

SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Citizens of the Twentieth Century as Seen by the City Superintendent.

SOME VERY INTERESTING STATISTICS

Concerning the School Children of the City.—Facts About Their Birthplaces, Physical Conditions, etc.

In a very few years this nineteenth century will have passed into history and the children of today will be writing books about it half a hundred years hence showing how crude our civilization was compared to theirs, and our government and education and society will be treated then as our writers use the eighteenth century to point a moral and adorn a tale. It is a curious coincidence that the first half of a century is usually the more productive of original invention and discovery and produces more literary work of permanent value while the last half is filled with political and religious revolutions. We may look then upon the children now in the McCook schools as the true successors of Fulton, Morse, Stephenson, Daguerre and Tennyson, Longfellow, Carlyle and Emerson, whose work upon which their fame rests was all done before 1850.

In response to a request for information to be used in a comparative table, the superintendent has been gathering statistics from the pupils which throw some light upon the development of children in Western Nebraska and contain some little prophecy for their future.

BIRTHPLACE AND ANCESTRY.

Of the 600 children from whom the information was obtained 355 were born in Nebraska, 74 in Iowa, 53 in Illinois, 16 in Kansas; four states accounting for five-sixths of the entire number. Only 19 were born east of the Alleghanies, and 13 were born in states or territories west of Nebraska, 26 of the children, or 4 per cent, are of foreign birth. 14 came from Russia, 6 from Germany, and one from each of the following countries: Denmark, Scotland, Mexico, Canada, Italy and Holland. Among the parents we find a wider range. Only 4 of the fathers and 15 of the mothers were born in Nebraska. Illinois comes first with 87 fathers and 113 mothers; Indiana next with 58 fathers and 57 mothers. 103 fathers were born east of the Alleghanies and 96 of the mothers. 114 of the fathers and 126 of the mothers are of foreign birth. The countries from which the foreign born parents came are as follows: Russia 32, Germany 109, Canada 10, Ireland 43, England 15, Scotland 15, Denmark 2, France 4, Austria 6, Sweden 10, Norway 20, Holland 4. This ratio would make about 20 per cent of our city population foreign born. Only 124 of the 600 children questioned have traveled far enough to see mountains and only 24 have seen the ocean.

PHYSICAL CONDITION.

So far as our tests went only 40 children were found to have defective vision and many of these are wearing glasses. 26 have difficulty in hearing while but 4 have other noticeable bodily defects. 185 of the children state that they have at some time suffered from serious illnesses, Scarlet fever and diphtheria being the diseases in 109 of these cases. Typhoid fever in 25, pneumonia in 17 and small-pox in 3. The figures showing the chest development, height and weight, which were taken with care to insure accuracy, are interesting. The chest measurements were made in all grades above the third and include about 350 children of both sexes. The largest chest measure was that of a 21-year-old boy whose chest expanded measured 49 inches. The greatest expansion was shown by a girl 19 years old who expanded 6 inches, while the average girl of her age expanded 3 inches and the average boy of 19 expanded 4 inches. The tallest pupil in the school is a boy 21 years old who stands 71 inches high. The tallest girl is 16 years old and stands 69 inches high. (She is the tall boy's sister.) The average height of 16-year-old girls is 63 inches. The shortest boy in the school is 6 years old and is 37 inches, while the shortest girl is 5 years old and 41 inches. From 5 to 15 years of age the girls are a little ahead of the boys in height; older than 15 the average difference is in favor of the boys. The tallest boy is also the heaviest, weighing 175 pounds, and his sister weighs 164 pounds, the average weight of the 16-year-old girls being but 116. When these tables are printed in full with the averages of all ages and the comparisons are given with children in other sections of the country, we believe that the Western boy and girl will make an excellent showing in physical development.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT.

Twenty-three hundred years ago Plato wrote the following dialogue as having

taken place between Socrates the philosopher and Critias, a wealthy citizen of Athens:

Socrates. "Have you seen your colts, lately, Critias?"
Critias. "Why Sir, of course I have. Do you think I have horses in training for the races and not examine them every day?"

Socrates. "Have you good trainers this year, Critias?"
Critias. "Certainly; I have the best in all Hellas."

Socrates. "That is well; yet you look after them yourself and see that nothing goes wrong. Where are your children, Critias?"

Critias. "In school, of course".
Socrates. "And when did you inspect them last?"

We may end the scene here since you can guess the sequel; how Socrates made Critias admit that having entrusted them to the teacher he paid no more attention to the matter, spending his spare hours with his colts. Times have not changed much and modern McCook is not so far different from ancient Athens.

The schools are open to the inspection of any person interested from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. The superintendent is always glad to consult with the parents on the work the children are doing, and to assist the parents and the teachers to decide what is best to do in difficult cases. On a future occasion the question of the child's training may be discussed in these columns.

MOVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE.

S. C. DILLEY of Red Cloud was a city visitor, last Friday.

P. A. WELLS was up from Hastings on business, Saturday.

M. STERN is here from Chicago on a business visit. He is the guest of Sam. Strasser.

DR. J. A. GUNN and Miss Nellie went to Red Oak, Iowa, Wednesday night, on a short visit to relatives.

DR. J. A. GUNN spent Sunday in and about Benkelman, where there are still quite a number of cases of scarlet fever.

I. L. STRONG of Holdrege, who would not object to being appointed a deputy collector, spent Wednesday in the city.

MRS. G. A. NOREN has been confined to the house for the past two weeks with an attack of grip, but is now much improved.

C. L. DEGROFF came up from Nebraska City, last Friday night, on business of his large interests here. Mrs. DeGross and the children returned home with him on Monday morning.

MR. AND MRS. C. E. CANFIELD and granddaughter came up from Harvard, last Saturday night, and are guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Perry. Will return home on tomorrow evening.

MRS. J. A. ROBINSON accompanied her husband, the commissioner, to the county seat, Saturday, when the board held a brief session. They were detained here until Tuesday by the heavy snow storm.

GENERAL AGENT TIBBETTS of the Hartford Insurance Co. and General Agent Walsh of the Queen Insurance Co. were in the city from Lincoln, midweek. We understand that there is a prospect that McCook insurance rates may be reduced.

STATE SENATOR AND MRS. A. A. WELLS of Syracuse, Nebraska, spent last Saturday in the city, where the senator has large business interests. They spent Sunday in Indianola visiting relatives—the Andrews family—on their return to Lincoln.

A Coincidence.

It is mildly suggestive and amusing that the newspaper brothers-in-law coincidentally opposed reduction in salaries, last week; all because of a SLIGHT RUMOR that an effort was being made to secure that desirable result. We state, the coincidence was both mildly amusing and suggestive.

Lantern Class Tonight at 8 O'clock

The Saint Louis cyclone, a series of photographs taken immediately after the great disaster.

The Christian Endeavor society of the Congregational church will hold a social in Laycock's store room on the evening of April 15th. There will be tableaux and an interesting program, particulars of which will be given later.

Mrs. Purdum and Ballew have opened a dress-making establishment in room 3 off of parlor in the Commercial house, and ask a share of public patronage. All work guaranteed. Give us a trial.

Maude Cordell will give lessons in Piano Music to a limited number of pupils at her home, 406 Marshall street.

THE CITY TICKET

Republicans Arc First in the Field With a Strong Ticket.

THE CAUCUS WAS MOST HARMONIOUS

Most of the Old Officers Were Renominated, and They all Were Chosen by Acclamation Enthusiastically.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

Mayor.....H. H. Troth
Clerk.....E. E. Lowman
Treasurer.....E. J. Wilcox
Police Judge.....H. H. Berry
City Engineer.....C. N. Whittaker
Councilman, 1st ward.....W. S. Perry
Councilman, 2d ward.....R. M. Osborn
Member school board.....J. E. Kelley
Member school board.....H. Thompson

Pursuant to published call a goodly number of Republicans met in the city hall, Monday evening, to place in nomination candidates for the various city offices. Shortly after eight o'clock J. E. Kelley called the meeting to order and read the call. J. E. Kelley was chosen chairman of the caucus and C. W. Barnes, secretary. After which the nomination of candidates was promptly taken up, and the following ticket was chosen by acclamation:

For mayor, H. H. Troth. A brief speech was made by Mr. Troth in which he said that "the honor was appreciated, and that he renewed his former pledges to give the city a clean and economical administration".

For city clerk, E. E. Lowman. In a few words Mr. Lowman thanked the caucus for the nomination and promised to perform the duties of the office to the best of his ability.

For city treasurer, E. J. Wilcox. "Bony" felt just as thankful as any of them, but he was too bashful to say so.

For police judge, H. H. Berry. The elder thanked the caucus for the honor and promised to mete out to evildoers punishment to fit the crime.

For city engineer, C. N. Whittaker. Clarence didn't say so, but he like Barkis, was willin'.

On motion it was decided to nominate members of the board of education before dividing the caucus for the selection of councilmen.

For member of the board of education, H. W. Cole named J. E. Kelley as one who, in the pinched condition of the school treasury, would favor reduction of salary rather than shortening the school year. Mr. Kelley promised to give school matters his best judgment and the careful and conservative attention he gives his own business. Though he announced that he was not a Republican, J. S. LeHew was considerably given the privilege of nominating Harmon Thompson for the other member of the board of education. Mr. Thompson did not add anything to the oratory of the evening.

The caucus then separated into wards for the nomination of councilmen. In the first ward J. E. Kelley was made chairman. W. S. Perry was renominated. He very briefly expressed thanks for the honor. In the second ward meeting R. B. Archibald was chairman. R. M. Osborn was renominated. He promised to do better next year than last, if it is possible.

Chairman Kelley then suggested the idea of selecting a Republican city committee independent of the regular precinct committeemen. After some hesitation it was decided that the caucus select a committee of five members. They were chosen as follows: C. I. Hall, chairman, W. S. Perry, J. A. Wilcox, C. B. Gray, R. B. Archibald. The committee was authorized to fill any vacancies that may occur on the ticket between now and election.

A motion was made that the caucus be turned over to the public for general discussion of topics of municipal and educational interest, but the knowing ones wisely thought it best to let well enough alone, and an informal adjournment commenced, the motion receiving no second. A little later a regular adjournment was announced.

A FEW NOTES.

Council 100 was tremendously in evidence, to the surprise of some.

As a party whip and chairman J. E. Kelley has no superior in the city. He had the caucus cleverly in hand.

The caucus was an unusually harmonious one, every detail passing off without friction and as per stipulation; and the nominations for the most part are excellent.

In renominating Mayor Troth, Police Judge Berry gave Mayor Troth's administration a most glowing encomium, saying that it would go down in the annals of McCook history as its greatest and cleanest and best administration. But the elder had forgotten J. E. Kelley's splendid management of municipal affairs.

CITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CHRISTIAN—Services Sundays at 11 and 7:30 o'clock in McConnell hall. Sunday school at 10 o'clock.
ELDER C. P. EVANS.

BAPTIST—Regular services, Sunday morning, at 11. Bible school at 10 a. m. Persons received for membership at the morning service. Baptism administered.
GEO. W. SHEAFOR, Pastor.

GERMAN METHODIST—Regular services at 9 o'clock, every Sunday morning, in the South McCook Methodist church; services in German.
REV. M. HERRMANN.

CATHOLIC—Mass at 8 o'clock a. m. High mass and sermon at 10:30, a. m., with choir. Sunday school at 2:30 p. m. All are cordially welcome.
REV. J. W. HICKEY, Pastor.

EPISCOPAL—Divine service second and fourth Sundays of every month at 11:00 a. m. and 8:00 p. m. Sunday school every Sunday at 10:00 a. m. Lectures alternate Mondays at 7:30 p. m.
S. A. POTTER, General Missionary.
R. A. RUSSELL, Assistant.

CONGREGATIONAL—Morning theme, "The Battle above the Clouds". Reception of members following the sermon. Those desiring to unite will please hand in their names by 10:30. Sunday school at 10. Junior Endeavor at 3 o'clock. A cordial welcome is extended to all.
HART L. PRESTON, Pastor.

METHODIST—Sunday school at 10 and preaching at 11. Subject, "Childhood of the Soul". Doors of the church open after the sermon. Junior League at 2. Bible study for all the converts at 3. All are invited. Led by Rev. H. L. Preston. Union services at the Congregational church to commence at 7. All are invited.
J. A. BADCOX, Pastor.

UNION SERVICES—At the Methodist church at 3; a young converts meeting. At the Congregational church at 7; Union Young Peoples meeting, led by Knud Stangeland. At 8, Union Gospel service, sermon by Rev. G. W. Sheafor. Each evening during the week there will be a union service for all young converts and all others who would like to study deeper into the fundamentals of the Christian religion. Dr. Ringland will have charge of these meetings, which will be held in the Congregational church. All are invited.
BY THE COMMITTEE.

A Glorious Snow Storm.

The snow storm of Saturday night and Sunday was the heaviest in a number of years, and is hailed with delight by all. The snow was so badly drifted, especially in the city, that it is difficult to arrive at an accurate measurement of its depth. But suffice it is to say that the fall amounted to a good many inches on a level. A slight rain preceded the snow which was of a very wet quality. The depth and drifted condition of the snow kept many within doors, Sunday, and interfered with religious services which in most instances were abandoned. The union revival services in the Methodist church in the evening were, however, quite well attended. Railroadroading was retarded but slightly, the Oberlin and St. Francis branches being the only lines effected, and a snowplow soon opened them up for the usual traffic. The main line trains run on schedule time. From an agricultural standpoint the storm is of vast worth to this portion of Nebraska, and is an element of encouragement and buoyancy to the farmer. It is generally conceded as having been the heaviest snow storm that has visited Southwestern Nebraska in a number of years. And now we are luxuriating in a rarity.

A Sad Death.

Last Sunday morning about one o'clock, Maggie, wife of Conductor Tim Foley, quietly passed away from things earthly, after a brief illness. The remains were shipped to Boone, Iowa, Sunday evening on No. 4, where the funeral services will be conducted in the church, wherein about two years since deceased's marriage was consummated with Conductor Foley. The remains were accompanied by the distressed husband, a sorrowing sister, and a brother of the conductor. Two sisters from Chicago will meet the party at Boone.

This is one of the most distressingly sad deaths in McCook's mortuary history. The deceased leaves a husband, an infant daughter two weeks of age, an aged mother and three sisters. The inconsolably bereaved ones have the profoundest, tenderest sympathy of this entire community in their sorrow.

CARD OF THANKS.

To all the kind neighbors and friends who assisted during the illness of my beloved wife, I wish to hereby express me heartfelt thanks. I will ever hold in tender memory your untiring labors and spontaneous sympathy.
MR. TIM FOLEY.

CAPTURED THE CITY

The Spirit of the Town Wholly Changed By the Recent Meetings.

SOME REMARKABLE MANIFESTATIONS

The City of McCook Somewhat of a Transformed Place.—Many Have Determined to Walk The Narrow Path.

An evangelistic campaign was started in Hastings in November under the leadership of Major Cole, the ministers and churches of that city heartily uniting in the movement. During the nine weeks and three days of the work there, much prayerful consideration was given to the very needy condition of the churches and towns of central and western Nebraska.

The panic and partial crop failure of '93, the total crop failure of '94 and the continued financial depression had made such conditions as caused over 400 churches of the state to become vacant. The spiritual destitution among these vacant churches and the struggling, needy condition of other churches and communities made the field a most needy one. At the close of the work in Hastings, notwithstanding urgent calls from the united churches of Omaha, and other large cities, Major Cole started westward to the smaller and more needy towns of Nebraska. Hundreds of Christians in Hastings had pledged themselves to follow him with their prayers. The first town reached after the work at Hastings, where any considerable time was spent, was Holdrege, where there was a much larger work than at Hastings in much less time. When McCook was chosen as the next center of operations, many were saying that as McCook was a railroad town, a peculiar place and serious obstacles seemed to stand in the way, it could not be stirred by such a religious movement as Holdrege and Hastings had been. The very power of God seemed to be challenged by the attitude and spirit of many in McCook. The challenge was watched by those who had been watching the movement in its developing interest, and an expectation of unusual spiritual manifestations was created. The expectations were realized. After two weeks of union preparatory services by the pastors of the city, assisted by Rev. W. F. Ringland, Major Cole began the regular meetings on Sunday evening, February 14th. It was not long until the more marked instances of unusual manifestations of spiritual interest were witnessed. Three men were found to have prayed all night in the battery room of the telegraph office, in the great struggle in making their surrender. The first Friday night of the meetings one young man who was converted was found to have driven, with a party, thirty miles to attend that service and the party was going to drive home after the close of the service at 10:30 p. m. Others were found to be driving great distances to attend the meetings. One young man very early in the meetings had come under deep conviction and yet made such struggle and resistance that he would severely repulse even his nearest friends and relatives who would approach him on the subject. He came to entirely absent himself from all services, even the regular Sabbath morning services at which he had been a regular attendant, and singer in the choir. When he finally decided to attend one service he declared with an oath that he would not go to the altar. Only a little later he was seen rushing down the aisle pushing men and women right and left, with a conviction of sin which had reached such an intensity that he was desperate to do something which might be in the line of bringing relief. That same evening, only a little later, one man was seen bounding over the seats in his eagerness and haste to reach the altar. These manifestations can only be understood by those who were watching such intense conviction of sin as brought 38 to the altar one evening, 34 of whom were men. There has been hardly any hour of the day or night which has not witnessed strong men under deep conviction of sin surrender and accept Christ as a personal Savior. The interest has not been confined to times or places. Anywhere, everywhere, at any time, these manifestations have taken place. One man said he had gone into the service at 15 years of age and had gone through the war but for thirty-five years had not had the courage to take the stand he had now taken. Judges, government officers, merchants, professional men, traveling men and all classes have been reached. Meetings have been held in all churches, stores of all kinds, barber-shops, business offices, street corners and all places. Conventionality and formalism have been lost sight of. One spirit has pervaded the community until McCook has been so changed that a man

who had been absent from the city for a while said he could hardly recognize the place, it had been so changed, and they were talking religion everywhere. Leaders in fashionable circles and social amusements openly declare their abandonment of harmful amusements and are enthusiastic in Christian service. Hundreds of young people are enthusiastic in the new service. One faithful devoted wife who had prayed for her husband's conversion for twenty-five years, has said since hearing his voice in thanks at the table and prayer at the family altar that she used to think of heaven as her home, but now thinks of her home as heaven. The railroad people have been largely reached by the meetings. There are over 170 men running on the road who stop over at McCook. With the men in local service and their families there must be over 1,000 railroad population in the city. Many of the conductors, engineers, firemen and brakemen have been converted and have been talking all up and down the B. & M. road in both directions. No element has been more largely reached than the railroad element and among no others will the permanent effects be more fully realized.

After the close of the meeting one night four in one spring wagon, who were starting to drive five miles in the country, accepted Christ just before starting home. One young man standing out in the rain one night who would not go in the church was converted and then went in and confessed Christ.

One saloon will close with the fiscal year, and the business most effected by the revival has been the saloon and billiard-room business. One man got off of the train and went up to a crowd of railroad men on the day of the prize fight, supposing he would get some news. He found them talking about the meetings, and went away disgusted. It is said that men who formerly spent large portions of their salaries in saloons and billiard rooms now add from \$30 to \$50 more to their portions for their families, and remaining at home the family has large blessings from the change.

One man said, "If Major Cole comes down the aisle and speaks to me I will slap him in the face". Fifteen minutes afterward he was holding Major Cole by the hand and saying, "Praise the Lord; I am saved".

Unhappy families approaching separation have been happily and permanently united.

The Russian settlement was canvassed and every house is a house of prayer.

The closing and farewell meeting, last night, was full of deep and tender interest. The largest audience of the season was present. The male quartet, which had rendered efficient service during the political campaign, was converted to render service during the evangelistic campaign in McCook, rendered five or six of their best songs. The ministers, who have so heartily and unitedly entered into the great work with Major Cole, each in a short address spoke of the great blessing they had received personally, and of the lasting blessing to the entire city. Besides their words of regard for Major Cole they introduced from the Executive Committee the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the entire audience:

MAJOR J. H. COLE.

"When the fullness to the time was come God sent forth his Son" to save the world. And now in these days when McCook's time is full He has sent forth His blessing, and while we ascribe praise and honor unto our Lord Christ for the mighty working of the Spirit in our midst, even to the conversion of hundreds of souls and the building up of Christians in faith which is manifested through works; yet we desire with unanimous voice to express our appreciation of the labors of Major Cole, a man approved of God and filled with the Spirit, who has constantly witnessed with power of the things of God.

Not only would we bring words of thanks, but in prayer voiced by old and young, new converts and older Christians, we would petition the Throne of Grace for rich blessings to follow him wheresoever the Lord may lead even in that "path that shines more and more unto the perfect day", where "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever".

The conviction and saving power of our Blessed Lord has fallen upon old, middle aged and young, drunkards, gamblers, infidels, engineers, conductors, brakemen, firemen, agents and county officials, which have found peace and pardon at the foot of the Cross.

From almost every vocation of life came the 500 new followers of Christ, praising God for sending Major Cole to help lead sinners to Him.

BE IT RESOLVED, That we appreciate the services of Major Cole and the sacrifice he has made in coming to McCook.

That he is kind, gentle and sweet spirited at all times and under all circumstances.

We believe him to be a man led by the Spirit.

His motto for young converts is, "Never compromise with Satan".

Praise the Lord; let all the people say, "Praise the Lord".

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

After the resolutions the Major led in prayer ascribing all the power and glory of the work to the Holy Spirit and for his continued presence and blessing upon the young converts and the entire city. The Major then gave a talk to the new converts and a last earnest appeal to the unconverted. One man was converted. It was an interesting scene to see the young converts march around by the platform and shake hands with Major Cole and the ministers associated with him in the work. When the congregation was dismissed the farewell service ended in the entire audience bidding the Major good-bye in the final, farewell handshake, as they passed out.

With the 330 conversions at Hastings, 415 at Holdrege, and the 202 in the smaller towns reached, the 502 conversions at McCook puts the number of conversions since the campaign at Hastings at 1448. Major Cole takes no glory of the work to himself but says it was the work of the Holy Spirit.