FUTURE FATE OF THE LAGOON

Will it Remain to Beautify Kountze Park or Vanish Completely?

PARK BOARD CONSIDERS THE QUESTION

If the Beautiful Centerpiece of the Court of Honor Is Retained, More Land Must Be Purchased for the Park Site.

Shall the lagoon, the sparkling gem in the center of the beautiful court of honor of the exposition, be filled up or shall it be retained permanently as a certerpiece for a handsome city park? This is a question that must soon be answered, in view of the near approach of the end of the exposition, and the solution of the problem must apparently be reached by the Board of Park Commissioners, inasmuch as they own about one-third of the land upon which the lagoon lies.

The Park board has talked the matter over and appears to have but one sentiment regarding it. The members feel that if it is a possibility the lagoon should be preserved, but they are in a quandary as to the ways and means of accomplishing this object. The land on which the east and west ends lie must be furnished, but the problem of raising the necessary money is a difficult nut to crack.

Kountze park, which will succeed the exposition, consists of eleven acres. It is wider than the lagoon, but extends only from Nineteenth street to Twenty-first street. Its center is marked by the two bridges that cross the sheet of water on Twentieth street. Therefore, in order to preserve the lagoon, it will be necessary to purchase or in some other way to secure the two blocks of land from Twenty-first to Twenty-third and the two blocks from Nineteenth to Seventeenth.

While the board has talked over the matter the members have not reached any satisfactory solution of the problem. Captain Palmer, however, advances a plan for the consideration of the property owners of the city living in the vicinity of the exposition.

Wants the Lagoon Retained.

He says: "There is no question that by retaining the lagoon and forming a beautiful park about it the property in the entire vicinity will be greatly benefited and increased in value. As a consequence it would seem to me that the owners could be brought to sell the land at a moderate figure. I think, then, that the other people who own real estate in the neighborhood should be appreciative enough of the increased valuation that the park would bring to their land to be willing to do something to have the park established. It would be impossible for the city in its present financial condition to buy the needed land and therefore I would suggest that the property owners raise enough money by subscription to pay at least a part of the cost of the land, the city to put in the remainder. It would be a pity to have the lagoon filled up, but that will probably be done if the property owners do not come forward with some scheme of this character."

Commissioner Evans would also like to see the lagoon retained if the additional ground can be secured in any way. If, however, this is found to be impossible he has a scheme to preserve the section of it that lies in the park tract. The little lake that would result would lie in the center of the future park.

Nothing will be done in connection with the matter this year, however. In the first place it is not believed that the buildings can be removed in time. Secondly, the park board has no money with which to fill the lagoon or do anything with it, nor will any more money be forthcoming until the board receives a share of next year's tax levy. As a consequence the lagoon will probably lie as it is until next spring, although the water will in all likelihood be drained away in order to prevent accidents.

Board Will Be Reappointed.

Acting on the advice of City Attorney Connell, Mayor Moores will appoint a new Board of Park Commissioners, probably next week. He will do this in accordance with the decision of the supreme court in the Fire and Police board case, which places the power of appointment of city boards in the hands of the mayor and city council. In the past the board members were appointed by the judges of the district court. The action of the mayor, however, will not result in a change in the present personnel of the board, as he proposes to simply reappoint the board as it now stands.

FRUIT AND GAME PRICES

Local Dealers Talk of the Situation in Regard to Table Luxuries for Omaha.

The commission merchants have not been doing a great amount of business so far this week owing to the unfavorable condition of the weather. The railroad delays have interfered with the transportation of produce. But it seems to be the general impression that the end of the week will see a full market. Dairy products have been somewhat scarcer than usual and the season for summer fruits is almost at an end. Fancy fruits from California and Utah, however, are coming in in carload lots and nuts of all kinds are beginning to be plentiful. Game is in abundance.

Speaking of the markets, A. C. Riddell said yesterday: "For some reason or other butter and eggs are scarce just at present. The poultry market is steady. We are not beginning to receive a great amount of game yet, but we are able to supply the demand. Prairie chickens are selling at $3.50, mallard ducks at $3.50 and teal ducks at $1.50 and $1.75. Potatoes are coming in freely and bring from 40 to 45 cents, according to quality. Our receipts of western apples are light."

Streight & Benson have just received twenty-five boxes of pomegranates from the Fay Fruit company of Los Angeles, Cal. This is the first lot of this fruit that has been received in Omaha for the last five years. They are selling at $5 a box. A representative of the firm said that they were not receiving very much California fruit now with the exception of tokey grapes. They expect a carload from Utah the first of next week. This will consist principally of peaches and plums. They are getting a few grapes and apples from New York. The tropical fruits, especialy lemons and oranges, are holding out remarkably well for this season of the year.

Rocco Bros. find that the receipts of California fruits are becoming less. The peaches are practically gone and this week will see the last of them. There are plenty of pears, grapes and quinces and from appearances there will be for some time. They have been getting a large quantity of apples from California and expect a still greater stock in a few weeks, including bell flowers, Spitzenbergs and pippins.

George Snyder said in regard to recent fruit receipts: "We are getting some Utah fruit now, but very little from California. Peaches are high, $1.25 a box. We have found lemons to be very scarce and high and there are no oranges on the market to speak of. The Iowa apples are still holding out in good shape. We are selling Ben Davises at $3.25 and $3.50 a barrel. We expect to get in some California fruit next week.

G. W. Icken & Co. are handling quite a quantity of game at present. The prices they quoted are: Prairie chickens, $4 to $4.25; grouse, $3.50; jacksnipes, $1.25; golden plover, $1 to $1.25; mallard ducks, $3.25 to $3.50; teal ducks, $1.75; jack rabbits, $2; cotton tails, $1 to $1.25. Besides their game they have received a large quantity of celery, butter and eggs.

INVESTIGATING HIS AFFAIRS

Treasury Department Looking Up the Conduct of a Recent Superintendent of Construction.

James Farnan's connection with government work in this vicinity has not yet ceased to develop interesting situations, although he has personally ceased to be connected with that work. He was brought here from the far east originally, to superintend the construction of the government building at the exposition. Later he was transferred to South Omaha to superintend the construction of the new postoffice building there. Recently he was suspended from that position, under charges, and his pay was stopped, which is an unusual proceeding pending an investigation. Shortly after his suspension it was given out that he was to leave South Omaha and that the charges against him were to be dropped. This, it seems, is not the case.

The investigation of Farnan's charges by officers of the supervising architect's office was apparently not satisfactory, for it is now said that when Chief Clerk Kemper of that office was in Omaha during the Peace Jubilee week he arranged with the secret service division of the Treasury department to detail a man to continue these investigations and that is now being done by a man assigned by Chief Wilkie of that service.

The nature of the charges made against Farnan cannot be learned and all the officers in this city who might be supposed to be cognizant of the steps being taken are oppressively reticent upon the subject. They admit an investigation is being made, but will give out nothing to the public until the investigation is completed and the report forwarded to Washington. It is reported, however, that the charges include a number of things which are not creditable to Mr. Farnan and if proven true are liable to result in his dismissal from the service, if no more serious punishment shall be meted out.

WHO LEASES LABOR TEMPLE

Question Which Seems Unsettled Between a Number of Interested Parties Just at Present.

Labor Temple is involved in financial difficulties over its present location, and suits have been instituted against it. The building in which the temple is located has changed hands since the rooms were located there, and that is the cause of the present trouble. A year ago last February the property passed into the hands of an eastern company, and the McCague Investment company became the agent. The officers of the temple allege they pay their rent regularly to the representative of the new owner, and that the original owners assert they are entitled to this money, which the temple officials deny.

D. C. Patterson, representing the old company, says the money he wants amounts to $200, and is for rent due from the time the building was originally rented until it passed into the hands of the new owners. He brought suit against the Central Labor union and obtained judgment, but when it came to levying to satisfy this judgment, it was found the Central Labor union had no property, and also that it was not the proper party to sue. Action was then brought against the Labor Temple company and another judgment was secured, and to satisfy this the rent due the temple from a lodge of Ancient Order of United Workmen, occupying the building, was garnisheed.

G. W. Scott, who is supposed to be the superintendent of Labor Temple, then brought suit against the lodge for the amount of the rent, setting up that the money was due him personally, and that he was the landlord of the rooms occupied by the Labor Temple. On this showing he obtained judgment, and the lodge paid him the money.

Mr. Patterson still holds the judgment against the lodge, but he does not just now know how he is going to collect it. The question he wants to know first is who is the real lessee of the property.

DAVE MERCER'S FINE TWINS

Tom Reed Calls Him the Father of Two Expositions—Congressman Prince's Admiration.

Hon. George W. Prince, member of congress from Illinois, is in the city enjoying the exposition. To a Bee reporter he remarked: "I am surprised at the beauty and grandeur of this exposition. It should be seen by every citizen of the republic. The people of Omaha and the west can thank Dave Mercer for congressional action in the matter. All appropriations must originate in the house of representatives and if Dave had not been the popular hustler that he is not one cent would have been voted for Omaha or Nashville. One day I overheard Speaker Reed say to Congressman Mercer: 'Dave, you are the father of two expositions.' 'How is that?' inquired Dave. 'Omaha and Nashville, for if you had not secured money for Omaha Nashville would have fallen by the wayside,' replied Mr. Reed.

"It is quite easy to push bills through the senate but a difficult task in the house. At the last session Buffalo, N. Y., asked an appropriation for the Panamerican exposition but failed in the effort. I am glad to notice, however, that the people appreciate the efforts of Congressman Mercer, as republicans, democrats and populists intend to vote for his re-election."

No Stamps Required.

Attorney General Griggs has given a written opinion, holding that the rebate checks given by railroad conductors to passengers who pay their fare on trains, and excess baggage receipts are not subject to check under the operation of the new revenue law. This countermands all previous decisions rendered by the revenue office.

Students Go Home.

The party of several hundred students of the Manhattan Agricultural college, who have been spending several days at the exposition, left for home on a special train over the Union Pacific yesterday afternoon.

CORN SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Some Reasons Given for the Expected Increase in Prices.

ESTIMATES SHOW A DECIDED SHORTAGE

Home Requirements and Demand for Export More Than Equal the Probable Amount—Wheat Shares Somewhat in the Situation.

Those whose business it is to keep in touch with the grain market and who estimate the coming crop of the country at large as freely as a farmer will guess at the yield of his twenty-acre tract are predicting good prices for corn during the coming year. They base their statement upon figures which they allege show there will be a deficiency in the yield for the season. It is estimated that it will require 2,000,000,000 bushels to satisfy the needs of this country alone. The exports for the last year were 208,744,930 bushels, against 176,946,365 for the year previous, which was the largest on record up to that time, and the exports so far this year show but little decrease in the figures for last year.

In 1895 and 1896 there was a surplus of the crop carried over to the following year, but last year the yield was below the requirements, and this surplus was largely reduced, until on July 1 last the visible supply of corn in this country was placed at 22,574,000 bushels. On the report made by the Agricultural department on October 1 last the yield for this year was estimated at 1,880,146,000 bushels, much the smallest yield since 1894. But the professional grain men say all the trade indications point to a much smaller yield than that estimated by the Agricultural department.

A conservative estimate of the corn yield for this year is said to be 1,750,000,000 bushels, which, with the estimate of stock in farmers' hands at the beginning of the year, and the visible supply of last July, makes a total supply available for this year of 2,172,000,000 bushels. With the amount required for home consumption and the indicated demand for export experienced grain men figure there will be a shortage in the supply this year and on this condition base their prediction that the price will advance as the winter comes on.

The outlook for wheat is also said to be unusually good. Men who make it a study watching the conditions which affect the market say there are small stocks abroad, which with increased consumption will create a heavy demand for this cereal. It is reported that the Russian government will this year be forehanded and is now buying up much of the product of that country to be held in reserve for the famines which visit some sections of the empire almost yearly. To such an extent has this been true that nearly all the wheat offered in that country this year has been taken by the government for these possible emergencies. This has removed Russia for the time being as a competitor of the American producer and gives a better field for our wheat.

These things are given as the reasons for the present large exports of this grain. There may be a drop in these exports when the waterways of Europe are closed on account of winter, as most of the shipments on the continent are made through these channels; but as a general proposition it is believed the export demand for wheat will continue while the present crop on this side holds out.

HITCHCOCK AGAINST TIME

Politician in Triplicate Gives a Perfectly Lovely Exhibition to Admiring Third Warders.

Between seventy-five and a hundred persons wandered in out of the cold Monday night to attend a meeting at Creighton hall, where the three-ringed aspirant for Dave Mercer's seat in congress was billed to make things warm enough for anybody. It was a warm meeting, to be sure. Those who attended were given the unusual spectacle of Ed Rothery presiding at a meeting where Gilbert M. Hitchcock was the principal speaker. Mr. Rothery called time promptly, introduced Mr. Hitchcock to the multitude, cautioned him about fouling, hitting on breakaways and biting during clinches, and then the free silver, initative and referendum, free trade, anything-to-get-elected candidate, proceeded to punch the wadding out of straw men as fast as they could be set in front of him. He mauled the republican financial policy, he riddled the republican revenue policy, he showed the mistakes made by Mr. McKinley in fighting the war with Spain without reference to the Yellows, and finally proved beyond a shadow of doubt that neither Dave Mercer nor any other Omaha man had anything to do with getting the government appropriation for the exposition. This was all done by Senator Allen.

After Mr. Hitchcock had finished his adversaries in the most approved style of the art Referee Rothery awarded him the prize offered for the event, and Attorney General Smyth did a bag-punching turn. Mr. Smyth is inimitable in this respect and the way he landed on what was left after Mr. Hitchcock had finished was enough to make the crowd wonder if the premier event of the evening hadn't been put off till the last. When Mr. Smyth had finished his share of the evening's entertainment the Third warders who were there returned to their wonted avocations with considerable satisfaction at having been at one of the warmest affairs ever pulled off on a cold night in Omaha.

HAS SOME MATTERS TO MEND

Republican County Committee's Meeting on Saturday Will Consider Several Difficulties.

It is probable that the republican county committee will be called together next Saturday afternoon to take action upon some matters of business. Chief of this will be the position the eighth man will occupy on the executive committee. Chairman Burbank was authorized to appoint a committee of seven, but in making up his appointees he decided to recognize both factions in South Omaha. As that city was only entitled to one member, it became necessary for the chairman to exceed his authority, and he appointed two members. At the first meeting of the executive committee the eighth man was not allowed to be present, and some bad feeling was engendered. The county committee will be asked to reconsider the action of the county convention and endorse the committee as appointed by Chairman Burbank.

It is also rumored that V. B. Walker will withdraw from the legislative ticket and that the name of Rev. J. C. C. Owens will be substituted. Confirmation of this rumor cannot be obtained and Mr. Walker denies that he has any intention of resigning. However, it is not improbable that the committee will consider the matter of reorganizing the ticket.

EXPOSITION SURPLUS FUNDS

Stockholders Should Have a Chance to Say What They Will Do with Their Own Money.

OMAHA, Oct. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: I read in The Bee that the bank account of the exposition shows a balance in its favor of about $300,000. I have made a rough estimate of the probable revenues for the remaining two weeks and of the salvage. From the total amount of stock subscriptions I deduct the sum of delinquents and of donations. The result points to a rebate of about 75 cents on the dollar subscribed.

Subscribed for what purpose? Read the articles of incorporation.

I hear men discussing the best means of disposing of the surplus money of the exposition. One of these thoughtless financiers would have the board of directors hang the whole fund up to be distributed in the shape of bonuses to induce factories to locate in Omaha. Another would take part of the exposition money and with it construct an auditorium. The board of directors has already voted $10,000 of this money for a history of the exposition.

Has the idea ever occurred to these generous spirits that the funds now standing to the credit of the exposition are the sole property of the stockholders? Is it not true that the managers and directors of the exposition have the custody of this money only to further the aims and objects of an exposition? See articles of incorporation.

Is there anything in the articles authorizing the board to invest $10,000 or any other sum in a history or in anything other than an exposition?

After all, would it not be well to give the stockholders a chance to say what they'll do with their own money? H. B. J.

County Teachers' Association.

An interesting program has been prepared for the meeting of the Douglas County Teachers' association, which is to be held at the court house Saturday afternoon, October 29. George W. Fox is to read a paper on the benefits of the state course of study, to be followed by discussion by J. B. Cash of Waterloo and Miss Ida Miller of Florence. The second subject will be the value of written and oral work in school by Miss Anna E. Leach of Valley. This is to be discussed by W. C. Ar of Bennington and Miss Amy Sheppard of Millard. Finally Miss Agnes McKay is to talk on the uses and abuses of examinations. J. A. Cummings and W. W. Elliott of Elkhorn to follow her in general discussion. Superintendent Bodwell hopes the teachers will turn out in good force.

Notes from the Courts.

An injunction has been asked for by Philomena Ablan of 1259 South Thirteenth street against Amin Ablan to prevent him from trying to dispose of her stock of goods. She states that she purchased the stock from him in July, 1896, but that he broke into the store on Monday in an endeavor to dispose of it. Judge Fawcett granted a restraining order and set the hearing of the case for this morning.

Charles G. Riley sues Margaret Riley for divorce on the grounds of infidelity and desertion. They were married here in February, 1890.

Suit for $361.29 on account of superintending the building of the Central United Presbyterian church has been brought in the district court by Walker & Kimball.

Shopliters Released.

While Rev. Father McDevitt was at the city jail yesterday morning waiting to see a friend who was in need his attention was attracted to a distressing case, which involved aged Mrs. Shoepper, arrested for shoplifting. Interesting himself in the case because of the story the woman told, the reverend gentleman secured her release.

Mrs. Shoepper, who said her home is at Council Bluffs, said she had stolen the articles from the Boston Store to enable her to buy medicine for her son, an ex-volunteer soldier, who was at the point of death of typoid fever contracted at Chickamauga. She said that he had been her sole support and that when he was stricken down she had nothing to eat and no money to obtain medical attention for her boy. His sufferings and the pangs of hunger drove her to steal. Mrs. Shoepper said that but three months ago she lost her husband. Her story touched Judge Gordon as it had Father McDevitt and he gladly released the woman.

Tillie Olin, a waitress at the Dodge restaurant, who was also arrested for the same offense, was released by Judge Gordon on a twenty days' suspended sentence.

Finds the Burglars in Jail.

On the night of September 21 at a local hotel Mrs. M. C. Brag, a guest from Quincy, Ill., while retiring for the night, was surprised and startled to see a long arm reach through the window of her room and grab up all her jewelry that was on a small table near the window and disappear. Since that night Detective Keysor has been working on the case. Yesterday he successfully ended his search at the county jail. In the person of S. A. Rice, sentenced to thirty days in the county jail by Judge Gordon for stealing clothing, he found the long-armed thief who robbed Mrs. Brag. When confronted by the facts in the case Rice broke down and confessed and told the detective where he could recover the most of the stolen stuff. A charge of burglary was sworn out against him and he will be arrested on that charge when he is released from the county jail.

Cornicle's Injury Fatal.

E. C. Cornicle, an elderly man, who fell heavily from a street car Saturday evening and was severely injured, died yesterday afternoon without regaining consciousness. The deceased was the father-in-law of George West, city passenger agent of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, and had been visiting at the latter's house, 2226 Ohio street. His home was Cedar Rapids, Ia., and the body will be taken to that city for interment.