

TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

A Copy of Letter Mailed by the Columbus Journal Company Friday.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Platte County, Nebraska, Gentlemen:
In accordance with the notice for sealed proposals for furnishing county supplies, issued from the office of the county clerk in compliance with law, we are today filing sealed bids for the stationery and blanks called for in said notice.

In submitting our bids, we wish to call your attention to the conditions under which the county printing has been done during the past year, and to the lack of any resemblance between the contract price and the price actually paid from the people's money. The law, as you are aware, requires that the furnishing of certain county supplies be submitted to bids and that the award be made to the lowest responsible bidder. The law presumes, as you are also aware, that the successful bidder shall furnish those supplies at prices stipulated in his bid. Last January the Telegram Company was awarded the contract on the following bid:

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors, Platte County, Nebraska, Gentlemen:
We hereby propose to furnish your county during the year ensuing, the following blanks, at the following prices, in accordance with your advertised specifications:

1000 one-half sheet blanks, printed both sides, \$15.00	1000 quarter sheet do., \$13.00	1000 eighth sheet do., \$6.00	10000 white env. 6 1/2 in., XXX 20.00	10000 do. 9 1/2 in., XXX 20.00	10000 do. 11 in., XXX 20.00	10000 manilla env. 11 in., XXX 7.00	8000 Japanese linen note heads, printed, \$13.00	8000 do. letter heads, \$16.00	1000 note heads, 20 round Demy, \$8.00	Manic City, printed, \$8.00	Total \$120.00
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The bills presented by the Telegram Company should have conformed to the prices made in the above bid.

Here are a few samples of their bills presented and allowed:

They agreed in their bid to print 1,000 half-sheet blanks for \$3.75. They collected for the same \$15.00. They agreed to print 1,000 quarter-sheet blanks for \$3.25. They collected for the same at the rate of \$10.00 per thousand.

They agreed to furnish linen note heads for \$1.62 per thousand. They collected for the same at the rate of \$1.50 per thousand. They agreed to furnish linen letter heads for \$2.00 per thousand. They collected for the same \$5.50 per thousand. They agreed to furnish No. 19 envelopes at \$3.00 per thousand. They collected for the same \$5.50 per thousand. They agreed to furnish 1,000 envelopes No. 61 for \$2.00. They collected from the county \$4.50 per thousand.

These are only a few examples. We ask that you verify them from the public record.

The Telegram Company owes the taxpayers of Platte county the difference between the contract price and the price collected by them on the supplies enumerated in their bid.

We hesitate to believe that a contemporary would wilfully open its pocket to receive funds taken illegally from the pockets of Platte county taxpayers. We hope some satisfactory explanation will be made to remove the cloud of dishonesty. And we trust that every cent of this money will be returned to the county either voluntarily or upon your request.

We are prompted to call attention to these unpleasant facts only out of a sense of duty to the public and out of a determination to have fair play with our business competitors.

Every newspaper that submitted a bid for these blanks last year, including the Humphrey Democrat and other Platte county papers, offered to furnish them at prices lower than those actually paid to the Telegram Company, notwithstanding the bid of the latter was much lower than the others and lower than the supplies could be furnished and leave any margin of profit.

Is the Telegram Company divinely favored that it should be permitted to sit in a game with the other newspapers of Platte county and play with loaded dice?

This communication is not meant as an attack on your honorable body or the county clerk. We do not charge that the committee on supplies knowingly allowed these illegal claims. But this committee is certainly guilty of carelessness in not checking over the bills with the bid on file.

We ask no favors at your hands. You are of opposite political faith. We expect you to throw the personal favors at your disposal to your party papers. But where the law requires competition we demand for ourselves and our contemporaries a fair deal and an equal right.

If our bid is the lowest and is accepted we shall expect, not only as a matter of law but as a matter of common honesty, to furnish every article at the price named in the bid. If our competitor's bid is lowest we have a right to insist as a matter of business ethics, and the taxpayers have a right to demand on the grounds of law and public policy, that he receive no more than the contract price.

The purpose of the law is to enable the taxpayers to buy their supplies at a competitive and not a monopoly price, on the theory that a competitive price is lower and more in harmony with democratic institutions.

If the competitive price is not permitted to govern the purchase of the supplies, then the purposes of the law are frustrated and the whole matter of submitting bids becomes a farce.

If one bidder is assured in advance that he will not be required to present his bids in conformity with the terms of his sealed bids, it is clear that he will submit his bids low enough to get the award. And thus a law designed to secure competition so essential to democratic government is employed to foster the most dangerous form of monopoly.

We blame the railroads for making use of the courts to shift their burden of taxation to the shoulders of the other taxpayers. What then of the individual or corporation who, while condemning the railroads for trying to gain their ends by legal procedure in open court, puts his hand into the people's pocket when hidden in the shadow of a political machine?

We condemn the methods of Rockefeller who crushes his competitors by the use of the rebate and the cutthroat price. The difference between the methods of the Standard Oil Company and those used in furnishing supplies to Platte county is that the practices in Platte county forestall competition and save the local monopoly the temporary losses suffered by the Standard Oil in its cut-throat competition. We cry out against monopoly in state and national affairs, while permitting the operations of an absolute monopoly in our county affairs.

This appeal is addressed to you in all sincerity and with perfect faith in your honesty, collectively and individually.

We ask that you investigate carefully the practices complained of. If we are mistaken in our reading of the records, we wish to have this communication bear an apology to you for the charge of carelessness implied in our statements, and to the Telegram Company for our charges of unlawful and dishonest conduct on their part.

Respectfully submitted,
The Columbus Journal Co.,
by Frederick H. Abbott, Pres.

THE ROCKEFELLER TEMPLE.

It was to be expected that those who opposed the acceptance of the Rockefeller donation for the Temple to be erected on the campus of Nebraska University, would continue to "say things" after the acceptance of that donation. It is not surprising therefore to hear all kinds of titles for the new building suggested by the opponents of the scheme tending to show that the temple was erected by and should be dedicated to the "Prince of Robbers."

The editor of the Journal has no quarrel with those who are not in sympathy with Rockefeller's outlandish methods of crushing competitors in the oil business. If all the criticism in connection with the university temple were confined to Rockefeller comment on the proposition would be useless. But that is not the case.

Those who criticize the loudest, misstate the premises and thus, either consciously or unconsciously bring the university, the greatest of our state institutions into disfavor with the masses of the people whose money supports it.

The fact is the Temple is not an educational building in the strict meaning of the word. It is simply a building to house the university societies, debating clubs and like organizations whom the university buildings proper will no longer accommodate. The Rockefeller money therefore does not mingle with the taxes paid by the people of the state for strictly educational purposes.

The same arguments that would lie against the acceptance of the Rockefeller donation would lie in Columbus against the acceptance of the private donations of Columbus citizens toward the high school gymnasium. And no one will rise to object to the mingling of private with public money for the erection of the Columbus gymnasium.

The Rockefeller temple donation criticism arises from sentiment. Those who argue against it could on the same grounds argue against the acceptance of a tax from unclean hands. For a tax is a contribution. The fact that it is forced makes it none the less a contribution. Wherever Rockefeller pays taxes he is forced to contribute largely to the public schools. If this contribution in the one case pollutes, it does also in the other. The writer read the editorial record of the Standard Oil Company from the pages of a book in the University library. Others will find the same volume in the same library just the same after the Temple shall have been erected from Rockefeller's money and their souls will thrill with the same resentment toward Rockefeller and his kind when they read as did the writer's.

Let us welcome the day when private donation may mingle with public donations to make our state universities the greatest institutions of learning in the land.

A Kansas City bartender on the witness stand yesterday testified that the majority of people who drink whiskey cannot distinguish one brand from another. This isn't all thought. The majority of people who drink whiskey can't distinguish between decency and sensuality, between right and wrong, between pride and shame. The majority of people who drink whiskey can't distinguish between the obligations of manhood and the moral code of a hog. There are a good many things the majority of people who drink whiskey can't distinguish. The least of these things, is the brand they are drinking.—Ottawa (Kans.) Herald.

This picture is greatly overdrawn. A majority of the people who drink whiskey are very like the one who let it alone. It is a minority who carry the practice to such extremes that they cannot distinguish between right and wrong. Were the majority of those who drink to let the stuff alone entirely they would no doubt be better off in the long run, as would those who abstain from tobacco and indulge in kindred vices that upset the nervous system. To the end that these things may be brought to pass are children educated in the evil effects of narcotics and stimulants upon the human system. To the end that these things may be brought to pass are members of the disorganization caused by either. It is good to preach temperance, and one of the ways to do it is to present the case in temperate and reasonable language.—Bixby.

Now the administration has begun action against the paper trust. We don't know whether he has us in mind or not, but if Teddy will just land once or twice on the paper trust still do noble work, socially as well as mentally; so that membership in them is most desirable.

It would seem that not a few students enter the university simply to join fraternities or sororities. Having thus secured, as they think, social standing, many discontinue their studies, the same time remaining in residence at their society houses as sources of demoralization for students wishing to work. The conviction is spreading that fraternity initiations should be supervised and that student should be postponed until the student in name has demonstrated his purpose to be a student in fact. The majority of Greek letter society people appear to wish such reforms, aware that, without them, the reputation of the societies for character and scholarship suffers. The regents stand ready to enact remedial regulations but, for the present, await request therefor from the organizations primarily interested.

Germany to the above evil is the rising scale of personal expenditures among our students, accompanying prosperous times and the growing wealth of the state. The extremely "Simple Life," once the rule at the university, has become almost rare. It is the aim to administer the institution that is innocuous worthy youth, however poor, shall ever feel out of place here. We should be glad of resources enabling us to control prices of students necessities, such as rooms, board and books, in the interest of economy, health, good manners and simplicity.

According to the Albion News, a man in that town took two drinks of whiskey which he purchased from the bootlegger and it made him several degrees worse than plain drunk. When a man doesn't have to pay license, he can afford to furnish pretty strong goods for your money.

THE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

Chancellor Andrews, in his last biennial report to the regents of the state university, makes some statements which will not agree, and which are likely to excite some warm discussion. Chancellor Andrews is never afraid to express his opinions and there is generally food for thought in what he says.

The chancellor calls attention, with great truth, to the widening sphere of the university's usefulness in the following language: "The university has come to be much more than a teaching institution. People turn to it for counsel upon almost every subject. It is identified with many interests. A custom has grown up throughout the state to appeal to the university for help and advice upon practically every problem which arises on any farm or in any community."

He also urges that the salaries of professors be advanced and that a department of political science be established.

A department of political science has long been needed in Nebraska University, many young men having been attracted to the universities of Iowa and Wisconsin because those schools had such a department. The studies of no department give better and more practical training for citizenship.

The chancellor calls attention to the tendency of the men and women to take different courses, in the following language: "If present tendencies continue, two schools will result, one for women, monopolizing the specially educational and cultural subjects, hitherto regarded as of greatest possible value in the development of choice humanity, and the other for men teaching only 'bread and butter studies.' The university could hardly suffer a worse calamity than a cleavage like this, if complete or even pronounced."

But the part of the Chancellor's report which will excite the most feeling is his open criticism of Greek letter societies to which not only a majority of the students belong, but also a large part of the faculty. He points out what he thinks are the bad tendencies of fraternities and makes an appeal for the simple life. He speaks as follows on this subject: "Students' social affairs have a close bearing on the university's welfare. Greek letter societies have become part of the United States university system, yet considerable abuse which is most difficult to reach, occurs in connection with them. Membership in these organizations often adds painfully to students' expenses. Parents should remember that such membership is in no sense necessary or required, students' scholarship, reputation standing and influence being quite independent of the question whether they on these bodies or not. The old literary societies, the Palladian, the Union and the Delian, still do noble work, socially as well as mentally; so that membership in them is most desirable.

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Why is it we don't hear anybody expressing sympathy for Israel Gluck?

They say that in Port Arthur the price of gobblers now is 150 roubles apiece, and dog meat is 25 kopecks per pound. We don't know just how many kopecks it takes to make a rouble, or how many roubles it takes to make a dollar, but, considering the price, it should match prefer the gobbler, if of proper age.

The erudite World-Herald is just now employing its great journalistic talent to disturb the peace of Dr. J. L. Greene, superintendent of the Lincoln asylum. Incidentally, Dr. Greene is widely known as a man of exceptional kindness and humanity, and is probably the leading insanity specialist of the state. However, that is beside the point. He is a republican, and this fact is sufficient justification of the World-Herald's action. The point is that the great Jeffersonian diary now comes out with a column and a half on the subject of vilification of public men such as Dr. Greene. In the article it uses this word "villain," and says "villain" and "villain" spells it with two 'v's." The article does not demand literary attainments in country papers, but we think it is not unreasonable to expect that a metropolitan daily should be able to spell the title word of its leading editorial.

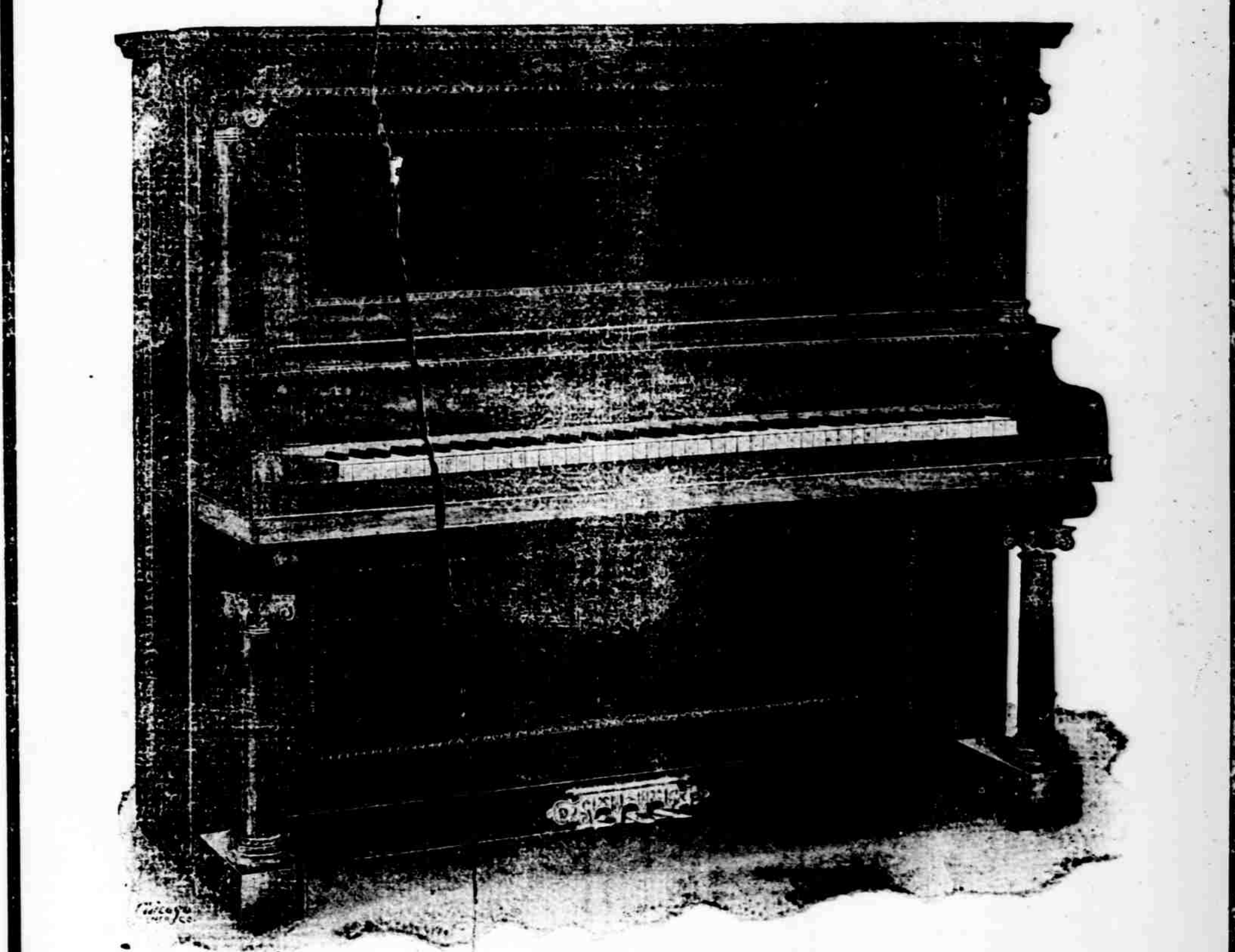
\$500 STORY & CLARK PIANO GIVEN AWAY! \$500

GO AND SEE IT AT GRAYS' STORE

THE JOURNAL will give this Beautiful Piano to the Platte county young lady receiving the most votes from Journal subscribers before noon, FEBRUARY 15th, 1905. This Piano is standard. It is not the cheapest, but one of the best grades made by Story & Clark. It is the most expensive and best Piano ever given away by a Nebraska newspaper. You have to see the instrument to appreciate it.

HOW TO GET VOTES:

1. Get a new cash subscriber to the WEEKLY or DAILY JOURNAL.
2. Get present subscribers to pay their subscription in advance.
3. Get delinquent subscribers to pay all or part of their back subscription.
4. Call or write us for a receipt book, so you can receipt for the money you collect.



DESCRIPTION—Seven and one-half octaves, ivory keys, polished ebony sharps, overstrung bass, iron frame, three unisons, repeating action, improved scale, three pedals, folding fall-board, full panel swing desk, continuous nickel hinges on fall-board and lid, metal-cased hammer rail, nickel-plated action supports, nickel-plated pedal guard with graduating pedals and practice muller, composite wrest-plank. Height, 4 feet 8 inches; width 5 feet 5 inches; depth, 2 feet 4 inches. Case, Hungarian walnut, cross-banded, veneered and highly polished.

For every cent that you send us on subscription we will credit one vote to the young lady that you may designate. Every dollar will give you 100 votes. \$1.50 for a year's subscription to the weekly Journal will give you 150 votes.

During this contest ONLY, every subscriber who pays \$1.50 or more, in advance, on subscription to the Weekly Journal will receive a year's subscription to either the Los Angeles Times Illustrated Weekly Magazine or "Der National-Farmer" and "Das Familien-Journal" (German). This is not one of those contests where the winning contestant gets everything and the subscriber gets nothing.

In order to put the Daily Journal in every home in Columbus and on the rural mail routes leading out of Columbus, we offer a special rate, through this contest only, of \$2.00 a year for the Daily Journal by mail, or \$1.00 delivered by carrier in the city, if paid in advance!

Those who send their subscriptions direct to us should give us instructions as to whom their votes shall be cast for. The contest will be kept from now on. No time can be lost if you would win. R. W. Saley sells this piano for \$500. It is a prize worth having.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

(MONDAY'S DAILY JOURNAL.)
Miss Erma Kerr who is attending the Wesleyan University, and Misses Grace and Gertrude Hoppy, of Albion, were guests of Miss Ethel Garlow Saturday and Sunday. The Misses Hoppy were on their return home from a trip to Texas.

J. C. Freydis has moved his family into his new home north of the high school, which is one of the coziest residences in the city. The house is a seven room cottage built according to plans of Keith & Co., of Minneapolis and erected by U. J. Scott of this city.

J. E. Humphrey and E. I. Edwards of Clarinda, Iowa returned home today after spending a few days in the city looking up farm land. After returning home they expect to dispose of their property there and invest in Platte county. Both gentlemen are good republicans.

E. C. Halm went to Spalding today where he began work for a general merchandise store. His family may move in about two weeks. Mr. Halm is a first class clerk and the Columbus people will regret his leaving this city but will hope for his good fortune wherever he may be.

DIED.—The infant child, a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Carrig, less than two years of age, died suddenly this morning at 9:30. The little one had been sitting since Saturday but was not considered seriously ill at any time. The burial will take place in Platte Center Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian and daughter Besse of Polk county, were visiting the Wilson family here Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Wilson, of St. Edward and Angevine Arms of North Bend, nephews of N. D. Wilson, were also guests of the family Saturday on their way to St. Edward.

H. Seewert, who recently had a sale of his farming machinery, has moved his family to this city and they are occupying a residence on Eleventh street. Mr. Seewert will leave tomorrow with about twelve men from Cedar Rapids and Albion, all bound for Mobile, Alabama, where they contemplate purchasing farm land.

BERT BINDER DEAD.—Bert Binder, aged 35 years, died Saturday evening at 8 o'clock after an illness of one year. The deceased resided two and a half miles northeast of Duncan, where he has resided nineteen years. He leaves a wife and seven children. The funeral was held this morning at 9 a. m. in Duncan.

Miss Dona Wake, daughter of Chas. Wake of St. Edward was the successful winner of the piano in the contest between several young ladies securing

subscriptions for the St. Edward Sun.

The piano was given to her December 24. Miss Wake is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wake of Columbus and acquainted with many of our readers.

Lonis Phillips on Saturday evening purchased for \$2,400 the three business lots on Eleventh street from J. Gluck, where the buildings stood which were destroyed by fire last week. Mr. Phillips says he will begin at once to clear up the rubbish from the results of the fire, and as soon as the weather will permit he will begin the erection of a brick business block.

GAS PLANT.—Win. and Paul Roth have filed in district court an account against the Consumers Gas Co., and E. B. Pihart for the amount of \$875 for contract of furnishing labor and material for building gas plant on Eleventh street. The account is filed with a writ of attachment, to secure a steam boiler now at the B. & M. depot, and iron pipes lying at the U. P. depot.

CLASS PARTY.—The Columbus high school class of 1904 were entertained by Dwight Dickinson, Friday evening at his home, when a very pleasant evening was passed in recounting the incidents of the school days together, and in playing games. There were present Miss Bertha Chappin, Elise Brugger, Rose Flynn, Nettie and Frances Goding and Pauline Elias, Messrs John Early, Fin Howard, Harry Jerome, Charlie Munro, Will Farrand and Dwight Dickinson. Misses Eloise Koon and Dora Weaver and Martha Stauffer were the absent ones. The two latter being in western states. All the girls present at the party are now engaged as teachers and all the boys are either attending business college in Columbus or at some university or school away from home.

School of Agriculture.
Commencing January 2, 1905, the University of Nebraska offers a course of instruction in the principles and practice of agriculture. The course covers the subjects of soils, field crops, dairying, butter and cheese making, breeds and judging of live stock, disease of farm animals, horticulture, shop work, farm machinery, and English. No examinations are required for entrance.

It would seem that many students from this county should attend and take advantage of the instruction offered, for the knowledge gained will not only enable young farmers to get better returns from their land but will also help them save money in carrying on farm work.

Read the Journal. Get all the news.

ONE FARE Plus \$2.00 .COLORADO. AND RETURN

Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

Tickets on sale January 7, 8 and 9 with final return limit January 31, 1905. Be sure your ticket reads via

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The Popular Route to Colorado.
Shortest line. Fastest Time
W. H. BENHAM, Agent.

Auctioneer

When you have anything to sell, employ Bruce Webb, the auctioneer. Long distance telephone east rural route No. 3. Humphrey, Neb. Dates made at the Journal office Columbus, Neb.

References: Bank of Otis & Murphy, Humphrey; First National Bank, Humphrey; First National Bank, Madison; State Bank, Madison; Citizens State Bank, Creston. Call up the Journal office and say what you want to sell. You can get the best sale bills and the best auctioneer, and save time and money.

J. D. STUBBS, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Office, Olive St., fourth door north of First National Bank.
COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA.

G. J. GARLOW, Lawyer

Office over Columbus State Bank Columbus, Neb.

A. M. POST, Attorney at Law

Columbus, Neb.

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Come and look our stock over before buying: : : :

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