

²⁸ “For The Lord’s Sake Gluck Come Home,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 28 October 1910.

Meanwhile, J. C. Denious, writing in *The Globe Republican*, said Gluck's comments were "an act of disloyalty to a city that had honored him with the position of Mayor."²⁹

As the newspapers criticized Gluck, the Commercial Club, which he had previously used to advocate his interest in the city owning its own municipal services, issued a statement to refute him. The Commercial Club's statement ran in *The Globe Republican* and said:

With the enforcement of the prohibitory law Dodge City became a better town commercially, financially, intellectually, and morally. We are doing more business and are more prosperous than ever before. We are now building our own Water Plant, instead of devising ways to evade the law to collect fines to pay for the service.³⁰

Mayor Gluck addressed the situation upon his return to Dodge City. His comments appeared in *The Globe Republican* in November, where he stated, "The newspapers should have minded their own business and refrained from reprinting the statement until [I] had an opportunity to explain some of the sidelights of the situation."³¹ The newspapers offered no indication that they were satisfied by Gluck's remarks, and this compounded his declining support from the community.

Gluck continued to explain his position, but the vote to change to a commission form of government had passed, and it would take effect with the election of a new mayor and two city commissioners in the coming spring. During this time, the railroad extension that Denious was pursuing, which led him to relocate to Dodge City, was finally coming to fruition. In November *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported that

²⁹ "Citizens Are Indignant Over Mayor's Published Statement," *The Globe Republican*, 27 October 1910.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ "Mayor Will Not Talk Now," Ibid., 6 November 1910.

“The Santa Fe representatives who were taken over the route of the proposed southwest railroad from Dodge City found a great country They fully expect to see within the next three years, trains running from Dodge to the corner of the state.”³² Dodge City had a new form of local government on its way, and a new rail line in its future, but there were still issues to address, such as a municipal electric plant. Furthermore, the city’s sewer system, or lack thereof, lingered in Dodge City.

In late November 1910, Denious wrote a spirited piece in *The Globe Republican* asserting that the residents of Dodge City would receive added benefit if the new water plant were supplemented with a new sewer system. Denious cited health concerns and observed:

If all the refuse that accumulates in the homes and elsewhere in the city in one day could be collected in one place, a thousand men would attend the next meeting of the city council and demand immediate action on the sewer matter. As it is this sewage is thrown upon the surface of the ground, to endanger the health of the thousands of people in the community.³³

In December Denious changed the name of his paper to *The Dodge City Globe*, and *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported a small attendance at the December meeting of the Commercial Club to discuss the sewer issue. The paper noted a proposed cost of the sewer system, Hoover’s interest in the idea, and Gluck’s complete opposition. The article read:

Engineer Worley who has had charge for the city, of the new water service, had a plan for a [sewer] system drawn out The plan called for a main sewer on the south side of the railroad emptying into the river . . . included septic tanks for the purification of the sewage before it entered the river, in compliance with state

³² “Railroad Is Possible For The Southwest,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 4 November 1910.

³³ *The Globe Republican*, 24 November 1910.

law. This plan he estimates to cost about \$16,000 and at the suggestion of G. M. Hoover, it was asked that a line be surveyed on the north side of the tracks. Some are in favor of building the sewer at once, others favored finding out the cost first Mayor Gluck opposes any sewer work at this time.³⁴

The Dodge City Globe cited the club's support and Gluck's opposition as well:

The Dodge City Commercial Club favors a complete sewer system for the city. The club members expressed themselves on the subject Monday night in a resolution which requested that a preliminary survey be made as soon as possible Nearly everybody present favored the sewer proposition. The only points of controversy were over the kind of a system required for this city and the best location for the main sewers more interest was taken in this matter than in any other that has been presented to the club for some time the resolution adapted stated that it was the sense of the Commercial Club that an adequate sewer system should be provided here Mayor Gluck, who attended the meeting said in his judgment the sewer proposition should be postponed until the money to pay for it had been raised by the city.³⁵

The Commercial Club appointed a committee, including Hoover, to present the matter to the city council that night, but Mayor Gluck did not allow them any time. Weeks later Denious discovered that Gluck had been quietly discussing purchasing the electric plant from the Midland Company. Denious brought attention the situation in *The Dodge City Globe* and wrote:

Other plans are occupying the attention of the city officials now Some are urging purchase of light plant instead of complete system of sewerage for the city now The action of Mayor Gluck in refusing to give the Commercial Club committee a hearing on the matter has been commented upon freely When the Commercial Club passed a resolution . . . Mayor Gluck was present. The city council was to meet that night, but the mayor said that a general deal of important business in connection with the new water works was to come up that night.³⁶

³⁴ "Does Dodge Want A Better Sewer System," *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 2 December 1910.

³⁵ "Commercial Club Is Investigating Sewer Proposition," *The Dodge City Globe*, 1 December 1910.

³⁶ "City Council Wants To Post-Pone Building Of The Sewers," *Ibid.*, 15 December 1910.

Gluck knew that the city could not finance the purchase of the electric plant and a sewer system, so he discouraged the sewer system.

Rather than sit by idly as Gluck pushed the city towards purchasing the electric plant, Denious wrote a letter to a former Dodge City resident, Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, Secretary of the Kansas Board of Health. Denious printed Crumbine's response in late December. Crumbine cited health concerns and explained the financial incentive from appreciation of property values that a sewer would bring to Dodge City. The correspondence in *The Dodge City Globe* stated:

Dodge City is one of the oldest towns in western Kansas and that the accumulation of domestic sewage during the years had resulted in a maximum pollution which, with the increased population of the city, would make sanitation conditions unbearable in a short time Dodge City has had more typhoid fever in the past few years than ever in her history, and, indeed more than what is known as the normal rate for a city of her size . . . a condition which only a complete sewer system could alleviate A rise in property values would result from the construction of a sewer system and that this development would offset the rise in taxes.³⁷

The next day, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported on the standoff that had been playing out: Hoover's support of the sewer, and Gluck's opposition. The newspaper wrote, "G. M. Hoover said that Dodge City had reached the place in importance and population where it should furnish the necessity for its citizens," and the article went on to quote Mayor Gluck as saying:

A necessity of greater demand at this time . . . [is] a street lighting system Besides the water plant would need the light plant to make it pay. A light plant he said was of first consideration, besides he for one, and the council was of the same opinion, would not consider the expenditure for sewers without first submitting the question to a vote of the people.³⁸

³⁷ "Dodge City Needs Sewers For Comfort And Safety – Crumbine," *Ibid.*, 22 December 1910.

Just as he indicated, Gluck proposed adding a sewer proposition to the bond election for the funds to purchase the Midland plant, or to construct a new electric plant. By doing so, Gluck would put both the financing of the electric plant and a sewer system, separately on the ballot of the special election.

The attempted purchase of the Midland plant was unsuccessful and a special election was scheduled for February 1911.³⁹ The sewer proposition would authorize an improvement bond to construct the sewer, with the remainder being funded by new sewer districts. The electric light plant vote was for a bond issue of \$25,000.⁴⁰ Hoover, the former mayor, President of the State Bank of Dodge City, and member of the executive committee of the Commercial Club, continued to oppose Mayor Gluck's plan. Hoover adamantly opposed bonding for an electric plant, and he felt that both issues should wait a few months until the new form of government had taken effect, and Dodge City had elected its new city commissioners. In late January, two weeks before the special election, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* criticized Gluck and his plan. It referred to the sewer system as a necessity and wrote:

On Thursday, February 9th, the citizens of Dodge City will vote on the questions of issuing \$25,000 in bonds to build a municipal light plant. This without first putting the old light plant out of business. The mayor for private reasons is very against the old company. Authorities differ as to the cost of a light plant, so far as The Journal has been able to learn council has made no survey, neither has it thoroughly investigated the cost of a plant sufficient to furnish a reliable service to the people of this community. The mayor has said that the water plant will be

³⁸ "Lights Will Go Before Sewer Proposition," *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 23 December 1910.

³⁹ "Council Will Give Citizens A Chance To Vote On Sewers," *The Dodge City Globe*, 29 December 1910.

⁴⁰ "Election Has Been Called," *Ibid.*, 19 January 1911.

self sustaining . . . on which dream has this been based. The sewer proposition is a necessity. If there were no light plant in existence here, then a light plant would be a necessity and conditions would be different.⁴¹

On the day of the special election *The Dodge City Globe* reported that unofficial polling was not favorable for the two issues and stated:

A great deal of interest is being taken here today in the special election at which a bond proposition for a municipal electric plant is being submitted, and a straw vote being taken on the proposition of building sewers Those around the polls at noon today were of the opinion that both propositions would be defeated.⁴²

The voters in Dodge City heeded Hoover's advice, and the next day *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* presented the results: the municipal light plant proposition was defeated 370 to 211, and the sewer proposition was defeated 357 to 239.⁴³ The newspaper went on to comment on the approaching election of the mayor and commissioners under the new city commission system, and its anticipated efficiency:

The town should pick three of its best and most progressive business men to look after this business In the last two years nine men have neglected their own affairs at inconvenient times and numerous, to attend to the business of the city . . . naturally three men should get together more easily than nine men.⁴⁴

Exactly one month after the special election, in March 1911, Hoover announced his intention to run for mayor under the new city commission system. *The Dodge City Globe* noted his positions:

⁴¹ "Is Dodge Ready For Municipal Light Plant," *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 20 January 1911.

⁴² "Looks Bad For The Bonds," *The Dodge City Globe*, 9 February 1911.

⁴³ "Electric Light Bonds Were Beaten By 149," *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 10 February 1911.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

Mr. Hoover's platform is "A Greater Dodge City." He favors the . . . installation of an efficient system of bookkeeping for all the departments of the city government and especially for the public utilities, the encouragement of new industries and a general cleaning up of the town.⁴⁵

The two commission seats were likewise to be elected at-large, and they were to be divided between a public utilities commissioner to oversee streets and the water works and a finance commissioner to oversee taxation and revenue. This form differed from the mayor-council form in which the city was divided into wards, and each ward elected council members. As noted by *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, a smaller commission with delegated responsibilities offered a more efficient way of handling the business of the city and modernized the city government.

The election that was held in April 1911 pitted Hoover against a write-in campaign for Gluck. Hoover won, and *The Dodge City Globe* reported, "G. M. Hoover will become the mayor of Dodge City within the next few days. He was elected Tuesday by a vote of 207 to 95 cast for A. Gluck, the present mayor."⁴⁶ By winning the election, Hoover, the first person elected Mayor of Dodge City in 1886 under the mayor-council system, became the first mayor elected under the city commission system. Weeks later *The Dodge City Globe* began the sewer debate once again:

There is a good chance now that the new city commissioners will be asked soon to consider the matter of providing Dodge City with a main sewer Mayor Hoover and commissioners . . . have not taken any position on the sewer question since their election, but it is believed that they will not be opposed to the sewer movement.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ "Two Are Out For Mayor," *The Dodge City Globe*, 9 March 1911.

⁴⁶ "Hoover Heads First City Commission For Dodge," *Ibid.*, 6 April 1911.

⁴⁷ "Commissioners May Get Sewer Petition," *Ibid.*, 27 April 1911.

The role of newspapers in the progress of Dodge City during this period, largely due to J. C. Denious, not only reflected the progressivism that was occurring, but also contributed to it. Later that year Denious wanted to make *The Dodge City Globe* a daily newspaper, but he lacked the resources (other newspapers in Dodge City had previously tried daily publication and failed). Denious turned to the town's most respected banker, and recently elected mayor, George Hoover. Hoover advised Denious to proceed with caution, but agreed to loan him the money he needed.⁴⁸ In December 1911 Denious renamed the paper *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, and on the first day of the publication he wrote:

With this issue the Globe begins the publication of a daily newspaper. In this enterprise the management has been encouraged by many and discouraged by a few. Some have said that a live daily newspaper is one of the greatest needs of Dodge City and have promised their support The paper has made many new friends in its territory, and it is hoped that these friends will lend their influence in asserting to establish this daily paper as a prominent innovation in Dodge City.⁴⁹

At the end of 1911 Dodge City owned a municipal water plant and still contracted for electricity, but only portions of the city were serviced by a sewer system.

⁴⁸ Denious, "Address to the Kansas State Historical Society."

⁴⁹ "The Daily Globe," *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 11 December 1911.

CHAPTER V

PAVING STREETS AND THE END OF THE ROAD, 1912 to 1917

After the eventful year of Dodge City politics in 1911, in 1912, Hoover served as mayor of Dodge City, and Gluck served as an appointed member of the library board.¹ As for Wright, in July 1912, *The Santa Fe Magazine* reported, “No man has been more closely identified with the remarkable history of Ford county than Mr. Wright. He is now living in feeble retirement in the old town which he helped make famous.”² *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* observed that Wright began working on a book about Dodge City, and later the newspaper reported, “Since retiring from active life and growing restive under his forced inactivity, Mr. Wright conceived the idea of writing the pioneer history of Dodge City.”³ By 1912, the area around Dodge City had become a sea of wheat. Wright noted the region’s performance in his book and wrote, “In the harvest of 1912, Ford County was second in Kansas in wheat production. With the proceeds from their wheat, farmers bought more land and erected business houses in Dodge City.”⁴ Between 1912 and 1917 well over 200,000 acres of wheat were planted annually around Dodge City and the population rose from 4,400 to over 6,000.⁵ In October 1912, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported that local registration increased dramatically, and the area received new residents from outside of the state. The newspaper quoted the city clerk who said, “I

¹ “The City Council Holds Last Session,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 7 April 1911.

² Quote from *The Santa Fe Magazine*, reprinted in Wright, *Dodge City: The Cowboy Capital and the Great Southwest*, 336.

³ “Robert M. Wright Dead,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 8 January 1915.

⁴ Wright, *Dodge City: The Cowboy Capital and the Great Southwest*, 327.

⁵ Wheat acreage and population statistics from Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, 52, 59.

thought most everybody in Dodge was registered, but there has been almost a steady stream here to put their names on the books . . . many of them have moved to Dodge only this summer. I have had to refuse to register about twenty who have not lived in the state six months.”⁶ That same year the Arkansas Valley Telephone Company from Great Bend, Kansas purchased the telephone exchange in Dodge City.⁷ In September 1913, the state sanitary engineer certified the city’s water as having “no color, odor, or turbidity and is as pure as water could be,” and in 1914, the same year that Denious became the sole owner of *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, Dodge City purchased its first motorized fire truck, though the fire department was not yet fulltime.⁸ However, Dodge City did not begin this period on a completely positive note.

Gluck lost his opera house in 1912 when it caught fire and burned to the ground. In April 1913, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* noted that Gluck was building a new office building that was, not surprisingly, less susceptible to fire.⁹ The newspaper reported that Gluck utilized new construction techniques, and planned to supply office space to Dodge City’s developing business district:

The Gluck building which is to be one of the fine, new business blocks in Dodge City, will be completed and ready for occupancy within a few weeks. The building will not only be modern and architecturally attractive, but it will be absolutely fire-proof and of the most substantial construction The new Gluck building will be one of the ornaments of the business district in Dodge City and the additional business accommodations it will supply are badly needed.¹⁰

⁶ “Registration Is A Surprise To Clerk,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 24 October 1912.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 15 February 1912.

⁸ Braddock and Covalt, *Dodge City*, 33.

⁹ “Dodge City’s Newest Business Block,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 23 April 1913.

The year that Gluck's opera house burned is also the year that another one of Soule's endeavors was determined a failure.¹¹ In 1887, Soule began developing Soule College with an initial investment of \$50,000. The college was a commitment to education and another example of progressivism in Dodge City. The cornerstone was laid in 1888, but the small Presbyterian college struggled to attract students. In January 1912, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported that the Methodist church received the college from the Soule estate.¹² Nine months later in October 1912, the newspaper noted that the Methodist church sold the college to the Catholic Church for \$8,000.¹³ The Catholic Church renovated the facility for a girl's academy and in January 1915, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported:

One of the big improvements which means much for the future importance of Dodge City has been the rebuilding and equipment of the old Soule College into a girl's academy or convent under the auspices of the Sisters of St. Joseph . . . Bishop Hennessey, of Wichita, expects to make it the foremost Catholic school in the state About \$50,000 were expended on the institution during the past year.¹⁴

The St. Mary's of the Plains Academy was opened, but two of the most significant accomplishments during this period were developing a highly anticipated sewer system to service the entire city and paving Dodge City's streets.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Young, *Dodge City; Up Through a Century*, 143.

¹² *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 25 January 1912.

¹³ Ibid., 31 October 1912.

¹⁴ "Year 1914 Was A Record Year," *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 1 January 1915.

Denious remained a strong proponent of a sewer system and in February 1912, he reiterated his arguments and presented information that he had received from Kansas University. The article in *The Dodge City Daily Globe* attempted to curb financial arguments against a sewer, noted that the Commercial Club planned to submit a formal request to the city commission, and read:

The request of the Dodge City Commercial Club that the arrangements for an adequate sewer system for the town be made by the city government will go to the city commissioners at their meeting this evening. The Kansas law authorizes authorized the city officers to order this improvement and to issue improvement bonds to pay for it upon their own initiative. The University Extension department of the Kansas University has forwarded to the *Globe* a considerable amount of matter explaining the importance of proper sewer disposal in all towns and cities The public mind, as a whole, does not yet fully appreciate the dangers of sewage pollution. The medical profession, naturally, has for a long time felt apprehensive of impending dangers, and it has strenuously labored to educate the public Sewage treatment is a clear bill of expense for any municipality or institution which has to engage in it. If people can afford to pay for the conveniences of modern living they can surely afford the expense of disposing of the sewage in a sanitary way.¹⁵

One week later the newspaper cited Hoover's concerns, given the city's financial situation, and reported that the mayor questioned "whether the commissioners would be able to provide for the payment for general sewers in addition to the town's present indebtedness," as well as "whether the residents of the other districts would take advantage of main sewer and build laterals."¹⁶ In October 1912, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported on the status of the proposed sewer plan, which relied on new sewer districts to pay for laterals to connect to the sewer mains, and wrote:

¹⁵ "Sewer Matter Is Up To City Commission," *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 2 February 1912.

¹⁶ "One Commissioner Wants Plans Made," *Ibid.*, 10 February 1912.

The general outline for the sewer system for Dodge that will ultimately take care of every section of the city has been worked out by the city commission. The plan is to install only the three main lines necessary, then allow the property owners in each section to arrange for their sewer districts when they are ready . . . Dodge is hilly and naturally drained by the three great sections After the mains are laid by the city, majorities of the property owners may arrange for laterals from them whenever they please.¹⁷

Six months later in April 1913, the newspaper announced that the city commission passed an ordinance for the construction of a sewer system. The plan was approved by the Kansas Board of Health, which was still under the direction of a former Dodge City resident, Secretary Samuel Crumbine. The newspaper reported:

The ordinance authorizing the building of an extension to the city sewer was passed by the city commission at the meeting last evening. The mains are to be extended and an outlet provided that will take care of the entire city The ordinance is to become effective in ten days after its publication next week, and the city clerk is authorized to advertise for bids as soon as the ordinance goes into effect. The plans as drawn by Engineer Fred Eckert of Larned, and approved by the state board of health, will give Dodge City complete drainage. Every section of town will be provided for and there will be no necessity for additions to the plans to care for the growth of the city during the next ten years. The plan as adopted will be sufficient to care for Dodge for a number of years.¹⁸

By September 1913, Dodge City had established its second sewer district, and *The Dodge City Daily Globe* explained how the cost was leveraged. The newspaper noted that “the laterals are to be paid for by bonds bearing 5 ½ per cent interest, and running twenty years. One-twentieth of the amount due is to be paid each year by the lot owner, or it may be paid when the sewer is installed and the interest cut off.”¹⁹ The sewer continued to

¹⁷ “Dodge’s Hills Make Sewer Building Easy,” *Ibid.*, 31 October 1912.

¹⁸ “Sewer Law Passed By The City Commission,” *Ibid.*, 23 April 1913.

¹⁹ “A Sewer District Was Established,” *Ibid.*, 20 September 1913.

extend until all of Dodge City was serviced but during this same time Dodge City also began paving streets.

Dodge City explored street paving in October 1908, when *The Journal Democrat* reported that the city was visited by an expert in sand clay road construction and was planning to experiment with Kansas oil for “roads over which those who drive for pleasure may proceed in comfort, while those who use the roads to haul the products of the farms to market, may do so cheaply.”²⁰ In September 1912, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* observed that the city commission was finally pursuing street paving, and once the streets were curbed and guttered, paving would follow:

If Dodge property owners do not have good streets by the time cold weather comes it will be only because there aren't enough cement men in town to put in curb and gutters. Since the city commissioners . . . announced a willingness to grade up all streets as soon as the curbs and gutters were put in to protect the work, the four cement contractors with outfits have been kept busy.²¹

Gluck, who advocated for a municipal electric plant in lieu of a sewer system and failed to get reelected mayor under the new commission form, opposed the street paving. Gluck owned several buildings in Dodge City and did not favor the new taxes that would accompany the sewer system and proposed street paving.

In September 1913, just months after Gluck opened his new office building; the city commission awarded the first contract to pave the street of Dodge City. *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported on the action and Gluck's response:

Greene and Cullen of Independence, Kansas, were awarded Dodge City's street paving contract at 3 o' clock this afternoon. The contract was awarded at an

²⁰ “Good Roads Expert Coming To Dodge,” *The Journal Democrat*, 23 October 1908.

²¹ “Property Owners Are Pleased With Streets,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 21 September 1912.

adjourned meeting of the city commissioners this afternoon. The bids of eleven paving firms were opened last night, but so much time was required in figuring up the totals on the several items of each of the bids that the awarding of the contract had to be postponed until this afternoon. A. Gluck, who attended the meeting, notified the city commissioners immediately after the contract was let that an injunction would be served to prevent the commissioners from carrying out the contract they had made . . . Attorney J. M. Kirkpatrick, who represents those who are protesting against the paving said no action would be taken today. He thought a suit would be filed about Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.²²

The newspaper noted that, “A rather interesting discussion occurred after Mr. Gluck had notified the commissioners of the intention of himself and those associated with him to protest against the paving.”²³ The newspaper reported that Commissioner Scates addressed Gluck and questioned the amount of the new paving tax on his property but, “Mr. Gluck said in reply that it did not matter what estimates he had made. The point was that he intended to fight the proposition.”²⁴ Scates then offered to personally pay the paving tax for Gluck’s lot, to which the newspaper reported, “Mr. Gluck said he would consider the matter.”²⁵

The street paving began in areas of Dodge City, and by February the next year the majority of the property owners in the developing business district sought paved streets in that section. *The Dodge City Daily Globe* noted that a petition marked the wishes of the downtown area:

The paving of almost the entire business district in Dodge City is now assured. The paving petition which has recently been circulated among the downtown

²² “Dodge City’s First Paving Contract Was Awarded to Independence Firm,” *Ibid.*, 6 September 1913.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

property owners now bears the signature of a liberal majority of the property owners in the district There are a total of fifty-one resident property owners in the district represented and already thirty-one of them have signed the petition. There are several others whose signatures will be attached within the next day or two.²⁶

The work began in the business district a month later, and Dodge City continued paving streets. The streets were paved by pouring a concrete section, then laying sand, and setting bricks on their edge. A layer of asphalt was applied to early streets, but the practice was later discontinued. In January 1915, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* noted that the brick manufacturer intended to use Dodge City's streets as a model to their potential customers:

The Dodge paving is of a late model, the latest fibre brick, laid on its side instead of on the edge, as has been the custom for years a representative of the paving brick manufacturers association was in Dodge . . . and told Engineer Baldry that the Dodge paving was the best he had seen in the state . . . the manufacturers regard the Dodge work as good and want to show it to prospective buyers.²⁷

The bricks were purchased from a company in Buffalo, Kansas, the same city that led to Dodge City being renamed Dodge City as Buffalo City was already established with a postal code. *The Dodge City Daily Globe* noted the quality of the bricks, and the reason for specific patterns as, "The dark red paving bricks were are more than two inches thick and were burned from a high quality shale . . . the vertical pattern changes to a decorative weave at the intersctions. This cross-diagonal weave insures that heavy vehicles will not

²⁶ "A Majority Of Down Town Property Owners Have Petitioned For Modern Pavement For Entire Business District," *Ibid.*, 27 February 1914.

²⁷ "Dodge's New Paving Model For The State," *Ibid.*, 18 January 1915.

buckle the surface when making turns.”²⁸ In June 1915, *The Dodge City Daily Globe*

boasted:

Dodge City is rapidly taking its place among the most enterprising cities in Kansas, as regards street improvements. When one considers that two years ago the town had no paving and but little street improvements in the way of curb and gutter, the situation is now remarkable. There have been thirty-six blocks of paving installed, and eleven more will be put in this summer. This paving is not of the cheap variety, either, but the best and most-modern the city commissioners can secure.²⁹

The same month, the newspaper also reported on a unique development. A new road was planned to connect Dodge City to the St. Mary’s of the Plains Academy, but unlike the paving method used on the city streets, this road would be unique to Kansas.

The Dodge City Daily Globe reported:

Dodge City and Ford County are to be the possessors of what possibly will be the only road of its kind in the state, a county road build of concrete. Plans are being made for a paved road from Dodge City to St. Mary’s of the Plains Academy, a distance of two miles. It is to be of concrete, similar to the concrete that is being put down in the city as a base for the brick paving It is to be 14 feet wide and the road will be so graded that the space on either side of the paving will shed water and be almost as good for travel as the paved center. Perfect drainage will carry off the water from the road, and make it a country highway that will attract attention all over the state.³⁰

Dodge City continued to pave streets until 1916 when a delay occurred; the shale pit where the bricks were fired caved in on the excavation machine. The company resorted to firing bricks using surface shale, and in September 1916, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported that the city engineer had examined the new bricks on site, assured the city

²⁸ “Unique Bricks Saved As Landmarks,” *Ibid.*, 16 February 1983.

²⁹ “Dodge City Has Already Become Noted For Its New And Modern Street Paving,” *Ibid.*, 22 June 1915.

³⁰ “Paving To Connect Academy With City,” *Ibid.*, 22 June 1915.

commissioners they were suitable, and the commission accepted their use to continue paving streets. The newspapers report read:

City Engineer W. E. Baldry came home this morning from the Buffalo brickyards . . . he has been there for several days testing the product of the kilns to be certain they would meet the requirements here Through the excavating of years the company's shale pit reached a depth of fifty feet and recently caved in on the excavation machine. As a result the plant was forced to begin using shale from the surface to clear up the excavation The city commission accepted the new brick at a short session this afternoon.³¹

During the period between 1912 and 1917 Dodge City's population grew, wheat production increased, and progressive with achievements such as street paving and a citywide municipal sewer system resulted. However, during this period of such progress, Dodge City lost some of its most notable progressives.

Hoover was hospitalized in March 1914, where he remained with few exceptions until July when he passed away. Both *The Dodge City Daily Globe* and *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* went to great length to celebrate Hoover's life and his involvement in Dodge City. *The Dodge City Daily Globe* noted his humble beginnings and wrote:

George Merritt Hoover, Dodge's pioneer citizen passed away at 5 o' clock yesterday afternoon at the McCarty hospital where he had been receiving treatment for several months George Hoover has been Dodge's leading citizen for so many years that his death can hardly be realized by his friends and it causes a severing of the link between the Dodge of the sod cabin and the prairie, and the modern city. His was almost the last business that spanned the years between the early, barren days and the prosperity of today. In every movement that related to the welfare of Dodge during all those years George Hoover had played a leading part . . . he started with nothing when Dodge was a prairie.³²

³¹ "Paving Brick Are Being Loaded Today," Ibid., 5 September 1916.

³² "George M. Hoover, Founder of Dodge And Leading Citizen Died Last Evening," Ibid., 15 July 1914.

Upon hearing that Hoover had passed, Gluck reportedly said “There was no hypocrisy in his make-up.”³³ *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* asked Wright, who took Hoover’s passing very hard, to write a tribute to Hoover. The newspaper reported Wright’s willingness but emotional inability to do so immediately:

The writer asked Mr. Wright, who was the first man whom Mr. Hoover became acquainted at the time he located on this city in 1872, to write for publication a tribute to his memory. Mr. Wright kindly consented to do so but confessed afterwards that he was so prostrated by the sad news of his death that it was practically impossible for him to do the work at this time.³⁴

In a separate article, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* printed a resolution that was passed by the city commission in Hoover’s honor. A portion of the resolution read:

Whereas, Honorable George M. Hoover, one of the founders of Dodge City, serving several terms as Mayor, and as member of the City Council, foremost citizen of the town for more than forty-two years, and always an active and dependable force for good in the industrial and civic life of the city, departed this life on July 14; Therefore, Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners that the city and the business interests of the town have suffered an irreparable loss: and that Ford county and Southwest Kansas has lost one of its most prominent and distinguished citizens who contributed much to the development and substance of the Southwest by his ability, foresight, means and energy.³⁵

Amidst mourning the loss of Hoover, who had always been generous, the residents of Dodge City were informed of Hoover’s final act of philanthropy. In yet another article *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* observed Hoover’s support for the churches of Dodge City and reported that a portion of Hoover’s estate was left to Dodge City:

The mortal man is dead but his spirit will live, a vital force as long as the city is faithful to its trust He was a member of no church, but a supporter of all; not

³³ Rath, *Early Ford County*, 163.

³⁴ “Death of Geo. M. Hoover,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 17 July 1914.

³⁵ “The City’s Tribute,” *Ibid.*, 17 July 1914.

for policy – he did nothing for policy, but to aid them in uplifting humanity We understand that the estate left to the city will approximate and possibly exceed one hundred thousand dollars.³⁶

The Dodge City Daily Globe reported that Hoover left a portion of his estate to his siblings and relatives, but a significant portion went to Dodge City and its churches. Hoover established a trust for Dodge City and asked that an auditorium be built in Wright Park. The newspaper reported:

To the city which he saw grow from the bare prairie, and in which he lived all the years of his manhood, G. M. Hoover left the greater part of his large estate. A fund which the administrators estimate will exceed \$100,000 is left to Dodge City to be held in trust, and the proceeds of it are to be used annually for the beautification of the city and of the cemeteries. The fund is to be known as the “Hoover fund” In addition to that bequest to the city, \$10,000 is set aside for the erection of a city auditorium in Wright Park, a building that has been desired by the citizens He left a bequest to the little Canadian church where his parents are buried and a fund to care for their graves. He leaves \$1,000 to each of the six Dodge churches: Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Christian, Episcopal and Baptist, to be used as improvement funds.³⁷

Hoover was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, which was established on the 40 acres of land that Wright purchased West of Dodge City. Maple Grove Cemetery replaced Prairie Grove Cemetery, which was also established with Wright’s help, but was used less than a decade before it was excavated due to Dodge City’s growth and progress. Wright was Hoover’s first acquaintance in Dodge City, and he followed his friend to the grave only six months later.

In his final years, Wright finished his book *Dodge City: The Cowboy Capital and The Great Southwest*. He published it in 1913 and in it, he spoke highly of many of his

³⁶ “George M. Hoover, A Character Sketch,” *Ibid.*, 17 July, 1914.

³⁷ “Left a Fund of \$100,000 to Beautify the Town which he Founded and Loved,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 15 July 1914.

former enemies. The most notable mention went to Mike Sutton, the former Ford County Attorney and prohibitionist who temporarily closed Dodge City's saloons in 1885 with assistance from the Governor. Wright fired shots into Sutton's home on the night of the fire that proceeded the reopening of the saloons, but in his book Wright praised Sutton and wrote:

The Honorable M. W. Sutton, who deserves and ought to have more space in our book than we can possibly give him Indeed, he was, for many years, the leading attorney of southwest Kansas, and always has held his own among the very best lawyers of our state . . . He was behind me, as adviser, in all my deals and undertaking.³⁸

Just over a year later in January 1915, he passed away. In his will he noted, "It is my greatest wish and desire of the authorities and citizens of Dodge City, Kansas that the name of Wright Park may never be changed."³⁹

The Dodge City Kansas Journal reported Wright's passing and noted the significance of Wright Park as a monument to Wright's progressiveness and commitment to Dodge City:

Robert M. Wright, possibly the best known and most famous of all the pioneer citizens of Dodge City, died at McCarty hospital Monday morning at 10:30. He had been confined to his bed for a little over a week, and when it was discovered that his trouble was serious, he was removed to the McCarty hospital where he could have the best of medical treatment Wright park, which the pride of all loyal residents of Dodge City, is a monument to his industry and progressiveness. He superintended the planting of the trees upon what was formerly a barren waste of sand and stubble, and Wright Park today is probably the largest and handsomest park of its kind in the whole state of Kansas It is known today and always will be known as long as Dodge City exists as Wright Park When the storms of adversity had stripped him bare financially, and while his

³⁸ Wright, *Dodge City: The Cowboy Capital and The Great Southwest*, 306.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 69.

misfortune deprived him of the power that had formerly been his by right of conquest, it did not diminish his efforts to assist struggling humanity.⁴⁰

The Dodge City Daily Globe likewise commemorated Wright and observed the importance of Wright Park for Dodge City and wrote:

Dodge was shocked this morning when the word quickly passed over the town that “Bob” Wright, pioneer plainsman, merchant, maker and writer of Dodge’s history had passed away at the McCarty hospital Wright Park, Dodge’s public amusement ground, was planned and planted by Mr. Wright. Its hundreds of trees were the result of his foresight It will be among the old timers that “Bob” Wright will be especially missed, for he was an authority on early day history of Dodge. He remembered well the history he helped to make, and delighted to relate incidents of pioneer times.⁴¹

The Dodge City Kansas Journal noted a large attendance at Wright’s funeral and reported, “The services were held in the Presbyterian church and were in charge of the Knights Templar of the Masonic lodge. The church was entirely too small to accommodate the hundreds of Mr. Wright’s old time friends and neighbors who desired to pay the last tribute to his memory.”⁴² Following the funeral service, *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported that Wright was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.⁴³

The same month that Wright passed away, *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reviewed some of the progress that Dodge City had experienced over the years and interviewed some of its residents. The newspaper quoted one person as saying:

This is certainly a much better looking city than it was eight years ago when I became one of its residents. I have watched its growth and noted its many

⁴⁰ “Robert M. Wright Dead,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 8 January 1915.

⁴¹ “Robert M. Wright, Dodge Pioneer Merchant, Died This Morning,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 4 January 1915.

⁴² “Funeral Services of R. M. Wright,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 15 January 1915.

⁴³ “Burial Service For R. M. Wright Friday,” *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 5 January 1915.

improvements, public and private, with a great deal of interest. If I were gifted with the prophetic vision . . . I might foresee in the next ten years a Dodge City twice its present size . . . Surely Dodge City and Ford County are not unmindful of “Ad astra per aspera.”⁴⁴

That same day, 1 January 1915, the newspaper also reported on the status of the Hoover Fund and printed a piece written by A. B. Reeves, the attorney for the executor of Hoover’s will. The piece reiterated the conditions of the will, encouraged other residents to follow Hoover’s example, and read:

The really great thing to the city during the year was of course the Hoover bequest. Great, not only because of the continuing means which it assures to the city for adornment, but great in its example; in the pride which it should stimulate; in the spirit of emulation which it should excite and no doubt will excite. A few such bequests would make Dodge the one far-famed City Beautiful of Kansas.⁴⁵

Later that year in September 1915, F. N. Mulford, the United States Landscape Gardener, accepted an invitation from the city commission to advise them on improving Wright Park and Maple Grove Cemetery. Mulford spent two days in Dodge City to gather information for use in his later report. *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported on the visit and cited his praise of Wright Park:

United States Landscape Gardener F. N. Mulford, who is making an inspection trip throughout the western states, arrived in town last Sunday morning. He came to Dodge at the invitation of the city commission . . . for the purpose of the looking over Wright park and the city cemetery, preparatory to the preparation of plans for their improvement . . . He stated that he never saw a park that contained more natural advantages for scientific landscape gardening . . . Mr. Mulford said that Dodge City had a right to be proud of Wright park, that its possibilities were almost limitless and that few cities anywhere in the country had a better foundation for so picturesque and beautiful a public park. He was much interested in the legacy left the city by G. M. Hoover for its improvement . . . and

⁴⁴ “A Few Year’s Changes,” *The Dodge City Kansas Journal*, 1 January 1915.

⁴⁵ “A Dodge City Beautiful,” *Ibid.*, 1 January 1915.

thinks that with proper management Dodge City can be made easily the most attractive and beautiful city in Kansas.⁴⁶

One week later the executor of Hoover's will released the \$10,000 that Hoover left for the auditorium. *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported that even with the money released from the Hoover estate, the city could not proceed without the improvement plans from Mulford:

Last Friday Mr. H. R. Brown, executor of the estate of the late George M. Hoover, turned over to Commissioner W. J. Fitzgerald as commissioner of finance the sum of \$10,000 as provided in Mr. Hoover's will. The money will eventually be used for the construction of an auditorium in the park, according to the request of Mr. Hoover It is not possible that anything will be done towards carrying out this instruction of the will until after the government landscape gardener submits his report and the general work of improvement in the park is commenced.⁴⁷

The report was received, but four months later in January 1916, the community turned to debating the size and location of the auditorium. This was the start of a lengthy, controversial debate in Dodge City.

Support developed for constructing the auditorium outside of Wright Park and further North in the business district, and it was suggested that \$10,000 was insufficient. *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* reported on the debates and wrote, "Where will the Hoover Auditorium be built? Will it be constructed in the park as provided by Mr. Hoover, or up town? These questions are often asked by different persons, and many arguments are advanced in favor of an up town site."⁴⁸ The newspaper quoted W. J.

⁴⁶ "To Beautify Wright Park," Ibid., 16 September 1915.

⁴⁷ "City Receives \$10,000," Ibid., 23 September 1915.

⁴⁸ "The Hoover Auditorium," Ibid., 13 January 1916.

Fitzgerald, the commissioner of finance, who said he respected Hoover's wishes, but was open to putting the matter up for a public vote and said "neither I, or the other two commissioners have any disposition to do other than be governed by his request

Personally I think it would be an excellent idea to have a public expression from the citizens of Dodge City as to the location. An election could be called for that purpose."⁴⁹

The article went on to address the size of the auditorium, the costs associated with it and reported:

It is the judgment of the commissioners that at least from \$12,000 to \$13,000 will be required to build an auditorium suitable for the demands of the city. Until a fund sufficiently large is at their disposal growing out of the Hoover fund, to complete the building properly, they have no disposition to hasten its construction, thereby either cheapening the enterprise or involving an unpaid balance.⁵⁰

Two months later in March 1916, Commissioner Fitzgerald reversed his position, and maintained that an attempt to build the auditorium outside of Wright Park could make the city vulnerable to losing the \$10,000. *The Dodge City Kansas Journal* quoted him as saying:

In view of Mr. Hoover's expressed wish in this matter and the terms of the will which places its location in the park, I would not consent to any other location I do not believe that this fund could be legally used for the construction of the auditorium in any other place except the park. If used elsewhere an injunction from any resident of Dodge City or from any of the collateral heirs would precipitate a long drawn out litigation, the outcome of which would be that the city would absolutely forfeit the entire \$10,000.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ "Governed By Will," Ibid., 16 March 1916.

The article went on to quote Reeves, the executor's attorney who shared his frustration with the proposition of building the auditorium outside of Wright Park and said:

This would be a gross betrayal of Mr. Hoover's trust Shall we commit embezzlement? As to discuss it from a legal point of view – well it would be too much like discussing whether we can commit embezzlement and get away with it And I don't want to discuss this proposition from a legal point of view now anyhow. There are reasons why we wouldn't if we could and couldn't if we would, so let's forget it.⁵²

Ten months later in January 1917, the city commission considered building the auditorium in Wright Park in phases, without enclosing it immediately, to reduce the initial cost. *The Dodge City Daily Globe* noted that construction could begin but could not be finished until more funds were available and wrote:

The open construction which is now being considered would not be adapted to winter use until the city could get more money with which to enclose the building and make other changes . . . the present plans were to build the walls of brick and stucco with large arched openings on its sides. This would make the building available for summer gatherings, and then when more money could be provided large doors would be hung at the arched openings so that they could be closed in the winter. The building could then be heated.⁵³

The next month in February 1917, a group of businessmen advocated that instead of constructing a small auditorium in phases, the city should supplement the cost of a larger auditorium with bonds, serviced by the interest on the \$100,000 Hoover left. *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported:

A movement was started today to secure a convention hall for Dodge City that will meet the requirements of southwestern Kansas for all the large meetings that are to be held in this part of the state. The plan is to have the residents of the city supplement the portion of the Hoover fund that is available for the auditorium by

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ "City Is Planning Hoover Auditorium," *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 30 January 1917.

authorizing a bond issue which shall make it possible to build the kind of an auditorium the city needs The funds now available for building an auditorium will be wasted if a building is erected with the \$10,000 which Mr. Hoover left for this purpose. A building of that kind would be so small that it would fail to serve the purpose for which it was intended because it could not accommodate large crowds Probably \$40,000 additional would be needed to build the kind of an auditorium Dodge City should have.⁵⁴

The location, size, cost, and funding for the auditorium continued to be debated. Some of the proponents of building the auditorium in the business district rather than Wright Park refocused their interests not only on the Northern location, but on the Hoover Fund itself. They questioned the legality of Hoover leaving funds to the city in perpetuity without establishing a specific charity, and advocated that the \$100,000 in the Hoover Fund, rather than just the interest on the investment, be used to construct a large auditorium in the business district.

Later that year in October 1917, Gluck passed away. *The Dodge City Globe* reported Gluck's passing:

Adolphus Gluck, one of the pioneer citizens of Dodge City died here Sunday morning after a serious illness of several weeks from diabetes The members of the Masonic Blue Lodge will accompany the body to the Santa Fe station. The funeral party including Mrs. Gluck and their three sons . . . will leave on Santa Fe train No. 8 for St. Louis where a Masonic funeral service will be conducted The news of Mr. Gluck's death has been received with genuine regret in Dodge City . . . for many years he had been an important factor in the commercial and social life of the city. His death is regarded as a great loss to the town, and will be considered a personal loss to nearly all of the residents of the town who knew him well. At the time of his death Mr. Gluck was perhaps the wealthiest man in Ford County He knew all of the ups and downs of pioneer life from personal experience. More than once he has seen the accumulation of years swept away in a single season when conditions were unfavorable, but he kept fighting until he won.

⁵⁴ "Small Auditorium Will Not Meet The Needs Of Dodge City And Southwest," *Ibid.*, 5 February 1917.

The newspaper went on to review his years before he moved to Dodge City, his arrival in the United States, and his military service in the Civil War. The newspaper celebrated his life and wrote:

Mr. Gluck was a Hungarian Jew. He was sixteen years of age before he saw America, but since his arrival here this country had no more loyal citizen When the Civil War broke out Mr. Gluck was a mere boy in St. Louis but offered his services to the Sixth Missouri cavalry. On account of his age he was not accepted, but he was determined to go and followed the regiment to Arkansas where he succeeded in enlisting with the First Arkansas Volunteers Mr. Gluck served five terms as mayor of Dodge City and always took an active part in the town's affairs. He was an interesting character, a tireless worker and a loyal friend. Those who knew him best, respected and esteemed him most.⁵⁵

From 1912 to 1917, Dodge City's population grew, most of its residents received sewer service, many of its streets were paved. Much of the street paving occurred after Hoover had completed his last term as mayor, during a time when Wright was retired, and then after both had already passed away. The street paving also came after Gluck's public service had ended, nevertheless, it was a further example of the progressivism in Dodge City, a city that had been largely established and progressed by Wright, Hoover, and Gluck.

⁵⁵ "A. Gluck, Pioneer, Died Here Sunday," *Ibid.*, 1 October 1917.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

Dodge City newspapers from the 1880s through 1917 reflect the progressivism that occurred in Dodge City, Kansas and the progressive municipal reform efforts of Robert Wright, George Hoover, and Adolph Gluck. Wright and Hoover came to the area before Dodge City was even founded, and Gluck followed just shortly after it was incorporated. When they arrived, the area was open plains, but in a short time the growing city was adorned by the magnificent Wright Park. These three came as pioneers and they quickly became progressives. They built the community, established businesses, and supported agriculture. Most notable are Wright's efforts with the railroad and an early farm credit system to assist local producers. Hoover established banking and supplied wholesale liquor for the growing industry in Dodge City. To maintain and progress Dodge City they had to adjust with the times, especially after the end of the cattle trade, which they fought for, both in and outside of Topeka. While they each saw their personal finances ebb and flow, they remained in Dodge City, and they provided leadership. These three progressive leaders gave of themselves, serving as well in local politics.

Wright, Hoover, and Gluck advocated progress and sought ways to leverage the cost of growth while addressing public indebtedness. From personally covering the expense of repairs of early infrastructure to reestablishing cemeteries due to the city's growth, they remained committed to Dodge City. These progressive leaders provided the business enterprises for the city to contract for electricity and water, and because of

Gluck's persistence Dodge City obtained its first municipal water plant. Because of his stubborn preference for a municipal electric plant, a sewer system was postponed, but was eventually developed because of Hoover. The city never obtained a municipal electric plant, but it enjoyed water, electricity, gas, sewer, paved streets, prosperous agriculture, and a growing population. In less than half a century Dodge City was founded on the prairie, incorporated, and then progressed into a modern city, largely because of the progressive agendas of Wright, Hoover, and Gluck. Part of this progress was coupled with the modernization of city government, another trend of the Progressive Era, for more efficient and effective government. Equipped with a new form of government, Dodge City built on its earlier progress, and continued forward.

The newspapers reflect modernization, political progress, and social progress. During the period of progressivism, Dodge City largely came into compliance with Prohibition and put its wilder days behind it. The newspapers also reflect the progressive endeavors, though failed, of Asa Soule, and the efforts of Samuel Crumbine and J. C. Denious. Crumbine provided unprecedented leadership in the field of public health and advocated for a sewer in Dodge City. He later wrote an account of his early years in a book entitled *Frontier Doctor*.¹ Like other newspaper editors, Denious captured a reflection of the progressivism in Dodge City but he took it further and used his newspaper to aid in the progress itself. Years later, in 1931, Denious spoke about early Dodge City at a Rotary Club meeting. His words commended the early pioneers and city leaders, seemingly inclusive of Wright, Hoover, or Gluck. In his speech Denious said:

¹ Crumbine, *Frontier Doctor*.

It strikes me that no one ever would have come to western Kansas at all if he had merely been seeking an easy game. The more we learn about the history of western Kansas, the more we are impressed that the conditions of life have been extremely hard for those who have preceded us. Our stock has gone up because we have succeeded in a hard fight in changing a desert into a garden. Easy victories are no victories at all. Anybody can do the easy things, but it takes a real man with intelligence and character and stamina to do the things that are hard to do.²

He went on to serve in the Kansas senate in the 1930s, and then as Kansas Lieutenant Governor in the 1940s. He then served as President of the Kansas State Historical Society, a distinction held by only two Dodge City residents: himself and Wright.³

The auditorium envisioned by Hoover was finally constructed in Wright Park in August 1919, and *The Dodge City Daily Globe* reported that construction on the Hoover Pavilion was proceeding as planned, a concert was already scheduled, and that wiring was being installed later that week.⁴ The next year, in July 1920, the efforts to utilize the entire Hoover Fund, against Hoover's wishes, for constructing a second, larger auditorium in the business district, instead of investing the fund to allow it to provide a steady source of interest, was finally curbed. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled in a similar case and *The Dodge City Daily Globe* noted:

For several years there has been more or less discussion of the validity of the Hoover will, and it has been contended that the provision making the city trustee of the money in perpetuity was invalid, and some people have therefore urged that the terms of the will be disregarded, and instead of using only the interest from the Hoover money each year, to take the entire trust fund and spend it in the erection of an uptown auditorium However, a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Kansas, handed down June 5 settles the matter The case went to the

² Denious, "Speech to the Dodge City Rotary Club," November 23, 1931, J. C. Denious Papers, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

³ Lane, *J. C. Denious: Public Servant and State Promoter of Southwest Kansas*, 7, 10, 29.

⁴ *The Dodge City Daily Globe*, 21 August 1919.

Supreme Court, and the will was upheld It leaves little doubt as to what the decision of the Supreme Court would be in the event any city commission of Dodge City should ever attempt to disregard the terms of the Hoover will.⁵

The Hoover Pavilion provided a resource to the community and fulfilled Hoover's progressive wishes for Dodge City. The population of Dodge City rose to over 6,000 residents by 1920 and agriculture continued to develop as well.⁶ The first concrete elevator was built in 1917, the first combine was used on wheat in Ford County in 1918, and in 1919 tractors were outfitted with power takeoffs, and mechanized corn husking for more efficient harvesting was made available.⁷ The Hoover Pavilion and Wright Park remained as tributes to Hoover and Wright, and a street, Gluck Ave., was reportedly named in honor of Gluck.⁸ Unfortunately, Gluck Ave. was later renamed.

Wright, Hoover, and Gluck saw Dodge City at its beginning, and they carried it through some of its darkest hours. Although they did not always agree on what order certain issues needed addressed, or at what pace the city should pursue them, they remained committed to advancing progressivism in Dodge City. They laid the foundation for a city that continued to grow, and its prosperity is a constant tribute to their legacy. They were not always proponents of suggested political or social reform, but without a sustainable city, efforts towards other aspects of progressivism would have been meaningless in Dodge City.

⁵ Ibid., 21 July 1920.

⁶ Population statistics from Wiggans, *History of Dodge City*, 52.

⁷ Crum, *Dodge City and Ford County*, 14-15.

⁸ Postal and Koppman, *American Jewish Landmarks*, 109.

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