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ATTACKS THE GAS COMPANY

Committee of Central Federated Improvement Club Makes Report.

HARTER PROVISIONS ARE VIOLATED
Report Censures Mayor and Council and Says Terms of Company's Franchise Are Daily Ignored.

The Central Federation of Improvement Clubs met Monday with representatives present from the Prospect Hill, Orchard Hill, Omaha View, North Omaha, West Omaha and Central Park Improvement clubs.

The question of securing photographs of various parts of the city, both improved and unimproved, was discussed and the special committee appointed for that purpose reported progress and that it expected to soon have a good collection of photographs, gathered without cost to the club.

The committee on street lighting submitted the following report, which was received and placed on file without further recommendation:

Your committee on the examination of the gas contract for street lighting would respectfully report that we find that Councilmen Evans, O'Brien, Mack Dyball, Huntly and Schroeder voted in favor of a resolution to extend the contract for two years from January 1, 1904, and that the resolution was approved by the mayor; that this was done in direct violation of the provisions of the city charter, which provides that bids shall be advertised for and taken before the letting of any contract. Your committee finds further that had an opportunity been given for bids that a lower bid would have been submitted, which, being accepted, would have saved the city many thousands of dollars.

Your committee finds further that the gas company violated the provisions of its franchise at an earlier time when it refused to bid for street lighting when asked to do so by the city council; the franchise of the gas company expressly providing that the company will, when and so often as requested to do so by the city of Omaha during the continuance of its franchise, bid for the supply of gas at a rate which shall not exceed for each lamp burning gas at the rate of five cubic feet per hour, or \$2 per annum per lamp. Your committee finds further that test shows that the gas back burners on street lamps only consumes three and one-half cubic feet of gas per hour, so that the gas company collects \$100 per year for each lamp it does so in further violation of its franchise.

Proposes a Suit.
W. F. Johnson said: "There is no legal contract with the gas company, and that this franchise is being openly and constantly violated and if some citizen should go into court its validity could be successfully challenged."

A motion prevailed thanking the city council for the use of the council room for meeting purposes.

A communication was read from the West Omaha Improvement club requesting the Federal club to open its doors for membership to all members of all improvement clubs of the city. A communication from the Central Park Improvement club took exactly the opposite position.

Pursuant with a communication from the North Omaha Improvement club, the secretary of the Federated club was directed to request that the Federated club be furnished with copies of all annual reports of the city and its several departments, especially in view of the fact that said reports have not been furnished the public for the last six years.

Resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution of the Federated club, relative to active memberships and honorary memberships, were tabled for consideration at a special meeting to be held January 18.

A protest from the Prospect Hill Improvement club against any further gasoline light deals being made by the city, and to substitute electric light therefor, was laid over for consideration to January 18.

For Public Safety.
John Daly introduced a resolution to the effect that as a protection and safeguard to the lives of citizens, that the city council be requested to cause an official and thorough inspection of all halls and public buildings where people are accustomed to assemble in large bodies; to have all doors of such buildings to swing outward and to remain reliable men at all exit doors; that special policemen and firemen be present at each performance, and that the director of each place of amusement or assembly be required to announce before the beginning of each performance the location of all exits from their respective establishments. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Be Quick.
Not a minute should be lost when a child shows symptoms of croup. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy given as soon as the child becomes hoarse, or even after the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. It never fails, and is pleasant and safe to take.

CHRONIC SORES

Signs of Polluted Blood.

There is nothing so repulsive looking and disgusting as an old sore. You worry over it till the brain grows weary and work with it until the patience is exhausted, and the very sight of the old festering, sickly looking place makes you irritable, despondent and desperate.

A chronic sore is the very best evidence that your blood is in an unhealthy and impoverished condition, that your constitution is breaking down under the effects of some serious disorder. The taking of strong medicines, like mercury or potash, will sometimes so pollute and vitiate the blood and impair the general system that the merest scratch or bruise results in obstinate non-healing sores of the most offensive character.

Often an inherited taint breaks out in frightful eating sores upon the limbs or face in old age or middle life. Whenever a sore refuses to heal the blood is always at fault, and, while antiseptic washes, salves, and powders can do much to keep down the inflammation and cleanse the sore, it will never heal permanently till the blood itself has been purified and the deadly germs and poisons destroyed, and with S. S. S. this can be accomplished—the polluted blood is purified and invigorated, and when rich, pure blood is again circulating freely throughout the body the flesh around the old sore begins to take on a natural color, the discharge of matter ceases and the place heals over.

S. S. S. is both a blood purifier and tonic that puts your blood in order and at the same time tones up the system and builds up the general health. If you have a chronic sore write us and our physician will advise you without charge.

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NEW BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Some January Publications That Are of Uncommon Interest and Merit.

PEN PICTURES OF COREANS IN OUTING

Good Things for Women and Children of All Ages in the February Delineator—New Story by Jack London in the Century.

With Japan and Russia on the verge of war over Corea, perhaps the article to which most people will turn at once in the January issue of Outing is "Walking Through Corea," which is the story of a tramp over the country with pen pictures of the people and some excellent photographs that bring them and the country pretty clear to the reader. But, perhaps the most fascinating article in this number is "Beating the Wind on a Toboggan," which tells of the remarkable feats accomplished at Davos, together with a dozen photographs taken especially for Outing and illustrating the daring runs that are taken down the mountain side. Mr. Dunn, in this number, begins the first of his articles on the recent attempt to ascend Mount McKinley. This is quite the most extraordinary series of papers to have been published, for besides the thrilling experience in exploration, they tell of first-hand experiences which are usually not set down in print by explorers. Mr. Dunn's article is a human document frankly recorded. An important contribution to this number is "The Story of the Shotgun," prepared by one of the Outing staff who visited the different factories for the purpose of telling how the shotgun is made from the last period in its manufacture. Two very seasonable papers are on "Southern Bayous," interesting alike to sportsman and nature lover and traveler, and "Fishing and Fishermen in Southern California," towards which at this time of the year many eyes are directed.

The February Delineator is a magazine of uncommon interest and value. Its stories, articles and pictures are excellent, and the review of the fashions, including a letter from Mrs. Osborn, thorough and enlightening. More than sixty winter stories are included. In fiction there is a mystical tale entitled "The Silver Boat," by Albert Bigelow Paine; a strong love story from the Pacific by Edna Procter Clarke, "The Woe of Tia," and a delightful middle-class romance by L. M. Montgomery; also a chapter of the "Evy" series of a "Cub Woman," the much discussed and serial by Agnes Surbridge. The home life of Calve, the most interesting personality among the favorites of the opera, is described in a remarkably illustrated article by Percy Mitchell. A serious paper on "The Cultivation of Ideals," by Lillie Hamilton French, will be generally enjoyed, and collectors of antiques especially will be interested in "The Quest of Roxane," by Frances Roberts. Dr. Grace Peckham Murray's article on the care of the complexion meets an urgent need for just such a scientific treatise simply and enlighteningly presented. In addition there are many good things for the children and for women of all ages timely information on a variety of topics.

One of the most picturesque and readable articles in the Outlook's magazine number for January is that by Hamilton Wright Mable on the "Chateaux." Beautifully illustrated by unusually fine and beautiful photographs, Mr. Mable not only brings to the stay-at-home traveler the charm and impressiveness of the famous Chateaux of Tours, Blois, Chenonceaux and Azay-le-Rideau, but calls up to the imagination the historical associations and the beautiful places are replete. Another decidedly readable article which deals with historical associations in America is that by H. H. Moore, entitled "The Puritan and the Cavalier." This also is enlivened by many fine photographs taken expressly for this purpose. Other notable features of the number are personal sketches of Herbert Spencer by George Iles, and Mr. Iles' fifth chapter in his unconventional and often highly amusing biography of the president, called "Theodore Roosevelt the Citizen."

The North American Review in its January number provides for its readers a collection of articles of the greatest interest, in several of which it deals, with its accustomed authority, with current questions of the first magnitude. William Henry Hudson, who for several years was the editor of the Review, has written an interesting and most interesting character study of that great philosopher, Arnold White discusses "The Jewish Question: How to Solve It." Horace White gives his opinion as to what may be expected of "The School of Journalism." Thomas Nelson Page writes on "The Problem of Lynching of Negroes." His Cause and Prevention." Goldwin Smith concludes his brilliant review of "Morley's Life of Gladstone." Thomas Barclay writes of "Two Treaties of Arbitration," suggesting the negotiation of a treaty, similar to the Anglo-French arbitration treaty, between Great Britain and the United States. Brigadier General Carter reviews "Mr. Root's Services in the War Department." Francisco Escobar, a prominent Colombian, considers "The President's Message and the Isthmian Canal," severely criticizing some of the statements made by Mr. Roosevelt to Congress. The number closes with the first part of W. D. Howell's new novel, "The Son of Royal Langbrith."

The Criterion opens a new season with the January number, full of more than that clever magazine's usual charm and value. The cover is a unique design in colors by John Cecil Gray, the designer of the magazine are of a high order of merit. Among the most noticeable features of the paper are an authoritative paper by Charles Johnston, "Corea, Russia and Japan," a study of extraordinary interest and insight, dealing with the difficult situation now pending in the Far East; the commencement of a short serial by Jennette Lee, written in this favorite writer's most charming manner. The plot of the tale is unusual and original, possessing a deep psychological interest. John Uri Lloyd, the famous chronicler of the Kentuckian, contributes a highly original and amusing satire, "The Sine of the Pilgrim Fathers." An interesting paper on "The Dramatic Problem in Opera," by Katharine M. Roof, is of unusual value to lovers of opera. This is the first of a series and discusses the opera singer and the opera actor. Some excellent short stories figure in the number, among these being "The Blow in the Dark," by Patrick Vaux; "The Tempered Wind," by Emery Pottle, and "Tarrytown Tales," by Minna Irving. Stephen MacKenna's "Toll of Praise," a literary critique, is also worthy of note. The magazine in addition offers some very good poetry and the usual comments on current publications.

Bright, helpful, entertaining is the January number of The Housekeeper, which comes in handsome holiday dress. Among the more noticeable features are a full-page illustration by F. DeForest Sobok, "Watching the Old Year Out," short stories

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by Mary Stewart Cutting and Ida Reed Smith, and practical articles by Mary Taylor-Ross, Elizabeth Lord Condit, Ellen O. Hiller and Alicia Adams. Jessie Ackermann, in an intensely interesting article, tells how she prepared for public work. The many departments that have made The Housekeeper famous, such as Council for Mothers, Home Handwork, Hints for Home Dressmakers, in the Realm of Girlhood, His Royal Highness, and The Children's Hour, are all up to their usual high standard and, all in all, The Housekeeper fully deserves to be called the "Magazine of Helpfulness."

The opening chapters of Jack London's "The Sea-Wolf" in the January Century redoubt interest in and anticipations of what promises to be one of the literary events of the year. In addition to the dramatic interest of the story and the action, the novel will be rich in Wolf Larsen, the new novel will be rich in strong and stirring sea descriptions, pictures of the life which was Jack London's for several years.

It is interesting in connection with the centennial of the immense American publishers to note the product for one year of Harper & Bros., who may be taken as representative among the leading houses. In 1903 this firm published eighty-eight volumes of history, biography, essays, reminiscence, science, psychology, fiction, verse, drama, juvenile literature and domestic science; twelve numbers of Harper's Weekly, twelve numbers of Harper's Bazar, twelve numbers of Golf, two portfolios of drawings and seventeen artistic calendars and souvenirs, including periodicals, the output is believed to be the largest of any publishing firm in the world.

Next spring Houghton, Mifflin & Co. are to have volumes of fiction from the following authors: Lafcadio Hearn, Baroness von Hutten, Hildegarde Hawthorne, Andy Adams, Charles Egbert Craddock, Rose E. Young, Frederick O. Bartlett and Margaret D. Jackson. They will also publish new books by Rollo Ogden, George B. McClellan, Henry D. Sedgwick, Washington Gladden, N. B. Shaler, W. Starling Burgess and Olive Thorne Miller.

"Polopouri—Spice and Rose Leaves" is the title under which Mrs. Miranda Powers Swenson of Sartoria, Neb., publishes a little volume of her own poems. The separate offerings are all short, but each has in it the essence of true poetry, that deep feeling which is not fully expressed with shallow words. There are similar songs that "speak from the heart" and are the most enjoyable because of their simplicity. Mrs. Swenson will be welcome to the circle of Nebraska writers who have felt encouraged to give to the world music of their muse. The little volume is artistically printed by the Gorham Press of Boston, and is as inviting in appearance as it is satisfying in contents.

The above books are for sale by the Megeath Stationery Co., 1208 Farnam street.

CALENDARS.

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AFTER ALL ASSEMBLY PLACES

Mayor Issues Order for Withnail to Inspect All These Places.

INSISTS ON EVERY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION

Theaters, Churches, Halls and Even Large Business Houses Come Under the Category Named by His Honor.

Mayor Moores has issued instructions to Building Inspector Withnail and Fire Chief Saylor, stipulating that this be done by Saturday. At this theater 126 seats have been removed, enlarging the aisles and making cross-aisles on the main floor and balcony. At the Orpheum an asbestos lining has been placed in the calcium light cabinet near the entrance.

"This is as good a time as any to have a thorough investigation made of dance halls, quasi-theaters, like Washington hall, churches, rooms and buildings where fraternal and other organizations meet and in fact every kind of a building where crowds assemble," said the mayor.

Must Be Up to Par.
"The exits and ability to empty quickly and safely in case of fire will be noted, and if not up to requirements the necessary alterations will be insisted upon. Secondly, the strength and general conditions of the structures will be examined closely and care taken to see whether or not collapse may be caused by overloading. The investigation may take some time, but I am satisfied that in the end it will save human life and property."

CHANGES IN ARMY OFFICERS

General S. S. Sumner Goes South, but Will Command the Missouri.

ARRANGEMENT WILL BE TEMPORARY

Brigadier General Carr Will Come Here from Fort Riley to Await Arrival of Wint.

Next week will witness a material change in the personnel of the Department of the Missouri headquarters. General S. S. Sumner, with his personal aide, Lieutenant Hamilton Bowie, will depart for Oklahoma City to assume command of the military division of the southwest. It is the present intention for them to leave Omaha about the 11th or 12th inst. General Sumner still will continue in command of the department until January 15 and will exercise the command from Oklahoma City. Arrangements practically have been completed for division headquarters there.

FALLS DEAD AT CUT OFF LAKE

Employe of Talbot Company Expires While Helping to Harvest Ice Crop.

Marcus C. Owen, employed at cutting ice at Cut-Off lake by the Talbot Ice company, fell dead yesterday while cleaning out a car. Dr. J. C. Bishop was summoned and ascertained the cause of death to be heart failure. Owen lived at 222 North Twenty-second street and leaves a wife and two daughters. He formerly was employed by the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company as a motorman. The body is now at the morgue and an inquest will be held today.

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