Churches of Omaha That Have Been "Crowded Out" by City's Growth

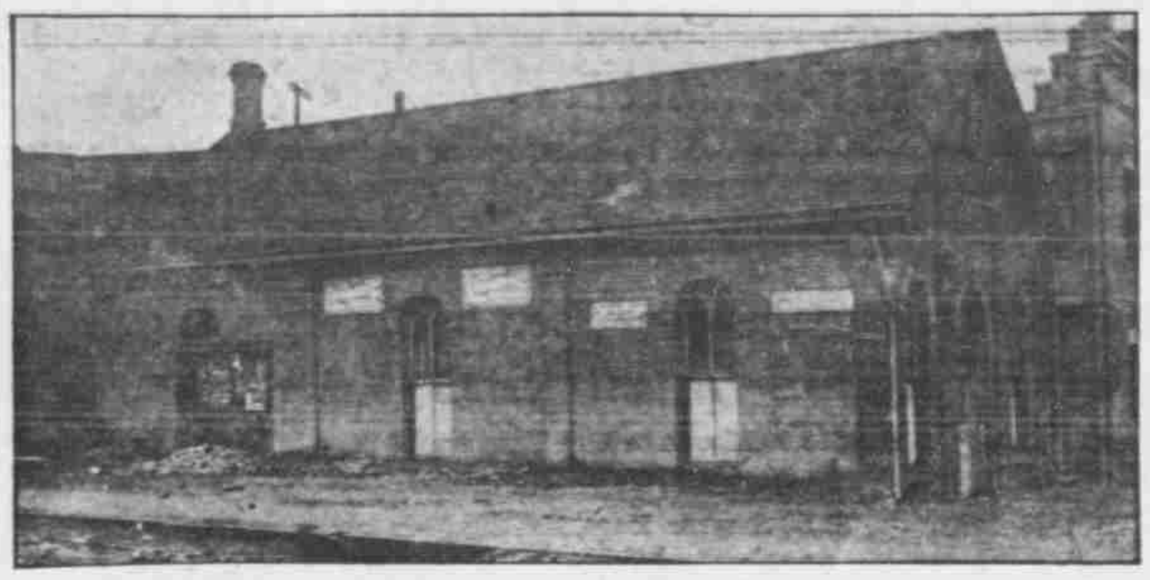
THIS WAS ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN.

USED TO BE THE FIRST BAPTIST.

FORMER PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

CHURCHES, like houses in American cities, follow their customers to the residence districts, and adjust themselves to the external influence of commerce and increase in population. In few cities has the redistribution of churches been more noticeable than in Omaha the last decade, when there has been increasing values owing to the growth of population and wealth. The demands of business have caused a relocation and extension of the best residence districts. Changes in transportation facilities have made new centers and the churches have given away to business, until no less than a dozen of them in Omaha have given up locations only to be replaced by business houses, and not a few have been converted into business establishments, until there are not only money changers in the temples, but one church site is used for a saloon.

To real estate dealers of a reflective turn, who believe that cities are always built according to certain rules, the wonder is that the churches of Omaha have not been driven to the suburbs and residence districts earlier than fifty years after buildings began to cluster about a point of origin and the village of Omaha was formed. According to accepted principles of city building, Omaha should have grown along the shore of the Missouri river, stretching north and south. Churches would have then been built along the river front, facing the stream as was old St. Philomena's at the corner of Ninth and Harney streets. But stubborn Omaha broke away from the rules and regulations. The first business street of New York was Pearl street, originally on the shore line of East river; the first street of Chicago was Water street on the very edge of the Chicago river, while Washington street of Boston claims to have been the first business street, then in part on the shore line. Omaha paid little attention to the fact that the first line of growth is usually along the shore, because additional docks and buildings opposite them start an axis of travel parallel to the water front. Omaha did what few cities succeed in doing and grew "inland." The city went up Farnam, Douglas, Dodge and Harney streets and the churches were built further from the river than usual in the planning of a new city.



DANES USED TO WORSHIP HERE.

THIS WAS THE FIRST CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE.

St. Philomena's at Ninth and Harney streets, was the nearest church to the river. Then the church of the Salem Congregation at Twelfth and Dodge streets and finally the First Baptist church at Fifteenth and Dodge streets. The business expansion and increase in the population of Omaha has been slower to grow the churches than usual, but the sum total of land values has increased rapidly. Churches have remained for a long time on sites of Omaha which have paid a large rental and made large incomes. St. Philomena's cathedral at Ninth and Harney streets, occupied ground worth $100,000 and which would make an annual rental of almost $10,000 annually. Kountze Memorial church stood on a site at Sixteenth and Harney streets, one lot of which sold for $90,000.

An able editor of an Omaha newspaper made a certain rule about the retail district of the city moving westward one block every five years. The rule has held good for the last twenty years and there is every prospect that it will "make good" in years to come. This means more moves for the churches and residence districts. It is said all new inventions and new customs will cause market changes in the city of Omaha. All cheapening in the cost of buildings, all improvements in construction, tend to destroy the value of existing buildings and [illegible]. As a church home for the German Methodist people, when it became the property of the Salem Congregation of the Reformed Church of Douglas County. The lot on which it stands was deeded by Mayor Jesse Lowe to Stephen Coffin in 1856 and was sold to Samuel W. Purviance of Indiana for $500, who later sold it to the church for $1,000. When the Salem Congregation bought the property it paid $3,000 for the lot and building. Byron Reed at one time held the property and later G. M. Hitchcock bought it, selling it later to C. E. Perkins, then president of the Burlington. The property now belongs to the Perkins estate. With large doors torn in its sides and its weather-beaten boards covered with advertisements for shows, the little church which has been used for a Women's Christian Temperance union hall and a colored Baptist church, a city mission and a Reformed Dutch congregation, would scarcely be recognized as one of the "crowded out" churches of Omaha.

With half of its original site used for a saloon, and the old sanctuary as a store house for a neighboring blacksmith, the Danish Evangelical Lutheran church, erected in 1874, stands near the corner of Eighteenth and St. Mary's avenue.

The site was originally owned by the late Herman Kountze, and is in the Kountze & Ruth's addition to the city of Omaha. Mr. Kountze sold the site to the church for $900, and it consisted at that time of almost two city lots. When the church trustees sold the lots in 1885 to E. B. Chapman, the property brought $7,000 cash. It was next owned by Francis Shawings. This means, when new buildings are possible, they will follow the residence district and "move on up the hill," pressing churches and older dwellings to new locations. Easy transportation makes suburban homes and the residents draw their churches after them.

Among the churches which have had an undeserved fate in being converted into business houses is the little frame building at Twelfth and Dodge streets, used in its day by every denomination as a place of worship, and since by almost every worldly business from a commission house to a storage building for a livery stable.

The church, which is now a storehouse for numerous wounded wagons and injured vehicles, was built in 1874 by the Nebraska conference of the Evangelical Association of North America and was used for two and has since been sold by the sheriff a short time ago to Metz Bros. for $4,600. The Danish churches are now on North Twenty-sixth street and are known as the "Pella Danish Lutheran church," at 2217 North Twenty-sixth street, which was organized in 1886, and the "Norwegian Danish Lutheran church," at 1724 North Twenty-sixth street, which was organized in 1879. The little, deserted building at Eighteenth and St. Mary's avenue is mournful evidence of the shifting of the residence district of the Danish people in Omaha, going from the south to the north side, and taking their church with them.

The story of the Kountze Memorial church is well known. When it was erected on the corner of Sixteenth and Harney streets during the '80s, the founder little expected that it would be pushed up Farnam street some day to permit the erection of a store building on the busiest thoroughfare in Omaha, and the midway corner between the north and south retail district. The Council Bluffs & Nebraska Ferry company had deeded the site during the fifties to Samuel Curtis, and the consideration was too small to mention in the deed. But Thomas Downs bought it in 1869 for $500 and got it on the "easy payment plan." It is said that it could have been secured on the "One dollar down and $1 per month" proposition.

Gradually the demands for the site became so insistent that the north lot was sold by the Kountze Memorial association, and in 1906 James Neville bought the corner lots for $90,000. Almost every variety of business is now located on the old church site. The Burwood theater is on a part of it, and buildings on the west and are occupied by a jewelry store, gents' furnisher, surgical supply house, furrier, candy kitchen and restaurant.

Almost identical with the experience of the Kountze Memorial church is that of the St. Philomena cathedral, formerly the church home of the parish of St. Mary's. The cathedral has just been wrecked. It gave way to the demands for more room in the wholesale district. The site was held at one time by the Council Bluffs & Nebraska Ferry company, but was first deeded by Mayor Armstrong, in consideration of $1, to parties now unknown. The first consideration for the north lot was $2,500, when Samuel Jacobs sold it to William A. Guyer of Council Bluffs in 1857. It was sold by Guyer to the church for about the same amount in 1865, but when the John Deere Plow company bought it of St. Philomena's parish a year ago the two lots brought the snug sum of $100,000, and the cathedral of the diocese, St. Cecilia's, is being erected at Fortieth and Burt streets, over three miles northwest of the site of old St. Mary's, which in 1865 was "far enough out of town."

At the corner of Twenty-ninth and Farnam streets the old Park Congregational church is the home for a "ladies' tailor," laundry office, shoemaker, dry goods store, barber and a dealer in cigars, tobacco and confectionery. Besides accommodating the lines of a department store the building has a second floor and would be called a "St. Louis flat" in the language of a present-day real estater.

The Park Congregational church was a traveler before it settled down in life and went into the various lines of retail merchandising. It was located first near Thirty-first and California streets, where it was used for some time by the Congregationalists, but when the First Baptist church, and old auditorium burned at the corner of Fifteenth and Dodge streets the people of the First Baptist church, after using the Young Men's Christian association rooms for almost a year, bought the Park Congregational church building. They moved it to Thirty-fifth and Farnam and used it for several years, until the First Baptist church was erected at Twenty-ninth and Harney streets. The Baptist people wanted to establish a mission in the old church, but they traded the lots after using the building for a Sunday school for some time and finally sold the building and it was moved to the present location to become a combination retail store and flat.

The life of the Pilgrim Congregational church at Forty-first and Dodge streets was short and it was but a short space of time between the day when the little building was dedicated as a house of worship until it was converted into a modern cottage. None of the sales have been very successful and the price last secured for the lots was less than that paid for the site when the church bought them. The record shows that the lots were first sold to William Casson Burnham in 1885 by Alice O'Donahoe for $200. When the Pilgrim church bought the lots in 1890 from the Anglo-American Land company the consideration mentioned was $900 and when Mary A. Patrick bought the property to convert it into a home in 1905 the lots sold for $900.

St. Mark's German Lutheran church completed a beautiful new church last year and the old building was sold to be converted into a double house. It stands at Twenty-first and Burdette streets, and except its long windows, has no appearance of being a former church.

An automobile garage is the present tenant of the tabernacle, built on a special permit a few years ago on Nineteenth street, between Farnam and Harney streets. It was used first for a series of special meetings, with the understanding that it would be torn down as soon as it was used a short time, as it was built of frame, within the fire limits, and is said to endanger other property. When the First Christian church congregation found their building falling to pieces, they occupied the tabernacle while the new church was being erected.

Within a short time the tabernacle building will be torn down, according to W. T. Graham, the present owner, but it has served during the last season as a home for the ching wagons.

The most recent move to convert a church into business property is in the purchase of the Temple Israel at Twenty-third and Harney streets by F. D. Wead, who announces his intention of converting the building into an automobile garage or a flat building. Mr. Wead paid $5,500 for the property, though the building cost $4,500 when built. The Jewish people are to have a new home on St. Mary's avenue.

In the abstract of title of the old temple site is some interesting history. Harrison Johnson filed on the farm of which the temple site was a part in 1857, and it was described as adjoining the townsite of Omaha, but the patent was never secured by Mr. Johnson, the United States giving the title to John H. Kellom in 1861. Mr. Wead is the eighth owner of the property since it was homesteaded by Mr. Kellom, who sold it to William Sexauer in 1888. The congregation of Israel bought the site for the temple in 1884, paying $2,500 for it. Across the street William P. Kellogg, war governor of Louisiana, secured twenty-six acres at one time from a man by the name of Chapman for a team of gray horses.

But change is a law of life and as long as human activity continues to alter the conditions of city life and human tastes, prejudices, fashions, habits and customs continue to vary; city structure and values will shift and change; temples will be converted into places of business; church homes will become modern residences; cathedral walls will fall, to be replaced by the heavy stone and steel warehouses; mission houses will be erased and sites which must seem almost holy ground give way to places of amusement and the vanities modern life pursues.

LATE TEMPLE ISRAEL.

HOME OF MANY CONGREGATIONS.

Gossip and Stories About Noted People

Carlisle and Game of Solitaire.

WHILE John G. Carlisle was speaker of the house, senator, and secretary of the treasury, writes O. O. Stealey in Success, he solved at solitaire all questions of great pith and moment that bothered his wonderful intellectuality, and he was familiar with a dozen or more varieties of the game. Now, in the practice of law he works out his points and prepares his briefs in the lay of the cards. Mr. Carlisle does not walk or travel more than necessary, nor does he indulge in golf, tennis, or any other athletic sports. In fact he takes no exercise whatever, and never did, and at 72 is apparently a healthy and vigorous man. He claims that solitaire is his only recreation, if such it can be called.

If it had not been for a game of solitaire, Mr. Carlisle might have been president of the United States. The first winter after he was made secretary of the treasury, some important financial questions arose in the Cleveland administration, in which several members of the cabinet, chiefly Mr. Carlisle and J. Sterling Morton, could not agree with Mr. Cleveland. The contemplated bond issue was the main point of disagreement. After a long night session at the White House, Carlisle and Morton talked the matter over, and before parting had about made up their minds to resign. Mr. Cleveland had an intimation that there was danger in the air, and sent a messenger for Mr. Carlisle to return to the White House, as he wanted to go over the matter again with him. After the second conference, Carlisle returned to his K street residence somewhat placated, but not satisfied over the situation, and jumped into his most difficult game of solitaire which he played furiously until daylight. In the meantime he had gone all over and under the question, and threshed it out clean and made up his mind to stand by Cleveland, though not fully harmonizing in the policy of his chief.

The friends of Carlisle, Senators Beck, Morgan, Voorhees, Henry Watterson, and many others, asserted at the time, and often since, that had Carlisle resigned in the winter of 1894, as he thought so strongly of doing, he, and not Bryan, would have been the democratic candidate in 1896, and might have been elected.

Mr. Carlisle, in speaking of the incident years afterward, said, "Ah, well, it is one of those might have beens. Anyhow, when Cleveland put it to me so strongly, I felt as an honorable man I could not desert him, even if desertion had been a step toward the presidency."

The refusal of Carlisle to resign marked the real political birth of W. J. Bryan, who up to that time was only a grade above one of the boys in the trenches. It is now agreed that Mr. Cleveland's financial policy split the democratic party wide open, and had there been no Cleveland there would have been no Bryan.

An Actor's Friendly Tribute.

A pretty story attesting to the popularity of James O'Neil with his audiences comes not from the actor, but from an old schoolmate and friend, Mr. George Moore of New York. "In 1885, when I was running a hotel in Manchester," said Mr. Moore, "it was during the holidays, and I had driven to Concord to get some decorations and presents. While there I heard that my old friend Jimmy was opening there that night in 'Monte Cristo.' I looked him up to give him a welcome, and during our chat he asked me to stay down for the performance. 'No,' I replied, 'but I will drive back and get Mrs. Moore, and if it is possible to get back here in time I will do it.' As it happened that night was a snowy and windy one and we were late in starting and slow in making the distance, and after reaching the city and putting up the horses we found that we had just missed the first act. The house was still applauding and there were calls of 'Speech, Speech.' As we were going down the aisle Mr. O'Neil spied us taking our seats. After a few words which put the house in good humor, he said, 'I have just noticed two of my oldest friends, one a schoolmate, who have driven out on this stormy night eighteen miles to see me play "Monte Cristo." Neither of them has ever seen the play. Now as you have proved that you liked the first act, suppose we do it all over again.' With cries of 'First act,' the curtain fell and in a moment rose on the first act for the second time that evening. When he had finished O'Neil had to make another speech."

Colonel Clem's Commission.

Colonel John L. Clem, assistant quartermaster general, the "Drummer Boy of Shiloh," was among the officers who successfully passed Roosevelt's fifteen-mile test of horsemanship at the Presidio, San Francisco. Colonel Clem does not owe his equestrian skill to West Point instruction, of which so many officers boast, and the reason why he is not a West Pointer is worth relating. In the early part of Grant's first term Clem obtained an audience with the president.

"Mr. President," he opened the interview, "I wish to ask you for an order to admit me to West Point."

"Why do you not take the examinations?" questioned Grant.

"I did, but I failed to pass."

"That was unfortunate. How did it happen?"

"Why, you see, I was in the war while those other boys of my age were in school."

Clem was barely 18 then, and boyish looking even for his years. He had made his own way to the president and had no political sponsors to back him.

"What," exclaimed the president, "you were in the war?"

"Yes, I was in the war four years," and Clem related his experiences.

Grant wrote something which he handed to the young applicant, saying:

"Take this to the secretary of war. I guess it will fix you up all right."

Clem went back to the secretary of war, who had before received him so coldly as to discourage anyone not endowed with unusual grit, and delivered his note.

The secretary read it and asked:

"Do you know what this is?"

"No," replied Clem. "I suppose it an order to admit me to West Point."

"Well, it isn't. It's an order to commission you second lieutenant in the regular army."

President of Creighton University

REV. EUGENE MAGEVENY, S. J.

Eventful Career of a Copper King

FRITZ AUGUSTUS HEINTZ has crowned stirring events into his thirty-eight years of life. A strikingly handsome man, with all the ability of the trained actor and experienced orator, he would probably have been a huge popular success as a minister of the gospel had he followed the calling marked out for him by his parents, plain Germans, residents of Brooklyn. Heinze, with a wonderfully keen mind, daring, ambitious and possessed of boundless confidence in his ability, had no thought of confining his career within the narrow limits of the Lutheran ministry.

Heinze was an importer, the head of a prosperous concern. The family lived on Pierrepont street, the aristocratic section of Brooklyn a quarter of a century ago. Heinze was born there on December 1, 1869. As each of his sons became old enough to go to school the elder Heinze sent them to the Fatherland. Fritz went when he was 9 years old. He attended a school in Hildesheim, and, returning when he was 15, told his mother:

"I am going to call myself Augustus, not Fritz. Before I went to Germany the boys here called me German Fritz, and in Germany they called me Yankee Frank." Ever since then he has been known as F. Augustus Heinze, but by members of his family is still called Fritz.

Fritz graduated in mining engineering at Columbia university, and went to Butte, Mont., where he got a job as inside engineer at $5 a day, working hard eleven hours a day. He gained practical knowledge in this way for five years, and when his grandmother died and left him $10,000 Fritz branched out, and with his brother Arthur began to succeed. Heinze engaged in all sorts of law suits, suing right and left wherever he was opposed. He won a suit over the Estrella mine from James A. Murray, and then bought the Rarus mine for $225,000, built smelters and bought other mines and railroads. Heinze got control of the Leroy mine, added branches to his narrow-gauge road, and finally was doing so well with it that the Canadian Pacific paid him $1,200,000 for the property, chiefly to get rid of such an energetic rival.

When Heinze returned to Butte, in 1897, he was only 28 years old, but had the reputation of being one of the ablest mining men and hardest fighters in that section of the country. Heinze came into conflict with Marcus Daly over mining property, and later with the Standard Oil company, which formed the Amalgamated Copper company and took over the Daly interests. In a short time Heinze had sixty law suits under way. Once Henry H. Rogers sent for him and offered to pay him $250,000 for the Minnie Healy mine. Heinze calmly asked $20,000,000 for it. In October, 1902, Heinze got a decision in the Minnie Healy case that was worth more than $10,000,000 to him. In February, 1906, Heinze and the Amalgamated settled most of their differences on a basis that put several millions into the young man's bank account. Ugly charges of bribing the judiciary were made against him, but never proved. He bought newspapers and started banks, and was a power in politics. He put all of his mines into United Copper company, an $80,000,000 corporation, chartered in New Jersey in 1902.

The real leaders in Wall street never took kindly to Heinze. He was too willing to gamble on a huge scale, and the substantial element in the financial district fought shy of him.

He established his brothers, Otto and Arthur, in the Stock exchange firm of Otto C. Heinze & Co., then bought control of the Mercantile National bank from Edwin Gould and became its president.

Given the cold shoulder by the high-class banking element, he took up with Charles W. Morse, E. R. Thomas and Wall street men of that type and entered the directorates of several of the banks in the chains which these men established.

Heinze was never a success in Wall street.—New York World.