

NEARING THE CAPITAL CITY.

The Chicago & Northwestern Extension Working Rapidly Towards Lincoln.

JUDGE MASON WILL ACCEPT.

Bold Work of Footpads—A Woman Knocked Down With a Heavy Iron—City Items and Many Social Events.

(FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN BUREAU.)

The Chicago & Northwestern road, en route to Lincoln, has reached the country town of Ceresco, just across the Lancaster line in Saunders county. Yesterday the construction men were laying the side tracks at Ceresco, and from that point work will be pushed to Lincoln at the rate of a mile and a half a day. The bridge builders, who have to some extent delayed the laying of iron, are now well ahead of the track layers with their work, and the progress on the last half of the line will be speedy and certain. As to the grading, that already is practically completed, but a little grade work remaining uncompleted at the vicinity of the fair grounds and some surface work along the line for some ten miles out of the city. When Lincoln is reached a new boom will be unfolded to business men here, and if the road could read its title clear to giving wholesalers here a Missouri river rate it would cause an impetus in their business for the start that would be fairly astonishing. The Northwestern road will join with the Missouri Pacific with depot grounds, and when regular passenger trains are put on the new road between the capital city and "the prettiest town in the state" it is given out that it will prove a popular route of travel.

ACCEPTANCE PROBABLE.

It is stated to-day that Judge Mason, who has been tendered the vacant place on the railway commission by Secretary Roggen, will accept the place and proceed at an early day to the discharge of the duties. The opinion sustaining Mr. Roggen in removing George grows in popular favor among Republicans in Lincoln, and it is practically unanimous in sentiment that Mr. Roggen did exactly right and will be endorsed.

SLUGGERS ABROAD.

The second case of highway assault occurred Friday evening on S street between Fort and 14th streets. At that time a German lady was walking along the street when a man struck her on the head with a heavy instrument of some kind, evidently intending to lay her out speechless. But he aimed his blow too low, and the weapon, instead of striking her in the temple, as intended, struck her just below the eye, cutting a gash across her cheek and splitting her ear. Her screams brought people from the street, and before the robber had a chance to rifle her pockets, and he made good his escape. The injured woman was taken to a grocery store near 14th and S streets, where she was called, who dressed her wounds and made her as comfortable as possible. It is his opinion that the instrument used was a rusty piece of iron.

It might not be a place to remark in this connection that highway knock downs are getting altogether too numerous in the city, and if the night police force are growing for work to do they could get at it at least. At that time cut-throats and robbers that infect Lincoln at the present time. This last assault was committed in a thickly settled part of the city and the hour was not quite 9 p. m.

CITY ITEMS.

Dr. Brooks, the great temperance advocate of Missouri, who was in 1884 the nominee for lieutenant governor in that state on the prohibition ticket, has arrived at Lincoln and opened the campaign for the cold waterites in this state. It is understood that Brooks will be secured for a number of lectures, and the prohibitionists are laying the wires for an aggressive campaign.

Under the existing unsettled condition in police affairs pending the investigation, work in police court has practically ceased, and for the next few days no arrest has been made or a trial had in police court. Whether everyone has taken to good behavior, or whether no one will do anything until investigation is completed, will be called in question. The fact that a woman was slugged on the streets, it looks as though inactivity was the trouble.

William Arnold, father of Mrs. J. C. Bonnell, has been brought to Lincoln for burial, having died recently at the home of John Bonnell at Burlington. The remains of the dead will be laid beside his relatives who have gone to work and whose remains rest in the cemetery at this city.

Superintendent George W. Holdredge and C. J. Green, E. & M. attorney from Omaha, were in Lincoln yesterday on business connected with the road. The prospects are that the second judicial district contest for the judgeship with Chapman with fourteen delegates from Cass, Wayne, and Lincoln counties, and with the twenty-three Lancaster men supposed to be for Hayward, will be a pretty contest, although it is thought that Hayward is not in the field and the Lancaster men will be called upon to decide between the other two candidates.

N. K. Griggs, of Beatrice, once upon a time mentioned as a possible congressional candidate, was in Lincoln yesterday.

Two workmen on the three-story brick block that is nearing completion opposite the Windsor hotel, had separate falls yesterday, one of them falling in such a manner as to severely dislocate his wrist and make that useful member crippled permanently.

Judge Parker, in a will case yesterday where the will stated that the administrator was not to be required to give bonds, overruled that part of the instrument and decided that bonds must be given.

SOCIAL NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On Thursday evening Mrs. Pratt, at her residence on H street, entertained a number of friends in a social and musical gathering that was greatly appreciated by all. A fine programme had been arranged for the evening, both vocal and instrumental numbers, and Mrs. Pratt, Mr. Beebe, Mr. J. M. Marquette, Dr. Dabry, and Mr. J. B. Barnaby were among those who were active in the musical renditions of the evening.

Margaret Mather and company were guests at Fank's opera house on Friday evening with one of the largest and most select audiences of the season, who showed their appreciation of that talented lady in an enthusiastic and cordial manner. The early lines in the play rendered almost inaudible by the late arrival of vulgar people, who have not respect enough for actor or audience to avoid annoyance by coming in respectable season. Mrs. Mather's Juliet was greatly appreciated by her Lincoln audience.

Mrs. Jones, wife of the state superintendent who has been passing several weeks in the climate of Colorado, arrived home this week from her summer visit.

SOCIETY'S FEEBLE FOOTBALL.

The Professional Groomsman an Amusing Product of Society.

SOCIAL EVENTS IN OMAHA.

The Hot Wave Induces a Condition of Lethargy—Weddings, Visits and Card Parties—Art Gossip.

The Dummies of Society.

Atlanta Constitution: One of the most amusing products of modern civilization is the professional groomsman. Society requires laqueys, who should act as dummies for the belles of the season until an eligible party makes his appearance, when poor "Augustus" is retired to the anteroom to hold straps and shave. "Augustus" is usually some mild young man with the softened manners of a girl, whose voice is well-modulated, and whose eyes are large and rolling. He finds himself first invited to the "big" houses as a kind of padding, ladies being plentiful and acceptable suitors few. As he is entirely harmless and very convenient, the girls "take on" over him wonderfully, and as a result he imagines that he is "in society." From this beginning he is pushed forward until he becomes one of the figures in the german, and later still develops as the professional groomsman.

To talk with one of these young men at the beginning of a season furnishes food for a year's collection. He has advance information of all the receptions that are to be given, of the prospective marriages, and of all else that is to transpire. In the course of the season he will be the escort of perhaps twenty "belles of the ball." They will all smile on him sweetly, honor him with their small talk, and occasionally grow semi-confidential. "Augustus" should at any time grow amatory he is good naturedly shoved off but permitted to retain a little hope.

"Such young men," said a charming young lady the other day, "are very desirable. They wait upon us with all the devotion of ascended lovers; they are always ready to answer any call made upon them; they hold our shawls and act as a screen to our heads; they will push us out of the room when we are tired, and they are excellent servants in hurrying up slow lovers."

"How is that?" she was asked. "Well, when the young man hesitates about coming to the point, we can grow sweet on the dummies. The acceptance of an invitation or two from them will inspire a timid lover with a determination to be on the scene. He will grow jealous, and within a week he will either propose or take himself out of the way. Of course we would not be so heartless as to deprive the dummy of his reward, and we would like to him in the shape of a request to be one of the groomsmen."

And thus it goes. The poor dummy, up to his ears in debt, harassed from day to day by the presentation of past-due bills, dreads to see the young lady who is listening to ravishing music in some house of high degree, where he is filling his professional role. He does not think of the future, for that will reveal to him the time when fresh roses will push him out. He dreads not aspire to the hand of one of the fair ladies upon whom he waits, for that will, in time, be claimed by some schoolman who worked hard for money while "Augustus" was idling away his time for a mention in the society column. He has no sympathy at home, for his mother and sisters are never weary of reminding him of the fact that he is a completely isolated man as it is he sat upon the north pole itself.

The writer once followed the announcement of a winter's fashionable marriages in Nashville. In eighteen marriages five names appeared continuously as groomsman. These five men were known to have no money, and their "spike tail coat" business, were nothing more or less than dummies, who had been of service to the brides, and who were being thus repaid for the tender attentions of half a dozen seasons. They were the stock in trade of a certain coterie, and had been privileged with seats at the kitchen conferences, where the details of the bridal trousseaux were fully discussed.

There is still another service which the dummies perform. In the rivalry of society weddings there is a great effort to excel in the display of wealth. Of course, there are always the gifts which are sure to come from dear relatives and friends, then from parties who feel themselves to be under business obligations to the family, and lastly, from well-to-do people who have been invited, and who know that a \$10 present, at least, is expected. But the presents thus secured fall short of the necessary display.

It is then that the professional groomsman understands a hint. The five gentlemen, whose kids and spiketails have done service twenty times, go to a well-known jeweler, who ordinarily would not attend to them, and they are supplied with "seen," however, and meets the professional with a bland smile. They make their selections, and leave their cards. The presents are not intrusted to them, but are sent direct to the mansion, where they are properly displayed. In the society column of the local paper next morning, among other presents, are the following:

Beautiful silver service—"Augustus" Swinburn.
Gold card receiver—Alfonso Softshell.
Silver table service—Harry Lovemore.
Gold-mounted opera glasses—Eugene Dryso.
Toilet set, solid silver—Frank Always.

It is needless to state that the bills for the presents are never paid, and the supposed donors, the "old man" goes around next day and arranges for their return on the payment of a slight rental. To a newspaper man, who knows the office of the dummy, the "old man" and the small pay in the way of social wares which they receive the matter looks like a roaring comedy. The same labor given to a reputable business would bring great competence, when the social dummy awakes to the fact that he has nothing but ashes on his lips.

Social Events in Omaha.
The hot wave has dispelled the temporary animation of last week and society is again collapsed into its accustomed condition of lethargy. Instead of entertaining, people have prepared to enjoy themselves in a tranquil manner on their piazzas, and drink in the loveliness of such perfect nights as are only vouchsafed to the Nebraska in the autumn season. Moonlight drives have constituted the evening recreation of everyone who could obtain a conveyance, and Sixteenth street has been crowded every night till the evening was far advanced with those who were making the most of the last days of summer with a lingering enjoyment.

The dramatic season thus far has been strikingly uneventful, but next week the great society favorites, Mr. and Mrs. Florence, will be welcomed as an oasis in the desert of theatrical tedium. Miss Florence's elegant dress and superb form may suggest a question to those whose minds are weighing the question of the coming season's scenery.

An interesting event was the wedding that occurred Thursday at the residence of E. L. Stone on Chicago street. The principals were Mr. Stone's sister, Miss Hattie Stone, a bright and charming lady of Sioux City and J. M. B. Floyd, a prominent resident of the same town. The affair was a private one, and the relatives being present, but numerous costly presents were sent in. The marriage was solemnized at 12:30 p. m., with the beautiful service of the Episcopal church, the Rev. A. S. Detweiler, of the Congregational church, officiating. The parlors were decorated with a profusion of hot house flowers and the bride was adorned with quiet elegance in a gown of rich lace, brown satin, lined with gold and passanterie. After the wedding dinner the couple departed for an extensive tour of the east, taking in the Knights Templar convalesce on the way. They will be at home in Sioux City after November 1.

Mrs. J. H. McConnell made a great many young people happy last week by entertaining about fifty children from the M. E. church at her new residence on Cass street. After an afternoon of general frolic, the young folks were given souvenirs at parting of dainty little Japanese baskets filled with bon-bons.

Mrs. Coultant inaugurated the card season by giving a whist party Friday evening in honor of Mrs. Odell. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. Sargent, Mr. and Mrs. Yost, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. C. Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Wakeley, Mr. and Mrs. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Garrabrant and Mrs. Bigelow, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Straus, of San Francisco, Mr. Wessels, Dr. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Connell, Mr. and Mrs. Tower, Dr. and Mrs. Jones.

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Musical happenings are beginning to shape themselves into something definite. An event of importance has just been decided on by the exposition managers, who will have Madame Rive-King hold in a grand concert December 12.

The opening ball of the Metropolitan club will occur October 13 and the affair will be especially dressy, a great many elaborate dresses being now in preparation for it. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: S. Oberfelder, president; J. H. G. Eichelmann, secretary; D. Kaufman, treasurer; J. Oberfelder, executive committee; M. Goldsmith, G. Lewis and A. Gladstone, trustees.

Personal.
John Patrick has left for Yale.
Miss Odell is in Chicago.
Miss Ida Gibson has gone east on a visit.
Mrs. Colonel Eddy is in Grand Island.
Phil Warraek, of the Union Pacific, is in New York.
Mrs. Dr. Parsell is home from a visit to relatives in Iowa.
Mrs. Oberfelder and Will Poppleton leave today for Harvard.

Church Notices.
Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church, corner of Nineteenth and Cass streets. Divine service and preaching by the pastor, Rev. A. E. Fogelstrom, at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 3:30 p. m. Tuesday evening, prayer meeting, and Thursday evening, preaching of the gospel to the heathenians are invited to attend all the meetings.
Seward street Methodist church, on Twenty-second and Seward streets. Preaching by the pastor, Rev. Chas. W. Savidge, at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Seats free and all will be welcome. Sabbath school at 3:30 p. m.

German Lutheran church, 1005 South Twentieth street. Service every Sunday 10 a. m. Sunday school at 2 p. m. E. J. Frese, pastor.
United Presbyterian church, 612 North Eighteenth street. Rev. Edwin B. Graham, pastor. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sabbath school at 12:30 p. m. and 7:30 p. m. Subject of sermon to-day, "Every Man for Himself."

First Baptist church. Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Rev. J. W. Harris, pastor, will preach his farewell sermon on the morning of Sunday, September 27, at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. The U. P. church will preach in the evening.
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St. Philip's chapel. Evensong at 4 p. m. Sunday school at 3 p. m. John Williams, pastor.
St. Andrew's Brotherhood. The bishop will admit to formal membership to-morrow evening, in the cathedral, the members of the branches of this brotherhood recently organized in Trinity and St. Barnabas.

St. Mary's Avenue Congregational church, St. Mary's avenue and Twenty-Sixth street. Rev. Willard Scott, pastor. Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at noon. The pastor will preach both morning and evening. Morning topic: "Opportunity." All are welcome.

First German Free Evangelical. Service to-day at No. 4 engine house, corner Eleventh and Douglas streets, at 10:30 a. m. Preaching by Rev. F. H. W. Bruecher, pastor. Sabbath school at 9 a. m. Friends and children are cordially invited and welcome.

Kountze Memorial, English Lutheran, corner of Sixteenth and Harvey streets. Rev. J. S. Detweiler, pastor. Church services and preaching by the pastor at 10:30 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. Sunday school at 11:45 a. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday at 8:00 p. m. In theological classes meet at 3:00 p. m. Saturday and 7:00 p. m. Monday.

W. C. T. U. Buckingham, Twelfth and Dodge streets. Gospel services to-night at 7:30 conducted by Mr. A. S. Churchill. Prayer meeting Tuesday evening at 7:30. Last night the evening service was held at 8:00 p. m. led by Mrs. M. E. Thurston. Band of Hope at 4 p. m. The Reform club holds its business session at 1:00 p. m. Thursday. On Saturday evening at 7:30 the public entertainment conducted by the Reform club will be held. All, especially young men without a church home, are invited.

Trinity Cathedral, corner Eighteenth and Capitol. September 25. Holy communion 8:00. Morning services 11:00. Evening service 8:00. Service of Admission to the S. Andrew Brotherhood and sermon by the Bishop of Nebraska at the evening service. Strangers welcome to all services. Last night was the evening service. E. T. Hamel, acting rector.

Rev. Mr. Harsha's theme to-morrow evening will be "Cut Short in Righteousness."
Rev. T. B. Hilton will preach in the Tent, street M. E. church, Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

STANTON PLACE. 9 Lots \$600 to \$1,000. ONE-FOURTH CASH. Fronting on Leavenworth and Thirty-Ninth, Near the Belt Line. BUSINESS LOTS AT \$600 TO \$700. RESIDENCE LOTS, \$1,000. See These Lots at Once. J. B. EVANS & CO.

BUY A LOT IN STANTON PLACE. STANTON PLACE, CHEAP BUSINESS LOTS. STANTON PLACE ON LEAVENWORTH STREET. J. B. EVANS & CO. Business Lots in Stanton Place, \$600; only 1-4 cash. Stanton Place. J. B. Evans & Co.

palette, and brushes are laid aside for less alluring weather, with a few exceptions. Mrs. Minzberg has had many sketches of picturesque Michigan scenery, done in her vacation, also a single screen of eberberry blossoms, the background and blossoms being in harmonious tones. A very original device was that of a milkmaid's stool is one made to order with carved legs, the top, instead of being covered with the usual plush, is appropriately decorated with a cow's head almost as large as life and quite as natural. A tiny pail is tied underneath among bows of bright colored ribbons.

Among a large display of china were noticed a dozen oyster bowls, no two alike. An odd one was painted with a basket design in brown; another had a background in blue with delicate pink blossoms. The same artist is at work on a large number of blue satin for the "Royal Workers," a benevolent society under Miss Alice Rogers. The lettering is being done in shades of old red and gold with a star.

Mrs. Grant is doing a beautiful plaque of porcelain. The design is a spray of flowers and a device which in the distance is a marine scene done in the most shadowy tones. Miss May Her's sketches show undoubted talent and indicate that the pupil has not wrestled in vain with the dry techniques.

Miss Emma Balbach is decorating crescent-shaped bone dishes with rich deep coloring.

CHURCH NOTICES.

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St. Mary's Avenue Congregational church, St. Mary's avenue and Twenty-Sixth street. Rev. Willard Scott, pastor. Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at noon. The pastor will preach both morning and evening. Morning topic: "Opportunity." All are welcome.

First German Free Evangelical. Service to-day at No. 4 engine house, corner Eleventh and Douglas streets, at 10:30 a. m. Preaching by Rev. F. H. W. Bruecher, pastor. Sabbath school at 9 a. m. Friends and children are cordially invited and welcome.

Kountze Memorial, English Lutheran, corner of Sixteenth and Harvey streets. Rev. J. S. Detweiler, pastor. Church services and preaching by the pastor at 10:30 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. Sunday school at 11:45 a. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday at 8:00 p. m. In theological classes meet at 3:00 p. m. Saturday and 7:00 p. m. Monday.

W. C. T. U. Buckingham, Twelfth and Dodge streets. Gospel services to-night at 7:30 conducted by Mr. A. S. Churchill. Prayer meeting Tuesday evening at 7:30. Last night the evening service was held at 8:00 p. m. led by Mrs. M. E. Thurston. Band of Hope at 4 p. m. The Reform club holds its business session at 1:00 p. m. Thursday. On Saturday evening at 7:30 the public entertainment conducted by the Reform club will be held. All, especially young men without a church home, are invited.

Trinity Cathedral, corner Eighteenth and Capitol. September 25. Holy communion 8:00. Morning services 11:00. Evening service 8:00. Service of Admission to the S. Andrew Brotherhood and sermon by the Bishop of Nebraska at the evening service. Strangers welcome to all services. Last night was the evening service. E. T. Hamel, acting rector.

Rev. Mr. Harsha's theme to-morrow evening will be "Cut Short in Righteousness."
Rev. T. B. Hilton will preach in the Tent, street M. E. church, Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

PLUGGING AS A PROFESSION.

A Questionable Method That Has Grown Into General Use.

PLUGGERS AND THEIR PLANS.

Assisting the Gambler—The Expressman's Pluggers—Helping a Sale Along—Pluggers for Respectable Callings.

[Written for the Omaha Sunday Bee.] The average citizen is an imitator and has his desires, or at least his actions, for the most part fashioned by leaders. He boards at the hotel which is in popular favor, wears clothes made by the tailor with a reputation, regulates his politics by prospective majorities, patronizes the most fashionable bar, and, sheep-like, follows the crowd in all his ways.

THE PLUGGER'S FIELD.

This peculiar trait of character, this desire to do as others do, furnishes an addition to the list of professional men—the pluggers—whose services have become an important factor in most of the business transactions of the day. The name has long been in disrepute as being applied only to a class of hangers-on in gambling houses, but the purpose for which they are used in these establishments is also the secret of success in business of a more legitimate character. The pluggers' field of labor has been enlarged and the operator brought a little nearer to the circle of workers whose calling is respected.

THE GAMBLER'S PLUGGER.

The pluggers is of low and rather questionable origin. He began life by a quarrelsome partnership with the dealer in the business of robbing the unwary. "Gimme a quarter to get my dinner," I heard one of them ask his boss, the faro dealer, in a gambling den the other day. "Give me a quarter," yelled the dealer in tones of absolute disgust. "There are a thousand suckers on the street anxious to lose their quarters. Get out and hustle and earn your dinner once." He was talking to a pluggers' word of the game and obeyed his instructions and a few minutes later saw him in a crowd of a dozen "suckers" telling how he had gone against the bank with a capital of a dollar and had come out winner of a goodly sum. Then he proposed to go back and seek a continuance of his good luck. An hour later I saw him in the gambling den again, a stack of whiffs and reds in front of him playing a game that promised to break the bank. Several of the friends he made on the street were around him, one of them now and then making small bets on his own account. There is an untold fascination in the game and in a very short time the faro bank was doing a land office business, all of the suckers sitting