

OMAHA ILLUSTRATED BEE.

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Pen and Picture Pointers

The recent resignation of Secretary of War Alger and the fact that his successor does not assume office until August 1 leaves a Nebraska, Hon. George D. Meiklejohn, at the head of that department. This is no new experience for him, however, as repeatedly during Secretary Alger's incumbency Mr. Meiklejohn, as assistant secretary, has been called upon to perform the duties of his chief. So well has he acquitted himself in this regard and also in the discharge of his duties as assistant secretary that when General Alger resigned there was a strong sentiment favoring his promotion. Geographical location and the fact that the great state of New York was not represented in the cabinet was against him and proved an insurmountable barrier.

It was well known, especially among the

department. This was his first real vacation since he assumed the position of assistant secretary and it was during this vacation that Secretary Alger decided to tender his resignation to the president.

Mr. Meiklejohn's grandfather, Andrew Meiklejohn, was born at Sterlingshire, Scotland, in 1798, and emigrated to America in 1815, locating at Orwell, Vt. His father, Peter Meiklejohn, was born in Putnam, N. Y., in 1818, and in 1854 located in Wisconsin. The assistant secretary of war was reared on a farm and educated at the State Normal school at Oshkosh, Wis., and the Michigan university at Ann Arbor, where he graduated from the law department in 1880, and in the fall of the same year took up his residence in Fullerton, Nance county, Neb., and which has since been his home. He was prosecuting attorney of Nance county for three years. He was elected to the state senate in 1884 and re-elected in 1886; was chairman of the republican state convention in 1887, and was made chairman of the republican state central committee in 1887-88. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1888, and by virtue of his office as lieutenant governor was presiding officer of the famous joint convention to canvass the election returns of 1891, in which an attempt was made to count out the ticket duly elected, one of the most intensely interesting episodes in the history of the Antelope state. Mr. Meiklejohn declined a renomination for lieutenant governor and was elected to the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth congresses from the old Third Nebraska district. In his first race for congress he had an adverse majority of 1,600 against him to start with, and as opponents George F. Keiper, democrat, and the present governor of Nebraska, William A. Poynter, populist. In his second campaign for the lower house of the national legislature he ran against W. N. Hensley, democrat, and John M. Devine, populist. He declined a third nomination. He was appointed to his present position April 16, 1897.

Mr. Meiklejohn is one of the most energetic men who ever filled a public position in Washington. He possesses a high order of executive ability and a kindly courtesy, which contributes to the performance of the multitudinous and harassing duties of his office with credit to himself, the head of the department and the chief executive.

The recent reorganization of the executive committee of the Greater America Exposition attracted a great deal of attention throughout the state. The three new members of the committee are well known business men of Omaha and can be depended upon to bring into the committee a power for the upbuilding of the enterprise.

Mr. Fred A. Nash, general agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad in this city, needs no introduction to the people of Omaha and the state. Mr. Nash has been in Omaha since 1867, and during all these years has followed a railroad career. He began at the bottom, and by conscientious work and great natural ability has won the place he now holds. Few men in western railroad circles are better or more favorably known than Mr. Nash, and his election to the executive committee of the exposition is a well earned reward for his efforts in the upbuilding of the city.

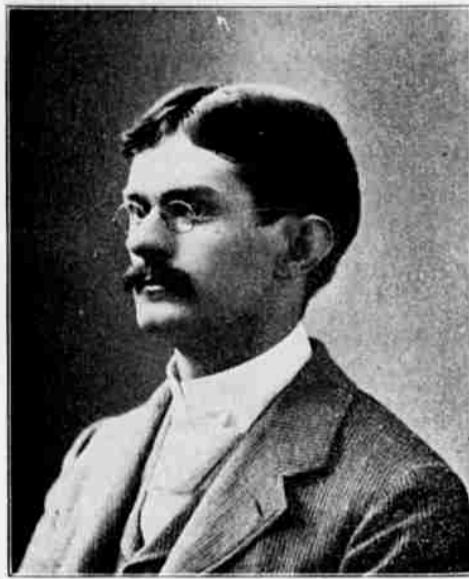
Mr. William F. White, vice president and general manager of the New Thomson-Houston Electric Light company, is a young man with a thorough business education. For the past four years Mr. White has been in charge of the electric light plant in this city and has made many innovations and improvements in the system since his arrival. Previous to his advent in Omaha he was in the employ of the General Electric company and had occupied important positions with that company both at Schenectady, N. Y., the general headquarters of the corporation, and at Chicago.

Mr. George W. Clabaugh, secretary of the Omaha Gas company, comes from an old Maryland family whose names have been associated with the politics of the state for many decades. Mr. Clabaugh was born at Cumberland in that state in March, 1859. He attended Pennsylvania college at Gettysburg as a member of the class of '78, but was forced to leave the institution before the completion of the course because of eye trouble. Later he spent a year in Wyoming, where he engaged in the cattle business and then removed to Baltimore, where he remained until 1885. His next venture was in the line of chemicals and dye stuffs, and just prior to his coming to Omaha in 1890 he became traveling auditor for the gas company he now represents in this city. In this capacity he visited Omaha and was invited to remain as the secretary for the local company.

The departure from Omaha last week of Rev. Alexander Gilchrist, pastor of the Central United Presbyterian church, caused universal regret in church circles throughout the city. Dr. Gilchrist has been pastor of Central United Presbyterian church for the last four years and leaves it for a larger field of labor. Previous to his call to an Omaha pastorate he was for thirteen years stationed at Richmond, Ind., and his acceptance of the call to Omaha was made against the protest of his congregation in that city. He leaves Omaha to accept the corresponding secretaryship of the Board of Home Missions for the United States, and his headquarters will be located at Pittsburg.

Dr. Gilchrist is still a young man and has been a very successful pastor. When tendered the position he now leaves the city to fill, he hesitated long before accepting it, as he deemed that his congregation here had some claims upon him. He was unable to

withstand the influence brought to bear upon him by friends in the east, however, and his resignation was reluctantly accepted by the church authorities. Before his departure he was given a farewell reception, when the members of his congregation had an op-



Photograph by Heyn.
WILLIAM F. WHITE.

portunity to express their regret at his loss and to wish him Godspeed.

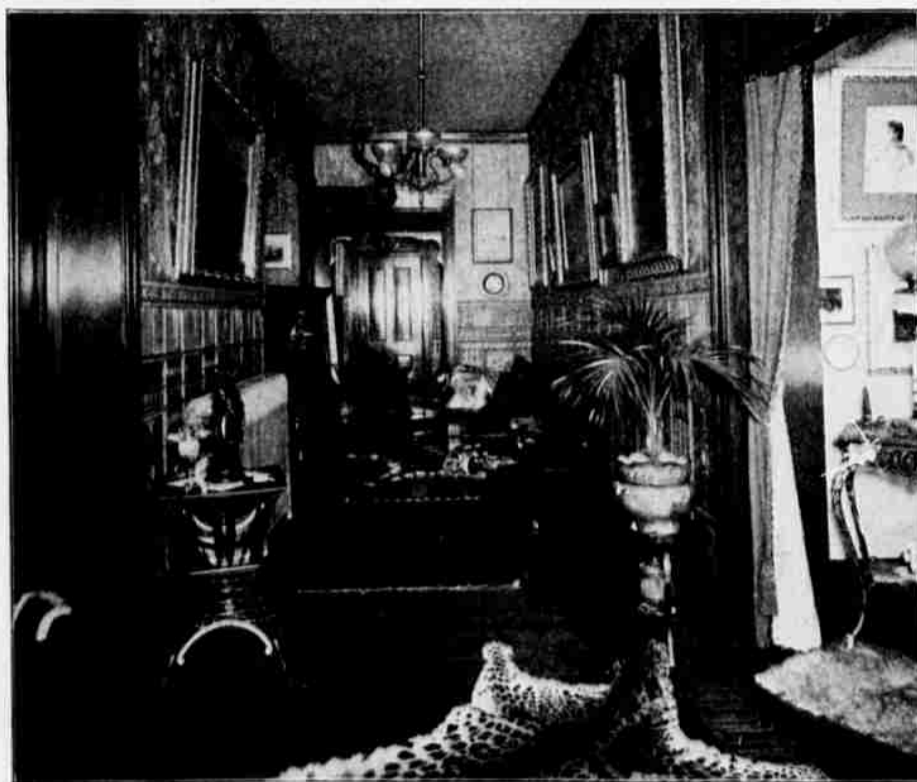
Quaint Features of Life

Four agents of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railroad measure in height, respectively, 6 feet 3 inches, 6 feet 3 inches, 6 feet 3 inches and 6 feet 3 1/2 inches, and their aggregate weight is 1,018 pounds. They have been photographed together and would like to hear from any other railroad that can furnish a group of four their equals in feet and pounds.

Mr. Chamberlain, British minister of the colonies, has discovered a new way to pay old debts. The liabilities of the crown colony of St. Helena exceed the assets by £2,486. A very simple expedient has restored the balance to the right side. Obsolete postage stamps of St. Helena to the value of £5,000 have been lying for many years in Downing street, and these have now been shipped to the colony for sale in the local postoffice at considerably enhanced prices. At latest advices a large demand for these old issues was in progress.

The government has just disallowed a claim made by a veteran of the civil war, whose name is not made public, for remuneration for the crops he left unattended in the fields of his Colorado farm when he went to be a soldier. The amount of the claim was \$23,923.60. The young soldier, after he had enlisted, remembered his crops and wanted to turn back, but the recruiting sergeant, in that persuasive way recruiting sergeants have, prevailed on him to stay. In fact, he was promised a leave of absence in time for the harvest, but he did not get it.

There seems to be no end to the ludicrous things which happened down at Arkansas City during the Fourth of July celebration. The management had engaged a famous trick bicycle rider to give exhibitions on the streets. A part of his performance was to appear in the crowd dressed like a country boy and to ride with great awkwardness.



Photograph by Hobart.
HALL IN RESIDENCE OF HON. J. H. EVANS.

He was in the midst of this act when Policeman Pile rushed up, snatched him off the wheel and dragged him toward the jail, shaking him vigorously. The managers came running up, explained matters and got the policeman to release his prisoner, but the rider was so angry that he wouldn't ride any more.

A correspondent of the Chicago Record says: "There was a mild sensation the other day when the little town of Gausbach, district of Bastatt, Baden, published its annual financial statement for the year

1898. The town's citizens have to pay no municipal taxes. Gausbach is not only out of debt, but is in a position to pay a bonus of \$13.85 to every male citizen and to every widow in town. Besides this, every one gets his fuel free from the vast forests belonging to the town. I have investigated the matter and found that the town has been in this splendid financial condition for the last twenty or thirty years, has asked no municipal taxes, has paid the annual per capita bonus and has given each citizen his winter's supply of fuel. There are a good many people in Germany who would like the citizens of Gausbach."

Jewels of Indian Princes

That India, after a foreign occupation of some centuries, and in spite of the apparent poverty of the great bulk of the people, is still probably the greatest treasure house on earth, relates the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, is due to the fact that for ages it was with Ceylon and Burmah, the field which supplied the rest of the world not only with gold, costly fabrics and spices, but with precious stones, the finest specimens of which, however, were ever retained by the Hindoo and Mogul princes for their own personal adornment.

One of the jewel treasures of the Indian princes, that of the gashwar of Baroda, is perhaps the most remarkable, being appraised by experts a few years ago at the immense sum of three hours of rupees, or \$15,000,000. Among his collection, his chief diamond necklace, worn on state occasions, contains the "Star of the South," a Brazilian stone weighing 254 carats, for which \$400,000 was paid, the whole necklace being valued at forty lacks of rupees, or \$1,000,000. The masterpiece in his possession, however, is a wonderful shawl composed entirely of inwrought pearls and other precious stones worked in the most harmonious and artistic arabesque patterns, and which actually cost the extraordinary price of \$5,000,000.

This shawl was intended as a present to cover the tomb of Mohammed, but when it was finished the gashwar thought twice of the idea and kept it himself. While it is true that the native jewelers as a rule care less for the purity and commercial value of the stones than for the general effect produced, yet their artistic feeling and skill in setting gems, often but poorly cut and polished, cannot be surpassed. As an evidence of this a comb of matchless workmanship was presented to the prince of Wales by the rajah of Jaipur. Another present which the prince of Wales received on his visit to India in 1875 was a sword from the maharajah of Kashmir, set with diamonds and emeralds valued at \$25,000, in addition to which there was a solitaire diamond in the belt worth \$10,000.

Probably one of the most expensive hats ever worn by any person apart from an actual crown was that of Sir Jung Bahadur, prime minister to the king of Nepal, when he paid his formal respects to the prince of Wales on the latter entering the dominions of Sir Jung's master, for in addition to a magnificent headdress of diamonds worth over \$100,000 he wore in an aigrette a single ruby the size of a marble, presented to him by the emperor of China, and of inestimable value.

At the grand darbar, held at Delhi, the ancient capital of the Mogul empire, when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Kaiser-T-Hind (empress of India), the costumes of

rejoicefully disappeared, but should any one chance to rediscover them they would, at the present value of rubies, be worth at least ten times their former price.

Among several stones not accounted of the first value in the west, the cat's-eye is a great favorite with Orientals, a very fine specimen being in the possession of the nizam of Hyderabad, which cost \$25,000.

Pearls are much prized by all the native princes, the rajah of Travancore having an embroidered cap or turban of these gems worth \$70,000, while the largest pearl known, the size of a pear, and practically shah of Persia.

Handsome Omaha Home

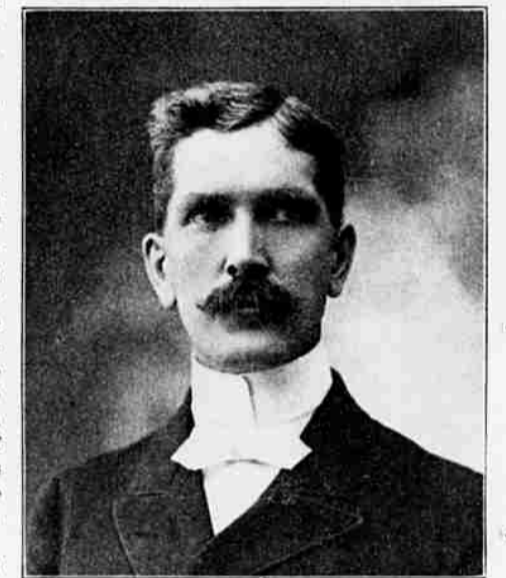
Every man has his hobby and the hobby of Hon. J. H. Evans is his home on Farnam between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets. Mr. Evans has spent not only money to make his home ideal, but has given it his best thoughts and much taste. The exterior, with its well-kept lawns and flower beds, has called forth the admiration of the many passers-by, while the favored friends of Mr. Evans who are familiar with the interior appreciate its decorations and the richness of its furnishings. The decorations of the reception hall, together with the handsome collection of rugs and pictures, make an impression upon visitors which is thoroughly in keeping with the rest of Mr. Evans' beautiful home.

Pointed Paragraphs

Chicago News: Home is usually the clubman's last resort.

The man who thinks little is apt to talk much.

An artist's sign isn't necessarily a sign of genius.



Photograph by Heyn.
REV. ALEXANDER GILCHRIST.

The egotist is always the first to complain of egotism.

No man knows the right way so well as the one who has once been misled.

Some men's idea of practicing economy is to preach it daily to their wives.

In all stories of the wheel the punctuating period brings it to a full stop.

The man who takes his whisky straight usually takes his walks otherwise.

The mosquito never waits until the first of the month to send in his little bill.

When a man is hungry a rare steak is less desirable than one that is plentiful.

Bygones are always bygones. The world is interested only in the man that is ahead.

The woman who hesitates may be lost in a time, but you can't lose her permanently.

Talk must be the equivalent of money, otherwise gossip wouldn't gain currency so easily.

Too many people resemble a ball of twine—they are completely wrapped up in themselves.

It seems inconsistent that fourth-class postmasters should be allowed to handle first-class mail.

History continues to repeat itself in spite of the fact that two-thirds of history isn't worth repeating.

Whenever you hear a man boast of having a "boss" wife the chances are he is getting dangerously near the truth.

It is an easy matter to convince a woman who finds tears more effective than words that water is more powerful than wind.

Self-Congratulations

Washington Star: "Think of what we are escaping by not acknowledging that we are a part of the United States," said the Filipino chief.

"I don't quite see—"

"Of course, you do not see, ingrate. If it were not for you we would be now surrounded by cannon crackers, whistling bombs and all the other Fourth of July devices instead of enjoying our customary quiet retreat."

Some Mythology

Detroit Journal: When the maiden in the old Teutonic myth saw the dragon approach, she was much terrified.

"Are you going to devour me?" she shrieked, clasping her hands agonizedly.

"No, Maude," replied the Dragon, sarcastically, "I'm simply going to take your chewing gum away from you!"

Whenever we see that even a Dragon eventually becomes tired of being asked foolish questions.



Photograph by Heyn.
FRED A. NASH.

newspaper men of the national capital, that the assistant secretary stood high in the estimation of the president, and his conduct during the trying times of the Spanish-American war had shown him to be a man of excellent judgment. Later his handling of the delicate and exceedingly intricate questions arising out of our insular possessions proved him a resourceful lawyer, and the fact that not a single breath of scandal had attached to his person increased the president's respect in due proportion. As a fair estimate of George D. Meiklejohn's ability the following from the leading editorial in the Washington Post of Sunday, July 23, is reproduced. Speaking of the selection of Mr. Root as secretary of war, the Post says:

The arrangement is particularly felicitous, owing to the fact that Mr. Root will have a capable and thoroughly equipped assistant in his work. Mr. Meiklejohn is quite familiar with the purely military questions likely to arise. He has been assistant secretary for more than two years and has brought to his task a clear mind, an intense industry and a deep determination to master the details and routine of the war office. Mr. Root will find in him a competent adviser, a strong coadjutor and a loyal subordinate. Such a combination of leadership, backed by a well organized office machinery, can hardly fail to give satisfaction. Mr. Root enters upon his new duties with an intellectual equipment far above the ordinary and he has waiting for him an assistant secretary of war possessed of thorough and exact information, who can put his finger upon the vital point of all those purely military issues which are for the present outside of his own experience.

Mr. Meiklejohn was born at Weyauwega, Waupaca county, Wis., August 22, 1857, and is a descendant from sturdy Scotch ancestry. And but a week ago he returned from a trip to his boyhood home in Wisconsin, where he went on a tour of the Fox river improvements which are being made under the direction of the engineer branch of the War



Photograph by Heyn.
GEORGE W. CLABAUGH.