OMAHA IN THE ASCENDENCY.

President Max Meyer of the Board of Trade Reports the Situation.

ON THE HIGHWAY TO PROSPERITY

Where the City's Strength Lies and Her Needs for the Future—The Charity Ball—Other Local News.

Board of Trade.

The regular meeting of the board of trade was held last evening, President Max Meyer in the chair, and a fair attendance of members. After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, the secretary announced that the board of directors had, at a meeting in the afternoon, re-elected the present officers for the ensuing year, as follows:

President—Max Meyer.
First vice president—C. F. Goodman.
Second vice president—H. G. Clark.
Treasurer—J. A. Wakefield.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Chicago, St. Louis & Pacific railway, asking if the citizens of Omaha would offer inducements to that railroad to locate its headquarters in this city. The letter had been answered by President Meyer, asking where the railroad mentioned was located and its extent. To this the secretary responded that the company wished to build 300 miles of railroad the coming summer, and would either have its headquarters at Omaha, Papillion, or some point in Iowa. It all depended on the inducements offered by Omaha, and he would be happy to address the citizens and board of trade on the subject. The letter was referred to the president to obtain further information.

The Maritime association of New York had forwarded a communication urging the board to take action to induce congress to pass sufficient appropriations to carry on the signal service on the coast. On motion of Mr. Clark a letter was ordered prepared and sent to the congressmen and senators from this state to support the needed appropriation.

President Max Meyer then submitted his report of the work accomplished by the board during the year, as follows:

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 11, 1886.

Gentlemen of the Board of Trade—As a merchant engaged in active business I have not the time to devote to any retrospective review of the history, objects, and aims of this body. Suffice it to say that we are in the tenth year of this organization. The board of trade was begun in 1877 and reorganized under the general corporation laws of Nebraska January 1, 1885. It is now composed of members constituting within themselves the most energetic, enterprising and industrious citizens of Omaha. Since you have honored me with the presidency of this body, marked progress has been made towards the consummation of one of the principal aims of the reorganization of the board. In the face of many obstacles, which were thought by some to be insurmountable, we have purchased the lot, corner Sixteenth and Farnam streets, selected by your body as the site most desirable for a chamber of commerce. This lot is entirely paid for out of the funds derived from membership fees, which in the aggregate exceed $3,000 over the cost of the lot. The wisdom and foresight of your board of directors in making this investment is now apparent, the lot having more than doubled in value. The task now left for the board is to carry out the design of the purchasers and have the board of trade building erected without any needless delay. After advertising for competitive plans, the directors have adopted the plans of Messrs. Mendelssohn & Fisher, which were deemed the most desirable in view of the amount to be expended.

With these plans as a basis bids were invited for the construction of the building, and the board has made contracts with Messrs. Whitnell Bros. & Salisbury for the completion of the building. It now remains with the members of the board to assist the directors in carrying out this work.

The gratifying increase of the commerce of Omaha and rapid growth in population which has taken place has made a corresponding increase in the number of our jobbing houses and manufacturers, who will doubtless become valuable members of our body as soon as the importance of our board is brought to their notice.

It seems to me very timely to recommend to each member to exert his influence to induce every jobber and manufacturer to acquire membership in the board.

Quite apart from the immediate business on hand, viz., the raising of funds for the completion of the chamber of commerce, we must not lose sight of the important enterprises necessary to make Omaha a great commercial center, in which the influence of this board is demanded.

Omaha is still without a market house, where the purchaser and consumer can meet to exchange their wares and products, and where working people can buy the necessaries of life at first hand While the city may be congratulated upon the near completion of the exposition building, which was erected by a few Omaha business men without contribution or subsidy, the success of the next exposition will depend largely upon the personal efforts of our merchants and manufacturers in making complete and creditable exhibits. We have enough manufacturers here already to make an interesting exhibit if the owners can be induced to participate.

So far the city council has failed to take action upon the recommendation of this board to enact a building ordinance, and create a building inspector. This officer will be necessary to enable the board practically to collect statistics of the growth of Omaha as is contemplated.

Through the efforts of Hon. Chas. F. Manderson the city of Omaha will soon be made a port of entry by an act of congress which has already passed the United States senate. This will prove of material advantage, not only to this city but to the whole region west of the Missouri.

The proposed improvement of the Missouri river, if properly continued, together with local expenditures for protecting the river banks, will also greatly benefit this city.

The necessity of a direct line of railroad from Omaha up the Elkhorn valley, with branches into the northern part of the state, is acknowledged on all hands. Such a road controlled by home capital would receive material aid in this city and along the route. It is to be hoped our capitalists will organize and undertake this enterprise in time for beginning active operations in the spring.

With all her trade Omaha can never be a great city without manufacturers. We have already demonstrated our ability to manufacture various articles, as the smelting works (the largest in the world), nail works, white lead works, linseed oil mills, shot tower, lead pipe works, safe, pottery and jewelry manufactories, distilleries, breweries, cigar, mattress and overall manufactories, and a number of other manufacturing enterprises, are all in a prosperous and flourishing condition, and with proper encouragement we can become one of the largest industrial centers of the west.

The beef and pork packing industries, in connection with our stock yards have during the past year assumed increased proportions, and will before many years make this the chief mart of meat and cattle in the west.

Our banks, which are the main artery of traffic, have attracted attention by their large clearings all over the union. They indicate a very healthy state of finances.

The confidence which prevails in all branches of business, and notably in the real estate market, gives assurance that Omaha is on the high road to prosperity, and destined to surpass the predictions of the most sanguine.

In conclusion, I cannot omit my grateful acknowledgment of the efficient assistance rendered by my colleagues in the directory, and for the uniform courtesy always extended to me by the members of the board. Respectfully submitted,

MAX MEYER.

Treasurer J. A. Wakefield was absent, but his annual report was submitted by the president. It showed a balance on hand of $2,889.59, and the whole amount was ordered transferred from the general fund to the real estate fund. The following is the recapitulation of the report:

RECEIPTS.

Real estate fund	$16,025.00
General fund	2,071.65
Total	$18,096.65

EXPENDITURES.

Real estate, lots and building plans	$13,500.00
Salary	600.00
Expense	267.50
Advertising	22.10
Rent	250.00
Grade damages	500.00
Taxes	57.66
Total	$15,207.06
Balance on hand	$ 2,889.59

Col. C. S. Chase, as chairman of the committee to attend the Missouri River Improvement association, made a report detailing the work accomplished at the meeting held at Kansas City, and officially announcing that the next meeting will be held in Omaha in September. Col. Chase was also appointed to represent the board at Washington at the meeting of the Waterways convention, which meets on the 19th of this month.

Mr. Walker, who is endeavoring to form a company to purchase the nail works and begin the manufacture of steel nails, made a statement to the board of what he wished to accomplish and the interest which should be taken to retain the nail works in Omaha. The board, on motion, will meet again next Monday to assist in organizing a new company to operate the nail works. The meeting then adjourned.

THE BALL ROLLS.

The First Steps Taken Toward the Charity Ball.

Quite a number of prominent gentlemen met at the Millard last night, wide awake to the needs of the poor of Omaha and how much they would be helped by the proceeds arising from a charity ball. They first proceeded to organize by making Hon. A. U. Wyman chairman pro tem and Clement Chase secretary pr tem. After brief discussion the following executive committee was selected:

Hon. James E. Boyd, Herman Kountze, Esq., Maj. J. W. Paddock, Frank Murphy, Esq., Gen. John R. Hawkins, U. S. A., Guy C. Barton, Esq., Hon. E. S. Dundy.

The following gentlemen were elected to be the general managers of the ball:

Mr. Frank Colpetzer, Mr. A. H. Bishop, Mr John T. Clarke.

They will organize as a committee and select such aids as they wish to assist them in the preparations for the great event. These assistants are expected to act as chairmen and members of sub-committees. The ladies of Omaha are also to be asked to take a more active part in the organization of the ball than last year, and there is talk of publishing a list of lady patrons.

As to the date of the ball and the place where it will be held, nothing has been determined, but as the opera house cannot be obtained until February 3, and as it would be very crowded anyway, the meeting decided to recommend to the executive committee that the proposition made by the managers of the new exposition building be accepted and that the ball be given there on Washington's birthday, Wednesday the 22d of February. As this will postpone the affair until the income to be derived from it will be of late assistance to the poor for whom intended, it is proposed that the tickets be sold and the subscriptions raised at once, the proceeds turned over to the Ladies' Christian Aid association immediately, and the ball held in February as planned. This admirable suggestion was made by Mr. H. T. Clarke, seconded by Colonel Eddy.

It looks now as if everything would go forward with vim and enthusiasm.

Local Brevities.

The bank clearings yesterday were $448,579.66.

Mr. Hugh McCaffrey is open to congratulations on the arrival of a young daughter at his house. Mother and child doing well.

The "Cafe" Restaurant, 113 S. 16th st. Bushman block, has been purchased by Mrs. M. H. Wrighter, where she will do everything to make it the popular eating place of the city.

The street car drivers on the Eighteenth street line are thankful to Mrs. Miles D. Houck for furnishing them hot coffee on the "cold Friday" of last week.

The finest assortment of single and double cutters to be found anywhere in the city is on exhibition at the Lininger & Metcalf Co. repository, corner of Sixth and Pacific streets.

If you want a good single or double cutter at a moderate price, you had better pay a visit to th Lininger & Metcalf Co. repository, corner of Sixth and Pacific streets. There you will find the largest and best selected assortment of sleighs of all kinds to be seen anywhere in the state.

Marshal Cummings has received a letter from an acquaintance of the suicide, Frank V. Adams, in New York city—probably one of his victims—making inquiry about the policy of $10,000 on Adams' life. The writer claims that Adams promised to make him the beneficiary of this insurance. From all developments so far it would appear that Adams did not have his life insured at all.

Complimentary to Mr. Shelby.

A complimentary banquet will be tendered Mr. P. P. Shelby this evening at the Omaha club by the merchants and jobbers of this city previous to his departure for Salt Lake City to assume the duties of assistant general traffic manager of the Union Pacific. The reception committee are Mayor Boyd, P. C. Himebaugh, Thomas Miller, J. A. Monroe, Ezra Millard, John T. Clarke, C. E. Yost, George Patterson, L. M. Bennett, Louis Bradford and W. L. Parrotte.

Assaulted a Woman.

Jerry Kernan, a well-known tough, was arrested Saturday for brutally assaulting a prostitute named Annie Roth, living on Capitol avenue. In his company at the time were Dick Todd and Larry Casey who were also arrested. Kernan resisted the officer and received a clubbing which caused the od to flow freely from his head.

Upon trial yesterday Kernan was sentenced to twenty days on bread and water in the county jail. Todd and Casey were discharged, as they had nothing to do with the assault.

DIED.

FISHER—Fred Fisher, son of August Fisher aged 9 years and 10 month.

Funeral Wednesday at 2 p. m. from Riewe's undertaking rooms. Friends are invited.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL.

What the Institution Has Accomplished During the Year.

The annual report of the work accomplished by St. Joseph's hospital and those who have aided its efforts has been sumitted by the lady superior, Sister Alphonsa, as follows:

"At the close of the fifth year of St. Joseph's hospital I beg to gratefully thank the patrons of this institution for the means which their liberality has placed in our hands and which has enabled us to achieve the results which are respectfully submitted in the following report:

Cash contributions: J. A. McShane, $105; E. Rosewater, $100; J. A. Creighton, $45; E. W. Nash, $25; Rev. F. Hayes, Kearney, $20; Rev. P. J. Boyle, Fremont, $20; a friend, $20; Mr. Konitze, $10; Fuller & Co., $10; B. B. Wood, $5; Dr. Miller, $5; C. W. Hamilton, $5; Mr. Phelps, $5; Merchants' National bank, $5; Omaha National bank, $5; G. C. Towle, $5; Mr. Sherman, $5; Mrs. Bauman, $5; Fred Gray, $5; Dr. Neville, $5; Dr. Bryant, $5; J. J. Brown, $5; Nebraska National bank, $5; Nebraska Fuel company, $5; Milton Rogers, $5; F. J. Ramge, $4; Frank Murphy, $3; Cleves Bros., $2; a friend, $2; R. H. Burns, $2; Mrs. Wellings, 2; Mrs. J. Ittner, $2; Mrs. Alice McShane, $2; Charles Fleck, $2; Dr. Denise, $2; Mrs. S. Thorne, $2; Mr. Shiverick, $2; E. P. Davis, $2; Mr. Conrad, $2; Sullivan Bros, $2; J. M. Flynn, $2; C. H. Goodrich, $3; Thompson & Little, $2; G. W. Homan, $2; L. O. Jones, $2; Cheny & Olsen, $2; Dr. Hoffman, $2; Mr. Fey, $1.50; Pioneers Hunting club of U. P. Co. employ, $1.50; Joseph Creighton, $1.50; Mr. Boyer, $1; Max Meyer, $1; Mrs. Foley, $1; Miss Arnold, $1; Omaha Carpet Co., $1; Joseph Barber, $1; B. Monroe, $1; H. Hullegan, $1; Mr. Wiemers, $1; A. Friend, $1; Mrs. M. D. Carroll, $1; Mrs. Simpson, $1; Mrs. Brucker, $1; Mrs. I. Smith, $1; J. D. Creighton, $1; Mrs. I. P. Hawkins, $1; Mrs. F. A. McShane, $1; United States National Bank, $1; Bank of Omaha, $1 Mr. Kearney, $1; Mr. McGavock, $1; Mr. Turners, $1; Mrs, Dehmuters, $1; T. A. Dillon, $1; Mrs. S. C. Richards, $1; T. O'Connor, $1; Joseph Haines, $1; Georg. Waddell, $1; Joseph M. Scott, $1; Stuhendorf & Nestor, $1; H. S. Walsh, $1; J. B. Krenzer, $1; H. Tower, $1; Dr. I. E. Summers, $2; J. P. Hawkins, $2; Mr. Gladdish, $1; H. A. Koster, $1; C. D. Dorman, $1; Jas. Walsh, $1; Dr. Jones, $1; William Arnold, $1; Mr. McCord, $1; C. S. Higgins, $1; Robert Taylor, $1; Mr. Nelson, $1; Patrick Ford, $1; Thomas O'Connell, $1; G. W. Duncan, $1; Daniel McCoy, $1; D. Kitchen, $1; M. Strang, $1, W. Wallace, $1; H. Thompson, $1; James Creighton, $1; Mr. Clarke, $1; J. McGivern, $1; H. Kennedy, $1; J. Brennan, $1; J. O'Mara, $1; B. M. Cahy, $1; Mr. McEvoy, $1; Dr. Wilcox, $1; J. W. Spafford, $1; George Bennett, $1; Julius Treitschke, $1; J. Walsh, $1; cash, $15

Other contributions: Mrs. Alice McShane, provisions; Mrs. J. B. Furay, provisions; Mrs. P. H. Carey, groceries; Mrs. P. Garvey, milk; John Toner, one load of hay; Peycke Bros., game; J. A. Creighton, a cow; Mr. Hurley, groceries; Mr. Weimers, poultry; Branch & Co., fruit; August Benzon, coal; Weideman & Co., groceries; Her & Co., two gallons alcohol; J. E. Boyd, meat and milk; Wilson & Larson, groceries; Clarke & Co., tea; Cheney & Co., drugs; Consolidated Tank Co., oil; Mrs. Quinn, clothing; Mr. McHugh, groceries; Owen Slaven, groceries; McShane & Schroder, thirty pounds of butter and one case of eggs; Harris & Fisher, J. J. Skow, Wm. Shultz, J. H. Hubes, H. Coombe, Fred Heckstein, W. Aust, meat every week; August Uhlott's Spirits; Messrs. Krug, Sterz & Her, beer every week; Metz, beer; Pomey & Segelke, mineral water; the daily and weekly papers.

The visiting physicians are Dr. J. Neville, Dr. P. Grossman, Dr. Edmiston, Dr. J. C. Jones, Dr. L. F. McKenna, Dr. Geo. B. Ayres, Dr. Denise, Dr. Galbraith, Dr. O Hoffman, Dr. S. D. Mercer, Dr. Dysart and Dr. Bryant.

THE PATIENTS.

Patients in hospital Jan. 1, 1885, 51.
Patients received during the year, 584.
Total, 635.
Male, 530; female, 105.
Single, 449; married, 186.
Roman Catholic, 276; other denominations, 259; Jewish, 8; no religion, 92.
Occupying rooms, 91; occupying wards, 544.
Patients paying, 398; patients non-paying, 196; patients half paying, 41.
According to nationalities there were Americans, 231; Germans, 126; Irish, 143; Swede, 33; Danish, 31; Bohemian, 12; Canadian, 13; Italian, 10; Russian, 9; Polish, 6; Swiss, 7; Holland, 5; French, 3; Chinese, 1.
Forty-three deaths occurred during the year ending Dec. 31, 1885.

SISTER ALPHONSA, Superioress.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, OMAHA, Jan. 3, 1886.

Army Orders.

A general court-martial has been appointed to meet at Fort Fred. Steele, Wyo., on Thursday, Jan. 14, for the trial of such persons as may be properly brought before it. The detail for the court is as follows: Lieutenant Colonel Chipman, Captains Downey and Weisel, First Lieutenants Rheem and Wittich, Second Lieutenants Hearn, Palmer, and Styer, First Lieutenant Bailey, Twenty-first Infantry, judge advocate.

Private John B. Turney, Seventh Cavalry, who deserted the service of the United States at Fort Meade, Dakota, May 20, 1885, and surrendered himself October 24, 1885; at Fort Robinson, Neb., where he is now confined, has been ordered released from confinement and restored to duty without trial, on condition that he make good the time lost by desertion and that he forfeit all pay and allowances due him up to the date of his surrender.

The commanding officers of the posts at which they are seeving have been ordered to require troops C and I, Ninth Cavalry, to be properly exercised and instructed in position, aiming and pointing drills, and gallery practice. Such exercise and instructions will require at least three days in each week until the commencement of out-door practice on the range. In carrying out this order particular attention will be devoted to the instruction of men of the third class.

Gypsies in Omaha.

There is a band of several hundred gypsies encamped in the southeastern part of the city, on Poppleton avenue near the government corral. They have been here several days, having evidently prepared to stay in Omaha until the present cold snap is over. A citizen living in that locality came down to police headquarters yesterday and complained that these gypsies were in the habit of leaving their horses standing out all night unprotected from the cold. He thought the matter ought to be looked up by the "Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals," if there is a branch of that organization in this city. The police will drop a gentle warning into the ears of the gypsies, about the matter.

Police Court Docket.

Judge Stenberg disposed of the following cases in the police court yesterday morning:

Jerry Kernan, assault and battery, twenty days on bread and water; Dick Todd and Larry Casey, alleged accomplices, released.

E. H. McNeill, drunk and disorderly, $5 and costs.

Pat Kearney and Martin Kelley, drunk and disorderly, discharged.

CIVILIZING THE CHINAMEN.

The W. C. T. U. Chinese Sunday School and its Pupils.

The Majority of Omaha Coolies Devoted to Education—A Visit to the School.

It is safe to say that the majority of the local public are totally unaware of the fact that eighteen of the twenty odd Chinamen in the city are actively interested in their souls' salvation according to christian scriptures. The people who see the Mongolians only at those intervals in which "washee" transactions are made, and in passing on the street, little suspect how the saffron-hued sons of the Orient beguile their leisure time. It is generally supposed that when the Chinaman is not invoking the nightmares of the drugged pipe, he is gambling with his fellow countrymen or engaged in dark devotions to his pagan idols. It is also a matter of extensive supposition that the coolie is a thick-headed, avaricious, non-progressive individual who lives and labors with an eye single to accumulating a few American dollars which will make him a millionaire prince on his return to China. On these points exist great popular errors.

Whoever heard before that there is a Chinese Sunday school in this city? Well, there is and every Sabbath afternoon between three and four o'clock the school holds session. In point of numbers, regularity of attendance, attention to studies and liberality to the "missionary box," the class is the banner bearer of the city.

About three months ago the ladies of the W. C. T. U. determined to organize such a class and straightway matured their plans and began soliciting for scholars. A few were obtained at the start and since that day the number has steadily increased until the membership numbers eighteen, a large majority of all the Chinamen in the city. School is held in the building which, formerly the Bucking varieties, is now the W. C. T. U. hall.

A reporter visited the school Sunday and was struck most forcibly by every detail of the situation. Mrs. A. P. Wood the superintendent, is an active, energetic worker in all Christian enterprises and, from years of experience with Chinese missionary work on the coast, is admirably qualified for this position. The corps of teachers include the following ladies, the large number being necessitated from the fact that the Chinamen require individual supervision in their instructions:—

Mrs. Mary Gratton, Mrs. Olive Leeder, Mrs. Charlion Edholm, Miss Annie Elliott, Mrs. M. A. Elliott, Miss Bessie Rowles, Miss Annie Morrell, Mrs. G. W. Clark.

Shortly before 3 o'clock the scholars began to arrive. Each beamed with smiles, and cordially insisted upon shaking hands with everybody present. Despite the cold day the attendance was nearly complete. Exercises opened with song, the class lending its voice without any hesitancy. One may be forgiven for an undevout smile and the remark that never before was "Come to Jesus" sung in such fashion. The Chinaman's conception of civilized harmonics is something short of accurate, but he is not bashful, and shouts through the words with rising and falling inflections which keep a sort of time to the measure. The roll was called, and here it is for the reader's pronunciation:

San Goon,	Sing Lee,
Yet Sing,	Jo Chee,
Hong Gin,	Ah Sing,
Ben Hong,	Ah Sam,
Tam Lot,	Les Gin,
Leo Que,	Charlie Wong,
Leo Gow,	Sang Fong,
Little Jim,	Tong Yung,
Charlie Hands,	Lam Ling,
Ling Pung	

The lessons then began. The ladies have secured a text book in the rudiments of the English language, which has translative Chinese characters opposite words and letters, and is published by the American Tract society. Its instructions are in a large measure independent of religious topics and is chiefly a practical course in English for Chinese study. The pupils all evidenced the greatest anxiety to get the most out of the hour of school and followed the instructions of their teachers with close attention, making heroic efforts to repeat the exercises given for conversational practice. The teachers are patient and devoted to their labor. Experience of several weeks has accustomed them to their pupils, and even the young lady teachers (pretty, too, they are) conduct their class without constraint.

The school was established in September last at the solicitation of San Goon, the first on the roll, who has quite an English education and has been in California schools. He is an enthusiast in the matter and is a great help to the teachers in the instruction of such of the Chinamen who cannot speak English nor read their own language. One of the first things in a religious way which is sought to impress upon the pupils is the evils of the opium habit and it is perhaps no violation of the last scriptural command that good ladies make the Bible contain a solemn and awful edict against the pipe. However, they find very tractable subjects on this point as those of the Chinamen who do not use the drug regard it with dread and wield all their influence to keep it from their compatriots. The greatest obstacle n the way of christianizing the heathen scholars is to conquer their grounded aith. There is one of them who has cut f his queue and attends pra yermeeting, where he rises among the converts. For his temerity, however, he is regarded with mild suspicion by his fellows, although no decree of ostracism is out against him. The remainder, however, still cling to the native dogmas and believe in the gospels of Confucius. They will not admit it, and when the ladies sall upon them deny that their "josses" on the shelves and walls are idols, stating that they are meaningless images. There is a day coming in the next few weeks when their position in the matter of faith will pass a crucial test. On the 1st of February the Chinese new year begins and the day is celebrated with great pagan solemnity, for between sunrise and nightfall must the fortunes of the year be sealed for good or bad. The gods are usually propitiated with prayer and fasting and bold is the Chinaman who will brave a refusal to solemnize the day with heathen rites

A large sized suspicion must enter the mind of the worldly man who sees the school that there are practical considerations which chiefly prompt the Chinaman to take advantage of its instructions. Affording as it does an opportunity to learn the English tongue, the coolie sees largely in it a chance for profit. However, conversions frequently follow the practical teachings, and in so much is the institution of great benefit, both to the Chinamen and the community of whites among whom they live. The ladies are doing a great work, and should receive the applause and assistance, when they need it, of the people of Omaha. It is also a source of congratulation that the few Chinamen who are harbored here are of a class devoted to progressive ideas rather than prostituted to the terrible vices which find such hideous forms when adopted among their race.

Found in the Snow.

Geo. Soll, a farmer living near Irvington, coming into town yesterday found a man lying in the snow across the railroad track. He stopped his wagon and took the unfortunate aboard, carrying him into town. The poor fellow was found to be badly frozen. He was taken to St. Joseph's hospital. His name is Thomas Rogers, but nothing further is known about him. He would undoubtedly have perished but for Soll's timely discovery.

"THE CANTEEN."

A New Institution at Fort Russell—A Military Crank.

Gen. Howard received yesterday a communication from Col. Mason Fort Russel, concerning the "Canteen," a new lunchroom and reading room which has just been opened at that post for the benefit of the soldiers. This place is to furnish some sort of amusement and diversion, as well as to give the soldiers an opportunity to procure a lunch at the lowest prices. The institution is to be supported by the soldiers themselves, for their own exclusive benefit. It is believed in this way that the soldiers will be kept om many of the temptations which they are liable to encounter in going to town "for fun." The building to be used is the old one occupied by the post trader.

A sorry looking German crank giving the name of Haschu walked into Gen. Howard's office this afternoon and said he had an explanation to make.

"All right," I will listen," replied Gen. Howard. Haschu then went on to tell a story of how he had been twenty-two years in the American army, latterly at different western posts. A few years ago he was stationed at Benicia (Cal.) as watchman at the arsenal, and while he was in that position the powder house was blown up. He was discharged, he said, for criminal carelessness, though he had nothing to do with the accident. Since that time he had been the victim of the taunts of his neighbors and friends who were continually charging him with having blown up the powder house. "I want to make an explanation to you, general, so that you will know I am not guilty," the poor fellow said in broken English. Gen. Howard said that he was perfectly satisfied with the explanation, and told the old fellow he could go. Haschu was not so easily disposed of, however, and refused to leave the room. He was finally led away by Gen. Howard's attendants. Hashu came all the way to Omaha from the far west, to see Gen. Howard, and has been on his journey some six or seven months, stealing or begging his way from station to station. As he left the headquarters building he appeared to be in a very happy and contented frame of mind.

THEY DON'T LIKE OMAHA.

Why this City is So Free from Tramps at Present.

There has not been a winter for many years before when Omaha was as free from tramps and beggars as at present. Scarcely one is to be seen in the city. Last year, for instance, during the extreme cold weather there were from thirty-five to seventy men applying for lodging in the jail every night. Now such a thing is entirely unknown.

It is quite evident that the efforts of the police to rid Omaha of this class of characters have been rewarded with success. For the past two or three months the vagrants and suspicious characters have been run down and carried off to the jail as fast as they put in an appearance. They were sentenced to long bread and water terms in the county jail or ordered to leave the city, and thus their numbers have been kept down to the smallest limit. There is a sort of fraternal feeling existing between the members of the ancient order of tramps, and those who have been driven out of this city have not been slow to communicate the news to their fellow travelers that Omaha is a bad town for vagrants and that the regulation diet here is bread and water. Tramps have actually been arrested here who said that they had learned when as far away as San Francisco or New York, that the Omaha police were relentless in their treatment of vagrants. So that if a tramp is once arrested and punished here he leaves town as soon as possible and warns his brethren on the road to beware of Omaha.

Another scheme of Judge Stenberg has been to send the vagrants brought before him out to work on the B. & M. extensions in the west Some four or five hundred men have been taken out in this way. Some of them, to be sure, refused to work after they arrived at their destination, thus scoring a point on the railroad company which had transported them for nothing. Most of them, however, settled steadily down to work.

Judge Stenberg says that one reason why the tramps are so scarce in this western country is that work is far more plenty than it was last year or for years before. Railroad building is having a boom just at present, and in this line especially employment can be afforded to every man who honestly wants to work for his living.

Changes Among the Fireboys.

Chief Butler and Assistant Chief Galligan, of the fire department made some important "official changes" yesterday among the boys.

Charles Salter, hitherto captain of the Threes, has been appointed assistant chief.

Lon Cassaday has been appointed captain of the Ones, Theodore Grebe of the Twos, William Webb of the Threes, Lou Williams of the Fours, and Geo. A. Coulter of the Fives. John Barnes will step into the position of captain of the hook and ladder corps.

The steamer and hose cart was moved yesterday to the new house of the Fives, on Phil Sheridan street. The new No. 2 house, on Saunders and Cuming streets, is nearly completed and ready for occupancy.

CONFUSION IN CHURCH.

A Small Fire at Kountze's Memorial Causes a Stampede.

About 11:30 o'clock Sunday morning while services were in progress at Kountze's Memorial Lutheran church, Sixteenth and Harney streets, smoke suddenly issued from the floor near the pulpit. Instantly there was a commotion, somebody cried "fire," and the whole congregation, despite the efforts of the pastor to detain them, rushed for the doors. For a minute the wildest confusion prevailed, the fire alarm in No. 3 engine house across the street was sounded, and the firemen rushed to the scene. By this time the church was cleared of its occupants and the congregation waited shiveringly around for the flames to appear. The firemen entered the building but before they reached the basement the fire had been extinguished by a few buckets of water skillfully thrown by the janitor. There had been no flames, in fact, the smoke being caused by smouldering wood which had ighited from the hot-air flue leading from the furnace. The woodwork around the aperture through which the pipe passed was covered with tin, and the destruction of the covering and the removal of the blackened wood was all the damage caused. The services of the morning were not, however, continued, but the church was opened and there was preaching by the pastor, Rev. J. S. Detweiler, in the evening. Fortunately no one was hurt by the stampede, although a number of people "lost their heads" and made lively work in leaving the edifice.

Shannon Letter Bill File, Filing Cabinets and Cases. Schlicht's Standard Indexes. 219 12th street, opposite Neb. Nat'l Bank.

A ROW ON THE FROZEN RIVER.

The Ice Packers' Union Tries to Force a Strike Among the Harvesters.

WHAT THE ICE MEN ARE DOING.

Jack Jacobs, Esq.—Ice Packing in Omaha—The School Funds—Railway Mishaps—A Sunday Fire.

Ice-Men Strike.

Yesterday morning found the river frozen to the depth of eighteen inches or two feet, the ice-men set to work to gather in their annual harvest. Hardly had the work commenced however, before a gang of the Ice Packers' union hove into sight, and precipitated hostilities. Quite a disturbance ensued, to understand which it will be necessary to recount a bit of history.

Some ten days ago, a lot of ice-packers who were dissatisfied with the prospective wages of the ice season, met in a hall on South Thirteenth street and organized an "Ice Packers Union," the object of the organization being to secure high wages for the season of 1886. They have since been holding meetings, preparing to demand satisfactory wages. Yesterday they held a meeting in the Commercial hotel on South Ninth street, at which about 100 men attended. It was decided yesterday the gang should go to the various employers and demand $1.75 a day at least. Accordingly yesterday morning a gang of the union men, numbering about 100, started to the river to enforce their demands. They first went to the spot where the men of George Soutther were engaged in cutting ice, and compelled them to drop their tools and leave work, because they were working for wages lower than the union scale. The gang then swept northward up the river, until they came to Guy & Fitch's, where they went through a similar procedure. They succeeded in inducing the men at work—both ice hands and teamsters—to quit work. The men working for Guy & Fitch were getting $1.40 per day, and struck for $1.75. On Benzon & Bro.'s territory a more lively scene occurred. The men there were getting what appeared to them to be satisfactory wages, and they declined to put down their tools to suit the caprice of the strikers. The mob of union men then rushed upon the men at work upon the ice and proceeded to wrest their tools from them. A hot struggle ensued and the ice swayed and cracked ominously under the weight of the fighting masses of men. Mr. August Benzon, who happened to arrive just at this moment, rushed out and told the men that the ice would soon give away and precipitate them all into the river. This warning was heeded, and hostilities ceased. No body was injured though one or two men were pretty severely battered about the head. Mr. Soutther who had attempted to force the union men, and opposed them in their demands was seized upon by them and would have been soused in the river but for his timely escape. The union men claim that he struck one of their number with a "pike-pole," and they declare that they propose to duck him in the river on the first opportunity that presented itself.

From Benzon's the crowd went up the river where they succeeded in inducing many of the icemen and teamsters to join the strike. No serious disturbances occurred.

While the men were struggling on the ice, some one telephoned to headquarters for police assistance. Three officers were dispatched to the river bottoms, but by the time they arrived at the scene of the disturbance, the trouble was over.

Mr. Benzon, in speaking of the matter to a reporter said that most of his men were getting the price demanded by the union, $1.75 per day. He said that the others were paid less simply because they could not earn that amount.

JACK JACOBS, ESQ.

Omaha Loses Another Valuable Citizen—His Career.

It is the painful duty of the local press, for the second time within a year, to chronicle the performances of a "member of the profession." The present subject differs somewhat in character from his predecessor, yet his career is the same feverish, fantastic nightmare. Joe Hammill and Jack Jacobs have made their records and long will their names and deeds be cherished in local memories.

Jack's gone. Jacobs will no more feast the crowd with his hair-brained antics. J. M. Jacobs has "skipped," which signifies that there are those who regret it He left on the glad New Year, which, perhaps, was brighter for the fact. He promised to return, but yesterday he wrote to the proprietors of the Herald, with whom he was formerly employed, that he had changed his mind, and that his future residence, temporarily, at least, would be in the "Garden City." Jack wrote that letter in the same bland style that marked him when he wanted the loan of a dollar from a friend. There was no equivocation, no apology, but he went straight to the subject in a business-like way. He did not intend to return, and that's all there was of it. How many citizens of Omaha will regret this fact Jack could best tell.

Jack was a queer fellow and his adventures would fill a full grown book. He was born in England about twenty-one years ago. His mother was a Jewess, and his father was connected with the British army in some way. Jack was given good educational opportunities and probably studied so hard that the gold-rimmed spectacles he wore were necessitated. But all this has nothing to do with his being a crank. He was frequently called a dam-phool, but that language is too harsh for print. Jack one time fell head over heels in love with a Ninth street belle and after sending her twelve page letters daily, busted the affair by trying to carve another fellow who went out riding with her. The boys had lots of fun with Jack while he was involved in this amour by sending him from pillar to post with all kinds of Tom Collins slanders until his mind grew weak. For awhile Jack conducted a poker joint at nighs while he solicited ads during the days. This little enterprise of his own swamped him after a while and in his struggle to keep even he negotiated small loans everywhere. Recently, Jack sprung a great sensation in Morrison's gambling place. He had been out collecting and had $17 of the firm's money, when the notion struck him to play the funds against faro. Of course he lost—who ever heard of him winning anything?—and as the last chip was raked away from him, the full enormity of his predicament broke upon his mind. "My God, I'm ruined," he shouted, as he leaped to his feet, "unless somebody here gives me back that $17 I'll shoot myself." The dealer told him to go out and get under the pump and he would think better of it. Jack went out and whether he got under the pump or not, is something unknown.

Lots of other funny things could be told about him, but the funniest facts can be earned of his creditors.

A Small Blaze.

Her's distillery appears to be very unfortunate in the matter of suffering from fire. Yesterday morning, about 3 o'clock, an alarm turned on from box 16, Sixth and Pacific streets, called the fire department to the distillery, to extinguish a small blaze in one of the cattle sheds. The flames were speedily extinguished, the resulting loss being trifling. The fire caught from an old stove in the shanty in which the cattle feeders were accustomed to spend their nights.

THE CRYSTAL HARVEST.

Preparations for Gathering the Ice Crop.

The ice harvest has begun in good earnest. Indications are at present that it will be a short and lively one. But little ice has been harvested as yet, and most of the dealers propose to work night and day to lay in a good supply.

The firms already on hand are Hammond & Co., Guy & Fitch, Benson & Co., George Soutther, Beecher & Co., Kimball & Hungate, Newell & Kennedy, besides several smaller firms. The ice houses are stationed up and down the "Big Muddy" for a distance of several miles, and the scenes on the river are very lively at present.

Hammond & Co. have put up a large house on Cutoff lake, to construct which 1,000,000 feet of lumber was used. It is built four thick and is the largest ice house in Omaha. Messrs. Hammond & Co. expect to stow away about 38,000 tons of ice during the season.

Benson & Bro. have erected four ice houses at the foot of Jones street, and are hauling in the ice-blocks by the pulley system, direct into the storage rooms. They have a capacity now for about 14,000 tons.

Kennedy & Newell, a new firm just started in business, have erected houses in Walnut Hill and near the settling basin of the waterworks, from which they expect to cut their ice. Their capacity is about 10,000 tons.

Kimball & Hungate, the senior member of the firm being the veteran ice dealer, Richard S. Kimball, have put up two new ice houses on the Belt Line railway on Fifteenth street. They will probably store away about 10,000 tons of ice.

Experienced ice men anticipate that about 100,000 tons will be stored away this year, as against 50,000 in 1885. The difference is largely made up by the addition of Hammond's establishment, which, as indicated above, has a capacity of near 40,000 tons.

The unwritten aws among the icemen concerning the harvest are as fixed and unvarying as the laws of the Medes and Persians. It is understood among them that if a man "stakes off a piece of ice on the river he is entitled to that territory and no one must molest him. Just as soon as the ice is found thick enough to bear the weight of a man, the ice packer summons his entire force to the river side, and the work of "staking off" is commenced. The tightest man in the crowd is generally chosen to go out on the ice and fix the stakes. Sometimes the man is provided with a boat so that in case the ice breaks he will not be in danger of drowning.

When the stakes are driven the men can go home and rest until the ice is sufficiently thick to bear up men and teams, for they know their rights are as secure as though they held a patent from the United States, and the amount of ice territory they can thus acquire depends wholly upon their own will and pleasure. Sometimes an enterprising fellow will take up all the good ice and ten times as much as he wants, selling the balance to his less fortunate rivals.

When the work of gathering the crop begins there are still other interesting features, codes of law, etc., to be observed, and when hundreds of men and teams begin marking, sawing, floating the ice in and loading the teams or cars, it is a beautiful sight. There are scores of points, too, to be observed, such as the drift of the current, the best way to cut to insure a second and third crop, etc. The latter come on the space of open