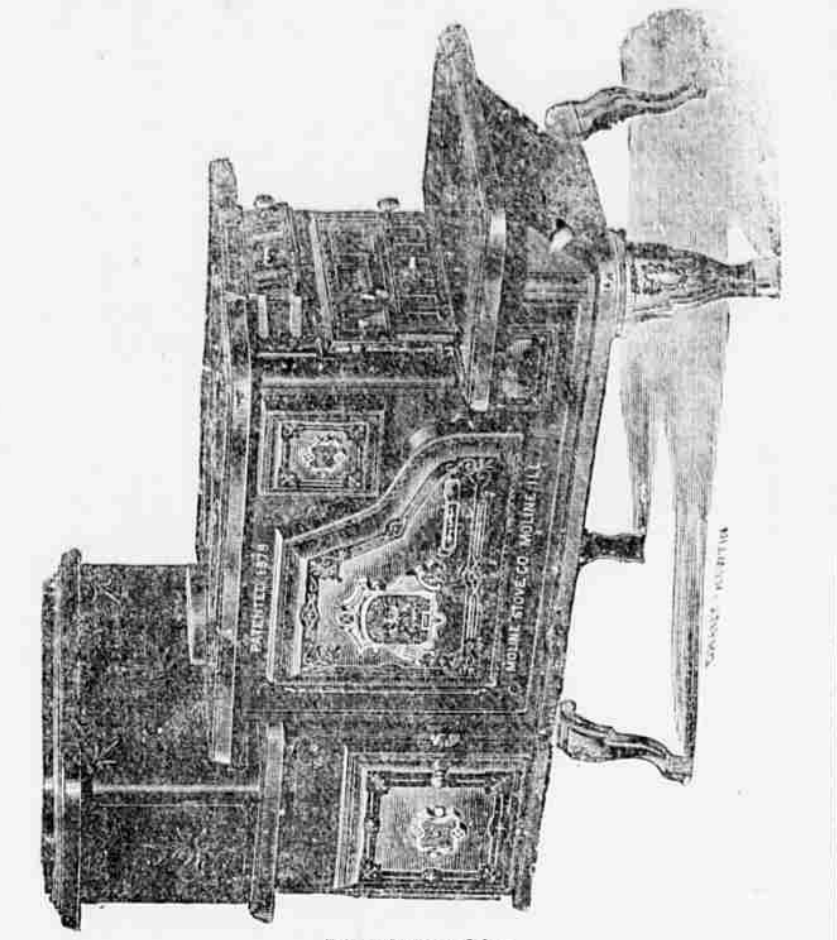


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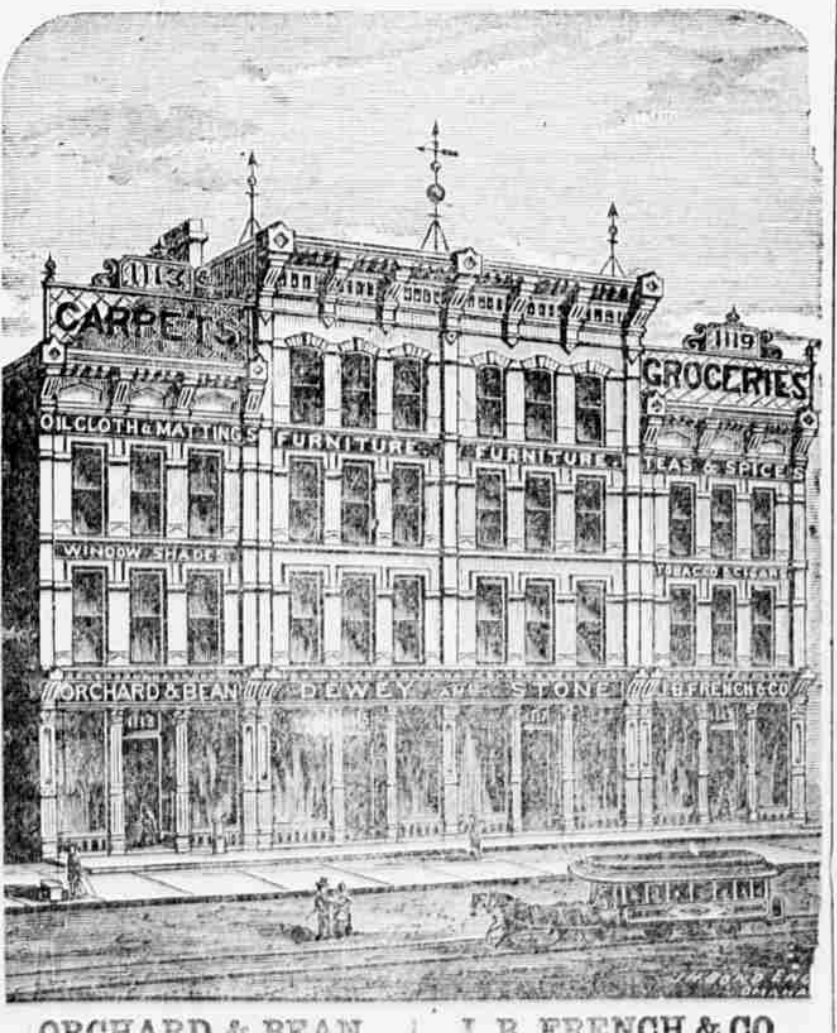
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NEBRASKA NOTES.

Sunday Excursions vs. Secular Ministers. BLAIR, June 29. To the Editor of THE BEE. The past week the religious element at our quiet little town has been exercised over the first genuine Sunday excursion enjoyed since the town was organized, now nearly fourteen years ago. The excursionists on Sunday morning last densely packed four cars and coaches of the Omaha & St. Paul railroad, and at 9 o'clock sharp the train pulled out for Oakland, the Queen City of the far-famed Logan valley. The day was spent in Oak's grove, about one-half mile south of the depot, in music, dancing, beer drinking, singing, exhortation, prayer, and preaching, the party dividing their time from these selections as best suited their respective tastes. Blair in the meantime was depopulated, not a score even gathered at any one of the numerous churches. The laymen were sad and the ministers improved the occasion both in the public press and from the pulpit to disparage this, the first Sunday gala day. To an impartial observer the success of this new departure was not occasion for surprise. The city seems of Blair, seeking to none, perhaps, in the state in point of worth, intelligence, culture and practical religion, have even extended all due cordiality and respect to their resident spiritual guides and even tolerate rambling itinerants of tender years, while they attempt counsel to their grey-haired seniors. But Blair, unfortunately like many another frontier western town, has at times been luckless in her selections of spiritual teachers, the blind have too often attempted to lead the blind. The eyes were at least partially open. Of all forms of hypocrisy none is as damaging and damning as that of the man who in the guise of a spiritual leader cloaks his crimes under a religious mantle. Not long since a most eloquent minister filled one of our prominent pulpits, and nightly, ere the echo of the doxology and the sound of his parting benediction died away, he was entwined in the arms of a noted harlot. At last public indignation was aroused and the pair departed. The next day more recent case was that of clergyman of respectable pretensions, who the past year deliberately forged with his own right hand, the name of a member of his church, and on that forged paper drew from the American Board of Home Missions, of New York, four hundred dollars, when the crime which had it occurred among the "wicked of this world" would have promptly consigned the perpetrator to a felon's cell within prison walls, the culprit instead of being denounced by his church and cast out was quietly, Guitau-like, removed and his perjury rewarded by an appointment as general bible agent for Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado, succeeding the venerable Rev. Mr. McCandlish of your own city, and to-day the voice of the accursed drel clothed in a holy garb furnished by the American Bible society of New York, is sounding in the ears of the poor sinful cattle and bonanza kings and the cowboys, and hardy mountaineers of Wyoming and Colorado. Is it indeed, any wonder Mr. Editor, that the good, pious people of Blair seek to escape from the sound of religious teachers given over to whoredom and rascality, and instead, flock to the Sunday excursion trains to celebrate in groves sweet with the holy incense of heaven's breezes? "G."

Why Boys Leave the Farm. Many people in city and country lament long and loud because boys are somewhat inclined to leave the farm where they were raised. They think this disposition to forsake rural for urban life is certain evidence of depravity. They believe, or affect to believe, that boys forsake the farm and flee to the city in order to escape toil and lead an easy life. They see virtue behind and vice in the future. They think the boys who go to a great city are sure to plunge into dissipation, recklessness and folly. They have convinced themselves that people make money and obtain position in a city by fraud, cheating, and sharp practice, and that they better their condition in the country only by acquiring habits of industry, frugality, and honesty. Now, human nature is about the same in the brick-walled streets of a great city or in the green fields by the winding lanes in the country. Virtue and vice, honesty and dishonesty, industry and idleness are to be found everywhere that man exists. It is all a mistake that the great majority of the people in a large city do not have to work hard for a living. More people work themselves into the hospital or the grave in a large city than anywhere else. A much larger number of men broken down by hard work in middle life can be found in cities than in the country. The people in the middle or lower walks of life in a great city are obliged to subject themselves to a rigid course of self-denial all the time. There is always something to see, hear, or taste that they can not have. A man who goes from the country to the city is ordinarily obliged to work harder to gain a living, and to conduct himself with great propriety in order to acquire a reputation and gain a livelihood. It is wise and well to encourage the disposition of boys to remain in the country and to live on farms, providing they have the taste for agricultural pursuits and the proper physical and mental requirements for such occupations. The pleasures of country life have been sung by all the poets from David to Longfellow. Novelists have never failed of describing the fine characters they have found in the country. The city painter betakes himself to the tree-covered hills, the grassy fields, the singing brooks, and the bird-haunted groves when he wishes to portray what is beautiful. Statistics show that vastly more people live in their own houses in the country than in the city. In an agricultural community nearly every man is engaged in independent occupation, while the reverse is true in any of our large cities. Besides, failures among farmers are very rare and hardly ever occur unless they are the results of speculations. People in the country are at least measurably free from the horrors of contagious diseases and from great calamities resulting from fires, floods, and the general stagnation of business which is often attended by strikes and riots. Life and property are more secure in the country than in the city. No matter whether stocks are rising or falling, whether rents are high or low, whether currency is scarce or plenty, the man who owns the farm he tends will generally raise enough to supply the wants of his family and to meet the demands of the tax-gatherer. In times of calamity people in cities envy the lot of those in the country. When the "heated term" comes on the owners of fine houses in the city are glad to forsake them for the pleasures afforded by a modest cottage in the country. Nearly every man who wishes to get rich in a city looks forward to the day when he can own a home in the country. It does not follow, however, that all boys who are raised on farms should remain there. Many boys were never "cut out" for farmers, and no amount of work in the making will ever make good farmers out of them. They are better at figuring than at fencing; better at guiding a steamboat than at plowing; better at selling than at producing; better at handling dry goods than at sowing away hay. They may be awkward at any kind of farm work, but they may be very handy at many occupations in a shop or factory. Many boys fall on a farm and afterwards succeed in a city. They have ability, but it is not of the kind required to build a fence, plow a furrow, shape a hay-stick, break colts, or sow clover-seed. They are out of place on a farm and do not earn enough to support them. It would be better to give them a trial somewhere else. The boy who fails in raising grain may be a fortune in handling it. The country is quite too well supplied with farmers who are not adapted to the business in which they are engaged. They set bad examples, and injure the land they should improve. They introduce no improvements, but follow the

worst kinds of practices. They raise poor crops, keep poor stock, and support poor fences. Everything they keep runs down on their hands. Quite likely they were encouraged "to stick to the farm" in early life, when it would have been to the advantage of all concerned had they been encouraged to follow the best of their own desires to plow the waves instead of the fields, to feed a locomotive instead of pigs, or to eat shoe-leather instead of grass. Perhaps some fond parents tried to gain them farms, when they would have done better had they provided them with kits of tools, or given them the means to become surveyors or coal miners. It may be plausible for a farmer to settle his sons around him, but if they fail in the business, he will be mortified and pained at the result. Many boys leave farms because there is little for them to do on them. The introduction of labor-saving machinery has greatly reduced the amount of hand work required on farms and produced in some sections a surplus of laborers. The owners of many quite small farms have several boys who must engage in some paying occupation. Some of these boys would be glad to obtain farms of their own, but they have not the means to purchase them. Farms can no longer be obtained for the taking without going a long distance to obtain them. It costs more to start in the business of farming than it did a few years ago. Materials for buildings and fences cost more, and a larger amount of machinery is required. The sons of farmers find it difficult to earn sufficient money by working for other farmers to purchase land to cultivate on their own account. Most farmers hire help only through the busy season. If a boy wishes to earn money to buy a farm he will be more likely to secure it by working at some occupation where he will have constant employment. A boy's prospects of success in farming will not be likely to be impaired by his being engaged in some other occupation for a few years. The chances are that the education he receives in some other kind of business will greatly benefit him in his subsequent life on a farm. Observation shows that a large number of persons who were raised on farms and who engage in some pursuit in a city drift back to farms again after they have acquired a competence. Many boys leave farms on account of delicate physical organizations which do not allow them to labor out of doors. Many others prefer to work in cities because the opportunities for mental improvement are better and the payment for work is not so small.

DIRECTORY OF LEADING WESTERN HOTELS. TABLE WITH COLUMNS: HOTELS, PROPRIETORS, TOWNS. Lists various hotels and their owners across different western towns.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY. Rising City, Butler County. [On the O. & R. V. Railroad.] Table listing various businesses and their owners in Rising City.

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