MANUFACTURE OF "STAFF"

How the Stuff is Made Which is to Cover Exposition Buildings.

TAKES ON RARE AND BEAUTIFUL FORMS

Models Must First Be Made and Then Pre Moulds, After Which the Forms Are Cast in Plaster.

The making of staff work, or stucco, which is to form the outer covering and decoration of the beautiful buildings at the exposition, giving them the appearance of having been chiseled out of the finest marbles and other building stone, is a process which is little understood by the general public, but which is of more than passing interest to those who have an opportunity of witnessing the many operations involved in turning out the completed casts.

The contracts for the staff work on the large exposition buildings in the main court are nearly all in the hands of Smith & Eastman, experienced contractors in this line, who did a large amount of the work on the World's fair buildings and who have done similar work on many of the largest buildings in this country, prominent among them being the headquarters building of the State, War and Navy departments in Washington, one of the largest buildings of its kind in the world. These contractors have two shops, one just outside the exposition grounds near Sherman avenue and Pinkney street, and the other in the Mines building, inside the main court. In these two shops the casts are made which are to transform the huge frames being erected about the Lagoon into palaces of beauty decorated with all the lavishness which characterized the most stately architectural piles of the ancient world.

The shop outside the grounds is devoted entirely to the modelers and pattern makers, who prepare the patterns and moulds from which the casts placed upon the buildings are made. These casts are all made in the shop in the Mines building. A visit to the modeling shop the latter part of last week found the workmen engaged in making some of the patterns for the staff work which is to decorate the Agricultural building. The ornamentation of this building is not only very ornate and elaborate, but it is decidedly unique and original. Architect Cass Gilbert of St. Paul designed this magnificent building and originated its decoration. In so doing he utilized the vegetable and animal life of an agricultural community and adapted it to his purpose. The result is a character of decoration which will be most attractive as well as artistic. It necessitates, however, on the part of the staff workers a tremendous amount of new work in making the models for the casts. Ordinarily the classic forms of decoration can be adapted to the occasion with a little alteration, but in this case complete patterns must be built up from the beginning. The same is true to a large extent of the decorations of the other main buildings, the decoration of the Machinery and Electricity building, for instance, being formed of cog wheels, pinions, incandescent lamps, switches and many other things peculiar to the two sciences to be displayed in the building. All of these require complete new sets of patterns, so that the decorations of all the main buildings will be peculiar to the Transmississippi Exposition and not a repetition of set architectural designs.

IN THE MODELING SHOP.

To return to the modeling shop, the first thing striking the eye of the visitor was a modeler in clay engaged in making a pattern for the keystone which is to crown the arch over the main entrance to the Agriculture building. A large plaster keystone of handsome design, measuring fully two and one-half feet across at the top and about three feet in height, had been utilized as a base on which to build up the striking ornament which will attract the attention of visitors to the big building. This ornament was nothing more nor less than a big turkey gobbler, life size, with tail outspread and wings drooping, looking for all the world as though he was preparing to step down from his perch and strut about among the chickens, ducks, geese and other barnyard fowls, which were lying around on all sides in counterfeit presentment, "done" in staff and ready to take their places on the Agriculture building. This keystone will crown the arch of the main entrance only and but one cast of it will be used, but the modeling process is the same as though a hundred gobblers were to be mounted on the building to add to the picturesqueness of the scene.

A second modeler was engaged on a garland of fruits, hanging in a graceful festoon. This pattern will be repeated many times on the building. The original model was being formed of clay on a board, the various articles of fruit composing it, like the gobbler, being formed of the plastic clay with the fingers, aided by two or three curiously shaped tools. The clay used by these workmen is the ordinary potter's clay. The gumbo so plentiful in this locality was tried by the modelers, but was found to be too sticky and was discarded.

Other modelers were engaged in making patterns for capitals for the numerous columns which will form a part of the decoration of the Agricultural building and of the columns themselves. As a rule the standard types of capitals and columns of the various schools of architecture can be used for patterns with slight changes in the detail of the decoration. The type of capital is selected and the desired changes are made with clay. For the plain portions of the cornices the patterns are made of wood and in many cases the moulds from which the cornice is made are also made of wood and the staff moulded in this.

In another room the moulds are made from which as many plaster casts as are necessary may be made. These moulds are made of a preparation of glue and gelatin, which is somewhat elastic, and this greatly removes the danger of breaking the cast in removing the mould in case any "undercuts" occur in the model. On account of the plastic nature of these moulds they are reinforced by plaster backs, the whole making a very bulky affair.

MAKING THE CASTS.

After the moulds are made they are taken to the large shop in the Mines building, where the casts are made. This shop is about 250 feet in length and about fifty feet wide. It has a low roof and is lighted dimly by skylights. About thirty men are employed in this shop. A mould is laid on a low table and covered with a light coating of oil to prevent the plaster from sticking. Two workmen then take a huge pan about the size of a washtub and partially fill it with water. Into this is slowly sifted hard wall plaster, which is thoroughly mixed until a thick paste is formed. This is poured over the inner surface of the mould with small pans and spattered with the hands into every nook and corner of the mould. This material "sets" very rapidly and the face of the mould is quickly covered to a depth of about a quarter of an inch. Hemp fiber is then taken in small wisps and dipped into the large pan of plaster and spread over the inner side of the cast. This process is repeated until the whole cast has reached a thickness of about an inch and one-half. It is allowed to stand about half an hour, by which time it becomes thoroughly "set," and it is then removed from the mould and is carried out of the shop to be placed with its fellows in the long rows of white casts which fill the big Mines building on every side.

When these casts are first taken out they are quite wet and they smoke and steam in the freezy air as if they were hot. During the cold weather now prevailing the casts freeze and become like huge chunks of ice. They do not dry out, but can be handled and are put on the buildings in this frozen state. When thawed out by the warmth of the sun they will dry and retain their place and shape as well as though thoroughly dried before being put on the building. They are handled like so much lumber, being sawed and mitred to make close joints and nailed in place like boards. In warm weather the holes made by the nails, as well as the openings left in making joints, will be carefully gone over by a workman with plaster and all inaccuracies and holes "pointed up," making a continuous surface without any joints.

The plain surfaces of the buildings are covered with plaster in the ordinary way, during suitable weather, the plaster being brought up to the stucco and covering the entire building.

ASKS FOR STAMP SUGGESTIONS.

People Who Have Ideas to Burn Should Come Forward.

Postmaster General Gary has written the following letter to Manager Edward Rosewater of the Department of Publicity and Promotion of the exposition regarding the souvenir postage stamps which are to be issued by the government in honor of the exposition:

"Upon receipts of your letter of the 13th inst. I immediately considered the proposition contained therein as to the issue of a special set of stamps to commemorate the Transmississippi and International Exposition to be held in your city next year, and have decided to issue a set of the denominations of 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents and $1. The time is short, however, in which to prepare for this issue, and we are desirous of having any suggestions you may wish to offer to aid us in selecting the proper designs for the stamps. Will you not kindly give me your views as early as possible on that point? We are receiving suggestions from other sources and out of the abundance of material from which to choose we hope to be able to select designs that will be satisfactory, not only to the department, but to the exposition authorities. Kindly give prompt attention to this matter, as it will take nearly all the time between now and the opening of your exposition to prepare the dies for printing the stamps."

Manager Rosewater desires to receive suggestions from anyone who thinks he has an original idea regarding the designs to be placed on these stamps. The Postoffice department wishes to make these stamps desirable from an artistic standpoint and also to make them illustrative of the transmississippi region and the Department of Publicity and Promotion wishes to render all possible assistance in the matter.

NEW SUMMER THEATER IN SIGHT.

Krug Brewing Company Will Erect the Structure.

The Krug Brewing company has leased the lot belonging to W. V. Morse at the northeastern corner of Fourteenth and Harney streets and also the one directly east of it belonging to A. J. Hanscom, for a term of years. Plans are now in the hands of a local architect which contemplate the construction of a two-story brick building upon the corner lot and a summer theater upon the one next to it. The corner structure will be 77x66 feet in dimensions and will be utilized as a cafe for both men and women, together with a main entrance to the theater. The theater proper will be one story in height and will be 66x132 feet in dimensions. It is proposed to fit the place up in metropolitan style and have the best of summer attractions during the period covered by the Transmississippi Exposition. The whole matter is in charge of Will Krug, who expects to begin work upon the improvement the latter part of this week, or at least as soon as the unsightly old rookeries which now encumber the lot may be removed.

COMMENTS ON OMAHA GAMBLERS.

Iowa Newspaper Man Afraid of the Wide Open Policy.

The moves being made among the gamblers of Omaha to have everything run "wide open" during the exposition is attracting a great deal of attention all over the country and numerous editorial comments are made on the matter by the newspapers. The following from the Muscatine, Ia., Journal of recent date is a fair illustration of the character of the comment made:

"Omaha gamblers, who hope to run wide open during the Transmississippi Exposition are rejoicing over the turning down by the courts of a state law which made gambling a felony as 'unconstitutional.' Yet the county attorney at Omaha says he can find plenty of good law to thwart them. And the exposition authorities ought to see that he does his duty, or else with the 200 extra saloons that have taken out licences for next year, running, as they usually do, each a gambling annex, there will be such a gang of toughs in that city that it will be absolutely unsafe for people to go there to see the exposition."

Noticed in Paris.

The Exporters' Universal Gazette of Paris, the organ of the Institutes of Arts and Industries, contains a notice of the Transmississippi and International Exposition in a column devoted to similar notices of future expositions and states that all particulars can be obtained from Frederick Mayer, the Paris agent of the Transmississippi Exposition.

Liberty Bell.

The finance committee of the common council of Philadelphia has under consideration the invitation from the exposition management to take part in the exposition by making an exhibit and erecting on the ground a fac simile of Independence hall and installing therein the old Liberty bell.

Opposed to an Appropriation.

The Des Moines Register and some of the smaller Iowa papers are vigorously opposing the proposed appropriation to enable the Iowa exposition commission to make a fine display of the resources of the state. They base their opposition on the statement that the state is in debt.

Christmas at Albion.

ALBION, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Christmas was observed here by all the churches except the Episcopal. At the Methodist church a full Christmas program was rendered, including a Christmas tree and "snow house." The Congregationalists rendered a well prepared program, together with the usual Christmas festivities, as did the Baptists.

Hood's Pills

Stimulate the stomach, rouse the liver, cure biliousness, headache, dizziness, sour stomach, constipation, etc. Price 25 cents. Sold by all druggists. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

...THE BEE Voting Contest FOR... Queen of the Ice Carnival

MY CHOICE FOR QUEEN POLARIS IS _____

Ballot Boxes located at Millard Hotel, Bee Bldg. King Pharmacy, 27th and Leavenworth sts.; Chas. A. Tracy's, 16th and Douglas; Shrader's Drug Store, North 24th and Seward sts.

NORRIS & LOVE, Carnival Managers.

DEC. 27 This ballot must be deposited within 3 days from date. Coupons may be mailed within two days to Carnival Dep't., Bee Office, Omaha.

ATHLETICS IN HIGH SCHOOL

Proposition of the Omaha Turnverein Will Be Accepted.

GIRLS LIKELY TO RECEIVE MOST BENEFIT

Boys Have About All They Can Do in the Line of Military Drill—Too Cold for Field Sports.

The prospect for the increased gymnasium facilities which it was announced a short time ago would be offered to the students of the Omaha High school will become an actual fact with the opening of the coming term. The proposition of the management of the Turnverein gymnasium will be put before the students and from the expressions made by them informally it will be very generally accepted, probably to the limit of the gymnasium's accommodations. The proposal of W. G. Retzer of the Turnverein is to put his gymnasium, together with his services as instructor, at the disposal of High school pupils for two hours daily free of all charge. His purpose in doing this is to train classes to exemplify the superior results possible from the German system of physical culture at the exposition, as that system, in his opinion, is the only perfect method for the general development of the human body.

The time placed at the service of the High school is from 2 until 4 o'clock every afternoon. Prof. Levister of the High school has not as yet definitely determined what recommendation he will make in regard to the division of classes. It was his desire that two classes of fifty each should divide the time, which would allow of 500 pupils taking one lesson a week, but a difficulty arose in disposing of the last division until its turn came and as to the probability that it would not be on hand at all. So it is probable that instruction will be given to one class of 100 daily for an hour and three quarters, which would give each one his turn at the apparatus.

It is expected that advantage of the offer will be taken mainly by girls, who have now no opportunity for physical training to correspond with the drill available to young men. There are now more than 700 girls on the rolls and not only are they given no chance for exercise at the High school, but there is no gymnasium in the city properly equipped for their use. From the spirit with which they have welcomed the offer of the Turnverein it is probable that the provision made for the number of 500 will be exhausted by them alone. They have made an attempt of their own to organize a basket ball team and have supplied themselves with a ball and baskets. The difficulty with this, however, is that there is not an empty room in all the building which can be used for this purpose. An attic in the front of the building, which is now stored with geological cases and drawing tables, is being considered, but there is difficulty in getting it cleared up.

The boys will be able to devote less time to gymnastic work on account of the big weekly drill. All of the 500 boys in school are enlisted in this work except those excused for physical disability and the exercise afforded by it is sufficient to keep them in fair condition. The weather has not permitted outdoor drilling of late and the time is consumed in setting-up exercises and practice of the manual of arms in the halls of the building. The former system is having a noticeable effect upon the appearance of the young cadets. The hour's work every Tuesday and Thursday is giving them supple and graceful figures, lining up uneven shoulders and dignifying shambling gaits. The exercises were planned for the use of matured men and care is therefore taken not to strain in any way the bodies of the young athletes. Those with the guns have become intelligent in the manual of arms in the short time since their acquirement and show renewed interest in the work since the guns have been in use. There are now ninety rifles in the armory of the cadets, sufficient for the use of two of the five companies, and they have been obtained altogether through the efforts of the boys. Another order of thirty-two is now on its way from the factory, bought, like the others, with subscriptions made for the purpose and with the proceeds of different musicals and theatricals. The guns are of a good pattern and of the proper weight.

Outdoor athletics, in the lines of base ball and track events, are as yet in a frost-bound condition. Prof. Bernstein has the oversight of High school athletics and states his belief that good material will develop in both these sports when there is an opportunity for training. The base ball team has not yet elected a captain and no indoor practice work has been begun. The professor hopes to emphasize the importance of the field sports in the coming spring more than has heretofore been done. Some of the men he expects to bring out are Jensen, '97, in the shot put; Rob Morris, Harry Neal and Davison, '97, in running events. He believes the school is unusually strong in runners and among other features is considering the introduction of a flag race. The plan of this is a competition of four picked men of each class, to run in relays of one-quarter of a mile each, when the flag is passed to a man standing ready to relieve the runner. It is thought that good bicycle talent is latent also in the hundreds of riders in the school and an effort will be made to prepare a track to bring this out.

WITH THE LONG AND SHORT SUITS.

Team Work More Important Than Individual Playing.

Team work in the game of whist, as in foot ball and other games, has come to be a more important factor for success than individual excellence. In selecting a group of four players to represent a club it is as necessary that each should have the faculty of adapting himself to a system previously agreed upon as that they should all be up to a certain grade of excellence. Unless each player confines his play to a plan which will be a known quantity to his co-partners it is impossible for them to feel the reliance in him which is necessary to success. It does not imply that a player should necessarily lower the standard of his play to conform to another who is less brilliant, but all members of the team must play alike under similar circumstances.

It is team work to return a partner's suit in place of opening one's own unless by establishing the latter in preference one will make a clearly evident gain. If one's partner has had an opportunity to lead trumps when such a lead looked favorable and declined, one should not lead trumps unless very strong in them or well protected in the plain suits. As soon as the partner indicates that conservative play is in order one should try to discover the weak point in his hand and endeavor to protect him in protecting one's self. When weak, one should furnish all possible support to the partner's hand and not attempt too much with his own. If he leads trumps and upon regaining the lead refuses to continue, one should not take up the trump lead unless able to strengthen his hand by so doing except, of course, when it is evident that a finesse in the trump suit is desired by the partner.

It is not meant that it is advisable that one should exercise his mental powers to the extent required between experts for championship honors, but it is possible to apply many of the principles and underlying team work to play one's play at all times. One should bear in mind that it is not only positive but negative information which may be conveyed. In addition, he must credit his partner with the ability to read similar information furnished by an opponent and count upon him taking advantage of it at the earliest moment advisable. No radical departure from the system of play adopted by the team should be made unless the position of the player is impregnable, as there have been sufficient instances in recent whist tournaments, notably the engagement between the Philadelphia and American Whist clubs, when a temporary advantage has been accepted with the result of ultimate defeat.

The columns that are written by the self-styled "common sense" players in ridicule of the long suiters are rather amusing, particularly as the arguments against long suiters are invariably clinched by the publication of a hand in which large gains are made by "common sense" players. These writers assume that long suiters never depart from the rules laid down by the, to them, ancient authorities, while allowing for themselves and their following the privilege of resorting to long suit play whenever they find that their short suiting will not work. In nearly all of the hands they publish the gains are made more by poor playing on the part of their adversaries than from merit of the system. They never publish any of the hands in which a loss is due to "common sense" playing, though every whist player knows full well that these losses do occur, and not infrequently. The effect of this "common sense" play, for the name is given to half a dozen different systems, is twofold. First, beginners hear so much of the merits of the various systems that they are in doubt which one to adopt, and as a result attempt them all and make of the game a mere guessing contest. Second, and more seriously, it leads many to take the same view of whist that is taken of love, war and horse trading, namely, that all is fair, and some, scrupulously honest in every-day matters, do not hesitate to resort to private conventions and other methods that go to make a card sharper. We do not assume that any system is perfect as yet, nor do we propose to condemn any one system, but we are opposed to any attempt to mix the systems. When a number of players are satisfied with a system let them herd together and perfect the system; not use it against players unfamiliar with their system and change it whenever it becomes known. Apropos of this a certain paper, criticizing the rotary discard, stated that some players, to deceive their adversaries, had changed the common order of the suits and used that given in bridge whist and winds up with the following: "Unless the league steps in and deals with a heavy hand with the sharpers the best of all card games will rest under a heavy cloud and the league itself will be discredited." This seems to have hit a prominent eastern whist authority and to have hit him hard, for he devotes a column of his paper to abuse of the author of the above, but does not deny the facts as stated. But it is notoriously true that "private conventions" are spreading like a pestilence among the whist players of the country. As Mr. Otis says, many are racking their brains in concocting schemes by which a medium player can always beat an expert. Some time since it was stated in a paper that a certain ladies' whist club required applicants for membership to pass an examination before they were admitted. This is a capital idea and if the examinations were extended to the systems played and then a pledge exacted that no system, or even innovation, would be used until sanctioned by the club, the pleasures of the club would be greatly enhanced.

Next Wednesday, December 29, being the last Wednesday of the month, is set apart by the Omaha Whist club as "visitors' night." Devotees of whist are respectfully invited. The club rooms are in room 312, Bee building.

For the fourth consecutive time Reed's team has been successful in the trophy contest, beating Shipley's team four points. Burkley's team will be their next contestants. The scores on Wednesday night were as follows:

North and South—	
Shea and Lawrence	169
Heth and Shipley	168
Sumney and Burrell	168
Coakley and Stebbins	167
Funkhouser and Hawks	165
Stanford and McDowell	165
Jones and Meikle	161
Average	166
East and West—	
Reed and Rinehart	206
Allee and Marshall	200
Beindorff and Scribner	198
Morsman and Redick	198
Scannell and Burkley	196
Douglas and Bruner	195
Garner and Joplin	192
Average	198

The ten highest for December are:

Names.	Score.	Names.	Score.
Beindorff	29	Burrell	13
Reed	28	Lawrence	13
Rinehart	26	Shea	9
Scribner	22	Funkhouser	6
Sumney	14	McDowell	4

FOUR-SIDED CHESS TOURNAMENT.

Intercollegiate Tennis Begin Their Week's Contest Today.

The quadrangular chess tournament, which occurs yearly between Yale, Harvard, Columbia and Princeton, will take place from December 27 to January 4 at the Columbia Grammar school. Each college will be represented by two contestants who have proved their fitness in various preliminary engagements at their home colleges. Each player will play one game with every other man, beginning at 2:30 p. m. If the games are not completed by 10 p. m. the decision is made by the umpire. A great deal of interest has been taken in the preliminary rounds at the different colleges and the final tournament bids fair to produce some good work. The representatives of Yale will be W. M. Murdock and L. A. Cook. Murdock has been Yale's representative for two years and finished first in the university tournament this year. Cook was first substitute last year and is reported to be putting up a strong game. The Yale men have had the advantage of the coaching of J. W. Showalter, champion of the United States, and are in the best possible condition. Harvard will send Southard to the match, who had a record of winning every game last winter, and Hewins, who was on the team three years ago. The make-up of Columbia's representation has not been announced, but it is known that their men have been practicing hard with a well known New York chess club. Princeton will be represented by Messrs. Young and Dana. This college secured second place last year and Princetonians believe that on this occasion they will be second to none.

The intercollegiate chess tournament has been held in New York during the Christmas holidays for the last five years. A valuable silver cup has been offered as a prize to become the property of the club which wins it for ten successive times. The winning team each year is given a silver medal with the name and date engraved upon it. Harvard has been successful for three successive years.

The following is a good example of the king's gambit declined, played by Messrs. Ettlinger and Baird in the recent championship tournament of the Manhattan Chess club, New York City:

White-Ettlinger.	Black-Baird.
1. P to K4	1. P to K4
2. P to KP4	2. P takes P
3. Kt to KB3	3. Kt to B3
4. Q Kt to B3	4. P to Q4
5. B to QB4	5. B to QB4
6. P to Q4	6. P takes P
7. Kt takes P	7. Kt takes P
8. K Kt to K2	8. K Kt to K2
9. P to QR3	9. P to QR3
10. P to KR3	10. P to KR3
11. Q takes B	11. Q takes B
12. P to Q4	12. P to Q4
13. Kt takes K P	13. Kt takes Kt
14. R takes Kt (chk.)	14. K takes R
15. P to Q B3	15. P to Q B3
16. Q to K R5	16. Q to K R5
17. Q to R4 (chk.)	17. Q to R4 (chk.)
18. Q to R5	18. Q to R5
19. Q to K2	19. Q to K2
20. Q R to K sq	20. Q R to K sq
21. Kt to K7	21. Kt to K7
22. R to Q5	22. R to Q5
23. Q to K Kt5	23. Q to K Kt5
24. Resigns.	

KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

INTERCOLLEGIATE CHESS GAMES.

Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia Are Represented.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The sixth annual intercollegiate chess tournament will begin tomorrow in the Columbia Grammar school in this city. It will extend over the entire week and representatives of Columbia, Yale, Harvard and Princeton will compete for the honor of holding the cup during 1898. Each college has two representatives and each man will play one game with every other player in the series.

The order of play tomorrow will be as follows: Arthur S. Meyer, Columbia, against James Hewins, Harvard; Louis A. Cook, Yale, against David T. Dana, Princeton; George O. Seward, Columbia, against William W. Young, Princeton, and William M. Murdoch, Yale, against Elmer E. Southard, Harvard. Play will begin at 2 o'clock and be continued until 6 and in case there should be any games left unfinished at that time there will be an evening session from 8 until 10 o'clock.

Kenney-Armstrong Fight Off.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Tom O'Rourke, manager of the Long Island City Athletic club, announces that the Yank Kenney-Bob Armstrong fight, scheduled for March 30 at the club, is off.

Byrne Believed to Be Better.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—President Charles H. Byrne of the Brooklyn Base Ball club was unconscious for several hours today and during the remainder of the time he was semi-conscious. The physicians believe, however, that his condition shows a slight improvement over that of yesterday.

NO WORD FROM CORTLAND AFFRAY.

Vanderpool, Man Who Did the Cutting, Is Still in Jail.

BEATRICE, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Both telegraph and telephone offices were closed at Cortland today and no word could be had from there regarding the condition of young Sherman and Clair. Three fellows under arrest manifested no interest whatever in the matter today. Last night when Sheriff Nelson entered the jail to lock the prisoners in their cells for the night Vanderpool, the fellow who did the cutting, had gone to sleep with Prince, the alleged Adams bank burglar. Nelson woke him up with a remark that there was talk of a mob coming down from Cortland after him and his pals. He remained quiet, but Prince became greatly alarmed and as he began to throw Vanderpool's things from the cell he excitedly cried: "For God's sake get out of here; I don't want you in here when they come, for they might make a bad mistake and get me."

Must Settle Shortages.

DAKOTA CITY, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—The Board of County Commissioners of this county has fixed Wednesday, December 29, as the time for the ex-officials of Dakota county who were affected by the recent investigation of the records of the county by Expert Hovey to appear before the board and make settlement of the amounts found due against them. Ex-Clerks J. P. Twohig and T. V. Brennan, the former now located at Seattle, Wash., and the latter at Bare Hills, Colo., have the greatest shortages to make good. Ex-Judge William P. Warner, now county attorney, appeared before the board at its last meeting and paid into the county the sum of 30 cents, the amount found due the county from him by the expert's report.

Utica Notes.

UTICA, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—W. Gage Miller, an old resident here, now living at University Place, was in town Friday greeting old friends.

E. W. Harvey, a member of the Twenty-second Infantry band at Fort Crook, was at home for Christmas.

Miss Lillian Boone, who has been visiting relatives at Weeping Water the past summer, returned to Utica Wednesday.

John Leichty of Bozeman, Mont., arrived here Wednesday on a visit to his parents.

Mrs. H. Davies and daughter, Miss Hattie, went to Lincoln Monday to pass the holidays with their daughter and sister, Mrs. I. G. Chapin.

Winding Up a Broken Bank's Affairs.

O'NEILL, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Upon application of Receiver Snyder of the Holt County back Judge Westover made an order authorizing him to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent to the creditors of that institution. The dividend would have been paid at an earlier date but for the fact of a time certificate of deposit held by the receiver under an order of the court. But Judge Westover, in this order, made it so that the clerk of the district court holds $900 on judgment against J. S. Bartley as Scott's bondsman. This and the county claim makes $1,275.61 turned over by Receiver Snyder to the county.

Holiday Vacation.

WAHOO, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—The city schools have closed for a vacation of two weeks. The session has been a successful one and though the month of December has been the coldest for many years the average attendance has been high. The teachers will remain in the city during vacation, except Miss Hutchison of the Grammar school, who has gone to her home at Peru, and Mr. Harris and Miss Clark of the High school, who have gone to Lincoln.

Winside Notes.

WINSIDE, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—There has been one entire month of good sleighing here, something this county has not known for many years. Farmers are feeling confident of an early spring and splendid crops, as the snow is just what the land has been needing.

The German Lutheran church of this place celebrated Christmas eve by having a Christmas tree at the church, with a large crowd in attendance.

Tries Carbolic Acid Route.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Miss Jennie Young, daughter of William Young, an old and respected farmer living seven miles south of this city, died at her home early Saturday morning from the effects of a liberal dose of carbolic acid. In a note left to her father she encouraged him in his old age, but gave no reasons for her rash act. Deceased was 40 years of age and unmarried.

Summoned on a Sad Mission.

SHELTON, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Rev. C. F. Graves of the Presbyterian church yesterday received a telegram calling him to Walker, Ia., to preach the funeral sermon over the remains of the late John F. Fines, formerly of this place, but who was burned to death in his store at Billings, Mont., Wednesday morning.

Dies of His Injuries.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Robert Simmons of South Bend, the man injured at Louisville in the collision on the Burlington, died of his injuries here last evening, without regaining consciousness. He leaves a large family in poor circumstances.

Burglars Get Nothing.

EXETER, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Burglars entered the postoffice here Friday night and made an attempt to get into the safe, but were unsuccessful. This is the third similar visit within a year which this office has received.

Nebraska News Notes.

A bank is to be started in North Loup in the near future.

The commissioners of Hayes county have employed an expert to check up the public records of that county.

Donald McLean writes to several O'Neill people that he will be there in the spring to build the Pacific Short Line on to the Pacific coast.

The school lands in Rock county were offered for lease last week and most of them were taken. The more desirable portions brought a bonus.

Wayne's water works system pays the running expenses. The investment of $20,000 was well spent, although some difficulties were experienced in the beginning. It is one of the best systems in any city in the state.

Blanche Hildebrand, the Hartington girl who disappeared just before an important criminal case in which she was the principal witness was called for trial, has been located by the officers and brought back.

It is estimated that there are being fed this season along the line of the Union Pacific railroad in Nebraska 140,613 head of cattle and 706,667 head of sheep, not counting the small bunches being fed by farmers. Last year it was estimated that there were 66,637 head of cattle and 299,400 head of sheep.

OTHER LINES INTERESTED

Port Arthur Route Stirs Up Officials of Its Competitors.

BRIDGE ARBITRARY WILL HAVE TO GO

General Opinion Outside of Railway Circles is that the Toll Must Eventually Be Wiped Out.

The announcement that the Omaha, Kansas City & Eastern and the Omaha & St. Louis railroads, as part of the Port Arthur Route, would on and after today absorb the Missouri river bridge tolls on all shipments of freight into Omaha and South Omaha created something of a stir in Omaha railway circles yesterday. Very few of the freight officials visited their offices yesterday, and none of the officials of competing lines up until last evening had seen the new tariff of the Port Arthur Route which will remove the bridge tolls. But they had all read the announcement in the papers yesterday and thought considerably more about the move made by the new Omaha line than they did about any sermons they chanced to hear preached during the day.

Asked what he thought the effect would be on the Burlington and other Iowa lines, General Manager Holdrege of the B. & M. said to a Bee reporter: "We cannot tell just yet. So far as I know the matter has not yet been considered by the Iowa lines. We shall probably get together soon and discuss the situation and do what appears best for all concerned. I know nothing more of the matter than what I have read in the papers and therefore cannot give you much information about it."

A freight official of an Iowa line said: "I have not seen the new tariff which Mr. Sargent has issued, but have read all about it in the papers. The fact that Saturday was Christmas day and the day following was another holiday, so far as the railroad offices are concerned, has delayed consideration of the matter. Nothing can be done before Monday, when the various Iowa lines will probably receive their copies of the new tariff. It is hard to say what will be done, but the matter will receive very earnest attention."

The above interviews represent the consensus of opinion among the railroad men interviewed yesterday. All agreed that it was quite an important move on the part of the Port Arthur Route, but none seemed willing to venture a prediction as to what the Rock Island, the Milwaukee, the Burlington and the Northwestern lines would do in consequence of the absorption of the bridge charges by a new competitor.

Outside the railway offices the matter was freely discussed and the general opinion appeared to be that the Iowa lines would be compelled to absorb the bridge tolls sooner or later, for if they should let they would lose a considerable volume of business to the Port Arthur Route.

AMUSEMENTS.

Ogden Bennett, the Alaska traveler and newspaper correspondent, who will deliver his illustrated lecture on the Alaskan gold fields, entitled "Klondike as It Is," at Boyd's theater this evening, was one of the first newspaper correspondents to reach the Klondike gold fields early last summer, and his experiences, scenes and incidents on that trip have given him material for a lecture which in its combination with Mr. La Roche's beautiful stereopticon views, will form a rare and interesting entertainment. The views were taken by Mr. La Roche especially for this lecture, and show every point of interest on the route, over the Taiya trail and Chilkoot pass, Skagway trail and White pass, Lake Lindeman and Burnett, the gold fields, Dawson City and on the Yukon river. A feature of the evening's entertainment will be the singing of Mr. Holbrook, the lyric tenor, who will appear in the latest illustrated topical songs.

The new and powerful play of the Tennessee mountains by David Higgins, one of our younger dramatists, entitled "At Piney Ridge," a play that has had many good things said of it, will have its first presentation in this city Monday night at the Creighton theater. The play comes with a long line of favorable comment and if what has been said of it is true local theater goers may look forward with pleasure to witnessing one of the very latest of successful American plays, by an American author. "Any one who desires to see a verile, human and moving drama should see the new southern play, 'At Piney Ridge.'" So said Allan Dale, whose caustic pen is used oftener to probe the gaping wounds of poorly constructed dramas than in writing words of praise in their behalf. And he is not alone in his well-spoken comments of favor. The entire press of New York, without exception, joined in the favorable notice that followed the morning after this play was brought to light last February in New York. And from all accounts it was not without reason that this play from the pen of a comparatively unknown author met such a cordial welcome. A brief review of its story and main incidents reveals little of its true strength, for it is in the telling of the story that the real value from a dramatic standpoint of the play resides. It is in this and this solely that the dramatist's power lies. The play will be presented with a strong company, as many well known names are in the cast; all the original scenery and accessories will be used and a production perfect in every detail is promised. The engagement is for three nights and a Wednesday matinee.

Knights Templar Observe Christmas.

What is accounted as one of the most enjoyable affairs in the history of Mount Calvary commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, occurred at noon on Christmas day at Masonic temple. It was the Christmas observance that is celebrated by the templars all over the United States and Canada at the same time. The hour fixed is noon by eastern time, which is 11 o'clock in this city. It was at the latter hour that the affair commenced in this city. Rev. Sanderson was the master of ceremonies and he called upon Rev. S. Wright Butler, Rev. Sloan and W. S. Strawn and Samuel Burns to respond to topics. The speeches were interspersed with music from a quartet and solos by Jo Barton. At the conclusion of this program an excellent luncheon was served. Very nearly 100 persons were in attendance.

North Star Club's "Julfest."

The North Star club yesterday afternoon enjoyed its usual "Julfest," or Christmas time festival. The affair took place in Myrtle hall and was attended by a large number of prominent Danish citizens and their families. The children were given an enjoyable time with a Christmas tree and a Santa Claus. The older folks also had a very enjoyable time.

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AMUSEMENTS