KIDS IN THE PARKS OFF THE STREETS

That is Commissioner Hummel's Idea of Extending Playground System of Devices.

LESSENS HAZARD TO CHILDREN

Mrs. Paul Getschmann of the Social Service board has declared through The Bee that Omaha must do more in the way of playgrounds for its children.

Park Commissioner Hummel, without taking up Mrs. Getschmann's statement, has the same idea and he believes he has done the best he could with available resources to conserve it.

"Anyone who has taken time to observe," says Mr. Hummel, "knows the enormous crowds of boys and girls who spend most of their spare time in the warmer periods in our parks, now equipped; at least, to some extent, with devices for their entertainment and pleasure. And these crowds will continue to increase. That means boys and girls off the street.

"'Oh, well!' someone says, 'Children will find their own places of amusement without making special provision for them.' But, I believe the one who makes such a remark has not given his best thought to the subject. Children will, of course, find their own places of amusement. Sometimes hundreds of little boys and girls will discover excellent entertainment in the streets, but it might be—it has in some cases been—very perilous entertainment.

Dense Auto Traffic.

"Our auto traffic has increased of late years about 300 per cent. There is Nineteenth street, for example, a boulevard, along which large families are characteristic. The children flock to the street to play. It is dangerous even for grown-ups to spend too much time in that and many other similarly congested thoroughfares, not to speak of downtown streets.

"We need the playgrounds. We are using the parks for them and must extend the system. That is one reason why when I came into this office I turned a deaf ear to the proposition of continuing to use Fontenelle park for a cow pasture. I have had it made into a beautiful, magnificent public park. Talk about spreading these benefits and popularizing them, why that is precisely what we are doing. And it is building up surrounding residence districts, too. Look at the new homes going up just this side of Fontenelle park."

"Stale Bread" Clubs Result of Flour Up

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Wheat, flying higher and higher on its war wings, had a grotesque consequence today in Chicago—the public advocacy of the formation of "stale bread clubs" throughout the city. To forestall attempts to raise the price of bread a cent a loaf, making the retail cost 6 cents instead of 5, was the purpose which it was said the proposed clubs would effect.

Members of the "Stale Bread clubs," it was explained, would simply pledge themselves to buy bread one day old, and not insist on the article hot from the oven. Superior health values were asserted for day-old bread by its advocates, who declared that what the matured loaf lacked in flavor was more than offset by ease of digestion.

Russ Christmas Not So Gay with Dry Law

PETROGRAD, Jan. 8.—(Via London.)—Russia today is celebrating Christmas. War's shadow has failed to darken the customary Christmas spirit which is more variously and intensely manifested in the Russian capital than elsewhere in the world.

As in other places in Europe the war has interferred to some extent with the Christmas customs in Russia, such as feasting and drinking, which suffer from the rigid enforcement of the prohibition laws and the difficulty in importing fruits and Christmas dainties.

Gill's Old Chief of Police Is Pardoned

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 8.—Charles W. Wappenstein, former chief of police of Seattle, convicted in 1911 of having received bribes and sentenced to three to ten years in state's prison, was pardoned unconditionally today by Governor Lister.

Wappenstein was chief of police under Hiram C. Gill, who, after being recalled from the office of mayor on the ground that he permitted vice to flourish, tried again for the mayoralty last year on a reform platform and was elected.

HIGHEST PRICED MOVIE STAR ENROUTE TO COAST

En route to the hills in the vicinity of San Diego, Cal., where she will star in movies that are to be produced, showing hairbreadth escapes from critical situations, Mary Pickford, the highest salaried woman in the works, went west on the Los Angeles Limited. It is asserted that she draws a salary of $50,000 annually for being the heroine for one of the film companies that produces the movies.

Washington Affairs

Opening the republican fight against the government ship purchase bill, Senator Burton of Ohio assailed the measure as a dangerous experiment in government ownership, and asserted that it would open the way to the building up of privileged interests.

The senate confirmed the nomination of Edgar M. Harber of Trenton, Mo., as collector of internal revenue for the Kansas City district of Missouri. Confirmation had been held up for some time, but the Missouri senators finally decided not to oppose favorable action.

The Federal Reserve board approved the following rediscount rates for the reserve banks in Kansas City and Richmond: Maturities up to thirty days 4½ per cent; maturities, thirty to sixty days, 5 per cent; maturities, sixty to ninety days, 5½ per cent; maturities over ninety days, 6 per cent.

Postmaster General Burleson directed postmasters to give the widest publicity possible to the fact that the 2-cent letter postage rate does not apply to Australia and New Zealand. The failure to affix a 5-cent stamp requires collection of double the deficient postage upon the delivery of short-paid letters.

In a conference with democratic and republican leaders of congress President Wilson asked for an appropriation of $15,000 to defray expenses of the celebration planned for the opening of the Panama canal next March. Although all details of the program were not made public, the president told the delegation that the estimated expenditure for the celebration would be about a quarter of a million dollars. Democrats and republicans alike approved the plans and expenditure.

PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA, who, rumor says, as result of recent conference attended by Emperor William, is to be given supreme command of the German navy. Immediately after the conference Prince Henry sped to Kiel by special train.

FLOUR TEN CENTS HIGHER

Breadstuff Goes Up Twenty Cents Per Hundred, While Fruits of All Kinds Are Reasonable.

SOME MEATS LITTLE CHEAPER

Flour has jumped 10 cents a sack and may jump more. That is easily 20 cents a 100 pounds, as the regulation sack contains but forty-eight pounds. The best flour now costs $1.75 a sack and the inferior grades $1.30.

Sugar has made a little advance in price, so that stores that were giving twenty pounds have cut it down to nineteen for $1.00.

Grapefruit, oranges and lemons are cheap and abundant. The best oranges that can be bought can be had for 30 cents a dozen, while good oranges can be had for 15 and 20 cents a dozen. Good sized grapefruits can be had for a nickel apiece. Apples are still plentiful and reasonable. Excellent eating and cooking apples can be had for $1.35 a bushel box. Lemons are cheaper than they have been for years. Good lemons can be had for a quarter a dozen.

Potatoes of good quality are still on the market at 75 cents a bushel. Cabbage is selling still at 1½ cents a pound, which is the price it has maintained since early fall. Sweet potatoes are scarce and high. They are bringing $2.50 a hundred.

Pork is up a dollar a hundred. Some of the retailers are still selling at about the same price, although a general advance, affecting the retail price also, is looked for, since the wholesalers are already demanding a dollar a hundred more than a week ago.

Lambs are a trifle cheaper. Hind quarters are selling at 11¼ cents and front quarters at 8½ cents. Round steak is a bit cheaper, retailing now at 16½ cents.

Fish are abundant on the market. Halibut are selling at 12½ cents, salmon, 12½ cents; smelts, 15 cents; catfish, 17½ cents. Salt mackerel are a little higher than they have been. They are some $3 per 100 higher than a few weeks ago.

SENIOR CADETS TO HAVE RECEPTION FOR PARENTS

This evening the senior classes of Central High school will give a reception for their parents at the school auditorium.

All the parents of the February and June seniors are invited to be present. A program will consist of vocal and instrumental solos, talks and music by the glee club.

This is the second year that these receptions have been given for the parents. The student council will be in evidence on Friday evening in the capacity of guides and assistants to the teachers. The whole faculty will also be present.

NICE CHANCE FOR MARRIED MAN TO GO TO COUNTRY

A nice farm home, with cows, chickens, garden and all the other trimmings, and with wages of $35 a month, is offered by a farmer near Fullerton, to a man and wife who will go out there and work. A. A. Remington, secretary of the employment service of the Young Men's Christian association, has been asked to find a couple to fill the place. It is explained that only the man's work is required at those wages, but a married man is desired. That ought to suit a man with "back-to-the-land" fever, Remington says.

WOMAN ASKING DIVORCE ALLEGES A SECOND WIFE

Mrs. Lucy Jane Chapman, who has asked the district court for an annulment of her marriage to William E. Evans, gives as a reason the existence of another wife who she found had a prior claim on Evans. His second marriage, she asserts, occurred June 9, 1912, at Council Bluffs.

MRS. SPIESBERGER FINDS VALUABLE PIN SHE LOST

Mrs. N. A. Spiesberger, who reported by wire to the Omaha police that she had lost a $1,500 diamond breast pin as she was boarding an Omaha train for Chicago, now wires that she found the pin, which had in some way become unfastened and was clinging to her dress.

MANY FAULTY RETURNS OF INCOME TAX LISTS

So many faulty and incomplete returns under the income tax law have been made to E. W. North, acting collector of internal revenue here, that he has been forced to use up stacks of government envelopes in sending back the returns for corrections or additions.

One question asked is: "Were you married or single, with husband or wife living with you on December 31?" Many people making the returns merely answered "Yes."

Collector North scratches his head and remarks in such cases, "Yes, the person was married or single, but we want to know which conditions prevailed."

FOSTER SEEKS TO DELAY HEARING ON HIS CONTEST

A special appearance filed by Police Judge Foster, by which he sought to delay hearing of R. J. Madden's election contest, owing to the dating of a summons 1914 instead of 1915, was overruled by County Judge Crawford. The case was assigned for hearing next Monday morning in county court.

Judge Foster asked delay of five days. In support of his request he filed an affidavit setting forth that he devoted from three to five hours each day to the duties of his office and that he was unable to make ready for immediate trial.

MANY INTERESTED IN GERMAN MELTING POT

"Every mail from out in the state is bringing in contributions of gold and silver jewelry toward the melting pot of the German war relief fund for widows and orphans of soldiers," said Mrs. Paul Getzschmann, who is chairman of the iron ring committee of the local German Ladies' Aid society. As soon as a shipment of the iron rings reaches Omaha a ring will be given to each person who makes a donation to the "melting pot."

WILL REFUND POST CHARGES

Amount of Stamps on Packages of Food and Clothing Sent Belgians to Be Returned.

SEND TO THE NEAREST STATION

Refund of parcel post charges on shipments of food for suffering Belgians has been arranged by the Commission for Relief in Belgium. Postmaster General A. S. Burleson has sent out a bulletin, which Assistant Postmaster James I. Woodard will place in the local postoffice corridors. It explains how Americans can send nonperishable foodstuffs by parcel post and have the transportation charges paid by the commission, whose headquarters are 71 Broadway, New York.

Flour, wheat, rice, peas, beans, coffee, canned goods and new blankets and clothing may be sent by parcel post from any postoffice to the nearest assembling depot in any state, from whence the goods will be sent by carload freight to the seaboard. If the shipment weighs twenty pounds or more, all parcel post charges, paid in advance by the donor, will be refunded from the New York office on request made at the time.

The Nebraska assembling depots are the Omaha Van and Storage warehouse, Omaha, and the Carter Transfer and Storage warehouse, Lincoln. The western Iowa depot is in care of the Merchants Transfer company, Des Moines. Parcel post shipments for Belgian relief should be sent to the nearest of these depots, and all transportation charges paid by the sender will be refunded, if the requirements of the commission are fulfilled.

Bee Want Ads Produce Results.

TO SUE ON FORFEITED BONDS

Hearing of Police Court Appeals is Finished in the District Court by Judge English.

FORFEITED BONDS OF $34,000

Hearing of police court appeal cases was finished by District Judge English Thursday evening with the following result:

Bonds forfeited, averaging $200 each, 171.

Cases dismissed on motion of the city prosecutor, thirty-nine.

Cases dismissed by Judge English for lack of evidence, forty-eight.

Convictions, fifteen.

Total number of cases considered, 377.

Forfeited bonds amounted to a face value of $34,000. Of these not more than one-half can be collected, according to an estimate of County Attorney Magney, who expects to begin suits against bondsmen within a short time.

The revenue derived from collection of the bonds is given to the school fund by statute. Owing to the practice in police court of accepting bonds of dubious worth, however, the revenue derived from this source has been of a negligible character. There has also been some controversy as to whether the county attorney or the attorney for the school board should make efforts to compel the bondsmen to pay.

GOTHARD FALLS FROM CAR AND SUSTAINS BAD CUT

A. Gothard, Twentieth and Cuming streets, sustained a severe cut over the left eye when he fell from a street car at Sixteenth and Leavenworth streets. He was attended by Dr. Tamisea, police surgeon, and taken home.