

CHANGE BRINGS NO REFORM

Library Plan to Assist People Works Just the Other Way.

DELAYS IN RETURNING BOOKS INCREASE

Borrowers Seem to Consider the Fine Merely a Nominal Charge for the Privilege of Retaining the Book Overtime.

Beginning on April 1, a change was made in the system of overtime fines at the Omaha public library in the direction of making delinquencies less expensive to the early book borrower. The charge was formerly 5 cents for each day that a book was overdue, but this sum was decreased to 2 cents for the first two days and 5 cents thereafter.

It was expected that this change would be in the interest of the public and would have no serious effect upon the income of the library. The library being an institution primarily in the interest of people who cannot afford to buy their own books, it was urged that the new arrangement would relieve them of a hardship they often found impossible to avoid.

After five months' trial it is found that the receipts have fallen off materially owing to the change in system. In previous years the amount taken in from this source has averaged from \$500 to \$1,000 and at the present rate the receipts for the present year will not be greater than \$600.

This distinction to be prompt has resulted in a large increase in notifications of delinquency sent to patrons. The fine which was intended as a penalty for withholding a book from circulation has come to be regarded in the light of a nominal payment for the privilege of using the book.

This is especially the case with "seven-day books," the limit upon which gives but scant time for their perusal and invites their retention overtime in view of the small consequences. Although it is desired that this class of books always be returned, it is not possible, as many of them are reserved for weeks in advance, these books and others, it is found, are being withdrawn more and more from the active circulation which is essential to the best usefulness of the library.

In the last few months 1,222 more books have been retained beyond the limit intended by the authorities than in a similar period a year ago. The figures indicating this and taken from the number of delinquency notices mailed are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Month, Number of notices. April: 197, 1908; May: 227, 1908; June: 466, 1908; July: 488, 1908; August: 488, 1908.

The following births and deaths were reported to the health commissioner during the twenty-four hours ending at noon yesterday:

Births—Fred Boye, 1415 Canton, boy; Charles P. Rodman, 508 South Thirty-first, girl; Valentine Guzak, boy; Lew Klein, 2356 South Twenty-eighth, girl.

Deaths—William Hal Prather, 319 South Nineteenth, 22 years; Mrs. T. Nelson, 2415 Spencer, 64 years; Leonard Brown, 615 South Fourteenth, 3 months; Mary Wood Arnold, 2119 North Twenty-sixth, 34 years; Isaac Moyer, 1921 Leavenworth, 73 years; Roland R. Allen, 610 South Eleventh, 8 months.

Contract for Paving. The Board of Public Works Saturday afternoon awarded the contract for paving Poppleton avenue from Park avenue to Thirty-second street with asphalt to the Grant Paving company. Its bid was \$1,260 per yard.

Nickel Plate Excursion to Boston. The Missouri Pacific will sell round trip tickets at very low rates to Cincinnati and return on September 2, 3, 4, 5. For further information call at company's office, southeast corner 14th and Webster.

Cincinnati and Return \$17.70. Via Rock Island Route. Sept. 2, 3, 4 and 5. Final return limit Oct. 2. Choice of routes.

Special Train to Chicago. Special train will leave Omaha 7:15 a. m. Monday, Sept. 5, and arrive Cincinnati early following morning.

Excursion to Cincinnati. Via the Wabash Railroad. On September 3, 4 and 5 the Wabash will sell tickets at less than one fare, good returning until October 2.

Magnificent Trains. To All Principal Western Points Via Union Pacific. TWO trains daily, 4:35 p. m. and 11:55 p. m.

REGULATE THE EXPRESSMEN

Object of an Ordinance License Inspector McVittie Will Ask the Council to Adopt.

License Inspector McVittie is busily engaged in drawing up an ordinance to regulate expressmen. An outline of the ordinance was introduced at a special meeting of the council last week.

The object of the new ordinance is to amend and broaden the one now on the city books. It will provide the fee which an expressman shall charge for hauling anything from a trunk or a mallet to a fall load. Another provision will make it compulsory for an expressman to deliver the luggage consigned to his care in the time agreed upon. Violations are punishable by fines of \$5 upward.

Some such ordinance as proposed is needed, judging from the complaints that are made. Expressmen about the city seem to be trying to rob visitors on a small scale and sometimes charge exorbitant prices for hauling articles. Moreover, some expressmen accept so many engagements that they find it impossible to deliver trunks and valises at depots at the time they promised to, and the result is owners are missing trunks.

Firemen Are Decorating. The downtown fire department companies are decorating their engine houses in preparation for the firemen's tournament next week.

City Hall Open on Sunday. Hereafter until the close of the exposition the city hall will be opened to the morning on Sunday from 10 o'clock in the morning until 5 in the afternoon.

Mortality Statistics. The following births and deaths were reported to the health commissioner during the twenty-four hours ending at noon yesterday:

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