

THE GAS COMPANY SPLITTING

A Reply to the Complaints Made Against the Corporation.

ARRESTED FOR GROSS PERJURY.

Stelkers and "Scabs"—Corporal Tanner—Peterson Poisoned—The Milk Inspector—Suing the Western Union—Other Local.

Speaking of Gas. Mr. Frank Murphy, of the Omaha Gas company, was asked yesterday for a statement of the position of the gas company with regard to making service connections, and under what authority they arrogated to themselves the sole right to lay service pipes from the curb-line to the gas-meter.

The Bee has evidently been acting under a misapprehension of the facts. Mr. Murphy says: "The charge that our prices for making house connections are exorbitant, is entirely unfounded. The aim of the company is simply to cover actual expenses of such work, and to secure, through its own workmen, a competent and substantial job which will not give continual trouble to the consumer. It is a repeated expense to the consumer for repairs. Under the contract with the city we have the right if we so desire to charge from the main to the house, and for the past two years we have spent thousands of dollars in laying the pipes from the mains to the curb-lines, where streets were about to be paved, thus relieving prospective consumers of the expense of service pipes from the curb line to the center of the street. The water company makes consumers pay for the whole distance. So much for the charge that our prices are complained of, of which any one by enquiring can readily discover are at least as little as will be charged by any gas-fitter in Omaha.

I admit that our rule is that we alone shall make connections with our mains, and that none but our workmen shall be permitted to lay the service-pipe through its entire length to a connection with the meter. We do this for the protection of consumers, and not for any profits which there may be in it—there are none. In addition, we have another rule which is equally for the protection of the consumer of gas—that no gas shall be turned on until our inspector has made a thorough test of the gas fitting inside the house and has pronounced it tight and free from leaks. For this, however, we make no charge at all. The rule may seem an arbitrary one, but it is for the mutual protection of the gas company and all citizens who use the produce of our work. Any one who sees that if general license were given for citizens to connect with our mains, any dishonest individual could use our gas free and rob us of our property. By doing our own work on service pipes, we know just what connections are made and that the job is properly done. In following out this plan we are fully within our contract and are protected by city ordinance. I am free to admit that if it could be proved that our charges, resulting from our exclusive right to lay service pipes, were exorbitant and outrageous, that we would be glad to have our rates raised which has some point. But as matters now stand it is without value, so far as the interests of the gas consumers of Omaha are concerned.

If there are any legitimate grounds for complaint against the Omaha Gas company we shall be glad to know them, and shall right them so far as lies within our power. All those which the Bee has urged are capable of ready explanation. For instance, its complaint that we refuse to make service connections with our mains in the winter time. We have been obliged to make this rule because each year when the approach of winter, or after the ground is frozen lightly for many inches, below the surface, we are obliged to proceed with applications to tear up the streets and tap our mains. What trenching we could do for 25 cents a foot in the summer time under such circumstances costs us from 40 to 50 cents, and this extra burden is thrown upon us through the carelessness of property owners who could readily, if they so desired, have secured the connection for their own use as the foundation for the house had been put in. Another complaint suggested is that property owners often make sewer and water connections, and that if they were given the right to connect with our mains or extend their gas pipe to the curb line, could save money by laying the gas pipe in the same trench in which the sewer or water pipe was placed. We absolutely refuse to do this, because the seating of the trench in which the sewer and water pipe is placed, would cause leakage and disturbance of the gas service pipe to the detriment of the gas company and to the injury of the property holder.

I think you will find, if you investigate, that any other charges of a like character which are made against the gas company have little foundation as those which I have explained."

STRIKERS AND "SCABS."

Scenes Around in the B. & M. Yards Yesterday Morning. The B. & M. passenger yards were yesterday morning as quiet as if it were a holiday. No cars were being switched and no striking switchmen were to be seen. The passenger train from the west and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy from the east, ran into the depot and up to noon had not been switched. The only sign of life visible on the tracks, was an engine, which was being hauled to the depot to be linked to the pay car which starts out on its journey this afternoon. This was in charge of Mr. Tucker, superintendent of the round house. Down at Gibson, he reported Sunday, and the same at Lincoln, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City and Ashland. As a consequence, there was not much work done. The strikers are keeping away from the yards, gathering around the corners in the city awaiting developments. They meet to-night in Cunningham's hall, that the striking helpers and engine men had occasioned no annoyance.

POISONING PETERSON.

One of Uncle Sam's Nephews Falls Under a Bad Curse. Thursday morning Andrew Peterson, one of the oldest carriers in the post-office, took out his 7 o'clock mail, feeling as well as usual. At about 11 o'clock, the carrier on the route adjoining Peterson's, found in one of his mail boxes the letters which had been collected by Peterson, as also a note from him asking him to call at the residence of the latter, 364 Seward. The fellow-carrier complied with the request, and was astonished to find not only Peterson, but his wife and children, confined to their rooms and suffering intensely with interior pains. The fact that the whole family was sick was patent when Peterson reached his home, and this fact, together with his own illness, caused him to conclude that all had been poisoned. A physician was called, and a most exhaustive of the most left in the house, concluded that the poisoning had been occasioned by eating imperfectly cured corned beef, of which the family had partaken in the morning and the night before. Mr. Peterson

CORPORAL TANNER

He Arrives on His Way East from the Pacific Coast.

Yesterday morning a reporter for the Bee found in the presence of such a cortege as Paul Vandervoort, Thomas Swobe, Major Clarkson and Major Davis of Wahoe, the well known gentleman Corporal James Tanner. He wore a dark brown coat, a large black felt hat and carried his cane as usual. He had just returned from the Pacific coast, to which place he went last summer during the soldiers' reunion. He has since remained in that part of the country, viewing the scenes and taking part in the political business which has followed a few months ago. Corporal Tanner is one of the best known members of the G. A. R., and one who has several mentions in the way of missing limbs, of the late war. Democratic ascendancy in New York threw him out of his position in that city, and upon his return to that place he will assume an interest in a new addition to be made to a well known history. He leaves for Chicago to-morrow.

The Abbott Opera Season—Sale of Seats.

Those who desire to be present at what will undoubtedly be one of the most brilliant musical performances ever given in this city, should not fail to secure seats immediately on the opening of the sale to-morrow for the opera to be sung by the Emma Abbott Co., commencing Monday, December 13. The indications at present are that the performances that ever assembled in this city. Dispatches received from New York and the principal cities state that at no time since its foundation has the Emma Abbott Opera Company been so strong and so completely equipped as at present. The company in which are to be its ensemble. A new and magnificent corps of artists has been engaged the chorus and orchestra, so important factors in the success of an operatic performance have been largely augmented and the same attention has been paid to all the details that always characterized the performances given by the Abbott Co. In the opera to be given here, the Emma Abbott Company will be seen at its very best. Lizzie Annandale, who may be regarded as one of the most popular singers in this country is also in the company, and she, Abbott and Bertini form a trio of prima donnas that it is very difficult to equal. Montecello, the well known tenor, and Michiela, the handsome young artist, who was so successful last season, are both with Emma Abbott again as is also Pruetto, the baritone, while as for Broderick, he is simply an indispensable appendage to the Abbott Opera Co. The direction of the powerful chorus and orchestra are again entrusted to Signor Tomasi's reliable hands. Altogether the company is the strongest that has ever appeared in English opera in this country.

German Theatricals.

Mr. Puls, of the German Comedy company, now playing at the Boyd, every Sunday night, has made arrangements of a satisfactory nature for a performance by that company on next Wednesday evening at Fremont, Thursday at Columbus, and Friday at Grand Island. The play will be the Pearl of Savoy. The same piece will be played in this city Sunday night week.

Want a Guardian.

At the county jail there is a woman named Mrs. Pokorney, and three little bright and interesting children, the oldest of whom is ten years of age. The husband and father died in Dago alley some time ago, with \$1,000 insurance on his life. The woman is slightly demented and there seems to be no person to apply for the guardianship of the little ones.

A Good Done.

Joe Bradley, a slippery news agent on the incoming Union Pacific train from the west, was arrested by Officer Duff Green at the depot yesterday morning. He had tried to swindle a passenger by "holding out" \$5 for a ten-cent note which had been given him to change. He was taken before Judge Stenberg, tried, convicted and sentenced to thirty days in the county jail.

Police Court.

Five cases of drunkenness were brought before his honor yesterday morning. One man paid a fine of \$5 and costs, another a fine of \$10 and costs. Three were discharged. W. L. Swartz was fined \$10 and given ten days in jail for driving another suspicious character was discharged.

Notice.

All members of the Northwestern Travelling Man's Ass'n will please meet at the Paxton hotel at 8 o'clock Saturday evening.

Barker's High Basement.

A force of workmen is busily engaged in clearing out the debris from the basement of the Barker building, and at noon their work was nearly finished. The intent of the Barker brothers was to tear down the red stone wall, and in the new building, the plans for which are now drawn, to have the first story consist of a high basement.

Licensed Watchmaker for the U. P. Railway Co.

C. S. RAYMOND, Douglas and 15th.

Mail, Male and Female.

Frank Olson, one of the local force of letter carriers, is away from work this week on a honeymoon, part of which time he is utilizing in putting his new home, on Bristol street, into shape. He was married on last Saturday night to Miss Ollie Strum.

The Warrants Ready.

City Clerk Southard says that the warrants of the city for the past month will be ready to-day and those entitled to them may get them by calling at his office.

Wanted.

Business men in Nebraska, Western Iowa, Wyoming and Southern Dakota to handle the new chemical appliances of the Harden Hand Fire Extinguisher Co. of Chicago. Absolute control of territory given to proper parties. Write for terms, etc., Geo. F. Wagner, Gen'l Manager, 1618 Capitol ave., Omaha, Neb.

Brevities.

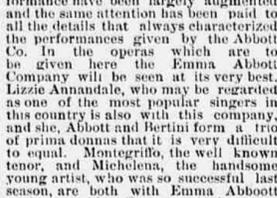
T. J. Tooley, a prominent attorney of Leavenworth, Kan., has just received \$50 as a reward for a horse thief whom he captured on the 9th of July last. Mr. Arthur M. Pinto returned yesterday from Florence, Wis., with his bride, Miss Nellie Fisher. The ceremony occurred last week in Florence and was a happy affair. Mr. and Mrs. Pinto will make their future residence in this city. All the members of St. Philomena's Sodality and those who are to be received into the Sodality next Sunday evening the 12th inst. will meet this (Friday) evening at 7:30 in the Cathedral to make final preparations for the reception. J. M. Brownell, who has heretofore been Pullman agent in both Omaha and Council Bluffs, will hereafter devote his time to the latter place, his office in Omaha being closed. Pullman tickets will be purchasable at the office of F. K. Chambers, the regular Union Pacific agent. Mrs. Laura E. Legg commenced a suit for \$5,000 damages in the district court yesterday afternoon against Chas. Shiverick. She is the re-servant, widow of Geo. E. Semler, former employe of Shiverick's, who was killed by falling through an elevator shaft on December 22, 1884. O'Brien, one of the youngest telegraphers and at the same time one of the oldest young men in the employ of the Union Pacific, leaves to-night for Evans-ton, where he will resume the duties of an assistant train dispatcher for the same road. He has just returned from Valparaiso, where he has been employed by the company for some time. The Omaha Business College literary and debating society open the season with an interesting programme Saturday evening at their rooms, southeast corner Capitol avenue and 16th sts. The following question will be discussed: "Resolved, That no good results obtain from strikes." The discussion will be open to the public. Friends are cordially invited. Judge Dundy yesterday morning issued a mandamus, returnable next month, to compel the county of Kearney to pay a judgment of \$2,000 rendered against it at the June term of court, in favor of August Frank. The suit was brought on bonds which Kearney county attempted to default, and involves the validity of about \$2,000 worth of bonds. Real Estate Transfers. The following transfers were filed December 10: J. W. Lyman to the Public plat of Lyman place, part of sec 28, 33, 38, 43, 48, Dedication. A. S. Padlock and wife to John T. Dillon, lots 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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