BY THE KING: To our loyal subjects of Quivera; to the

strangers within our gates - Greeting most court cous and kind-

onation by festivities gorgeous and prolonged:

tion and Mystic Revelries:

MDCCCC of Quivera VI.

Attest, SAMSON

iy. It is our royal pleasure, following the goodly custom of

our predecessors in kingly rule, to mark the event of our Cor. .

And we by these presents do set apart the 24th until the

30th days inclusive of the 9th month, as the time for our

dizzy Or ental Carnival - the 26 h day thereof for our .

parade by daylight - the 27th day thereof, at 8 o'clock of . the evening, for our entry in state into our City of Omaha, .

wi h our Loyal Knights of Ak Sar-Ben and our entire

court, at which time we will receive the keys of the city.

at the hands of our trusted Mayor, in token of our undis-

puted sway - and on the evening of the 28th day, we,

and our royal consort, will be present at the Ak-Sar-Ben

Den when will be held the solemn ceremonies of Corona-

Now, therefore, We. Ak Sar Ben VI, King of Qui

vera, Duke of the Seven Cities of Cibola, Grand Master

of the Corn Belt, and in the coarse language of the unre

generate "The Whole Push," do command and enjoin all

peoples to attend with joy unlimited and ecstacy without

bounds. Let everywhere the erstwhile staid and busy

citizen caper wildly on one leg and carol forth the glad

some yip and let the atmosphere be rent into thousands

of splinters. For behold, it is timely! See on every side the .

plethoric dinner pail; the great multitude of unpunched

meal tickets, and the vast harves'ed crops which can only

be expressed in bushels, with a massive figure followed

Done at our castle of Tinnivelly Panipat in the year

AK-SAR BEN VI.

"Curlew shall NOT ring tonight."

by ciphers to the end of the chapter !!!!!



ing the location of the state fair from the cap- At a meeting of the association April 5 an executive commit-

central sections of the city, but while it was at that time were those of John E. Utt, Walter Jardine and E. M. Bartlett, thought that this fact would be of great disadvantage to the In fact, these names appear to have been chosen at the start, city, it was not suspected that it would prove so great a disad- but the records of the order do not show it, nor is there any note

Hardly had the location of the state fair in Omaha for five committee. years been announced when, carrying out a promise made to local business men to induce them to subscribe the funds needed to secure it, the Fair and Speed association appointed a committee, with John E. Utt. secretary of the Commercial club, as its chairman, to devise a series of evening entertainments in Omaha for the amusement of visitors attending the fair.

It appears to have been Mr. Utt who conceived the idea of giving a series of evening parades similar to those presented in St. Louis and Memphis. He presented this idea at one of the preliminary meetings, and when Frank Colpetzer suggested that it might be possible to purchase the floats and paraphernalia used at some carnival city for that purpose he at once inspired J. O. Phillippi of the Missouri Pacific railway to take the matter up with officials at New Orleans and ascertain whether or not this could be effected, and if so, upon what terms. The result of the negotiations was that within a short time a proposition was received from H. M. Isaacson of New Orleans for the sale of the floats used in that city.

Date of Birth Uncertain.

On what date the order of

Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben as such was born appears to be not a mat- Before the plan for the mysticisms to be ter of authentic history, for it did not acquire the name for some practiced had borne fruit the organization time after its organization. Its records, however, extend back appointed a committee to go to New Orto March 28, 1895, on which date a meeting of retailers of the leans and complete the purchase of the city was held at the Commercial club rooms and the necessity floats needed in the Mondamin parade. This of providing evening entertainments to hold the crowds in Omaha committee, which comprised E. M. Bartlett, was discussed and the mystic carnival was suggested as the most Dudley Smith, W. R. Bennett and Gus attractive plan.

At the original meeting, the records show, discussion of the plan was participated in by J. E. Utt, R. S. Wilcox, W. R. Ben-City and St. Louis on their way south to nett, H. H. Hardy, E. E. Bryson, Frank Wilcox, Walter Jardine, learn what they could concerning the mystic H. J. Penfold, Clement Chase, A. Hospe, William Lisle Dickey, organizations and ceremonies of those cities. Dudley Smith, Gus Renze and Matt Daugherty, the latter of At St. Louis they were shown the den in Ogaliala. R. S. Wilcox was chairman and Mr. Dickey secretary which were being constructed the floats of of the meeting. At that meeting it was decided to offer prizes the Veiled Prophets and were made the for competition among Nebraska women for a suitable name for recipients of many distinguished courtesies the fall festivities, and a committee, with H. J. Penfold as its during their short stay, acquiring at the chairman, was appointed to solicit the assistance of business men same time much useful information of the generally. At this meeting the proposition of Mr. Isaacson was character they most sought. Upon reach

Another meeting was held three days later, by which time courtesy by the people of that city. Captain Isaacson explained great interest had been aroused and the attendance was large, to them the details of the various parades in the annual festiv-

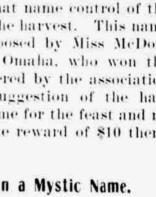
LTHOUGH it has recently passed its fifth birthday the illumination of streets during the festivities and it was deanniversary and is hardly, therefore, entitled to cided to have four parades during the last week in September. claim attention because of novelty, much less At the suggestion of Mr. Utt a committee was appointed to deon the pretense of antiquity, the order of the vise social attractions to be given in connection with the parades. Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben has attained such The committee comprised Messrs, Clement C, Chase, John E, Utt, prominence in the social, commercial and civic W. R. Bennett and O. N. Davenport. The great annual Ak-Saraffairs of Omaha that a brief sketch of its birth. Ben ball was the conception of this committee. To Mr. and Mrs. and career is entitled to place in the archives of Chase and the committee belongs the creation of the pretty and Omaha. It was in the winter of 1894-5 that imposing ceremonies of the crowning of the queen, the appointthis city through the efforts of the Omaha ment of the many ladies of the court and maids of honor and, in Fair and Speed association succeeded in wrest- fact, all the courtly ceremonics attending the ball and coronation.

ital city and fixing it in the metropolis for the tee was elected, comprising R. S. Wilcox, president; Dudley following five years. Omaha's participation Smith vice president; William Lisle Dickey, secretary; H. J. Penin the contest was surrounded by conditions fold, treasurer; C. C. Belden, Thomas A. Fry, Clement C. Chase, that awakened great local enthusiasm and the L. M. Rheem and E. E. Bryson. The official list, known then as people of the city were so elated that they set the executive committee, came afterward to be known as the out to do everything in their power to make Board of Governors of Ak-Sar-Ben, and at some period during the fair a great success if possible. The the year three additional names were added, increasing the numgrounds selected were located a considerable distance from the ber to twelve, as it has ever since remained. The added names vantage to the fair as subsequent events proved it to be. of how or when these persons became a part of the executive

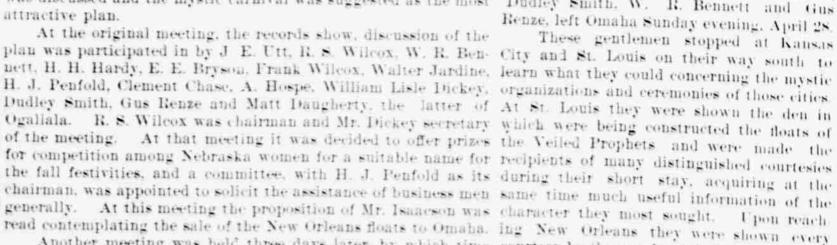
> At the same meeting it was decided to adopt as a name for the fall festivities "The Feast of Mondamin," suggested by the Indian legends assigning to the god of that name control of the corn or the barvest. This name was proposed by Miss McDonough of Omaha, who won the prize offered by the association for the suggestion of the happiest theme for the feast and received the reward of \$10 there-

At this meeting also the association was given a name. It had been called the Retailers' committee and Retailers' association, but on motion of Mr. Penfold it was decided to call it thereafter the Omaha Business Men's association. It was shortly after this that Dudley Smith proposed as a name for a secret organization for the enactment of a mystic ritual, which, it was urged, would intensify interest in the project and the annual festivities of the association, the Knights of Ak Sar-Ben, and such were the mystic and mythical rites and ceremonies woven around the organization that it was long before the general public grasped the fact that the name proposed was but the name of









It was reported by Dudley Smith that the railways had agreed ities of that city. It appears that there were three, each conto give \$2.500 to the project, and that the banks had expressed ducted by a separate organization. They were known as the a readiness to assist. At this meeting steps were instituted to Rex, the Comus and the Proteus parades, and their inspection secure concessions from the gas and electric light companies for convinced them that the Rex parade was the only available one

