MIDWINTER BALM IN CUBA

Nebraskans Take a New Year's Outing 'Round About Havana.

INTERESTING LETTER SENT MAJOR WHEELER

Peculiar Customs of the Cubans as They Come Under the Keen Observation of Americans Temporarily Located There.

The following interesting letter has been received by Major D. H. Wheeler of this city from his son, Myron Wheeler, in the government revenue service in Cuba, stationed at Havana:

HAVANA, Cuba, Jan. 1, 1900.—My Dear Father: A happy New Year. This is the first time I have written "1900." I am still on my vacation and expect to be for a week or two more.

Yesterday my wife and I, with Mr. and Mrs. Sizer and the Portuguese consul and family, went out in the country on a picnic and I had one of the finest times imaginable. The day was perfect, a little warm in the sun, but just right in the shade.

We started at 5 o'clock in the morning and were three or four miles on the road when the sun rose, and to see the sun coming up over the high hills and shining through the royal palms and over the dark green vegetation was a sight worth a long trip to see. We went out to the plantation of the consul general, the distance being twenty-nine kilometers from Havana, which is about twenty miles English, and from the time we started until the end of our destination we traveled over a macadamized road as smooth as a table, with immense laurel trees on either side overlapping at the top, so we were in the shade the entire distance.

Remnants of the War.

We arrived at the plantation about 10 o'clock, passing on the road many battlefields and houses that had been burned during the war. In two places there had been little towns of 400 and 500 people that had been entirely destroyed, not one stone left on another and not a sign of a house unless you walked through the high underbrush that had grown up, hiding all trace of what had once been there. The more I see and hear of the war the more awful it appears, as it was a war of extermination and destruction and not civilized warfare at all.

I could not tell you how beautiful the country is, but everything is grand. We could not see the house we were aiming for until at last we turned a sharp curve in the road and before us was the usual Cuban home, painted yellow and trimmed in white with its red tile roof set with mortar and the yard in front cemented, with the usual number of dogs, chickens and fifteen or twenty children ranging in color from pure white to the blackest negro, and from 1 year of age to full grown men. The house was set in among a banana grove, orange trees, mamal trees, aguacate trees, bread fruit trees, a tree that is called in English "ice cream," lime trees and flowers on all sides, with the great tall palms and cocoanut trees towering above all.

Coffee the National Drink.

As is the custom, almost before we alighted there were servants among us with trays of coffee and black as your hat—the coffee and servants both—in fact you cannot turn around here without taking coffee. We immediately began to pick oranges and fruits of all kinds, as we are pretty well acclimated now and can eat fruit without danger. I ate about a dozen oranges—that hardly seems possible to you, but we do not eat oranges as you do at home; they have a peculiar way of opening them here so you only eat the juice and throw the balance away. They feed the chickens on oranges and they lie rotting on the ground they are so abundant.

We then proceeded to the cocoanut trees. To get a cocoanut would stagger a northern fellow; he would actually starve to death with cocoanuts all around him, but the way they do is to have three or four long cane poles which they tie together very dexterously; in fact a nail is seldom used here; all the scaffolding is tied instead of nailed. At the end of the long jointed pole they have a slit and in this shove a long knife. This is also tied securely so that it forms a kind of a pruning knife and they reach up with the pole which is about thirty feet long and cut the stem of the cocoanut. You want to be sure to stay from under as you would be killed or severely hurt if one were to hit you as they weigh from ten to fifteen pounds apiece with the covering on. They then cut them open with machetes, and, by the way, they all carry this instrument and would be as lost without it as a boy without a knife. You drink the milk, which is ice cold and as sweet as sugar. This milk in the green cocoanut is considered the best thing a person can take for kidney or bladder trouble.

Cuban Diet and Eatables.

We saw tobacco growing and all the Cuban fruits. They grow their own coffee and it is of the best. Coffee grows wild, also the guava from which all the jelly is made here. There were acres of malanga, which is a root they boil and it is something like an Irish potato, but I do not think it is as good. Their sweet potatoes are altogether different from ours; they are called "bonatates." You never saw as many bananas in your life altogether as we saw on this one piece. They sell for about 5 cents a bunch (Spanish). The water is drawn from the well by a mule and a horsepower machine, which is a very primitive affair, but is in general use here. We saw pineapples growing and the second crop is just coming on so as to be ripe. Fresh peas are now in the market, also sweet corn, beets, radishes, cabbage, etc.

Of course the people could not speak English and we had to use what Spanish we knew and use one of our party as an interpreter when they got too deep for us. The old gentleman who runs the plantation is 81 years old and he had grandchildren at the table 23 or 24 years old; he also had children of his own 3 years old and one died shortly before only a year old. He also said at the table before his wife and the young women that he had "one on the way" and his wife looked as pleased as could be, and the young women discussed the matter as openly as they would the flavor of an orange.

I could not describe the dinner, but it was ultra Cuban. To express it in a few words, it consists of a garlic foundation, garlic on the edges and then topped with garlic, with red peppers as a dessert; also rice and chicken which is the national dish; it is called "arroz con pollo." The dulces or desserts are made of cocoanut stewed with sugar until it becomes thick and then it is good; they also fix orange peel by stewing it with sugar; this is also good. The Cuban pork is much better flavored than the American, as they live on the palm seeds and other rich vegetation here which give it an entirely different flavor. The lobsters here are not like ours; they have no claws; the shrimp grow as big as our lobsters; the fish is par excellence.

Danger of Yellow Fever.

We got home about 8:30 in the evening, tired, but feeling fine. I am going out camping and hunting this week. We are going after quail and wild guinea hens, with also a little deer hunting in the mornings. After that we are going to the Isle of Pines, a summer and health resort which is about a day's travel from Havana, it is off the south coast of Cuba, as you can see by the map. We go first to Batabano by train and then take a steamer across. We have not wanted to go anywhere before until we could speak language sufficiently to get around.

There is some yellow fever here yet and a new arrival is subject to it much more than a person who has been here for a while. The man who came down with yellow fever and who works in my office is all right again and back to work. He had it very light and he is looking fine. The weather is beautiful. You can't duplicate it in Nebraska by 1,000 miles.

Mr. and Mrs. Lippincott, who used to live at Lincoln, are here. We called on them, but they were not in; they came next day to see us. They are afraid of fever and want to go right back. They will leave tomorrow for New York.

Everything has quieted down since General Wood came. There is quite a scandal on at the custom house, but only Cubans are involved; they couldn't resist stealing, it is born and bred in the bone and will come out. No Americans are connected with it.

We went out to the battleship Texas when it was here and went through it and saw where it was hit by the Spanish, which was only in one place and that was where it did no damage. They carried back the victims of the Maine.

The Americans are not coming as rapidly as the people here thought they would.

MYRON.

"I am indebted to One Minute Cough Cure for my health and life. It cured me of lung trouble following grippe." Thousands owe their lives to the prompt action of this never failing remedy. It cures coughs, colds, croup, bronchitis, pneumonia, grippe and throat and lung troubles. Its early use prevents consumption. It is the only harmless remedy that gives immediate relief.

BUNCH OF SHORT STORIES.

Senator Depew is telling a story of a New York factory which used to shut down for a week every Christmas for general overhauling. "This year," says the senator, "the place was rushed with orders and there was no let up except during the actual legal holidays and many of the men weren't idle even then. One of the workmen growled a good deal about having no holidays and finally wound up by saying: 'If this sort of thing keeps up I'll vote the democratic ticket.'"

The cleverest daughter recently made a beautiful shade for the piano lamp from a pink evening dress and trimmed it with roses from her last summer's hat, relates Collier's Weekly. That evening a young man called on her and to low-toned music they chatted.

"How do you like our new lamp shade?" she asked demurely.

He studied it for a moment. "The last time I saw it," he replied, "I was dancing with it."

A Portland invalid called on a local physician for an examination, relates the Oregonian. The doctor made the diagnosis and gave the sufferer a prescription, charging him $10. Some time afterward they met on the street.

"Well," said the doctor, "you are looking 100 per cent better. That medicine, though a little expensive, was just what you needed."

"Doctor," replied the patient, "after I paid you $10 for the prescription, I couldn't afford to have it filled, so I didn't take any medicine."

The Philadelphia Post says that a party of friends of the late Vice President Hobart were visiting Washington, and, of course, spent an hour in the senate chamber. Among them was a little girl of 10, who paid close attention to the proceedings. Two days afterward he met the child, who presently asked:

"Do you sit there every day listening to those old men talk?"

"Yes, dear."

"Do you have to?"

"Yes."

"I'm really sorry. It's an awful thing to be vice president, isn't it?"

Editors have their troubles. One of these men who presides over the destinies of a western newspaper, reports the Columbian, is mourning the loss of two subscribers. No. 1 wrote asking how to raise his twins safely, while the other wanted to know how he might rid his orchard of grasshoppers. The answers went forward by mail, but by accident the editor put them into the wrong envelopes, so that the man with the twins received the answer:

"Cover them carefully with straw and set fire to it, and then the little pests, after jumping in the flames for a few minutes, will be speedily settled."

And the man with the grasshoppers was told to "give castor oil and rub their gums with a bone."

The Rochester Post-Express recalls the story of a colored waiter in a hotel in San Francisco who handed an Englishman a table d'hote menu. The gentleman in question did not care for the set dinner, and selected what he wanted. "I don' keer for de tab dote dinnah, then, sah?" asked the waiter. "I told you what I wanted," returned the Englishman. "You want dat off de tab dote bill?" queried the darky. "I don't care, I suppose so. "Well, sah," replied the waiter, "ef you want it off de tab dote, you has to have it all. Tab dote can't be selected from, sah! Tab dote is French an' means jest de whole hog, sah!"

A man just in the act of lifting a barrel of flour felt a hand laid on his shoulder. "Stop!" said the stranger, "You can't lift that." "How do you know I can't?" said the man. "Because I am a physician, and know it's impossible." "That may be," said the man, "but I know I can," and he stooped and lifted the barrel to his shoulder. "What made you so sure you could do it?" asked the astonished physician. "Because I've been doing it every day for years," said the man.

There are physicians who say in good faith to those whose lungs are worn by disease "It is impossible to help you." And yet thousands of these impossibles have been helped and healed by Dr. R. V. Pierce whose "Golden Medical Discovery" has cured them, when the hollow cheek, the rasping cough, the burning flush, and night-sweats have all pointed to consumption.

Ninety-eight out of every hundred such impossible cases can be cured says Dr. Pierce. What makes him so sure? Because he has been curing just such cases for more than thirty years. "Golden Medical Discovery" is strength to the stomach, life to the lungs, nourishment to the nerves. It makes new blood and the new blood builds a new body—a fit temple of health.

There is nothing just as good as "Golden Medical Discovery," so let no one deceive you into accepting a substitute.

"I beg to state that I have used three bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery since my correspondence with you and find great improvement in my case," writes Mr. A. F. Novotny, of New York, N. Y. (Box 442). "I feel that I am in needed no more medical assistance. When I started to take your medicine I had a regular consumptive cough, of which I was afraid and everybody cautioned and warned me concerning it. I was losing weight rapidly, was very pale and had no appetite whatever. Now my condition is changed entirely. I do not cough at all, have gained eight pounds in weight, have recovered my healthy color, and my appetite is enormous. I can recommend your medicine as it is a sure cure, no humbug, as are most other patent medicines."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure biliousness.

WHERE POOR ARE MADE GLAD

Interesting Facts About the Work of the Associated Charities of Omaha.

SOME OF THE INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR

Charity Woodyard Catches a Cosmopolitan Aggregation of Men in Hard Luck—Women Who Are Loyal to Vagabonds.

A plain old building at 1810 St. Mary's avenue is the headquarters of the Associated Charities of Omaha, an organization, as the name implies, devoted to the relief of the needy. The stories of hunger, cold, sickness and general ill-luck daily poured into the ears of the authorities in charge would fill a vast volume. Some of these recitals are fraught with pathos to soften the heart of a hardened cynic, while others bear the marks of professional laziness and deception.

To determine between the worthy and the unworthy is one of the requirements of those in charge of the association work. In nearly every instance temporary relief is granted, but if the assistance is to be continued any length of time, or if any considerable sum is involved, strict investigation is made. Many impostors flock about charity headquarters, and, were it not for official scrutiny, the funds would be quickly dissipated and the usefulness of the organization would terminate.

The Associated Charities is composed of representative Omaha citizens. Each member is assessed $5 per year. This assessment forms the nucleus of a fund augmented by voluntary contributions, either of cash or such articles as can be used in caring for those who are unable to care for themselves. John Laughland, as secretary of the association, devotes all his time to the work, while associated with him as assistants are James C. Lindsay and J. A. James. In addition to this force a woman is employed to look after donations of secondhand clothing.

The late Thomas L. Kimball was president of the association, and was an indefatigable worker in its behalf. Since the death of Mr. Kimball last fall Frank Murphy, the vice president, has filled the president's place. E. C. Brownlee is treasurer. The trustees are: Moritz Meyer, Frank Murphy, M. V. Morse, Thomas Kilpatrick, J. O. Phillippi, C. W. Lyman, John Rush and C. S. Stebbins. The annual meeting will be held the latter part of this month for the election of new officers and for the transaction of other business.

Its Work Is General.

A stylishly attired woman, who rides in a costly private carriage driven by a liveried coachman, called at association headquarters a few days ago and asked: "What do you most need? I want to make a contribution; shall it be cash or merchandise?" For reply Mr. Lindsay conducted the woman through the establishment and pointed out to her the many articles of wearing apparel, furniture and food on hand at that time. He told her there was not a single instance of waste in the entire stock. "We have calls for all this, and more, too," he explained, and then he left it for the visitor to decide in what form she would give.

Referring to the incident Mr. Lindsay said: "Of course money can always be used, but it is really a difficult matter for us to say what we most need—for in fact we need everything.

"Not long ago a poor woman who washes for a living was burned out of house and home. All her scanty furniture except a cook stove was destroyed by the fire. She came to us and we were able to start her to housekeeping. We happened to have on hand a stock of furniture, dishes and so on—even to a wash tub and clothes wringer—and we sent the unfortunate woman away rejoicing. She expected some kind of help when she applied to us, but she had no idea we would be able to more than replace what the fire had taken from her.

"In this work we encounter all sides of life. Not long ago we were taking care of a man sick with typhoid fever. The doctor said he needed stimulants. We furnished him liquor according to the physician's prescription. The sick man lived in a tenement house inhabited by half a dozen other improvident families who were exceedingly neighborly and often visited the invalid, although not in position to render any assistance. When we observed that it was impossible to furnish the man as much liquor as the doctor said he ought to have a little investigation disclosed that the neighbors were drinking the stimulants as rapidly as we could provide them. Of course we put a stop to that. I mention this simply as an illustration of the people we encounter and the obstacles we have to overcome.

Doctor of Divinity Seeks Aid.

"A few days ago we had a call from a Presbyterian minister—a doctor of divinity. He was from South Dakota. Consumption had fastened upon him and he reached Omaha on his way to the south in the hope that sunshine and magnolia atmosphere would bring health back to him. He was penniless when he reached here, but bore every evidence of being a polished and learned gentleman. He had been in charge of a small flock in South Dakota, and in his zeal for the work before him had taken no thought of the financial end of the pulpit. When sickness came upon him his parishioners were willing enough, but lacked the funds to help him. He had accepted mission work in preference to a salaried charge in the east.

"He told his story in a modest way. We investigated and found him worthy. The Presbyterian clergy of this city extended aid, although the unfortunate preacher was too proud to appeal to his own brethren. We took up his case and solicited for him, with the result that he left Omaha with a railroad ticket as far as Hot Springs, Ark., and a few dollars in his pockets.

"I could mention incidents by the hundreds, including every conceivable phase of poverty. We have to deal with the genteel man or woman in hard line, the starving family whose home has been wrecked by a drunken father and husband, the unfortunate young girl thrown out upon her own resources, the prodigal son—well, we meet them all; that's the best way I can express it."

Men Saw Wood For Food.

At Thirteenth and Nicholas streets the Associated Charities maintains a wood yard where from half a dozen to twenty men and boys are given employment from time to time. The wood bought by the association in the Missouri timberlands and shipped here in carload lots comes in cord size, and is unloaded at the yard, where hungry ones await its arrival. They are paid the regular price of sawing, and they may take their pay in groceries or whatever they choose.

The greatest number of wood sawyers apply at headquarters for something to eat or a place to sleep. The motto of the association is: "To Help the Poor to Help Themselves is the Truest of Charity." With this motto in mind Secretary Laughland or his clerks inform the applicant that he will be fed if he saws wood to pay for it. He is directed how to find the yard and when he reaches the place a foreman sets him to work. When he has sawed enough wood to entitle him to eat he is allowed to go. If he chooses he may return, saw more wood and receive credit for further refreshments. Some of the applicants for help do not want it bad enough to work for it. When directed to the wood yard they smile sneeringly and go away, preferring to beg "hand-outs" from kitchen doors in the residence district.

To the student of men and the ways of the world this charity wood yard offers a splendid field of observation. It is worth miles of travel to see the sawyers at work. Some of them have the typical hobo stamp upon their countenances. But they are not all hobos. Men have sawed wood in this yard who could read Latin and to whom Alpha, Beta, Delta, Gamma were as familiar as A B C D are to the bright school boy. Others are plain, unlettered workingmen unable to find employment and who seek the wood yard as a means of sending to a equalid home a little bundle of groceries to brighten the faces of wife and children. A touch of pity makes the whole world kin, it is said, and in this wood yard all men enter on a basis of equality no matter how much the environments of their youth may have contrasted.

Women Who Have Seen Better Days.

By far the most pathetic feature of the dispensation of charity at the headquarters of the association is the sight of women and little children who gather about to tell their story of want. Many of these women have worthless husbands, and the fact is known to the authorities. But the women and children are not blamed for the improvidence of a vagabond husband and father, so help is extended even though it is known that the sluggard will partake of the food thus secured. A peculiar exemplification of women's devotion to man, no matter how degraded, is found in the fact that of the starving women who call on the association only a small proportion have aught but good to say of their husbands.

"Poor John, he has tried and tried to get work, and just can't find anything to do."

This and many similar expressions are heard in excusing the plight into which some men through drink and laziness plunge their families into need.

Omaha a Gateway for the Poor.

The fact that Omaha is a gateway between the east and west makes it also a gateway for the stranded. Travelers from either direction frequently reach Omaha in a penniless condition, and a large percentage of the temporary relief work done by the Associated Charities is for the benefit of transients instead of residents of this city. While there is no legal reason why Omaha should help those who come from other cities and other states, the association is impelled by humane motives, and the technical question of geographical location is frequently waived. As a rule, the transient seekers for help need railroad transportation as well as food and shelter.

In the matter of transportation the railroad managements located here are generous. All applications for half-fare permits are honored if they bear the endorsement of the Associated Charities. These permits are even extended to lines of railway which do not enter Omaha. For instance, only a few days ago a young man was ticketed from Omaha to Butte, Mont., on payment of half the regular fare.

It is said that on only one railroad in the United States is it impossible for the Associated Charities of Omaha to secure reduced rates. The exception is the Hot Springs railroad, a short line running from Malvern, Ark., to Hot Springs. The superintendent of the road is said to have taken a vow that he would never permit his line to carry a passenger who did not pay fare. The only instance on record where the road was cheated out of a ride was when a colored man secreted himself in the lower part of the engine machinery and rode the entire distance—twenty-two miles—without being detected.

PUSHING ALONG GOOD THING

Commercial Club Beckoning Attention of Implement Makers to Omaha.

Secretary Utt of the Commercial club is taking advantage of the movement of agricultural concerns towards Omaha to urge a corresponding movement upon the part of others. A circular is being sent out to all manufacturers of implements calling attention to Omaha as a desirable place in which to locate distributing houses and to the large implement business now being conducted here.

"The city of Omaha," says the circular, "is located in the center of the finest agricultural district in the world and its possibilities are beyond calculation. Nebraska has 49,000,000 acres of land, and only 16,000,000 are under cultivation; besides, the immense territory in the northwest, west of the Missouri river, is now practically undeveloped, but is now assuming importance along agricultural lines."

The circular directs attention to the fact that this section is reached by direct lines of the Burlington, the Elkhorn and Union Pacific, with headquarters and all their environments concentrated here. In addition to the established lines, the Illinois Central has just reached Omaha, and the Union Pacific, Burlington, Northwestern and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railways have extended their lines this year, opening up new territory tributary to Omaha. The Great Northern and Minneapolis & St. Louis will reach Omaha in 1900. The Chicago & Great Western and a new line from Kansas City are projected.

"The jobbing business of Omaha is growing rapidly, based on the excellent conditions in tributary territory," says the circular, "and the splendid systems of railway converging at this point. There may have been times in the past when there was doubt as to the future of the great northwest, but this is gone forever. Well-founded faith and confidence is fully established.

"We hope you will investigate the facilities Omaha affords for the location of your business. We are in position to arrange for grounds and buildings well located on tracks, convenient to the city, not any particular location, but almost any you may select. During the last year six large implement firms have brought premises in Omaha, and buildings are built or will be built during the year. We will be pleased to correspond with you, and we invite you to visit our city."

RIFLES SURE OF CLUB HOUSE

Building to Be Begun During Coming Summer—Springfield Arms for Drill Team.

The Thurston Rifles club has completed its incorporation and expects to see the foundations of its new club house laid during the summer. Several offers have been received from property owners who are willing to erect a suitable building under a long lease with a final option of purchase. The site which is looked upon with most favor at present is the southeast corner of Eighteenth and Douglas streets, upon which the owners propose to construct a three-story brick structure. Plans have already been drawn up for a modern and artistic club house. The club now numbers over 300 members and the individual expense of the undertaking is expected to be very light.

Captain Stockham of the drill team has made several trips to Lincoln in an effort to secure rifles from the adjutant general's department. When the plan to secure Krag-Jorgensens from the War department failed the only recourse was to apply to the state for the loan of the 55-caliber Springfields now in stock. Captain Stockham has received encouragement from the adjutant general and the team will probably be equipped within a few weeks.

A formal dancing party will be given by the Rifles on Tuesday night in the armory. The event is one of a series to be given during the winter, and the occasion will be observed with all due ceremony. The Rifles are prepared as to wardrobe for a function of any description. They are equipped with dress uniforms, dress fatigue and fatigue uniforms.

Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet Co.

Special January Offers

At Moving Prices—Clearing Sale—Cleaning-Up Sale

We do not offer our entire stock at reduced prices, but such as we designate are actual reductions from actual selling prices. Special features on for Monday.

The Special January Rug Sale

Has proved a most attractive sale. The reductions made on rugs left over has made them sell with spirit and the special offer of Rugs made from remnants of carpets has been too good to last. These rugs—just from the workroom—on show Monday for the first time—made from remnants.

Here are the kinds.	Here are the sizes.	Here are the prices.
Axminster Rug	10-6x12-6	$19.00
Velvet Rug	10-6x12-0	$23.00
Body Brussels	10-6x12-0	$20.00
Axminster Rug	10-6x13-0	$22.50
Brussels Rug	9-9x11-6	$13.50
Moquette Rug	10-6x12-0	$22.50
Brussels Rug	10-6x10-10	$15.00
Brussels Rug	10-6x12-0	$20.00
Brussels Rug	10-6x11-3	$18.50
Wilton Rug	10-6x12-0	$20.00
Brussels Rug	10-6x12-3	$20.00
Axminster Rug	10-6x12-0	$25.00
Velvet Rug	10-6x12-9	$25.00
Axminster Rug	8-3x12-0	$19.50
Brussels Rug	8-3x8-3	$8.75
Body Brussels	8-3x8-0	$10.00
Axminster Rug	8-3x11-0	$19.00
Velvet Rug	8-3x10-6	$16.50
Axminster Rug	8-3x10-6	$15.75
Body Brussels	8-3x10-6	$15.00
Brussels	7-6x9-0	$10.00
Body Brussels	6-0x9-8	$7.50
Brussels	8-2x10-6	$13.00
Velvet Rug	8-3x8-9	$16.00
Brussels	8-3x12-0	$14.25
Axminster	8-3x12-6	$18.00

Drapery Department

Fancy Sofa Pillows Half Price.

About 100 fancy covered Sofa Cushions, desirable sizes, covered in silk, with ruffled edges, oriental tapestry, with cord and fancy edges; fancy embroidered effects—all go this week at half price to close them out.

$1.25 Cushions, each	63c
$1.50 Cushions, each	75c
$2.00 Cushions, each	$1.00
$3.00 Cushions, each	$1.50
$4.50 Cushions, each	$2.25

All this week half price.

Lace Curtains

Odd Lots.

One pair, one and a half pairs and two pair lots of everything in Lace Curtains from the cheapest to the best, marked down to very low prices to close out at once. If you expect to buy curtains within the next 60 days this will be a better opportunity than you will have again. They must go now.

Tapestry Curtains

also go into this cut price sale. Everything in single pairs and half pairs marked way down to close. Prices $2.00 to $22.50—were formerly $3.00 to $30.00 per pair.

Here a few Kulah Rugs to close. These are rough, bright-colored goods, made of fine wool and very serviceable and the prices very low.

20 Rugs—4x7 feet—to close ..... $3.00 each
14 Rugs—2-6x5 feet—to close ..... $1.35 each
25 Rugs—2-2x4-6—to close ..... $1.15 each

Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet Co.
1414-1416-1418 Douglas Street.

OMAHA'S DEATH RATE GROWS

Reputation as Healthiest Locality in Country is Endangered.

GRIP IS HELD LARGELY RESPONSIBLE

Epidemic Early in the Year Swelled the Mortality Statistics—Marked Increase Also in Pneumonia and Consumption.

The assistant city physician has prepared his annual report for submission to the mayor and council, and statistics as to births and deaths are given, compiled by the health office during the year. The most significant item is in regard to deaths, which show a material increase over both 1898 and several years preceding. The mortality list in 1899 reached 1,187, compared with 943 one year ago. The death rate is therefore 8.48, as against 6.7 in 1898 and 6.6 in 1896, when the low point was reached. The rate in other cities varies from 8 to 25, and Omaha is losing its reputation as the healthiest city in the United States.

Dr. Ralph accounts for the increased number of deaths in part by the epidemic of grip which prevailed during the first three months of the year. No record was secured of the number of cases, but thirty-three deaths were directly attributable to the disease, while there was a marked increase in pneumonia and consumption, kindred affections. There were 126 deaths from pneumonia, compared with ninety-three one year ago, and 117 deaths from consumption, as against 102 in 1898.

Death Rate by Ages.

The records show that by far the largest number of deaths occurred among children under one year of age. The decade from twenty to thirty claimed the next largest number. The death statistics by ages for 1899 is as follows:

Under 1 year	240
Between 1 and 2	53
Between 2 and 5	68
Between 5 and 10	43
Between 10 and 20	66
Between 20 and 30	139
Between 30 and 40	121
Between 40 and 50	116
Between 50 and 60	107
Between 60 and 70	102
Between 70 and 80	95
Between 80 and 90	36
Between 90 and 100	6

Considerable difficulty has been experienced by the health officials in securing a full report of contagious diseases. There were twenty-six deaths reported last year from typhoid fever, for example, when a total of only ninety-seven cases were reported. On the average mortality rate of this disease the total number should be in the neighborhood of 300. There has been no appreciable change in the number of cases of diphtheria, scarlet or typhoid fevers during the year, as compared with 1898. The report is as follows: Diphtheria, 103 cases; scarlet fever, 68 cases, typhoid fever, 97 cases.

The number of births shows a considerable increase over one year ago, there being 1,726 compared with 1,625 in 1898. These have been divided as follows: 910 male; 816 female; 1,701 white; 25 colored.

The assistant city physician does not consider the present mild weather at all unhealthy and largely discredits the theory of "a green Christmas, a full graveyard." He says that while the weather is indisputably out of season, there is no unusual amount of disease, and on the contrary January of the present year is so far much more free from sickness than in 1899. The warm weather certainly acts as a check upon smallpox, which is a "crowd" malady and thrives in low temperatures.

Changes in School Boundaries.

The advent of the Cass school upon the local educational field will make necessary changes in boundaries in order that the building may fill out its capacity for school pupils. The territory given below now tributary to the Central school will be added to the Cass district: From Seventeenth and Chicago west to Eighteenth, north to Cass, west to Nineteenth, north to California, west to Twentieth, north to Webster, east to Seventeenth. Kellom school will take the following contribution: South and east of a line from Twentieth and Webster north to Cuming, east to Nineteenth, north to Izard, east to Eighteenth, north to Nicholas, east to railroad tracks, north to Clark, east to district limits. Kellom will make good its loss by a small portion of the Lake school district.

Major Hamner is Retired.

Major Hamner, chief paymaster of the Department of the Missouri, has informed his friends in this city that he has been retired from active service in accordance with the forty-year service rule. He had recently received orders to report for duty at Manila, but felt unequal to the demand by reason of physical disability. His claim for retirement was based on forty-three years spent in active service, principally on the western and southwestern frontier. Major Hamner is now in Chicago, where he will remain for several days.

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