

WHAT TREE, W. M. C. A. HAS DONE

A Grand Record of Deeds Accomplished—Others Projected.

AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE.

That Thorn in the Flesh—The Religious Dead-Head—A Season of Activity For Presbyterians—Church News and Gossip.

The Y. M. C. A.'s Grand Work.

A prominent business man of Philadelphia recently said, in speaking of the Young Men's Christian association: Twenty years ago the people said this association was a great idea; to-day it is a fact. Few can be found who will question that this organization deserves a place among the great religious and moral institutions of the age.

While the need of definite work for young men is in all places very great, it is no where so great as in our western states.

It is estimated that the proportion of young men to the entire population is at least 5 per cent greater in the western than in the eastern states.

The phenomenal development of this section of the country caused a rapid influx of inhabitants, and among them many young men, who, freed from the restraints of home, and cast upon their own resources, became easy victims to the peculiar influences which grew out of the unsettled state of society.

The necessity of throwing about these young men influences which would shield them from the evil so common, and providing them with a place of resort where they might be free from the temptations attending the usual places of public resort, soon became apparent.

A movement to supply this need resulted in the formation of the first Young Men's Christian association in Nebraska. The first permanent organization was formed in Omaha January 17, 1858. There had been before an association at Fremont, but after a short career expired.

For twenty years the association in Omaha was the only one in the state, and it has always been the center from which has radiated the work of the state. Up to the time of the organization of the state executive committee, April, 1880, the only work which was done throughout the state was done by the Omaha association.

An association was organized in Lincoln in 1850, and the second state convention was held here in April, 1851. An association was formed at Doane College, Crete, in the year 1850. In 1851 Hastings organized. The third state convention was held in Omaha, October 19-22, 1852. No record of the number of delegates present at the former two conventions can be found. At this one there were present fifteen delegates and six corresponding members.

The fourth annual convention was held in Lincoln, November 22-25, 1853. In this convention 425 was subscribed for the use of the state committee, "being more than was asked for." At the close of the convention a little girl mounted the platform and announced that she was authorized to say that her mamma would board her for one year if one could be secured. The next year Mr. J. A. Dummett, of Allegheny City, Pa., who was still secretary of the Lincoln association, was called, and the generous offer of the proprietress of the "Capitol" was accepted.

The fifth annual convention was held in Omaha, November 6-9, 1854. The report of the state committee showed that there were then in the state ten associations, two of which were in Lincoln and the other at Omaha. There were present at this convention forty-eight delegates, every association being represented. The sixth annual convention was held in Hastings, November 19-22, 1855. In the year preceding the number of associations had increased from ten to seventeen, and one general secretary had been elected.

The seventh annual convention was held in Lincoln, October 21-24, 1856. At this meeting 475 was raised for the state committee. The eighth annual convention was held in Nebraska City, October 20-23, 1857. At this convention there were present forty-seven delegates and corresponding members, making a total of seventy-six, the largest ever held in the state.

The opinion was general among the delegates that the time had come when a state secretary who should give his entire time to the work should be employed, and the state committee was authorized to employ one for \$2,000 for that purpose. The committee at once began looking for the right man for the position, and by May 6, the following year, 1858, Mr. Augustus Hamilton, formerly of the Topeka, Kan., association, was called as state secretary. He commenced work May 10.

A canvass of the state at this time showed the condition of the work to be as follows: Number of associations, 14, of which four were in colleges and academies; total members, 7; total membership, 967; number of reading rooms, 5, with an average daily attendance of 100; total number of branches, 8, with a membership of 185. A more aggressive work was commenced at once by the new state secretary in strengthening the old associations and organizing new ones where the conditions were favorable. It was soon found necessary to employ an assistant to take charge of the office work, and September 1 Mr. W. H. Hamilton, formerly of the Kansas state force, commenced work as office secretary.

The ninth annual state convention was held at Beatrice, October 25-28, with 201 delegates in attendance. This was the largest and most enthusiastic, as well as the most profitable and successful convention ever held in the state, and the impetus given to the work of the association there caused a general advance in the work in every part of the organization. Five thousand dollars was raised for the use of the state committee for the ensuing year, and this amount had been increased to almost \$10,000 by the time of the W. O. Henry, of Pawnee City, who had been prominent in the work for many years, accepted the position of assistant state secretary, and is now devoting his entire time to the cause.

The following will give an idea of the rapid advance made in the work in the fifteen months: There are now twenty-five associations, five of which are in colleges; twenty young men are employed as general secretaries and assistants; total membership, 3,425; number reading rooms, seventeen, with an average daily attendance of 606; five boys' branches, with a membership of 208. The Omaha association had a building which, with lot, is valued at \$300,000. The Lincoln association has commenced the erection of a building which, with lot, is valued at \$100,000. Buildings are owned by the Hastings, Fairbury and Pawnee City associations.

An extensive work is planned by the committee for the coming year. It is hoped that within six months every town in the state will have a regularly employed secretary. Some with less than that number, notably in Holdrege and Fairbury, where no regularly employed secretaries. An aggressive district work will be carried on, and a large number of district conferences will be held.

The experiment of forming county organizations is soon to be tried in Pawnee county, and if it proves successful, many of the more sparsely populated counties will be organized and county secretaries employed.

A work is also being carried on in the interests of the young men in small towns and country places, where it was not thought expedient to organize, and plans are being arranged for greatly enlarging this department of the work.

The boys' work has never been pushed with the vigor which it deserves, and it is expected that the coming year, with Mr. P.

L. Johnson, of Hastings, as the leader, this work will be extended to many places where nothing, as yet, has been done. So far no definite work has been done for the rural towns, of whom there are a large number in Nebraska, but at least two railroad associations will be organized in the near future.

It is also hoped that something may be done for the German speaking, Swede, and other special classes of young men. At the coming state convention, which is to be held in October 24-27, liberal plans for the extension of the work will be laid, and with the financial support, material and moral, of the citizens of the state, it is believed that much may be done to better the condition of young men in our growing commonwealth.

It would not do to cite in this article without mentioning the name of one who has done more than any other to forward the associations of the state, Mr. Robert Weidensack, at one time an employe in the Union Pacific shops in this city, was the first vice president of the Omaha association. Through the influence of the association here he was employed by the international committee to do evangelistic work along the line of the Union Pacific railway.

Mr. Weidensack was employed as railroad secretary of the committee, his work being particularly in the west. Mr. Weidensack, who lives in Nebraska, has always been that of a father to a child, and he has watched over the work here with a vigilance to which much of its success is due. He is still actively engaged in the work, and is always welcomed in the associations of the state. In the early history of the association in Nebraska, it was customary to elect one vice president of the convention for each state represented, and for many successive gatherings Nebraska was represented by the veteran secretary, Mr. Weidensack. At the last convention held in Philadelphia in May, Nebraska was represented by nine delegates.

While the success of the associations in this state has been great, still the need is great, and with humble dependence upon the Lord the christian young men throughout the state are united in their efforts to bring their fellows into the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ. J. M. H.

New Churches Ask Assistance.

In behalf of the Presbyterian board of church erection, the following pointed appeal has been issued to the churches over the country, and especially to Omaha and other large western cities. It is the cry of a great need and a most deserving one. A hearty response should greet it wherever the message should be carried:

Dear Brethren: It is not often that the board of church erection makes a special appeal, but unusual circumstances call for unusual measures.

It is absolutely essential to the fulfillment of the trust committed to this board that there should be a large and immediate increase of its resources. There has been a noticeable falling off in the receipts thus far this year; but the work of church building all over the land has made such a sudden and unexpected advance, that a crisis is upon us which must be met by a large outlay or disappointment and possibly disaster will ensue.

It is evident that last year was one of extraordinary activity in very many of our churches, and the number of new churches organized throughout the great west are now appealing to you through this board to fulfill your implied promise and aid them in their honest and noble work. Never in the history of the board have so many applications poured in upon it in the early months of the year. Between the middle of April and the 23d of July more than seventy applications have been received. Nor is this all. For reasons which it is not difficult to understand, the applications have been upon the average for larger amounts than have ever been before. It is evident that under divine inspiration, for which we may well be thankful, our beloved church is experiencing a great revival in enthusiasm and is giving herself as never before for aggressive work. In California we are informed that more than thirty churches organized last year. And the advance has been made in other parts of the west.

But, brethren, these young churches which are the proof of God's blessing and which should be our joy, cannot live, if they have no adequate financial support. They need public cordially invited. Sunday school at 12 noon. F. W. Foster, pastor.

Beth Eden Baptist church. Preaching by the pastor at 10:45 a. m. Sunday school 12:15 p. m.

Walnut Hill Christian church. Sun day school at 10 o'clock. No services at 11 o'clock. Preaching by Rev. L. H. House at 12 noon.

Rev. H. L. House has returned from his vacation and will occupy his pulpit at Beth Eden Baptist church, Park avenue, to-day.

All Saints church. Twenty-sixth and Howard streets, Low, Zehner, & Co., P. U. S. S. Second Sunday after Trinity, August 25, 1889. Services: Holy communion, 10 a. m.; prayer, 10:30 a. m.; morning service, 11 a. m.; choral evening service, 7 p. m.

South Tenth St. M. E. church, corner of Tenth and Pierce streets, Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m. followed by the administration of the sacrament and reception of probationers into full connection with the church. Class meeting at 12 m. Preaching at 8 p. m. by Rev. W. B. Slaughter. C. N. Dawson, pastor.

HONEY FOR THE LADIES.

Some of the new "art" sleeves are so old in style as to approach the grotesque. Starch frills of costly lace falling over the corsage are worn on many bodies slightly different from those of the past.

Picturesque collars and Corday and Marie Antoinette fichus are sent home with the latest autumn toilets.

Traveling cloaks are made of Eifel red, silver gray and modere-brown carnelle, with a moult of black and white.

In new autumn gowns there will be less use made of goods in combination than of handsome solid colors richly bordered.

Flower bonnets and brims continue in high favor. Directors' hats of black tulle or trimmed with black tulle and sprays of pink or lilac orchids.

The refinement that is characteristic of the texture of the new woolen also prevails in the fashionable hats of the season. These are lovely tones in gray, rich shades in brown and green dahlia, strawberry, mahogany and fawn.

The greater number of the new bridal veils are of the bridesmaid material, made, and are extremely elegant. Embroidery, pearl gimps, and rich laces are used upon these gowns, the arrangement being artistic and novel.

The Grecian Empire, Russian and directoire models are four distinct types in fashionable gowns for next season, but the variations are bewildering, extending from the regal Medici gown to the straight full-skirted dress of a "housemaid of duty."

Presbyterian interests, the Central West will publish the news and ideas from all the denominations. Rev. Joseph Duryea, Rev. W. J. Harsh and others will contribute to the general discussions it is proposed to conduct.

The publication office has been moved to handsome, well lighted quarters in "The Bee" building, and just now the indications are that Omaha is to have what it has not had for some time past, a live, new, local religious journal.

The Gate City Plan. There are some things by which the good, the bad and the indifferent profit alike. The enormous appreciation in real estate values in Omaha during the past five or ten years has made an independent fortune for many churches, as well as for individuals.

The tendency has been with the churches to hold to the first notes; it's the love of a child for the home of his birth, and a thing quite commendable and good to look upon.

And it is not less poetical, nor happy in its termination, if it occurs that this sticking to the old home has profited the children financially.

There is no need to enumerate the churches that have benefited thus; the number includes all the earlier ones, for in all directions from the original town center the increase in values has been nearly equal.

A church that has a few hundred dollars twenty years ago may be worth five times as many thousands now. Most of the number have sold their high priced lots, moved farther back into the residence portions and erected new homes.

Many of these are more than commonly handsome and commodious, but it is a matter toward which much comment has been directed, that the Omaha way is in religious works as in nearly everything—a little bit more progressive.

Other cities may boast of magnificent temples of worship, where the casual visitor can not keep his eyes off the royal trappings and costly decorations, but the Omaha way is a different way. Not how grand, but how many, is the very good motto which has been the result of the spiritual fountains of this city abounding of its material growth.

A Methodist Convention.

All the Methodist young people's societies in this district are to be organized as a division of the Epworth league, an organization national in extent. This entire church district, including Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and other states adjacent, will be included. For this purpose a series of meetings, including delegates from the entire district, will be held in this city at Hanscom park, beginning on Thursday night, August 22, and ending on Saturday morning. Among the prominent speakers from abroad will be Dr. H. J. Carroll and Dr. H. Gillett, of New York, and Dr. C. E. Creighton, of Lincoln.

Music at Kountze Memorial.

Among the local selections to be sung at Kountze Memorial Lutheran church to-day are the following: "Festival Te Deum" in B flat.....Knopfler. "Adoration," soprano solo.....Goldner. "The Lord is My Shepherd".....Knopfler. Hymns.....Male Quartette. "From the Dark".....Mosenthal. "From the Dark".....Knopfler. Bass Solo and Male Quartette.

Organ Selections and Variations in A. Hesse March Solenne.....H. Ketterer. Sonata in B flat.....Mendelssohn. March, from "The Crusaders".....Spoke.

Religious Notes.

Nineteen addresses were noted at the last communion held in the First Presbyterian church. This indicates considerable activity for hot weather.

Pastor Thayer, of the new Presbyterian church at Fifth and Williams streets, will return to his theological studies in the east before long. His studies will be supplied by Rev. Mr. Honker, of New York.

The Second Presbyterian church is in a flourishing condition. It has an active workmen, and the church is doing a great deal of work in a quiet way.

Immanuel Baptist church, services as usual. Rev. E. R. Curry, of Fremont, will preach to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock. Public cordially invited. Sunday school at 12 noon. F. W. Foster, pastor.

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ANOTHER STINGING REBUKE.

Administered By a Masonic Lodge at Macon, Iowa.

GRAND MASTER MERCER AGAIN.

He Arrests the Charter of Nebraska No. 1—General Lodge Notes About the City—Knights of Pythias.

The Scottish Rite in Iowa.

The controversy between the Scottish Rite bodies is the theme of much discussion among Iowa Masons. Masons all over the country are watching Iowa to see what the result will be. The controversy between the Grand and Pike lodges, has been of long standing. The revival of the interest in it was occasioned by the action of the grand lodge, in going out of its way to take sides in the matter. Many Masons, not belonging to either bodies, object to being thus forced to join in a contest between two bodies which are as distant from the blue lodge as are the Pike and the Knights of Pythias. The Pike men have gained control of the blue lodge and are using it as a club with which to drive the Cerneau men from the field. Many Masons object to such a use of their organization. They are expressing themselves in various ways, and the prediction is made that unless the grand lodge adopts a different policy it will find itself involved in a process which cannot be of long standing. The Cerneau men have already forced to protect themselves by getting an injunction from the courts, restraining the grand master from interfering further. This has been a serious and not a happy result of the action being eagerly watched for all over the land.

The grand lodge would refuse to have anything to do with these Scottish Rite bodies, and let them fight it out by themselves, and it would evidently be a most satisfactory policy for the body of the grand lodge, which object to being dragged into a fight between two bodies in which they have no interest, and which are having good hold of the club, naturally refuse to do so. It seems to be a matter of life and death with them. So long as the grand lodge was neutral, the Cerneau men were not in Iowa; they number about six hundred members. In the meantime the Pike bodies have lost, rather than gained, and it is said that they have only one hundred members in the state. It is apparent that the Pike bodies would speedily succumb to the law unless they have a new ally. The Cerneau men would be in undisputed possession of the field. The Pike men, therefore, hang to the grand lodge as a club, and do not seem to be of the last season of the grand lodge in the controversies or not.

There are numerous protests against allowing the grand lodge to be used for such a purpose. The following is a set of the resolutions. They were adopted by a unanimous vote by Ruby lodge, No. 415, Mechanics' building.

Your committee to whom was referred that part of the proceedings of the grand lodge of Iowa, respecting the jurisdiction of Scottish Rite lodge No. 1, on 14th street, respectfully report the following and recommend its adoption:

1. We are in possession of sufficient knowledge to enable us to say which of the two opposing orders of Scottish Rite masonry is regular, and it is our opinion that it is especially urged that these officers be present.

2. We are of the opinion that masonry is not conclusive, nor does its privileges depend upon the jurisdiction of the grand lodge, but upon the moral, temperance and virtue.

3. While we feel to give a cheerful obedience to the laws of the grand lodge on this matter, we do not feel justified in expelling a member from our privileges without a fair trial.

4. We are opposed to one faction entrenching behind the grand lodge and using its name in order to fight another faction when both claim to be based upon Blue Lodge masonry.

5. We are of the opinion that the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of the United States, and the jurisdiction of the grand lodge of Nebraska, which meets in Omaha October 3. As the time is very short for the amount of work to be done previous to the session it is especially urged that these officers be present.

About one hundred Sir Knights of the different Omaha divisions went over to Council Bluffs last Sunday night to attend a dinner service which was held at St. Paul's Episcopal church. Major W. T. Whitman, chairman of the Nebraska brigade, presided at the reunion to the boys. Many of the Sir Knights were accompanied by their ladies.

The meeting of the Sovereign grand lodge at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 21, will draw a great many members of the order from Omaha and the question arises, can you visit that body while in session? All past grand who are in possession of the royal warrant are invited to attend. The officers of the demonstration will be second only to that of 1874 at Philadelphia.

In North Carolina there are forty-one lodges with a membership of only 1,400. The salary of the grand secretary is \$80, with an added allowance of \$200 for traveling expenses. A membership of 1,400 lodges for about 100 less than in New Hampshire. Not gain last year in North Carolina, 227. There is hope of the order in North Carolina.

The meeting of the grand lodge in Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania, representing a membership of nearly 90,000, has spoken in strong terms against the admission of young men to our order at the age of eighteen years. An old fellowship is an organization governed in some measure at least by contracts and obligations, and in order to be a member of the order, the age of admission should correspond with that which gives the young man the right and privileges of the fellowship. In France, the Master of the Order. When government shall reduce the minimum age at which young men may be admitted to the order, the Master of the Order should be notified.

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OFFICE SEEKERS.

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THE BEE BUILDING.

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Seventeenth and Farnam, offers attractions for Professional Men, Insurance Companies, Brokers, Real Estate Agents and Business Men, who desire elegant, commodious and fire-proof offices at reasonable terms.

For particulars apply at the Counting Room, New Bee Building.

CLARKE

Shakespeare, Lodge No. 217 will give a literary and musical entertainment at their hall, 1314 Douglas street, next Saturday evening. A fine program is being prepared and in most enjoyable time is anticipated. This entertainment will be given in lieu of the picnic which has been in preparation for some time.

Sons of St. George.

The vacancies recently occurring in the offices of Nebraska lodge, No. 1, have made quite a change in the official staff of the lodge. H. B. Trev, formerly master of exchequer, has been elected chancellor commander, Dr. Humphrey, of Omaha, has been elected vice-master, and Mr. P. H. Trev, formerly elected vice-chancellor, M. Toft has been elected M. E., and Mel. Horner, M. of F. All of the above officers have been installed.

The representatives-elect and the chancellor-commanders of the different Omaha lodges are requested to meet this morning at 10:30 o'clock, sharp, at the castle hall of Nebraska No. 1, on Fourteenth street. This meeting will be for the purpose of devising ways and means, and arranging a program for the entertainment of the grand lodge of Nebraska, which meets in Omaha October 3.

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