

CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY IN ST. GEORGE.

On Friday, Dec. 25th, 1874, at 10:30 a.m., pursuant to appointment, the workmen from the north engaged on the St. George Temple, together with the local workmen engaged on that building, and a goodly number of the Saints, met in the basement of the St. George Tabernacle, President George A. Smith presiding. The choir sang, "The morning breaks, the shadows flee." Prayer by Patriarch Wm. G. Perkins.

Singing, "The towers of Zion soon shall rise."

Elder A. F. McDonald read sec. 96 from the *Book of Doctrine and Covenants*, also paragraphs 10 to 17 inclusive of sec. 103.

The choir sang, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning."

The addresses of Joseph Smith to the Saints in Nauvoo, contained in the *Doctrine and Covenants*, secs. 105 and 106, were then read.

The following song, composed by Elder C. L. Walker, one of the Temple workmen, was sung by Elder Wm. J. F. McAllister, the entire congregation standing and joining in the chorus:

TEMPLE SONG.

Tune—"Hold the Fort."

Lo! a Temple, long expected, in St. George shall stand;
By God's faithful Saints erected, here in Dixie Land.

CHORUS:—
Hallelujah! hallelujah! let hosannahs ring;
Heaven shall echo back our praises; Christ, shall reign as king.

Th' noble task we hail with pleasure, coming from our head,
Brings salvation, life eternal, for our kindred dead.

CHORUS:—
Holy and Eternal Father, give us strength, we pray,
To Thy Name to build this Temple in the latter-day.

CHORUS:—
Oh! how anxious friends are waiting watching every move
Made by us for their redemption, with a holy love.

CHORUS:—
Long they've hoped through weary ages for the present time,
For the everlasting gospel, with its truth sublime.

CHORUS:—
Lo! the prison doors are open, millions hail the day,
Praying, hoping for baptism, in th' appointed way.

CHORUS:—
Glory! Glory! hallelujah, let the structure rise,
Rear aloft those noble towers, pointing to the skies.

CHORUS:—
Hell may rage and Satan tremble, still that House we'll rear,
Heaven will aid us, angels guard us, we've no need to fear.

CHORUS:—

Prest. Smith, on rising, said that Prest. Young sent his fervent greeting and blessing to the people, and desired a continuation of the prayers of the Saints, that his health might continue to improve. Bro. Smith said the passages which had been read from the *Doctrine and Covenants* had been selected as those best suited to the occasion of our coming together to talk of the building of Temples and of some of the all-important work for the Saints to attend to therein. Those passages, he went on to say, give expression to ideas and words which could not be equalled, unless by the same inspiration and spirit from on high. He made pertinent remarks on the divine admonitions, rebukes, instructions and promises contained in the readings of the morning. He spoke of the Solemn Assembly which convened in Kirtland nearly forty years ago, and of the great blessings poured out by the Lord on that occasion. He felt glad to see present here to-day perhaps forty witnesses of what then took place. He alluded to councils which had been held in Nauvoo and to the fact of the Prophet Joseph calling the Twelve together, and, at a meeting called for that purpose, of Joseph and Hyrum the Patriarch administering to Brigham Young, then President of the Twelve Apostles, what is known as the Second Anointing, and instructing him to administer in like manner to his brethren of the Twelve, which he did to the nine of the Twelve who were then at home. He stated, that the Twelve were then instructed to ad-

minister in the ordinances of the Gospel for the dead, beginning with baptism and the laying on of hands. This work was at once commenced. It soon became apparent that some had long records of their dead, for whom they wished to administer. This was seen to be but the beginning of an immense work, and that to administer all the ordinances of the Gospel to the hosts of the dead was no light task. The Twelve asked Joseph if there could not be some shorter method of administering for so many. Joseph in effect replied: "The laws of the Lord are immutable, we must act in perfect compliance with what is revealed to us. We need not expect to do this vast work for the dead in a short time. I expect it will take at least a thousand years."

Bro. George A. Smith, in the foregoing recital, incidentally remarked that Elder Sidney Rigdon had never received the Second Anointing, nor the keys pertaining to baptism for the dead. The speaker warmly and most earnestly exhorted the people to energetically prosecute the work on the St. George Temple, so that President Young and the Twelve might have the opportunity of going therein to communicate the keys of knowledge and power which the Prophet Joseph had conferred upon them, and which could only be conferred on others in a Temple.

In response to a call, the hands of the assemblage rose as the hand of one man, in token that they were willing to use their powers and substance in building up the Temple and the Kingdom of God on the earth.

The congregation sang: "Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning."

Benediction by Elder Erastus Snow.

After a recess of two hours the assembly again convened.

The choir sang: "Truth reflects upon our senses."

Prayer by Elder Milo Andrus.

The choir and congregation sang: "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah."

An extract was read from Col. Thomas L. Kane's Historical Discourse, delivered before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The extract read was descriptive of that gentleman's visit to Nauvoo, just after the Saints had been driven by the mob from their homes in that beautiful city; also of his observations and experience in the camps of the driven Saints.

"Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation," was sung.

Elder Milo Andrus rejoiced in to-day's proceedings. He had been present at the laying of the foundation stone of three temples, two of which had been reared; the third was in Caldwell county, Mo., and was not yet built because of mobocracy. He related some of his experience in the Church; this experience had given him the knowledge that he was engaged in the work of God.

Extracts were read from Captain Codman's book, entitled "The Mormon country," descriptive of that gentleman's sojourn and experience in Corinne, and in strong contrast thereto the author's sojourn and experience in Brigham city.

Elder E. Snow said quite a number of those present to day had had experience in temple building in Kirtland and in Nauvoo. He referred to the blessings which had been conferred upon us in the South, to our circumstances and surroundings, to our temptations and our privileges.

Prest. Geo. A. Smith then dedicated by prayer the food and the wine, after which those present partook of the feast prepared.

Remarks were made by Elders Levi Hancock and Thomas Colburn. Songs and addresses of a miscellaneous character were delivered at intervals. After which Prest. Smith made a few remarks, concluding by blessing the people in the name of the Lord.

The large congregation arose and sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

This happy and truly instructive re-union was then closed with prayer by Patriarch William G. Perkins.

JAMES G. BLEAK,
Clerk and Historian of the Southern Mission.

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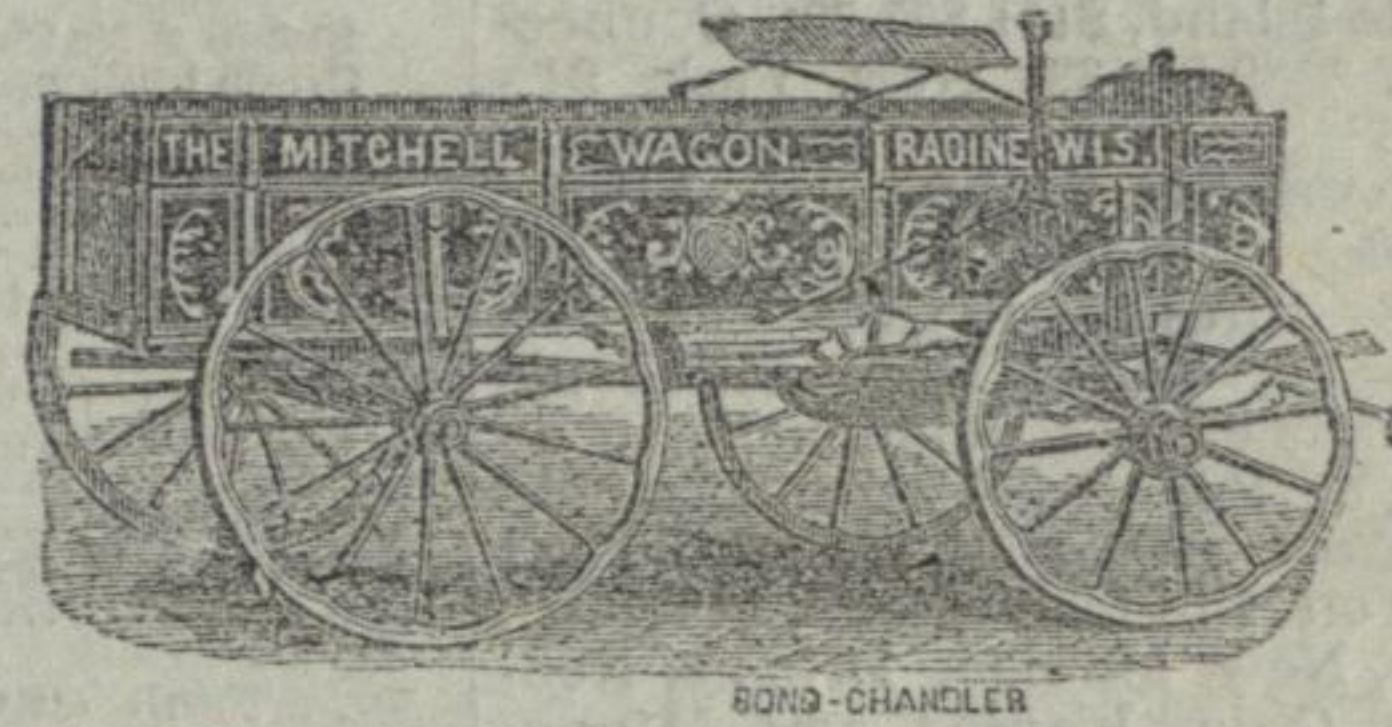
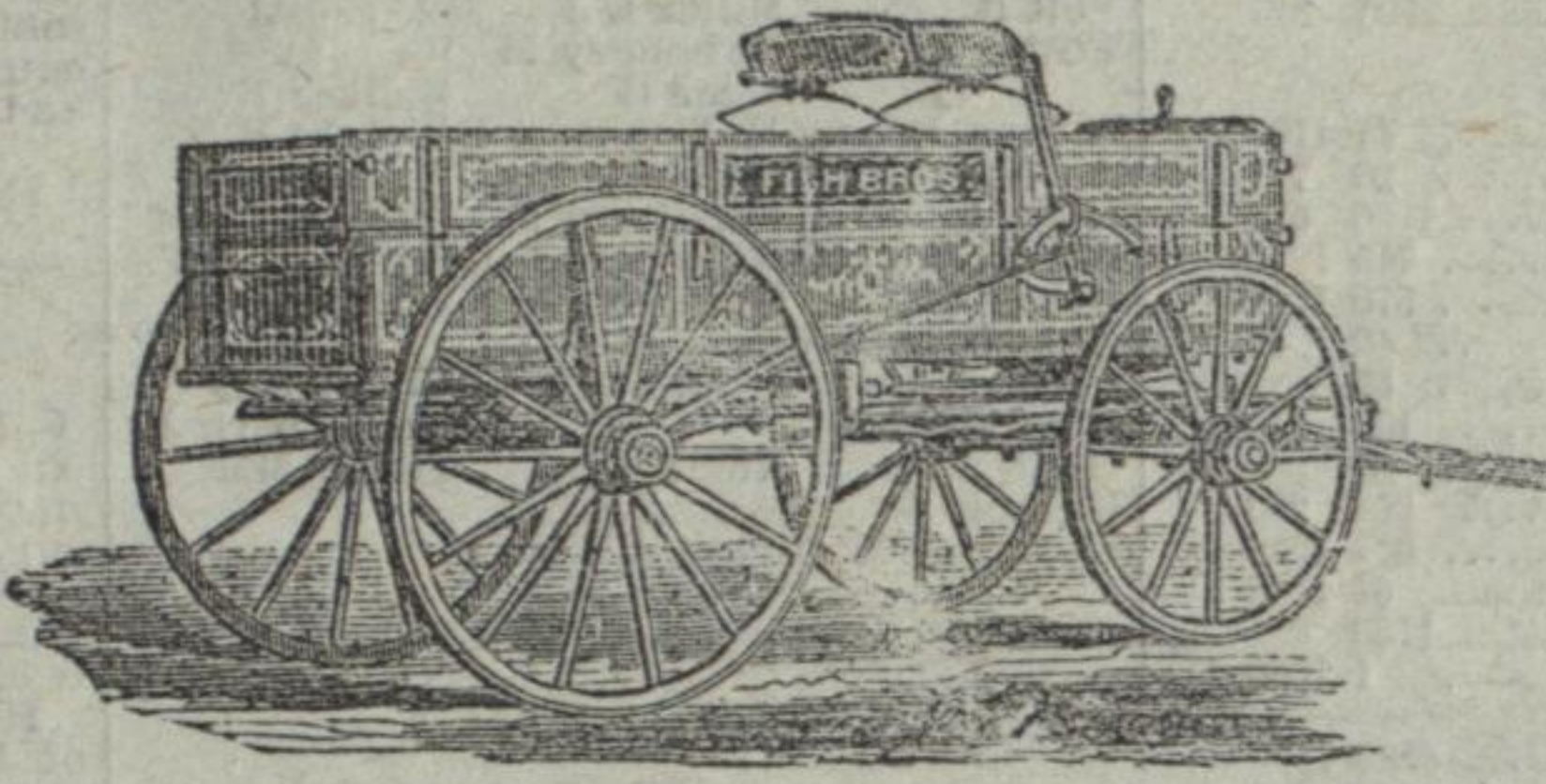
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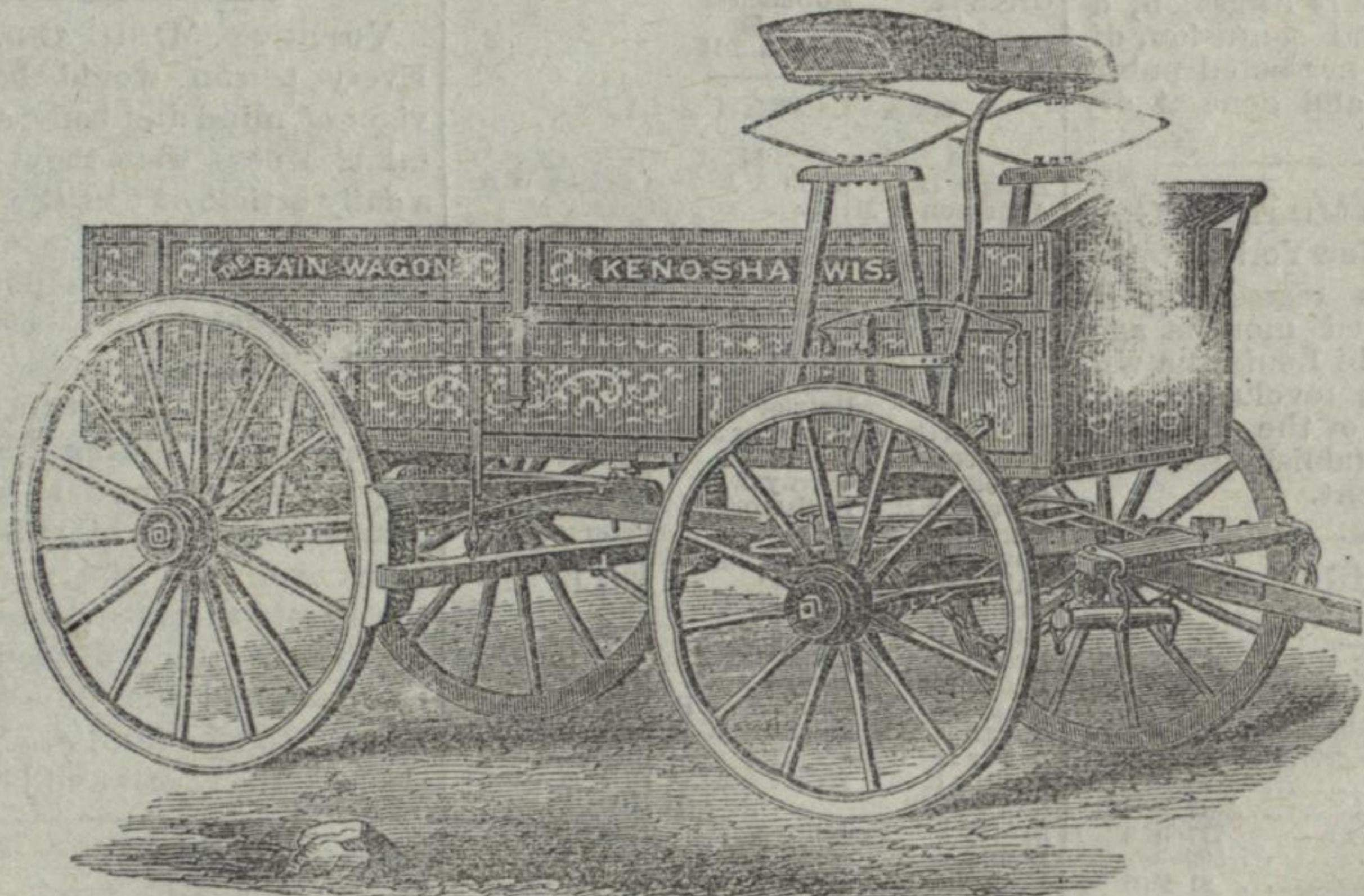
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