# MAYNE BROTHERS,
# REAL ESTATE DEALERS,
## 1519 FARNAM STREET,

Lot on Saunders street, near Cuming, house 7 rooms, barn, $6,500.
House 6 rooms, on Leavenworth street, $3,800.
Lots in Bartlett's addition, 1 block from street car line, $1,850 each.
Lots in Bedford Place, near new foundry, $650 each.
Acre lots in Belvedere, $350 to $500 each.
Lots in Boggs & Hill's addition, $1,250 each.
House and lot in Horbach's 1st addition on 18th street, $3 600.
House and lot, S. 17th street, $3,200.
House 4 rooms, lot 99x154, on 20th street, $3,000. Sold on very easy terms.
House 4 rooms, 66-foot lot, one block from Leavenworth on Grove street, $3,000. Easy terms.
Lots on Irwin street, in Redick's Grove, $1,800 each.
Lots in Kilby Place, $650 to $850.
House 9 rooms, barn, 3 cisterns, water works, 2 lots, on 20th street, near St. Mary's avenue, $12,000.
Two lots on Leavenworth, $500 each.
Lots in Lincoln Place, $500 each.
Three lots in Lowe's addition, $1000 each.
Two lots in Marion Place, $250 each.
One and one-half lot on Farnam, near 27th avenue, house 9 rooms, hot and cold water, $9,000.
Lots in McCormick's 2nd, $650 each.
Lots in Mount Pleasant, $200 each.
House 4 rooms, Nelson's addition, $3,000.
House 7 rooms, Nelson's addition, $2,500.
Acres in Newport, $300 to $350 each.
Five lots on Saunders, $1,000 each.
House and one-half lot on Howard street, near 20th street, $3,500.
House with 4 rooms, lot 65x300, facing on California and Cass streets, $2,550.
Lots in Dwight & Lyman's, just south of Hanscom Park, $700 each.
Some nice lots in Hanscom Place, $1,500 to $2,000 each.
Fine lot in Hart's sub to Hart Place, $1,250.
Lot in Hawthorne, $1,200.
Lot facing on 16th and 17th, in Horbach's 1st, $6,000.
Lots in Housel & Stebbins' addition, 3 blocks from street car, $1,500 to $1,600 each.
Lots in Plainview, $650 to $900 each.
House 10 rooms on Park avenue, $5,700.
House 6 rooms, on Colfax street, $3,600.
Lots on Georgia avenue, $2,000 each.
House 7 rooms, barn on 26th street, $2,200.
House 22x30, 4 rooms, E. V. Smith's addition, $3,650.
Lots in Thornburg Place, $550 to $700 each.
Five acres in Tuttle's sub, $3,100.
House 5 rooms, nice lot, Walnut Hill, $1,650.
House 5 rooms, good lot, Orchard Hill, $1,800. Easy terms.
House 5 rooms, 2 lots, Walnut Hill, $2,250.
One of the finest acres in West Omaha, $6,000.
Lots in Orchard Hill, $550 to $750.
Two store rooms, cottage, lot and one-one-half, on Douglas street, $16,000.
Ten acres in Brighton, house and barn, $3,500.
Two acres in Brookline, $1,500.
Four lots in Barr Oak, just east of Hanscom Park, on Virginia avenue, $900 each.
One of the finest residences in the city, $35,000.
Lot in Carthage, $550.
Lots in Clark Place, $725 to $1,200.
Nice lot in Clarendon, on street car line, $1,350.
Lots in Clifton Place, three blocks from street car line, $1,600 to $1,800.
Lot on Howard street, $4,500.
Three lots in Davenport sub., 1 block from Saunders street, $750 each. Easy terms.
Lot in Donecken's addition, $650 to $750.
In Meyer, Richards & Tilden's addition, just opposite the new foundry, $400 to $450 each. Easy terms.
Lots in Mayne's addition, only 2 miles southeast of P. O., $350.
Lots in Mayne Place, 4 blocks from street car, $1,200 to $1,800.
We are offering lots in Kilby's addition to Washington Hill, $150 to $250.

**Don't fail to see us before buying. If you have property to sell, for quick sale, list with us. Special attention given to collecting rents.**

## MAYNE BROTHERS, 1519 Farnam Street.


## A NEW PARTY CHRISTENING.

Anti-Monopolists Meet and Change Their Name to the National Union.

### A STATE TICKET NOMINATED.

**Meeting of the Republican Committee—The New Omaha-Lincoln Train to Start To-day—Lincoln Social News.**

[FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN BUREAU.]

The fourth and last state ticket is now in the field, the ticket being the result of a convention held in Lincoln Friday night by the anti-monopolists of the state, who believe in maintaining a strict and separate party of their own. Owing to the fact that the convention was miserably advertised, hardly advertised at all in fact, and further, that it had suffered two or three postponements, the attendance was meagre, although those present did not lack in energy and enthusiasm in the work before them. It was nearly midnight when the following ticket was agreed upon by those present: For governor, J. Burrows, of Gage; for lieutenant governor, M. K. Lewis, of Adams; for secretary of state, E. J. O'Neill, of Pawnee (prohibition nominee); for treasurer, W. H. Deck, of Saunders; for auditor, A. Steadwell, of Buffalo; for commissioner, L. B. Palmer, of Adams: for superintendent, J. D. Chamberlain, of Butler. A state central committee of three from each congressional district was appointed, with W. C. Holden chairman and J. D. Chamberlain secretary. The committee consists of O. Hull, Greenwood; J. Burrows, Filley; W. H. Dech, Wahoo; J. W. Edgerton, Stromsburg; O. Sutton, Minden; H. G. Armitage, Kenesaw; James Jenkins, Kearney; A. Steadwell, Prairie Centre; W. L. Willard, Plum Creek. The party as organized was christened the

NATIONAL UNION,

and a long series of resolutions were adopted. The resolution on railways, on the railway commission and the one endorsing Senator VanWyck are herewith appended:

Resolved, That the railroad corporations having become a source of oppression to the people and an agency for the destruction of their political liberties, we demand that all railroads should be operated and controlled by the government, and that all telegraphs should be connected with the postoffice under sole control of the government; that the labor trouble would have no existence to-day except for vicious and unjust legislation upon the above subjects; that if the special privileges which have been granted to certain classes are withdrawn, and the land of the nation made as it should be the common inheritance of all, thus giving all citizens an equal opportunity at the natural advantages of the country, labor would be free and independent; that we are in favor of such legislation as will relieve labor from the disabilities imposed upon it by the unjust combination of capital; that pauper and contract emigration should be at once prohibited; that convict labor as farmed out in competition with the honest mechanic and day laborer is pernicious and should be abolished.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the absolute prohibition of the sale or manufacture as a beverage within this state of all spirituous or intoxicating liquors.

Resolved, That we believe the elective franchise should no longer be held from women on account of sex.

Resolved, That, pending the assumption of government control of all railroads, that we demand the enactment of laws in this state reducing freights and fares to an equality with those charged by any road east of the Missouri river, and we further demand the immediate repeal of that fraudulent act known as the railroad commission bill.

Resolved, That we heartly endorse the public record of Senator Van Wyck, and earnestly appeal to our legislature to re-elect him to the United States senate.

THE REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE

adjourned at noon yesterday after an almost continuous session since the day before. It is brobable that this is the only general meeting of the committee that will be held before the election, the remaining work to be left in the hands of the executive committee. The session throughout was an open one, and the questions were discussed in every phase tending to a vigorous campaign. The congressional committees were left largely to conduct the congressional campaign, and, in fact, the absence of Laird from the meeting was an evidence that he desired to be left to himself, although the gentlemen on the committee were solicitous for a good deal of campaign work in that district, and seemed to recognize the fact that the fight would be no walkaway. As a result of the committee meeting, a vigorous three-weeks' campaign has been inaugurated that will keep many of the candidates in the field constantly until election time.

THE NEW TRAIN.

Commencing with to-day the long prophesied Missouri Pacific Lincoln-Omaha train will be started over the road between the two cities in charge of Conductor Nicklewait, who brought up a string of handsome coaches from Atchison yesterday for the make up of the train. The time card for the run is not yet out, but the new train will leave Lincoln at 7:30 a. m., reaching Omaha at 11:15; returning, leaving Omaha at 6:30 p. m., and reaching Lincoln at 10 p. m.

CAPITAL CITY NOTES.

Governor Thayer, who attended the state committee meeting, started homeward yesterday, stopping last night at Sutton, where the campaign was formally opened for that section. The general commences Tuesday in the third district under the state appointment.

County Treasurer Campbell, of Cass, was at the state house yesterday on a business visit to the state treasurer, and a number of other county treasurers were interviewing Mr. Willard on matters for their counties.

A young man who boards in the north part of the city had a lively skirmish with a couple of footpads Friday evening, who were evidently bent on robbery. After the first exchange of blows he followed the maxim of fighting and running away, to be in fighting trim for the future.

Marshal Beach, who has been at St. Louis the past week, and Deputy Sheriff Beach, who accompanied him, are at home again and ready for duty.

A gentleman from Saline county says that notwithstanding the State Journal and the governor lending their support to the democratic ticket in Saline, that the entire republican ticket will be elected.

The Hall and Lansing block, one of the fine new structures of this year's growth in Lincoln, is completed nearly enough so that tenants can take possession in a few days.

Chairman Billingsly is arranging for a vigorous campaign on the part of the republicans in the county, and several meetings have already been arranged for—one at Bennett last night, and the next following at Emerald, Tuesday evening.

Dr. A. S. V. Mansfelde, of Ashland, was among the parties transacting business in Lincoln yesterday.

Captain Winterstein, deputy secretary of state, is home from a visit at his home in Fillmore county.

SOCIETY EVENTS.

On Friday evening of this week will occur the second meeting of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific circle at the rooms of Superintendent Jones at the state house. The largely increased membership, as evinced at the opening meeting, gives promise that the Lincoln Chautauquas will have for the winter meetings a very large roll of members to respond to the call. The programme for the second meeting, the one the coming Friday evening, is as follows:

Opening exercises.
Miscellaneous business.
"Fifty questions on the walks and talks in the geological field," Mrs. Culvert.
"Bulgaria and its late prince," Mr. Stevens.
"Critic's report" on last meeting.
Intermission with applications for membership.
"Studies on miscellaneous topics," Mrs. Welsh.
"Business education of women," Mrs. Anderson.
"Possession of one talent," Mrs. Marley.
Query box, Mr. Atkin.
Roll call with the names of distinguished geologists.

The La Veta club will give its inaugural party on Friday evening, the 15th, at Masonic Temple hall, 8:30 to 12:30 p. m. Thayer's Northwestern orchestra will furnish the music for the occasion, which promises to be a delightful one in every respect. Kirby Hammond is president of the club, C. F. Wilson, secretary, and the reception committee for the inaugural are R. O'Neill, W. J. Atken, Louis Stows, Frank Wheeler, C. E. Waite, C. C. Carrothers, while the floor will be in charge of the president of the club, Dr. W. J. P. Lawton and Fred C. Sholes.

Mrs. Major Bohannon was the victim of a generous surprise party that called upon her Thursday evening and added her in commemorating her birthday. The merry band of surprisers numbered some fifty and music, dancing and general sociability, to which should be added elegant refreshments, caused the evening to pass too quickly away. Mrs. Bohannon was the recipient of a large number of handsome and costly presents given by her friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Bullock, at their home, 1512 R street, entertained the St. Paul's M. E. church choir on Wednesday evening, the occasion being both a musical and social one that was in every way enjoyable. These church choir sociables seem to be growing in popular favor.

On the coming Wednesday evening the first monthly reception will be held by the Lincoln Y. M. C. A. at their rooms on Tenth street. A musical and literary entertainment will be given and refreshments will also be served.

Mrs. D. G. King is visiting in Kansas.

Miss Kate Louis is visiting at Madison, Wis.

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Foster are among the list of exposition visitors at St. Louis.

Mrs. Beck and Mrs. S. P. Platt were Thursday passengers for Chicago and the east.

Joseph O'Pelt and wife, the well known host and hostess of the O'Pelt hotel, are enjoying a visit at St. Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. V. Hall were visiting friends and relatives in Nebraska City the past week.

Mrs. D. Phillips visited the past week at Fairmont with friends in that place.

Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Brock were also among the number of Lincoln visitors at the St. Louis fair the past week.

Major and Mrs. D. H. Wheeler of Omaha have been in Lincoln the past ten days called by the illness of Frank L. Wheeler their son, and a university student.

Mrs. and Mrs. H. P. Vail who have been enjoying an extended visit at eastern points are at home in Lincoln again.

Mrs. L. Donaldson, who has been visiting at Evansville, Ind., returned home to Lincoln, Tuesday.

Mrs. Belle Bigelow has been at Fairfield the past week, attending the convention of the Christian church at that place.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Leavitt, Mrs. Sarah Campbell and Mrs. J. P. Hebbard, were in Des Moines the past week attending the mission convention.

Mrs. Mandeville and Miss Shaffenburg, two Denver ladies, were visiting in Lincoln the past week.

Miss Retta McClintock, of Omaha, was visiting in the capital city a number of days the past week.

Mrs. H. B. Ware has gone to Villisca, Ia., for a week's visit with old friends at her former home in that place.

Fred Harrison, one of the popular young men of Lincoln, will shortly remove to Broken Bow to enter business in that place.

Major Franklin and Mrs. Franklin are home from Kentucky, where Mrs. Franklin visited for several weeks.

Mrs. A. Paint, of Hastings, who has been visiting with Mrs. E. T. Roberts, returned home Friday last.

Mrs. R. P. R. Miller has gone to Burlington, Ia., for a visit with friends in that city.

Attorney Lansing has gone not only to St. Louis and the exposition, but for a visit in Indiana with old acquaintances, as well.

Mrs. J. K. Webster is enjoying a visit from her mother, Mrs. Dallard, of Washington, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Burnham were St. Louis visitors at the fair and exposition, Mr. Burnham meeting his wife in that city on her way homeward from a visit in Kentucky.

Mrs. R. P. Beecher is in Florida, where she will pass the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hoffman were in Chicago the past week.

Major. C. W. Pierce, of Waverly, has gone to Galesburg for a visit, combining business and pleasure.

Miss Clara Walsh is in Omaha, the guest of friends in that city.

Miss Effie Reems, the talented Chicago young lady who opens a parlor school in this city, commencing with the present week, has arrived from Chicago ready for the commencement of work.

Miss Minnie Hauk and company of musical artists gave a delightful entertainment at the Funke opera house last evening to one of the largest audiences of the season. The engagement was greatly appreciated by Lincoln people.

**"Get There, Eli."**

Johannes Factotum, in St. Louis Globe-Democrat: An Illinois paper which has been discussing the origin of late of this now somewhat proverbial saying, prints an additional version of its birth in a late issue, in the shape of the following unique correspondence from one of its Kansas readers:

"Stranger, I jest want to change an idea in your head about the origin of the sayin', Git there, Eli, (borderin on a piece in your paper). The real truth is this. I'm an old trainer from Southern Kansas. So long about '76 I took my bay mare Eli to the state fair to Lawrence. Durin' the homestretch of the first race the boys heard me urgin' the old mare to the home stake, usin' the words, 'Git thar, Eli.' Wall, I went back to my ranch after the close of the fair, and didn't show up till next year at Topeka. Meanwhile everybody had been hollerin' 'Git thar, Eli,' unbeknown to me. Wall, I drove on the track with a gelden about nine year old, but she could git thar, all the same. Of course they all hollered, 'Git thar, Eli.' I didn't say nothin', but when I came under the wire I hollered out, 'Git thar, Jasper Eli,' dead. This was in 1877, and since then it has been the sayin'. Thanks."

The Kansas correspondent of the paper in question may be a myth, and possibly flesh and blood. Be that as it may, the saying, "Get there, Eli," undoubtedly originated in 1875, on the Buffalo, N. Y., trotting course, under the following circumstances: One of the animals entered in the 2:35 class was the mare Croxie, owned in Illinois by R. J. Edwards. She was Kentucky born and bred, and was driven by a darkey named Eli, who came with her from the Blue Grass state. The mare sold low in the pool, but on the outside there was considerable quiet betting on her by Edwards and his backers. The Illinois man had speeded the mare several times on private tracks and knew very well that her performance that day would be apt to astonish the Buffalo natives. The mare had covered her mile in 2:20 with Eli behind the dash, and he had arranged to give the colored man the word, should he desire to have "Croxie" make the record. The drivers had received their instructions at the judges' stand, and were about to wheel for the start when the shout, "Get there, Eli," from the stentorian lungs of Edwards was heard above the cheers of the admirers of the favorites in the race. Eli got there, as the result showed, the gallant little mare making the mile and a record in 2:19¼. She was sold in less than an hour after the race to a New York man for $9,000, and was withdrawn from the track and added to a stud of fancy stock on the new owner's farm. "Get there, Eli," was repeated at Buffalo by the sporting fraternity, and became a common phrase, all over the country, in a few months.

**A Divorced Couple Re-Married.**

Philadelphia Times: Fourteen years ago the marriage bells rang in a Boston church for handsome John Winter and pretty Alice Lee, and a handsomer couple, so comment said, never vowed to be faithful to each other.

Four years later, after two years of never-ending dissension and strife, they separated by mutual consent, and, according to agreement, the wife sued for divorce on the ground of desertion, and in due time received the court's decree. In that they were not at all unlike the countless couples whose follies made life a misery to themselves, while swelling the fortunes of divorce lawyers and witnesses.

But mark the sequel. Less than a year ago they met each other again, after both had had time to discover their folly, and when each began to realize that the other was not at all to blame. The was nothing apparently emotional in their meeting, which closed but to be followed by another and still another. Before the ex-husband knew what he was about he was dead in love, so the chroniclers say, with the woman from whom he had so gladly separated nine years before, and what was equally strange the woman was quite as much in love with him. They met again, talked it over, and one day a minister was called in to annul the decree of divorce.

A little daughter, born shortly after the separation, was among the few witnesses who saw the quiet ceremony and among the very few people who lived to witness the marriage of their parents at any time or place.

## OMAHA PUBLIC SHOOOLS.

The Fourth Annual Report of Superintendent James.

### INTERESTING INFORMATION.

**Condition and Progress of the Schools—The High School—Manual Training—Other Matters.**

To the board of education—Gentlemen: I have the honor herewith to submit my fourth annual report on the condition and progress of the public schools of this city, which is for the year ending with June, 1886.

From the statistical tables the following facts may be observed:

1. Enumeration. The census of last April gave a school population of 11,831, an increase over that of the previous year of 639. The increase in 1885 was 835, and in 1884, 1,446. It thus appears that the school population is not increasing as rapidly as it did a year or two ago.

2. Enrollment. The whole number enrolled in the school for this year was 6,868, an increase over the preceding of 595. This is a larger precentage of the total enrollment than we had a year ago.

3. Attendance. The average daily attendance the last year was 4,700, an increase of 447 over the previous year. This increase is a little more than the attendance at the Leavenworth or Pacific schools. It will be observed that during the last year that enrollment and attendance have increased more rapidly than the school population. The school population, as determined by the spring census, increased 5½ per cent in the year; the enrollment 9½ per cent, and the attendance 10½ per cent.

The per cent of attendance based on the average school membership has been 94 1-10 per cent, the best record made in Omaha schools in many years. Comparing with other cities we find that some present a better record, but many do worse. The importance of good attendance is easily understood.

4. Tardiness—The number of cases of tardiness reported is 5,335, which is the smallest number for several years. Four years ago with a daily attendance of less than two-thirds as large, there were nearly 14,000 cases of tardiness, or an average of more than four for each pupil in daily attendance. The last year there was an average of a little more than one for each pupil. This indicates a general improvement in the last four or five years, but comparing our record with that of other cities we still take lower rank in the matter of punctuality than in regularity of attendance.

I believe the time has come for more stringent rules making better attendance obligatory. As our rules now stand, they allow greater laxity than any other city of which I have knowledge. More rigid rules would effect only a few negligent pupils who will never be prompt unless punctuality is compulsory. As the rules now stand, they have very little influence in securing good attendance. What has been gained has been wholly due to the efforts of the teachers, whose zeal in this direction has been deserving of great praise.

5. Discipline.—It is with a great deal of satisfaction that I call attention to the fact that while the discipline of the schools have been excellent during the year, corporal punishment has ceased to be a factor in securing this result. This method of control has practically been abolished. As might be expected, the most harmonious relations have existed between the parents and teachers, as a consequence of the better method of government. It is not a rare thing for parents to make complaint to the superintendent of the improper treatment of their children, and I believe that the general good will of the public toward the schools has been strengthened by the abstinence from corporal punishment. I have no doubt that a return to the use of the rod would produce injurious results both to the discipline and the relations between the schools and the public. Such cases of suspension have been necessary, in a few of which—perhaps half a dozen—unmanageable pupils have been kept out of school for a few weeks. The effect of this method of correction has proved much more salutary and in all respects more satisfactory than the resort to the rod.

6. The High school.—The prosperity of the High school has continued. The enrollment for the year reaches 250. The daily attendance was 218, and a much larger proportion of the pupils remained till the close of the year than ever before. The enrollment of the present term has reached 240, which is six per cent of the total enrollment. Very few cities of the country send a larger percentage of the enrollment to the High school. Until within a few years, our High school received only about two por cent of the total enrollment.

At the close of the year the following persons were graduated from the High school:

Alice M. Avery, Blanche H. Benton, Ida M. Bruce, Minnie A. Collett, May A. Copeland, Myra C. Hannon, Helen H. Hall, Clara E. Hutmaker, Charles S. McConnell, Julia A. Newcomb, Arthur Rose, Nellie E. Rosewater, Edward J. Streitz, Jennie M. Wallace, Louis W. Weymuller, Elizabeth H. Witman, Emma J. Wood, Annie J. Young.

7. Withdrawals from School.—I have on former occasions called attention to the tendency of pupils to withdraw from school before the close of the year. This has been a noticeable characteristic of the Omaha schools, and it has indicated an indifference on the part of the parents which is very discouraging. This must be expected to some extent, but there is no reason why Omaha should lead other cities in the extent of this evil. But it is gratifying to know that in this particular there has been a steady gain in the last few years. The 4,950 pupils remaining in school at the close of last year were more than 72 per cent of the number enrolled during the year. This is a very much better record than has been made before. In the high school where this evil has existed in a worse form than anywhere else, there has been even greater gain than in the lower schools. Four years ago only 56 per cent of the total enrollment remained till the close of the year. Last year 83 per cent remained. In the upper grammar grades there has also been a large gain in this direction.

HIGHER RESULTS.

It thus appears that in all these particulars which can be shown by statistics, the schools are making a decided gain from year to year, increasing in numbers more rapidly than the growth of the city would require, and reaching a higher degree in many ways. I believe also that the last year has been one of success in the higher and more important spheres of school work—in progress in study and development of character. If we could measure these results as we can those already mentioned, we should doubtless be able to record as great gains as in the numbers enrolled. The thoroughness of the instruction in the high school is evidenced by the fact that graduates now enter the leading colleges and technical schools of the east without any additional preparation, and from the beginning take excellent rank. No high school in the country undertakes to accomplish more. The work in practical language or composition in all grades, and particularly the high school, has been especially meritorious. The generous course of the Omaha Republican in offering prizes for the best high school essays, and giving large space in its columns every month to the publication of some of those which were deserving of commendation, did much to stimulate interest in this work. I believe our high school may justly claim high rank for proficiency in the important art of composition. If the present course can be continued, we shall reach results of which we may well feel proud.

THE READING.

While the work of reading has improved, there is a general complaint from teachers above the third grade that the readers in use are too difficult. I am convinced that this complaint is well founded. In the fourth grade in our schools last year were children seven years of age. Nearly a tenth of them were only eight years of age. More than half of them were ten years of age or younger. And yet the reading matter of this grade is made up of selections from the standard English and American writers. It is true that Longfellow, Wordsworth and Scott wrote some simple verses, and Lamb, Goldsmith and Cooper some not very difficult prose, but none of them wrote for children less than ten years of age. If our Fourth Reader could be taken two or three years later it would be admirably adapted to its object. In the sixth grade, which uses the Fifth Reader, the difficulty exists to a still greater extent. The reading matter is mostly composed of selections from the standard English classics—pieces that hardly one child in a thousand reads from choice. With such literature it is a remarkable teacher that secures an interest in the reading lessons, and as might be expected, the execution of the children in the upper grade is unsatisfactory. The reading is wanting in fluency, naturalness and force, and it will be difficult to make it better while the present course remains unmodified.

I am not objecting to the readers in the schools, but to their use in the grades which now have them. In the fourth and fifth grades we should have easier books and supplimentary reading in abundance. The Sixth grade might use our Fourth Reader with advantage. With our presentation of free text books changes here suggested would involve no additional cost. This is a matter that should receive attention at once. Our reading in the upper grades would be in a better condition to-day if the evil here pointed out, and concerning which there is an entire unanimity of opinion on the part of the teachers, had been removed before.

MANUAL TRAINING.

The introduction of mannal training into the high school and eighth grade has been one of the most interesting features of the work of the year. The ends to be accomplished by this kind of training has been much discussed, but there has been great uncertainty as to the best means of securing the desired results. Technical schools in large numbers have been established and conducted with excellent success, but the pupils in these schools differ widely from those in the city high schools. The best authorities are not agreed as to the desirability of making industrial training a part of high school education. And with this point conceded, it is not clear what the character of the training should be. Our year's experience is a valuable contribution to the discussion of this subject now going on, but under the circumstances all undertakings of this kind must be looked upon as experimental. Since the 1st of October, 1885, seventy-nine boys, about evenly divided between the high school and the eighth grade, have had the benefit of this instruction. The course has been optional, those taking it doing the same academic work as the rest of the school. Arranged in classes of twenty each, they have spent one and one-half hours daily in the shop under the care of a competent instructor, learning light carpentry and how to use and take care of tools. The teacher has been enthusiastic and the interest of the boys has been lively and well sustained. The aggregate amount of time spent in the shop amounts to less than a month of nine hours a day, and yet the progress of the boys has been remarkable. Few apprentices after a full year in the shop acquire more practical skill.

It is evident that manual training schools cannot be conducted without considerable expense, but for this year this school has not cost more than some of the regular studies of the high school. It seems evident also that a department of this kind has a tendency to hold boys in school at a time when there is a strong inclination to leave and go into business. Our high school and eighth grade have felt this influence, and suffered from it as much as any school in the land; yet of the seventy-nine boys who took manual training last year, seventy-five remained in school to the close of the year. This is a remarkable fact in the history of the Omaha schools.

On the whole, our experiment with a manual training department in our high school, so far as it has gone, must be considered a success. It has not interfered with the regular academic work; it has not been excessively expensive; its influence on the high school generally has on the whole been favorable, and the progress of the boys in the mechanic arts has been satisfactory. It is not too much to say that the hopes of its friends have been fully realized.

THE CLASSIFICATION.

The change in the classification ordered last year, whereby the number of classes was reduced from three in a grade to two, was accomplished without difficulty, and the schools are now going forward with the new classification. The wisdom of the board in favoring this change is apparent from the fact that with a larger number of pupils, the schools are now conducted with fewer teachers, yet with no loss of efficiency; and higher classes are maintained in several of the schools than were possible last year. The Eighth grade is now in four buildings:—the Central, Farnam, Izard an Pacific, instead of the Central only, as was formerly the case. The Seventh grade, which four years ago was taught only in the Central school, is now in all the four building mentioned, and also in Cass and Leavenworth. The sixth grade is now taught in all the six buildings mentioned and in the Long, Lake and Hartman school besides. This arrangement brings the upper classes within reasonable distance of pupils in all parts of the city. It removes an evil which has existed for years, requiring young children in many cases to make long journeys from the outskirts of the city to the High school building in order to find a class in which they could be taught. Very few children now are required to go so far that they cannot easily go home for dinner in the hour and a half intermission. Furthermore the indications are that next year the eighth grade can be taught in the Leavenworth school and possibly in the Long, and the seventh in the Hartman and Lake, so that the pupils will be even better accommodated than they are now. The present convenient arrangement would not have been possible had the old classification remained unchanged.

SUPERVISION.

I believe the time has fully come when the board consider the question of making more ample provision for the supervision of the schools. At present the direction and general oversight of the instruction is wholly in the hands of the superintendent. Under the rules the responsibility of the principals extends only to the care and control of the premises, the discipline in the yards and halls, the assignment of new pupils and the making of reports. No principal has the slightest responsibility for the kind of instruction given by any of the teachers in her building.

The present system was inaugurated several years ago, when the number of teachers was only a third of what they are now. At that time the supervision may have been, quite sufficient for the needs of the schools. But if one person can give forty teachers all the attention they need, no one can adequately supervise one hundred and forty. I know of no city that provides for so little supervision as is allowed the schools of Omaha. In most cities the principals give half or all of their time to this work. In some, assistant superintendents are employed. In a sew large cities both assistant superintendents and supervising principals. Unless something is done to meet this want in our schools, the instruction is certain to suffer. This is a matter that should receive the attention of the board at an early day.

CONCLUSION.

I cannot close this report without expressing my appreciation of the zeal and effort, the intelligence and skill of the teachers. Their devotion to the welfare of the children and the ability which they have brought to their work are above all praise. Respectfully submitted,

HENRY M. JAMES.

Omaha, Oct. 1, 1886.

**The Issue of the Convention.**

*Arapahoe Mirror.*

The republicans of Nebraska—that is, the politicians who generally attend conventions—put themselves on record at the state convention last week as in favor of our fraudulent railroad commission, which, it will be remembered, was created by a republican legislature two years ago against the expressed wishes of a large majority of the voters of the state. In their eagerness to sit down on Van Wyck, in this matter, these self-same politicians and corporation strikers have only added to his popularity with the people, as has since been proven. Van Wyck laid out by the republican state convention? Oh, no. It was only the political strikers who generally manipulate such gatherings, showing their true colors regarding the control of corporations by the people, their creators. The action of a state or any other convention does not always represent the sentiments of the voters, and we dare say the minority report on which Van was out-voted has served the purpose of putting his enemies on record as tools of the very corporations they profess to want controlled by law. Explanations are useless. The record is made, and Van Wyck scored a victory in the tabling of his report.

## SOME BALLOON ADVENTURES.

The Exploit of Two Rival Newspaper Reporters.

### DUCKED IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

**Con Mahoney's Flight in the Air and Through an Apple Tree.**

*[Written for the Omaha Sunday Bee.]*

In the summer of 1877, a mania for ballooning struck San Francisco, and continued several months, until finally, one of the air-ships capsized above Mission street, and empting its passengers into the unoccupied space below, killed one of them, with a suddenness that was startling, and crippled the other for life, and some time afterward.

Every Sunday a huge balloon would leave Woodward's gardens and go fumbling around among the clouds, to the great delight and admiration of vast crowds, which, somehow, seem to be always pleased at seeing other people in the act of dancing on nothing—either as æronants or the leading man at a hanging-bee.

The mania mentioned extended to the newspaper reporters, eventually, and an ambitious reporter, with sufficient sand to attempt such an approach of the Great White Throne, could not be better pleased than to achieve an invitation to go with Professor Somebody in the direction suggested, in a balloon. Generally the distinction of being talked about as gallant, and brave, and enterprising, or something of that sort, was the spur, but I have ventured to think, occasionally, that perhaps the thought that they might not ever get nearer Heaven in any other manner, may have had somewhat to do with the matter, in sporadic cases.

One Sunday the professor had inadvertantly promised two reporters, representatives of rival newspapers, to take them up with him, and the capacity of his balloon was not sufficient for three persons.

When the day arrived the two were promptly on hand, however. Alf Balch for the Chronicle was one of them. Balch was a wise looking fellow who wore glasses. Indeed he was a wise fellow, except in his passion for ballooning. He was cultured and brainy; the son of a New England clergyman and, at my last information, engaged on the staff of the New York World. He was also a brother of the famous Boston newspaper man, Balch, who by a clever piece of detective work captured Chastine Cox, a negro who committed, in New York, the mysterious murder of an elderly lady, which for a long time puzzled the "sleuths." The other aspiring reporter was Ed Clough, who about that time came near making himself famous as the author of some remarkably excellent dialect sketches in the Argonaut, with such titles as "A Bad Man From Bodie," "The Yaller Dog of Calaveras," etc.

On the grounds the professor declared that he could take but one of the reporters, and each stoutly insisted on going. Finally the æronant, being unable to decide between the two, said that he wouldn't go, whereupon Clough declared his eminent ability to run the machine himself, and Balch represented that he was a balloonist from "away back." I think Clough did know a little something about handling an affair of the kind, but Balch was as ignorant of the thing, practically, as a pig is of philology. Nevertheless, the two entered the car and the professor lent a hand to help them off. The guy-ropes were loosened, and the monster—I think "monster" is the word—rose majestically, and when released ascended gracefully and rapidly upon a vertical line. Having attained a sufficient heighth to catch the air-currents she drifted seaward and the amateur æronants soon found themselves hanging out over the Pacific Ocean. A tug was sent to sea to watch for them and in the course of a few hours the balloon began to descend near the Faralone islands. The tug kept pretty well under the balloon and when the latter vessel had come so near the water that the swell of the sea almost touched it, Balch, who was an export swimmer, with an eye to "hedging" on his chances for life, dropped out of the basket. Balch was a heavy weight, and the balloon being so suddenly relieved of so much ballast, shot up into the air several hundred feet with almost the velocity of a rocket, but Clough managed to work off enough gas to give her another descent. Meanwhile Balch had been picked up and in a little while the tug had Clough and the balloon safe aboard, and was steaming for the Golden Gate.

On the following Sunday Con Mahoney, an Irish reporter who was working on the Post, and who is now on a Chicago paper, went up with the professor in the same balloon. Con had once been a lieutenant in the Peruvian navy and he was fond of dilating upon the fact, the connection, herewith, will appear further on.

Upon the occasion of Con's air voyage the balloon concluded to go out into the county. It hung about over Sonoma country for a while, and at last descending, toward night-fall, it thrashed along the earth awhile and finally dragged Con and the professor through an apple-tree, and in these movements broke one of Con's arms. He was visible on the streets a few days after, with the injured limb in a sling, and in speaking of his adventure he said:

"Ye may talk about brav'ry. No man doubts my brav'ry. I was a leftenant in the P'ruvian navy. But it takes more brav'ry than I have about me to go up in another balloon. Still and all, its not so much going up in a balloon, d'ye know? as 'tis coming down in that same d'ye mind?"

WILL VISSCHER.