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School Notes

G. W. DUDLEY, SUPT.

The literary society has been organized and meets in the main room every Tuesday evening.

The high school has been organized into a chorus with Miss Ducker as leader. The chorus sings three times a week during opening exercises.

Red Cloud needs an athletic field. The high school has already received challenges for base ball games, but has been compelled to reject them because no grounds are available.

Miss Ward, who was out of school a few days on account of the illness of her mother, is again in school. Miss Albright had charge of room three during her absence.

Superintendent A. A. Reed of Superior has lately been appointed State high school inspector by the board of regents of the university. Mr. Reed has already assumed the duties of his new office, though he will be nominal superintendent of the Superior schools until the close of the year.

Attendance in the south ward during the last three months has been very light. For two weeks the total attendance ranged about fifty. The main cause, of course, was the diphtheria case that terminated fatally. Had the disease spread the board would quickly have closed the school. However, this one case was not sufficient justification for doing so. If the schools should be closed every time a case of this sort occurs, regardless of the probability of its becoming epidemic, our schools would be greatly handicapped.

Many south ward parents whose children are in the primary room do not seem to feel that it is necessary to send them every day regardless of whether or not the sun is shining. An attendance of 40 to 50 one day and 15 to 20 the next certainly approaches the limit in the way of irregularity. Pupils in the primary room should be taught by their parents that they should attend every day. Punctuality and regularity are certainly commendable in business, and if these virtues are fixed firmly in youth they will cling through life.

Senator Besse reports that the bill providing for free high school tuition for country people has been recommended for passage by the committee on education, hence it is reasonably safe to assume it will readily pass. The bill provides that a tuition of three

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dollars a month, per pupil, shall be paid to the high school district in which the pupil attends. The money is to be raised by a county levy, based upon the prospective number of pupils who expect to take advantage of the provision. The bill was drafted by some of the best legal talent in the state and is declared to be constitutional. If this bill goes through it will mean a much heavier enrollment in our high school, as well as increased revenue.

We have heard but one man say the bonds would fail to carry. It scarcely seems possible for them to fail. Usually the average American looks after the school first of all. Improvements in education usually precede all others. Red Cloud has lights, water, comfortable churches, good walks and cheerful homes, but her school buildings are not such that one would care to point the stranger to them. If there is one thing that a prospective citizen of Red Cloud who has a family of children would consider above all others—aside from peculiar business advantages that the city might afford him—it would be the schools. The vital point is not that our school buildings are not ornaments to the city, though if any building should be beautiful both without and within, that building should be the school—but it is vital that children's health should be jeopardized by being crowded together, deprived of plenty of pure air, in rooms that cannot be adequately heated. If anyone doubts the truth of this statement let him investigate. If every voter will visit the various rooms, before the April election, the bonds will carry by a big majority. It is very evident, from the spirit of public sentiment in the South ward, that many will support the bond issue on the ground that the South ward building is unsafe. Many of us believe that the building would stand many years yet, unless Red Cloud should experience an earthquake. But be that as it may—and only the opinion of a practical builder is worth consideration here—the sentiment is general that the building is unsafe. That alone justifies its abandonment. School cannot be successfully conducted there so long as many of the patrons persist in refusing to allow their children to attend every time a storm threatens or a wind of even ordinary violence prevails.

TO LIGHT CONSUMERS.

Pay Your Bills at the Superintendent's Office.

This is a city plant, and all should be interested in seeing it a paying proposition. To do this it is necessary we should all put our shoulder to the wheel and push. It is pushing when you come to the office and pay your bills. For if you do not come to the office and pay it will be necessary to hire more help, and more help means more expense, and more expense means a higher rate for lighting or involving the city. And none of us cares to do either of these. Again, it is not right to ask our taxpayers who do not use the lights to help pay for extra help to collect your individual bills. We have made a few rules that we are going to enforce if we have to, but we hope we will not have to, as follows:

All bills paid within the first three days of the month in which they are due, 10 per cent off.

If all bills are not paid or provision made for payment to the superintendent before the first of the next month after they are due, the superintendent will disconnect the subscriber from the line, and before the subscriber can again have light he or she will have to pay a fine of \$1 in advance with the light bill.

We hope none of these rules will have to be enforced.

OSCAR BURROUGHS, SUPT.

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to the Crosby Frisian Fur Company, Rochester, N. Y., and have them converted into coats, robes, gloves and mittens; better and cheaper goods than you can buy. Never mind the distance, "Crosby pays the freight." See our new illustrated catalog, page 18. If interested send for it.

Business College Notes

The glee club has its new books and from now on will do some good work.

Fred Spence was a visitor Wednesday. He is on his way to Trenton, Neb., where he is going into the abstract business.

The spring work is going to take some of our boys soon, but others are planning to start, so our numbers will not be lessened many.

Prof. Dietrick gave an entertainment in Rosemont Friday night and in Lawrence Saturday night, besides speaking in the Lawrence Methodist church, in the Runnel school house and in Mt. Clare Methodist church on Sunday.

The social given by the A. O. T. S. O. B. to the college students was the finest thing of the kind ever held in the college rooms. The Ancient Order of Ten Sweet Old Boys knows how to entertain and serve an audience. The stereopticon program, the guessing games, the refreshments, the toasts and all made us say, "Twas the best time we ever had."

When Prof. Dietrick came home from the Commercial club meeting Tuesday night he found a real nice basket full of the best good things fresh from the Christian Endeavor Society. Did he enjoy it? Nothing but the dishes was returned. Ask him what became of the rest. Such little things as that are what makes life worth living, especially the life of a man who tries to cook his own breakfast. Mr. Dietrick is sorry he could not give the Indian club drill, but will give it some other time. Thanks!

Frank H. Gamel gave the last number of the college lecture course last Wednesday night, and "The American Boy" was surely the cap sheaf of the whole course. He understands the boy better than anyone we have ever heard. He told the real truth about the boy, his parents, and all. The pictures were the best we have seen, and the lantern man is an expert. Everything drove home the responsibility of the parent, the teacher and the pastor with telling force. We love to be told our faults and Mr. Gamel certainly showed us where we stood.

Of course we twisted, but that was because the shoe fit. We will try to be better, Mr. Gamel, next time you come, as we want you to come again.

The college lecture course closed last Wednesday night. It has been a good course, as the Midland is the largest and best lecture bureau in the land today. The Lyceumite gives it the highest rating of any and each town where the numbers appear puts them at the top notch also. The college wants to thank those who have by their encouragement and attendance helped to make this course a success. One thing is real interesting, perhaps. The very people whom you think would be most interested in something to uphold the town did not attend. Frank H. Gamel's lecture, "The American Boy," ought to have been heard by every professing Christian, every school teacher, every Sunday school teacher, every pastor and every other person interested in boys. But was it? Figure up how many school teachers and how many parents or pastors were in last Wednesday night's audience, and see if what is said is not the truth. Some of the leading (?) people of Red Cloud never darkened the doors of the opera house during the whole course. But to those who did attend, we can say that we more than received our money's worth and that each of us is a better man or woman, a better boy or girl, because each invested so small an amount in the course. It seems that Wednesday night's lecture hit the fellow that wasn't there. The course has been a success financially, besides giving all school children three of the best numbers for 15c each, a treat that no other course gives. The city of Red Cloud is beginning to see that when the college takes hold of a thing it is sure of success.

MARRIAGES.

Frank W. Epkes of Ayr, Nebr., and Gracie Johnson of Blue Hill. Married by Judge Edson.

Oliver W. Hudson, of Guide Rock and Della M. Gardner of Blue Hill. Married by Rev. Priestly.

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RAILROADS MUST PAY.

Burlington and Union Pacific Tax Cases Decided by U. S. Supreme Court.

On Monday the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision in favor of the State of Nebraska in the cases wherein the Burlington and Union Pacific Railroad Companies have for three years sought to evade the payment of their just taxes, and dissolved the injunction against the collection of the same. The court upheld every contention of the state, and as a result the Burlington and Union Pacific railroads will have to pay something like \$600,000 in back taxes and interest in the counties through which the roads run, together with about \$17,000 in court costs.

This decision will give to Webster county something over \$27,000 with which to pay outstanding claims, which sum will more than suffice and leave a handsome balance in the treasury. For more than two years the county commissioners have been handicapped by a lack of funds with which to do business, owing to the long delay in deciding the tax cases, which has greatly embarrassed the members of the board and county officers. The decision will also cause a better feeling among the taxpayers and greatly aid the new court house proposition.

For a Special Election.

At the regular meeting of the Commercial club Tuesday evening the question of the court house bond election came up for discussion. After thoroughly canvassing the matter the members voted to ask the county commissioners to call a special election for some time about the middle of April. We do not wish to set up our personal judgment against that of so intelligent a body as the Commercial club, but we believe that the less haste there is about this matter the greater the chances for carrying the election in favor of the bonds.

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