

### McCook as Seen by a Stranger.

MR. EDITOR.—At the solicitation of our personal friend, W. W. McMillen of your city, it was a pleasure to leave our home in Lincoln, Nebraska, December 1st, and take passage on the B. & M. train leaving at 12:20 p. m. for the west, the destination being McCook. The day was cold but clear—most favorable indeed for observation along the route of travel. One no sooner boards one of the handsome trains of this enterprising railway system than he feels himself with pleasant surroundings and the best of railway comforts, such as to make travel on the line a pleasure instead of a burden. The crew that held the train in control was made up of clean-handed gentlemen.

It was our pleasure to note the beautiful prairie country and pleasant looking towns and cities as we passed along. Frugal and handsome homes dotted the landscape on every side, indicating prosperous and happy life upon the plain once barren and bare. Of course some were more fortunate than others—perhaps more careful of their means—and wiser in their management. This accounts for the better appearance of some farm-houses as compared with others. Farm-mount, Hastings, Holdrege and Oxford were surprises in their way, all of them better than we anticipated. But now we step from the train at McCook and soon find ourselves comfortably entertained in the home of Mr. McMillen. Our time of arrival was too late to view the city. This remained for us to do after a night's rest. We had formed a mental picture of the place. Daylight metamorphosed our picture. We found that our mental photograph was antiquated and no more represented the beautiful little city on a lovely prairie mound than a mole hill represents the glory of the Allegheny mountains. It is beautiful for situation. The improvements are quite up to the times. In general appearance it is very tasteful. Many of the residences are beautiful, with tasty surroundings. The churches are better structures than are generally to be found in so young a city. The waterworks and electric light plant indicate public spirit and thrift equal to any we have ever seen, and especially in so new a town.

It was our privilege to meet with a few of the best citizens and business men. The closeness of the times has most certainly not blighted their hopes and expectations as to the future prosperity of both their city and surrounding community. The business houses compare most favorably with those of their class in any other city we have visited. Business, however, seemed not to be as brisk and promising as it should be. The cause is apparent to everybody these days. It dare not be laid to the lack of business enterprise and foresight of the business men. No, it lies deeper and far beyond their control. This is true of our whole country to-day.

Upon general principles we regard McCook as a monument city of western push and enterprise of the most commendable sort. Towards this the B. & M. system of railway has contributed largely, and, if we mistake not, will strive to have the lion's share in the future prosperity of municipal glory. Our friend treated us to a windy ride over the country north of the city, from one to four o'clock p. m. The ride was refreshing to a degree of frigidness not the most desirable. As there is no discomfort without its corresponding comfort, so was it in this case. In lieu of the cold windy ride, we had the pleasure of viewing the fine farm of our friend, warming our benumbed limbs at the stove in a comfortable sod palace, the first we had the pleasure of entering in our life. Here we were safe for a time from the persistent attack of the wind. We enjoyed the bartering of our friend with the farmer's wife for two good fat chickens, for our Sunday dinner, as we supposed, and in which we were not disappointed. A circuitous route gave us an excellent view of the country, and brought us back to the city, much pleased with what we saw and none the worse for our windy trip.

Sunday morning opened up bright, crisp, and withal cheerful. So far as we could judge the Sabbath is well respected by the good people of the city. At least we saw nothing of a loud and boisterous nature. At eleven a. m. and 7:30 p. m. we preached to intelligent and appreciative audiences in the Congregational church. The church is a fine one, new, and taking the place of the one destroyed by a cyclone.

At 9:10 p. m., bidding adieu to our old and new-made friends, we boarded the train eastward, more than gratified with our visit to this metropolis of western Nebraska.

More than this, we recognize the fact that many good people in the east, who have no abiding place that they can call their own home in fee simple, could find and build such a home in Southwestern Nebraska. A few more years of honest toil, planting and caring for fruit and ornamental trees, and otherwise tilling the soil, will not be disappointing in the least. The soil, for the greater part, is rich and productive. The time was when eastern Nebraska seemed no more inviting to the settler. Look at it now and you will have at least an approximate idea of what western Nebraska will be in a decade farther on in the history of development. The discouraging features of this section of the state, (and there are some of these), are by no means comparable to the encouraging features, if justly considered, hence we look for a bright future, not only for the city, but for the surrounding country as well.

T. F. STAUFFER.

Leach's barrel window advertisement is quite attractive and unique.

Red Willow county's district court will convene in Indianola on Monday.

A new frame school house will soon be built in the Frank Everist district.

I. T. Birdsall has a new frame house under way on his farm south of town.

A few of our legal luminaries attended court in Hitchcock county, Monday.

FOR SALE.—A coal oil heater, as good as new. D. E. BOMGARDNER.

FOR SALE CHEAP.—A first-class cottage organ. Good as new. Enquire at this office.

The Holmes brothers are figuring on 2 or 3 more dwelling houses, which may be built yet, this winter.

The Commercial house is having a new writing desk made. Advertisements of our leading business men will ornament the back.

Finally, the Harvey Pate who was executed in Danville, Illinois, last Friday, was not a brother of the Pate brothers of this county.

The eldest son of Max Epperly, a resident of the Cedar Bluffs neighborhood, died, on Tuesday morning, of membranous croup.

Last Saturday, Colvin & Beggs closed the sale of southwest quarter of 1-1-31 in Rawlins county to C. A. Watkins of Verdun, Nebraska, for \$1,000.

LOST.—A black ice-wool neck scarf at the opera house, Tuesday evening. The finder will please return the same to Mrs. C. W. Bronson or to this office.

In order to reduce my stock of organs, I will until January first, close out this line at prices that defy competition.

H. P. SUTTON, Jeweler.

The children of Stephen Boyer, who lives over near Cedar Bluffs, are on the sick list. Also, Mrs. G. Weyeneth, who is down with an attack of pneumonia. Dr. Gage is in attendance.

There is considerable speculation rife among the knowing ones as to the true inwardness of the recent firing of a saloon man, and of the still more recent arrest of a gambling house keeper.

You can get a Story & Clark organ until January first at about your own price. Call at H. P. Sutton's, the jeweler. This make was given first prize at Chicago, Columbian Exposition, 1893.

Among the pleasant social events of last week was a delightful birthday party in honor of Mrs. Fred Pennell, which was participated in by a goodly number of well-wishing friends and neighbors.

We understand that the deal was closed this week, whereby Frank Carruth becomes the owner of the John Stone farm, about one mile south of the river. It is all under the ditch. The consideration is given as \$4,000.

There will be a special meeting of J. K. Barnes post No. 207, G. A. R., in the city hall, Monday evening, December 18. A full attendance is desired as business of importance is to be transacted.

J. H. YARGER, P. C.

The B. & M. meat market now occupies its new quarters one door north of the old stand. The change was made on Saturday night. Mr. Wilcox has a very roomy, convenient and attractive place of business.

Frank Carruth appeared before the city council, Wednesday night, to ascertain the sentiment of the councilmen in the matter of granting a franchise to a telephone company. Intimating that in the event of favorable action on the part of the council, he would proceed in the direction of organization of a company.

Professor Reizenstein's orchestra gave a delightful promenade concert in the opera house, Tuesday evening, which was participated in by a large and gay company. The latter part of the evening was devoted to dancing. We understand that the Professor will hold a series of five or six of these promenade concerts during the winter season.

"Little Russia" was the battle ground of quite a scrap, Monday night, in the which two former natives of the Czar's domain and a Frenchman were the participants. The Frenchman claimed that the proceedings were not according to Hoyle, or words to that effect, and Squire Berry refereed the case, Tuesday morning, with the result that Russia had to put up \$7.55 to make it right with Uncle Sam. The squire is some pumpkins when it comes to passing on such fractures of international law.

The final test of the new standpipe was made on Monday. Over 95 feet of water was pumped into the tank, which is now perfectly water tight and as staunch as the rock of Gibraltar. The water company has accepted the same, and can now take pride in one of the finest standpipes in the state of Nebraska. The fire boys were out, the same day, testing the pressure in their fire hose, and with satisfactory results. The Porter Boiler Co. of Chicago are the builders. The remainder of the men and their tools and apparatus left for Chicago, Monday night.

### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

#### THE EDUCATIONAL RALLY.

Under the genius, enterprise and enthusiasm of our citizens, the occasion of the official visit of State and Deputy Superintendents, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Goudy, to our city schools, last Friday, naturally and gracefully expanded to the gratifying proportions and happy features of an educational rally for southwestern Nebraska, and its successful and felicitous issue is a source of satisfaction to each and all concerned.

In addition to visiting the McCook public schools, it was in the State Superintendent's purpose to have a district convention of the twelve county superintendents of Chase, Dundy, Franklin, Furnas, Frontier, Gosper, Harlan, Hitchcock, Hayes, Kearney, Phelps and Red Willow. Of the number invited the following responded and participated in the first convention of the kind ever held in the state: David Ogilvie of Chase, W. G. Price of Dundy, N. H. Jones of Frontier, S. B. Yeoman of Gosper, J. T. Lamson of Harlan, W. A. Garrett of Phelps, J. H. Bays-ton of Red Willow. Also Mrs. Mattie T. VanPetten, the superintendent-elect of Hitchcock county.

With these the state superintendent and deputy held a very profitable business session in the high school, Friday morning.

In the afternoon the state, deputy and county superintendents, together with members of the city board of education and the city council, visited the several school buildings of the city, in each of which short and appropriate addresses were made, and observations and notes taken of the work of the different grades. It is perhaps needless to state that all were surprised, nay delighted, with the methods and government and progress being made in our schools.

After the completion of the visit to the schools the visiting educators were waited upon by the mayor and a committee of citizens and were driven in carriages over the city. The water works, electric light plant and extensive R. R. shops were inspected, and the A. O. U. W. temple and other prominent buildings visited, everything being made as comfortable and interesting as possible for the guests, who carry away with them a very flattering estimate of McCook enterprise and hospitality.

The mass educational meeting in the opera in the evening crowded the hall to overflowing. State Superintendent A. K. Goudy delivered the principal address of the evening. It was along practical, business lines of state educational matters—some startling comparative figures being given,—and closing with a glowing tribute to the unexcelled excellence of the McCook schools, to the ability of her city superintendent, the enterprise of her citizens and their generous hospitality. Brief addresses were also made by Mrs. Goudy, Supt. Bayston and Prof. Valentine and in felicitous phrase. After music by the A. O. U. W. band the meeting came to a close. Dr. A. P. Welles delivered a very neat welcoming address. Mayor Brewer was chairman of the occasion.

But the program was brought to a delightful termination in the reception by the 12th grade to the visitors and a score or more of invited guests of the city, in the high school building. Here an elaborate and elegant spread was made, in a very tasteful and clever manner, bringing joy to the hearts of those entertained and reflecting much credit upon the members of the class of '94. In addition the high school orchestra rendered some of their choicest music, and the lantern added its welcome mite of entertainment. Besides short remarks were made by Supt. Goudy and Prof. Valentine in their happiest vein.

The affair was unprecedented in the history of the Republican valley and was carried out in McCook's characteristic and hospitable style, and great credit is due all persons concerned.

The high school will indulge in a jubilee celebration from 1:30 to 2:30, this afternoon, in celebration of the attendance having reached the room mark. There will be recitations, music etc., and an interesting time may be expected. The occasion is an auspicious one for the McCook high school.

The McCook schools, State Supt. A. K. Goudy thinks, has the largest per cent. of enrollment in actual attendance of any schools in the state. For November it was a fraction over 89 per cent. and November was not a good month, either.

The members of the 11th grade enjoyed a half day holiday, Wednesday afternoon, on account of having no cases of absence in the grade during the month. A skating party on the driftwood was the result, and a splendid time, too.

Hastings' total enrollment is 1,477. In their high school they have an enrollment of 107. How does this compare with McCook's enrollment of over 700 and 104 in her high school?

The heating apparatus in the east ward has had to get up to business, some days of this week. One or two of the rooms haven't been any too warm, either.

The usefulness of the press has been impaired, if its power cannot be said to be entirely destroyed.

The 11th grade will have the program at lantern class, to-night.

Christmas examinations next week.

### PEOPLE YOU KNOW.

MR. BUMBAUGH of Beatrice was a land seeker, this week.

E. L. LAYCOCK visited in Wauneta, a day or two this week.

MISS BONNOT is up from Holdrege during the Catholic fair.

J. A. CLINE, politician, Minden, was in the city, Wednesday.

MRS. ALEX. MCMANIGAL is suffering from an abscess on her neck.

H. W. KEYES was up from Indianola, Monday night, on legal business.

R. L. DUCKWORTH and wife of Indianola were city visitors, yesterday.

BANKER SHURTLEFF of Stratton, was a visitor at the metropolis, Monday.

DR. THOMAS and family now occupy the Dauchy residence on north Madison.

FATHER BRINKER of Wray, Colorado, is the guest of Father Hickey, this week.

MRS. D. E. BOMGARDNER is visiting friends at Dorchester and Lincoln, this week.

PRESIDING ELDER HALE of Holdrege, was a Commercial house guest, Monday night.

MR. AND MRS. W. S. CORNUTT of Culbertson, were among the elect, on Monday.

GEO. W. BURTON of Orleans, was at these business headquarters for the valley, Monday.

REV. GEO. E. TAYLOR of the county seat, spread his name on the Commercial register, Monday.

J. T. BULLARD was down from Palisade, Friday night, returning home the following morning.

FRANK CARRUTH arrived home, Sunday night, from a few days visit on business in Plattsmouth.

MRS. C. B. GRAY arrived home, Tuesday night, from a two weeks visit to her mother in Indianola.

JOHN DUNBAR came down from Stratton, Tuesday evening, quite seriously ill, and is under Dr. Gage's care.

MRS. E. C. BURKETT visited with her parents at Indianola, over Sunday, returning home Tuesday night.

JIM HATFIELD left for Decatur, Illinois, last Friday night, not expecting to return until in the spring time.

W. S. MORLAN went in to Omaha on 4, Tuesday night, having a case in the federal court there, Wednesday.

MISS KLEVEN of Culbertson attended Prof. Reizenstein's promenade concert in the opera house, Tuesday night.

P. M. GARRETT, the veteran traveling man for a Boston shoe, was here on his territory, this week. "Chinaman" is one of the favorites.

MRS. GOCKLEY went to Danbury, Neb., in response to a message announcing that her son Frank got badly kicked by a horse.—Holbrook News.

MRS. M. Y. STARBUCK and MISS LOU arrived home from their Omaha visit on Sunday night. Miss Lou is again assisting in Thompson's store.

W. A. RICHARDS, P. G. C., Grand Jurisdiction of Wyoming, organizer of the Endowment Rank, K. of P., was here from Cheyenne, part of this week.

A. HURLBURT was up from Lincoln, Tuesday, looking over the city with a view of placing a stock of clothing here or of trading for some land up in this vicinity.

H. W. COLE went down to York, on Wednesday, to the Grand Chapter meeting, R. A. M., to take the high priesthood degree, and to represent King Cyrus Chapter No. 35, of our city.

MRS. HELLER, daughter of Mrs. Etter, is here from Dumont, S. D., for a few weeks. Her boy and girl who have been with their grandmother for some time will accompany her on her return.

D. GURNSBY and wife spent Tuesday night in the city, going up the Frenchman on Wednesday to look after his extensive cattle and ranch interests, and back to Council Bluffs on the night train.

F. W. O'NEIL has removed his jewelry repair outfit back to McCook, this week. Three shops were too much for a town the size of Cambridge.—Kaleidoscope.

Will has entered the 12th grade of our public schools.

MRS. J. H. BAYSTON came in, Friday night last, from Lincoln, where she had been visiting friends, remaining in the city until Saturday evening, when she accompanied the county superintendent to their home in Indianola.

WILLIAM PENN SMITH, receiver of the Porter boiler company, who has been out here for a week or two on business connected with the new standpipe, departed for Chicago, Tuesday night, the business being satisfactorily adjusted.

C. W. BARNES, editor of the Times-Democrat of McCook, was in the city, Tuesday. He made a pleasant call at this office. Miss Clara Bonnot returned, Thursday, from a week's visit at her home in McCook.—Holdrege Nugget.

### THE CHURCHES.

A tenor singer is wanted for the Episcopal choir. Apply to Rector Durant.

Rev. Ricker of Alma filled the Congregational pulpit acceptably, last Sunday.

Servants in the Lutheran church by Rev. McBride on next Sunday morning and evening.

We regret that the probabilities are that Rev. MacAyeal may not accept the call to the pastorate of Congregational church of our city.

Servants in the Congregational church on next Sunday morning and evening. Either Rev. Gearhart or Rev. Taylor of Indianola will preach.

M. E. church, Dec. 17th: Sermon at 11 a. m., subject, "Offended." Evening services at 7:30. Subject, "The Acceptable Year of the Lord." Usual league and prayer meetings and Sunday school.

On Wednesday evening of next week the young people of the city are invited to meet with May Stuby and show their interest in the Young People's Society of the Episcopal church. Cocoa and cake, games and gammon, 10 cents.

Episcopal services, next Sunday morning and evening in Masonic hall. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Graves will preach in the evening, when the holy sacrament of communion will be administered. Sunday school at ten in the morning.

The home missions convention in the Congregational church, Wednesday, was not all the promoters hoped it might be, on account of the unavoidable absence of most of the prominent speakers and delegates. The evening meeting, however, was an interesting and profitable one, the sermon of Rev. Ricker of Alma being especially eloquent and able. Rev. Ely of Red Cloud also addressed the convention.

The World's Fair social held in the A. O. U. W. building, Tuesday night, was quite an encouraging success. The ladies served an excellent supper to many for the small sum of 25 cents. Not a few fancy articles were disposed of. A visit to the midway plaisance and to the art gallery was possible for the outlay of 10 cents. The ladies of the Baptist church are to be congratulated upon the success of their fair.

#### Old Age and Neglect.

Timothy Hannan, senior, an aged and infirm resident of Valley Grange precinct, was found dead in his bed, Monday evening, by members of Eugene Dunham's family who had called at the Hannan place to deliver some bread, as was their custom every few days, Mrs. Hannan being too feeble to bake. It is thought that the old man had been dead since the night previous, when discovered, he having passed away without the aged partner of his joys and sorrows knowing of it. She is absolutely helpless and was lying on the floor, without a spark of fire in the house, which is described as being squalid and filthy in the extreme. Mrs. Hannan was removed from these surroundings to the home of her son of this city, soon after the arrival of the news in McCook. Funeral services were conducted in St. Patrick's church, Tuesday afternoon, by Father Brinker of Wray, Colo., interment being made in the parish cemetery. Death was caused by old age and was doubtless hastened by neglect, as neither of the old people have been able to care for themselves for a long time. It is a sad commentary indeed that any one should die under such circumstances in this land.

#### City Affairs.

The city council met in regular session, Wednesday evening, full board present. Bills as follows were allowed:

McCook Electric Light Co. ....	\$130.50
Jacob Steinmetz .....	.65
J. A. Brewer .....	8.30
F. M. Kimmell .....	4.00
Barnett Lumber Co. ....	6.07
C. P. Viland .....	45.00
James Cain .....	36.55
A. E. McManigal .....	65.00
Thomas Devitt .....	33.20
Joseph Spotts .....	35.00
L. W. McConnell .....	.65
Bill of H. H. Berry, police judge, fees in case of city versus Perry Stone, was referred to finance committee.	
The city attorney was instructed to bring suit against all persons delinquent on occupation tax.	
An adjourned meeting of the council will be held, on next Wednesday, for the purpose of discussing the organization of a fire department. To this meeting all citizens are urged to be present.	
Request of J. H. O'Neil for laying of a water main on north Minnesota avenue, West McCook, was referred to water committee. Adjourned.	

Last Saturday night, J. K. Ellis was arrested on the charge of keeping a gambling house and of gambling. There are six different counts in the charge. Squire Berry, before whom the defendant was taken, granted a continuance until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. The defendant gave bond in the sum of \$500 for his appearance, A. C. Clyde and Philip Blatt being his sureties. J. M. Bell is the complaining witness.

Postmaster and Mrs. H. H. Troth were the guests of Secretary of State and Mrs. J. C. Allen, part of this week.

### Relief! Relief!

The Christian Endeavor Union Society will shortly open headquarters for the disbursement of clothing and food to the distressed of our city and adjacent country, providing there exists a condition making such a move necessary.

From what information we have we believe the condition does exist and that measures looking toward the alleviation of want should at once be taken. That we may organize with an intelligent idea of what is required, it is earnestly requested that cases where relief is necessary be reported to the president, Russell McMillen, or to C. T. Watson, at once. Do not delay.

#### NOTICE.

Having purchased the stock and jewelry business of Frank Carruth & Son, I wish to announce that I will continue the business in the same stand, and will at all times carry a fine assortment of the best goods in the market, which will be sold at prices that are right. The high standard reputation of the firm for the last 22 years will be fully maintained in the future, and by fair-dealing I hope to merit a liberal portion of your patronage.

Yours Respectfully,  
CHAS. A. LEACH, Jeweler.  
McCook, Neb., Dec. 8, 1893.

#### A CARD.

To THE PUBLIC:  
I am pleased to acknowledge the liberal patronage being given my closing out sale. As many have attended as could be waited on; and, on several days, more. The sale continues and will continue until everything is sold. The assortment is large and in the main unbroken. First come, first served. Cloaks at HALF PRICE. Millinery BELOW cost. All goods at or below cost. Cash only!

Respectfully,  
GEORGE E. THOMPSON.

#### Notice.

The undersigned have sold their jewelry stock to Charles A. Leach, who has conducted their business here for the past four years and needs no introduction to the citizens of McCook. We thank our friends and customers for the liberal patronage we have had, and ask a continuance of the same to Mr. Leach.

The Electric Light office will remain at the same place, where our customers can reach us with their wants.

Respectfully Yours,  
FRANK CARRUTH & SON.

#### Strayed or Stolen.

A dun horse, black tail and mane, left hind foot white, also has the marks of a bone spavin on same leg. Had a pair of steel plates on front feet. Weighs about 1,000 pounds. Suitable reward will be paid for the animal's return.

B. V. HALEY.

#### Please Take Notice.

All parties knowing themselves to be indebted to the firm of Frank Carruth & Son will please call and settle as soon as convenient, as we wish to close all our old accounts.

And Oblige,  
FRANK CARRUTH & SON.

#### Fine Printing.

We make a specialty of fine job printing. Our samples of fashionable and elegant stationery for invitations, programs, etc., is not excelled in Nebraska.

#### For Sale.

The large wooden tank of The McCook Water Works is for sale. For particulars inquire of C. H. MEEKER.

Etter & Miller of the Commercial hotel have disposed of their interest in the Burr house at Alma to their manager, Ed Jordan, whom his McCook friends will wish all success.

There is quite a feeling of righteous indignation generally expressed throughout the city over the terrible death of old man Hannan. Such affairs are a disgrace to our community.

The writing room of the Commercial house is to be considerably enlarged. A portion of the west dining room will be taken into the writing room, a new desk provided, etc.

\$100.00 Story & Clark organ for \$60.00 cash. Used only two months. At SUTTON'S, The Leading Jeweler.

IT IS WONDERFUL!

.....WHAT.....

BARGAINS YOU GET

.....AT.....

THE C. O. D. STORE.

17 pounds of Granulated Sugar for	\$1.00
20 pounds of New Orleans Sugar for	1.00
1 pail of Best Syrup for	.69
1 sack of Our Best High Pat. Flour	1.00
2 cans of Tomatoes for	.25
Archer's "Trophy" Brand of Sweet Corn for	.10
The Best New Orleans Molasses, per gallon	.65
Pure Ohio Maple Syrup per gallon	1.25
2 pounds of Cal. French Prunes	.25
2 pounds of Evaporated Nectarines	.25
2 packages of Gem Pancake Flour	.25

J. W. MCKENNA, PROP.