EDITORIAL SHEET.

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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ORGANIZATION IS PERFECT

Some Facts About the Postal System in Omaha.

GROWTH OF MAIL SERVICE IS REMARKABLE

First Postmaster of This City, Who Carried Mail in His Hat, Lives to Witness the Transformation.

The most perfect organization in the city for the transaction of the business which calls it into existence is the Omaha postoffice, and nothing better shows the great advance of the country in all material respects than the development of this branch of government machinery.

The first postmaster of Omaha is yet alive, and upon the day he received his appointment—May 6, 1854—no white man had his home on the site of the present city. A. D. Jones, the first postmaster, had entered a tract of ground embracing the present home of Herman Kountze on South Tenth street, and the Indian agent had ordered him to leave the territory when, in order to give him a right to hold his land, he, through friends in Council Bluffs and influence in Washington, had a postoffice established at Omaha City.

A postal route from Council Bluffs to Laramie had been ordered, but the contract for the carrying of mails had not been let. It was the intention of the pioneer postmaster to have Omaha City made a station on the through line, but before that was done he received authority from Washington to hire a messenger to carry the mail between Omaha and Council Bluffs and to pay to him the entire proceeds of the route for his services. All of the postage on the mail carried into and out of Omaha would not tempt an early resident of Iowa or Nebraska to take the route, and the first postmaster was reduced to the necessity of carrying the mail on his own account. This he did for several months, the first postoffice being established in a building somewhere south of the present residence of Mr. Kountze. Later the office was moved into a general store on Chicago street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, and the entire office consisted of an axe-handle box separated into compartments.

Important Office Now.

Today the Omaha office is one of the most important in the United States, handling more mail than many offices in cities of larger size, and, in place of the single unwilling messenger, forty-eight trains are required in carrying mail in and out of the city.

In the handling of the outgoing mail nineteen clerks are constantly employed at the office. This mail comes to the office from the drops at the central office, from each of the three stations and from the collectors who gather it at short intervals through the day from the mail boxes throughout the city. When it is brought to the office it is an incongruous mass of letters, packages and papers. The clerks who first take charge of it separate the letters from the mass and arrange them with reference to their size. Letters of the ordinary size are then taken by other clerks, who postmark them. For the ordinary letter the method of postmarking has undergone a revolution in the last few years. Where a dozen clerks formerly postmarked them by hand, today an electrical machine, running at high speed, cancels the stamps and marks the envelopes much faster than could be done by hand. In addition to its increased rapidity, the machine does much clearer work than could be done by hand and for this reason a hand machine, working on the same principle as the machine operated by the motor at the central office, has been placed at Station A and was used for the first time last week. The irregularly shaped letters are still marked by hand at the central office, but comparatively little hand stamping is done.

When the letters are postmarked they are passed to other clerks, whose duty it is to distribute them in the pouches. These pouches, arranged on large racks, are marked with the names of railroad routes running out of Omaha or connecting with routes leading from the city. Some pouches bear the names of towns, in the case of cities where Omaha mail is sent direct or in an irregular manner. Before the letters are placed in these pouches they are distributed in a case, the compartments in the case bearing the names of states or of postal routes. At the Omaha office mail is divided by state only, with the exception of the states of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, South Dakota, parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Montana. Mail for these states is not only distributed according to states, but also with reference to the routes it will take in reaching its destination.

Street Cars Carry Mail.

When all the mail for a state or a route has been distributed it is tied in a bundle and marked to show its desination, the distributing clerk placing his initials upon the label, so that errors may be traced to their proper source. As the sacks or pouches are completed they are locked and placed upon the platform for transmission to the trains. And here again Omaha is in the foretront of offices adopting the latest means of transportation, as all of the first-class mail matter sent out during the day is sent to the depots by means of the street cars, the new method giving patrons of the office more time to get their mail on the trains. This system has been in use in Omaha for several years. It was introduced in Kansas City last spring. The papers and mails which leave at night are sent to the depots by wagons, which still carry the greater volume of the mail.

To the thirty-three regular mail trains and the fifteen express trains carrying mail, which leave Omaha daily, the office makes 102 dispatches each day, the consignments being divided so that the railway postal clerks can be at work before the trains leave.

Fifteen men have charge of the receipt of mails for the city. When the pouches arrive they are turned over to a number of clerks, who unlock them and pile the bundles of letters on tables. They are then untied and passed through a machine, which places on the envelope the stamp of the receiving office. Other clerks then distribute the letters and papers, using for the purpose cases, the "pigeon holes" in which contain the numbers of the seventy-eight carrier routes, the names of several institutions of the city receiving large quantities of mail, the lock boxes and the general delivery. When the letters are distributed they are turned over to the carriers, to the lock box distributors or to the general delivery clerks. The work of the carrier begins when he has received his letters from the distributing case. Standing before a smaller rack he again distributes the missives, this time with reference to the residence of the person addressed. By the time he has finished this work each letter is arranged so that it will be found at its proper time along the route. Placing the bundles in his mail bag he is ready for his walk or drive

The Omaha letter carrier is more fortunate than his fellow in many of the other cities, for while his route is sometimes large and his patrons scattered, the government provides a horse for him when he carries the outlying districts, and Omaha has more mounted carriers than any other city of the same population in the country.

The character of the work of the carrier has changed considerably in the last few weeks. One of the older carriers, speaking of his work the other day, said: "You would be surprised at the change in the character of the mail delivered today and that delivered at the time I first started to work. It has been but a comparatively few years ago, but on the route on which I first started we then delivered two magazines, a dozen weekly papers and not one daily. Today on the same route a dozen or more daily papers from other cities are delivered, weekly papers without number and nearly 100 periodicals. The growth of this class of mail is amazing. We used to have heavy days and light days by reason of the receipt of certain popular weeklies and monthlies, but today the number is so great and their days of publication so varied that it really makes no difference any more. The increase in the number of letters is also remarkable. I can remember a few years ago in families of my acquaintance on my route the receipt of a letter once a week was an event. Today in those same families the daily letter is the rule. The letter-writing habit has captured the American people."

Forty-Eight Hours a Week.

At the last session of congress the law governing the work of carriers was amended so that instead of working eight hours a day the carrier is now compelled to work forty-eight hours a week of six days; so that if he works but seven hours today, tomorrow he has to work nine hours, if necessary, to complete his duty. This plan works only fairly well at the Omaha office, and it is not unheard-of for a carrier to stop work on the middle of his route Saturday afternoon, having completed his forty-eight hours before his letters were delivered. This he is compelled to do by the regulations, but it is no less provoking to patrons of the office who are compelled to wait until Monday for their mail. Much additional work and no little responsibility has been added to the duty of the carriers by the extension of the registry privilege, permitting patrons to register their letter with the carriers. The privilege is appreciated by Omaha people, who daily send hundreds of letters and packages containing money and valuables by hand of the carrier to the general office.

HELP IS NEEDED AT ONCE

Smallpox Emergency at Child Saving Institute Requires Financial Aid.

Another case of smallpox developed in the Child Saving institute and was removed Friday to the emergency hospital. The patient is John Manning, a boy about 3 years old. One other child in the institute is showing symptoms of the disease and will probably be taken away from the home in a short time.

Eighteen children, varying in age from 3 months to 13 years, and five attendants are still quarantined in the institute and will be kept there for several weeks. Although the inmates will be furnished with medicines and plain food from public funds, Dr. Coffman says they are greatly in need of clothing and bedding of a sort which can be washed and fumigated.

"There are many delicacies which these unfortunate children should have that cannot be provided by the health officers, and the public should rally to the assistance of the institute at this time. The children are in too limited quarters and lack many things which would make their lot more endurable," said the health commissioner. "It will be necessary to burn the mattresses, bedding and clothing which cannot be washed, and the institute is greatly in need of supplies."

Superintendent Clark and his assistant, J. S. Leavitt, have moved their office to room 310, McCague block, where they are receiving subscriptions. Their telephone is 2098.

"Money is our great need at present," said Mr. Clark. "Clean clothing must be secured for all these children and nothing must be left undone which will contribute to their safety. We must have better facilities for caring for the children. In this emergency we are in great need of financial help and subscriptions, be they great or small, are heartily appreciated. Our expenses are materially increased by reason of present conditions."

DUNN PLAYS A DUAL ROLE

Paid by the County to Prosecute, He Appears as a Defender.

Phil McGovern, who was fined $50 in police court early in the week for stealing a sewing machine belonging to a woman who had been his housekeeper, has taken an appeal in the district court, James Whelan serving as surety on his appeal bond.

This is the case in which I. J. Dunn, a deputy county attorney, appeared in the novel role of defending a man accused of a misdemeanor. It seems that McGovern was Dunn's client in a civil case, and when he was arrested for an offense against the statutes the relationship between them continued. Dunn did not appear in person in police court, but was represented first by Attorney W. S. Shoemaker and later by Attorney J. J. O'Connor, who shares Dunn's office apartment. After McGovern was fined he gave notice of appeal, offering the name of an impecunious saloon keeper as surety, which Judge Learn of the police court refused to honor. Out of this grew the habeas corpus proceeding in the district court by which Judge Learn was reversed.

An attorney, who has been watching the peculiar part played by Dunn in the case, has this to say: "When this matter finally comes up in the district court it is not hard to predict what Deputy County Attorney Dunn will do with it. He will move to have the defendant (his client) discharged, of course. This is the kind of service the people are getting out of the county attorney's office."

NESSEN'S BODY IS SENT HOME

Christenson, Who Narrowly Escaped Death, is Reported Recovering.

The body of Peter Nessen, the farmer from Harlan, Ia., who blew out the gas Friday morning in the Henderson hotel, was yesterday sent to Harlan for burial, accompanied by two brothers of the deceased. Both brothers were satisfied that the death of Peter was the result of carelessness or ignorance in the handling of gas and thought an inquest unnecessary.

C. Christenson, a brother-in-law of the deceased, who shared room No. 42 in the hotel with him, is reported much improved and it is thought he will recover from the effects of the gas. He is now at the Clarkson hospital. The attendants say Christenson had a narrow escape and that for more than twelve hours his life hung in the balance.

Christenson and Nesson are wealthy farmers living a few miles west of Harlan. They came to Omaha last Thursday to buy five head of horses.

OMAHA READERS ARE LOYAL

American Literature is in Great Demand at Public Library.

NO TIME FOR THE IMPRINT OF ROYALTY

City Librarian and Assistants Encounter Some Decidedly Ludicrous Propositions in Their Daily Routine.

Patrons of the Omaha Public library, regardless of nativity, are notably American in their reading taste. Several novels over which the prince of Wales and others of the English nobility have gone raving are conspicuously absent. They have knocked at the door several times, but on such occasions Miss Tobitt, the librarian, has never been at home.

If the venerable Queen Victoria were to examine the poetry section in the library a distressing sight would meet her eyes. Dust-covered volumes of verse by her poet laureate stand upon the shelves and wait patiently for someone to call for them. The books are well preserved. In fact the public has taken such good care of the poems that many of the pages are uncut.

Omaha people can't go Austin's poetry, dontcherknow. Americans who take kindly to the golf plaids of the royal family balk when it comes to swallowing the intellectual food of the prince of Wales and his long-lived mother.

American books by American authors are what Omaha people are reading. Irving Bacheller's "Eben Holden" leads the list of novels which are in great demand at the library. It is just a simple story of the life of a good old Yankee and bids fair to become as popular as "David Harum."

Next in popularity is John Uri Lloyd's "Stringtown on the Pike," and half a dozen other novels of American life appear in the list ahead of books that come from across the water. Readers are getting to be so loyal to Americans that they even alter titles which have a trace of royalty in them.

Gum on His Wheels.

An absent-minded fellow came into the library the other day scratching his head and trying to remember the name of a book which his wife wanted. He hesitated, took a few side steps and finally braced up and walked to the delivery window with the air of a man who never fails to mail letters which his relatives hand to him.

"Give me 'When the Midnight Flower is in Bloom,'" he requested.

The young woman who was standing at the window looked mystified and asked him if it was a book on botany.

He was not a naturalist, neither was his wife, but he had stayed up the night previous to see a neighbor's night-blooming cereus burst into blossom and that flower and the title of the book had become confused in his mind.

"No, it's a novel," he admitted in a disappointed tone. He knew he could not go to the whist club that night if he did not provide his wife with the book.

"Do you remember the author?"

He did not remember. All he knew was that it was a novel and that in its dramatized form it is being presented by an actress who fought with her husband and got a divorce from him because his press notices were better than hers.

The description of the actress might have applied to fifty stars, but library assistants are mindreaders. The woman knew he meant Julia Marlowe and in a few minutes a happy man left the building with a copy of Charles Majors' "When Knighthood Was in Flower."

But this man was not as badly tangled up as a small boy who came into the library in great haste, spelling the title of a book on his fingers. His toe caught on a door mat and when he picked himself up his face was a blank. After turning around a few times for luck he began to think hard and finally recalled the missing name. He said his mother had sent him to get Homer's "Idiocy."

All of the books in the library bear the letters "O. P. L.," the abbreviation for Omaha Public library. One borrower, who belongs to various organizations which are supposed to furnish literary culture to all members, made a request a few days ago for another book by "O. P. L." "I liked that last novel by him so much," she explained. "I have often wondered why he doesn't write out his full name. I'm sure I wouldn't be ashamed to admit that I was author of such strong books. Oh, he's wonderfully clever."

Devotee of Kipling.

A facetious young man, who is constantly displaying wit which he acquired from a joke book, called at the library for Kipling's "Paradox." After the assistants had assured him that there was no such book he explained that he wanted "Plain Tales from the Hills."

"Henry Seton-Merriman's 'The Wounds,' please," was the request of one young man. When shown a list of Merriman's works he picked out "The Sowers," explaining that he had never seen the title in print and thought it was "The Sores." Hence the confusion with wounds.

An admirer of Saintsbury inquired for his "Changed Opinions." A few questions developed the fact that he wanted Saintsbury's "Corrected Impressions."

A comparison of the annual report of the library with that of other cities about the same size as Omaha shows that the local library is well patronized. In 1900 the library contained 55,883 volumes and 198,241 books were drawn. The 1900 census gave Omaha a population of 102,555, so the circulation was almost two books to each resident of the city.

Kansas City, with a population of 163,752, has between 40,000 and 50,000 volumes in its library and had a circulation of 179,693, or a little more than one volume to each person. Scranton, Pa., with a population of 102,026, has 35,832 volumes in its library and circulated 121,022 books during the year.

Los Angeles holds the record for large circulation, but this is explained by the fact that the city is populated by invalids and a leisure class. The population of Los Angeles is 102,479 and its library contains 51,334 books. The circulation for the year was 358,898. In this library large numbers of magazines are bought and circulated for three days, while fiction is allowed to remain out only one week. This in a measure accounts for the phenomenal circulation.

Rassieur Not to Blame.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 19.—Judge Leo Rassieur, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, who has just returned from Washington, where he went on business of the order, resents the statement from Denver that he is chiefly to blame because the next national encampment was not awarded to that city. To the Denver assertion that the commander worked against their city, he replied that he was entirely neutral and did not even vote on the question at the recent meeting of the executive committee.

Denver has not given up hope of securing the encampment, and will have a strong delegation present at the meeting of the executive committee here next Monday. Washington, Cleveland and Pittsburg are also trying to get the encampment.

SCHURIG'S CONDUIT REPORT

City Electrician Submits Voluminous Array of Figures—He Implies That System Will Not Pay.

It would cost $300,000 to build a municipal conduit system capable of accommodating all the overhead wires in the business portion of the city. A system constructed at this cost would have sufficient capacity to carry twice as many wires as now line the Omaha streets. Such is the estimate City Electrician E. F. Schurig has submitted to Mayor Moores in his annual report.

Although Mr. Schurig draws no conclusions in his report it can readily be seen from the figures which he has collected that he does not believe a municipal conduit system would be a paying investment for Omaha. In his opinion any city which undertakes a conduit system should make provision for additional companies which may enter into competition with existing companies. This materially increases the cost of construction. In discussing the expense Mr. Schurig says:

"Under ordinary conditions when building a conduit system an increase of 50 per cent in business should be figured and the system constructed accordingly. But when such a system is built by a municipality space must not only be provided for the future needs of present occupants, but the system must be ample in size for possible competitors in the electrical field. One of the chief arguments in favor of municipal ownership of conduit systems is that they will not shut out competition.

Must Plan for Competition.

"Therefore such systems must be planned to provide for future competitors in the electric lighting and telephone business. For this reason it is not to be assumed that any great financial benefit can be derived therefrom in the beginning, as it is more or less of a financial conjecture."

In his estimate Mr. Schurig states that 1,505,856 feet, or 285.2 miles, of duct would be necessary for an adequate system. This would necessitate 137,400 feet of trenches. Granting that the cost of laying terra cotta conduit is 14 cents per lineal foot, the expense of the conduits alone would be $210,819.84. Manholes, service boxes and other expenses would bring the cost up to about $300,000.

The rental charges for ducts varies in different cities. The electrical commission of Washington, D. C., considered 7 cents per lineal foot per annum a reasonable rental and in Baltimore the electrical commission estimated that terra cotta ducts should rent for not less than 7¼ cents per lineal foot per annum and that 10½ cents would be a reasonable price where the ducts had to be ventilated by artificial means. In Omaha no provision of this sort would be necessary.

Allowing 5 per cent interest on the money invested in a conduit system, 5 per cent for depreciation of plant and 2½ per cent for superintendence and maintenance, the annual expense of a municipal conduit system would be 12½ per cent of the capital invested. Granting that the capital is $300,000, and that one-half of the conduits are rented, an annual rental of 4.98 cents must be had from each lineal foot of the duct in use to meet the expense.

Granting that an annual rental of 7 cents per foot is charged for one-half the ducts, or 753,000 lineal feet, the city would derive a net income of $15,210 on the original investment, which would be slightly in excess of 5 per cent.

Margin is Small.

In conclusion Mr. Schurig says: "It is true that, as shown by this preliminary estimate, the city would not be a loser, but the margin is so small that an estimate based upon actual surveys may wipe out this balance and show a deficit."

Mr. Schurig states that the reports of the Washington and Baltimore commissions show that the municipal system of conduits in those cities are very successful, but he also adds that the conditions are far different from what they are in Omaha. In Baltimore the electrical business in the main portion of the city is about four times as great as in Omaha. The city is less scattered.

It would not be possible, in Mr. Schurig's opinion, to meet the increased cost of construction by an increase in rental. Seven cents per lineal foot, or $369.60 per mile per annum is as much as electrical companies can afford to pay for the use of conduits and in portions of the city where their business is not great even that rental would be a burden.

In commending the underground system Mr. Schurig says: "There is no question as to the desirability of removing the wires from our streets and alleys and placing them underground. They must be removed sooner or later. Still there is no pressing need at this time to rush into a system which requires more than a preliminary estimate before it can be determined whether it is practicable."

SOME FIGURES ON LIGHT

City Electrician E. F. Schurig Submits His Annual Report.

The annual report of City Electrician E. F. Schurig shows that Omaha has one commercial lighting plant which supplies 83,000 incandescent lights, 869 arc lights and 252 motors with an aggregate horse power of 1,408. There are two power plants in the city which have a horse power of 3,500 and sixteen isolated or private electrical plants which maintain 10,500 incandescent lights, 195 arcs and 27 motors of 170-horse power.

In 1900 392 permits for the installation of electrical work were granted and the fees derived from these were $912.65. During the year the Nebraska Telephone company placed 40,239 feet of cable underground. To accomplish this work 9,600 feet of excavation was necessary. Two dynamos of 100-horse power each, 146 motors with an aggregate horse power of 146,182 arc lights and 14,332 incandescent lights were installed during the year.

Ten thousand additional incandescent lights were temporarily installed during Ak-Sar-Ben week. Twenty-nine permits for poles were granted and 266 poles were set in 1900.

WANT JOBS DONE BY THE DAY

Bricklayers and Masons Favor Discontinuing of Contract System in Municipal Building.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 19.—The feature of today's session of the Bricklayers and Masons' International union convention was the introduction of a resolution calling upon the union throughout the country to wait upon city councils for the purpose of inducing such bodies to pass legislation as will do away with the letting of contracts by cities on all municipal building and repair work, the men to be employed directly per diem. The resolution was referred.

Street Car Runs Amuck.

NEWCASTLE, Pa., Jan. 19.—The failure of the brakes to work caused a traction car to run wild on the Pittsburg street hill today. It left the track and dashed into the city hall, tearing out an entire corner. John Hoke, motorman, Stephen Allen, Louis McCurdy and a man named Mitchell were seriously injured.

FIRE FIGHTERS IN HARNESS

Interesting Facts About Horses in the Omaha Department.

TRAINED TO POINT OF HUMAN INTELLECT

Some of These Faithful Animals Are Named in Honor of Statesmen, While Others Carry Less Pretentious Cognomens.

Do you know that Admiral Dewey, Bill McKinley and Jumbo frequently dash through the main streets of Omaha?

They are very good friends, too. President McKinley doesn't seem to entertain any hard feeling against the admiral on account of his presidential aspirations. Of course McKinley likes Jumbo. He's symbolical of the grand old party and McKinley is his right-hand man. Dewey serves on the left of Jumbo.

These notables are the horses that pull the new hook and ladder truck belonging in the firehouse at the corner of Eighteenth and Harney streets and plunge down Farnam street hill with the velocity of a Kansas cyclone. Jumbo is an oldtimer in the service and runs between his younger companions to hold them steady. He is almost old enough to vote, but is so well cared for that he does not show his age. In spite of his years he is more coltish than many a younger horse and he takes many a friendly nip at firemen to let them know that he is not ready to go on the retired list.

Bill McKinley is several years younger and not quite as large as Jumbo. He has seen about ten years of service and bears many marks which tell of falls he has had on granite paving. Bill is not tricky. He is trusted by all the firemen and has the best reputation of any of the horses at No. 7. His judgment is good and the fire boys say he has the head of a statesman.

Admiral Dewey is a youngster. He has had but three years of experience and when he was first bought the firemen almost gave up hope of breaking him to his work. Time has reduced his spirits somewhat and he is now willing to lower his proud head and pull with all the steadiness of a veteran.

This trio of well known horses is fairly well matched. All three of the beasts are bays. In fact nearly all the fifty horses which serve in the department are bays. Chief Redell is partial to that color.

Worthy Pair of Veterans.

If the fire horses were to organize an association for veterans Pete Smith and Dick are the two horses whose age and service would entitle them to the chairmanship. These two friends have been driven together for years and are now on the water tower at No. 1. Pete was formerly a handsome iron gray, but age has whitened his hair and his twenty-one years are showing on him. Dick is a bright bay and was lively as a colt when he celebrated his twenty-first birthday a few weeks ago.

Roan Jim, who was shot two years ago, was one of the most celebrated horses that has ever served the department. For years he was driven by the chief. Even after he become blind he pulled Chief Redell's buggy occasionally. Two years ago he was retired, but rest did not agree with the old fellow. He sickened and was such a sufferer that the firemen ended his life with a bullet. Bay Johnnie is Jim's successor. He is a chunky little fellow, who is chided by the other horses on account of his inexperience, but promises to become a worthy successor to Jim.

Torpedo is the little bay which pulls Assistant Chief Salter to fires in haste. For years Billy, a handsome gray, now at No. 9, served Chief Salter and to faithful Billy the gallant fireman owes his life.

Many years ago Chief Salter answered an alarm turned in from the extreme western portion of the city. His course took him west on Leavenworth street. Just as he was about to cross the railroad track in the vicinity of Fortieth street a train dashed into sight. Houses and trees had made it impossible for him to see his danger until the engine was almost touching the running horse. Billy realized the danger and braced himself at the edge of the track. With the chief's assistance he managed to stop the buggy and stood immovable while the engine brushed his nose as it passed.

Chief Salter makes regular visits to Billy's engine house and says that no other horse will ever displace the old fellow in his affections. Billy never was a very handsome horse, but he enjoys the reputation of having been the speediest fellow that ever served a chief.

Here is a Stubborn Boy.

Sleepy, a big bay fellow who is now kept at No. 7, is the only horse in the department who has always had his own way. When well treated he is a model worker. Years ago he was sent down to No. 2 to serve on a jumper. Every time the two-wheeled cart hit a rough place it jerked Sleepy and strained his harness in an uncomfortable manner. He refused to pull the jumper. A headstrong captain tried to conquer the veteran and a policeman interfered. The captain was reduced to the ranks and Sleepy came back to No. 7, where he has served faithfully as an engine horse since that time.

Pickles and Dan are the pets of the colored company, which is stationed at Thirtieth and Spaulding streets. When the company was moved from Twenty-seventh and Jones streets it was rumored that the two favorite horses were to be left behind. One day when the chief called at No. 12 he found the men in tears and was finally persuaded to allow them to take Dan and Pickles to the new station.

The worst tragedy among the horses of the department occurred about ten years ago, when Mike and Barney, the handsome blacks which served No. 2, fell on a slippery paving at Sixteenth and Webster streets and sustained injuries which resulted in the death of both horses. It was a tearful company of firemen that attempted to relieve the suffering of the injured blacks. The tails and manes of the horses are still on exhibition at No. 2.

Reward for Leavenworth Lynchers.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 19.—The Seattle branch of the International Council of the World, an organization of colored citizens, has decided to offer a reward of $500 for the apprehension and conviction of each and every person implicated in the death by violence of Fred Alexander, at Leavenworth, Kan., on Thursday night. Copies of the resolutions passed at the meeting will be forwarded to the governor of Kansas, the sheriff of Leavenworth county and the chief of police of Leavenworth. The other councils throughout the country are asked to co-operate in the work.

Chinese Minister a Guest.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 19.—Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister, is the guest of the Commercial club. He reached here last night from Washington and tonight will be the guest of honor at a banquet to be given by the Commercial club, before which he will deliver an address on "Commercial Relations with China."

Today, under escort of a committee, the Chinese minister visited points of interest in St. Louis and was entertained at a luncheon given at the University club in his honor.

HARTE GOES AFTER SHIELDS

Commissioner Arraigns County Attorney in Vigorous Manner—Neglect of Duty Plainly Pointed Out.

The feature of the regular weekly meeting of the county board yesterday was an arraignment of the county attorney and his methods.

The discussion, which became somewhat heated, was led by Commissioner Harte, who startled the board by declaring that he had been studying law, with the result of ascertaining the fact that the commissioners had no more right to fix the amount and approve the bonds of the county attorney and his deputies than they had to impeach the president of the United States.

"The bonds of Deputy Abbott and Deputy Dunn, filed with this board and approved by it early in the month, are not worth the paper they are written on," declared Mr. Harte.

Then he introduced a resolution to rescind the action of the board in adopting the Hoctor resolutions approving the bonds filed by Mr. Abbott and Mr. Dunn, in which he cited section 20 of chapter 7, Nebraska statutes, which provides that the bonds to be given by the county attorney and his deputies shall be fixed in amount and approved by the judges of the district court.

"Now," continued Mr. Harte, "if the gentlemen of the county attorney's office know as much of the law as I do, and they are presumed to know a good deal more, they are aware of the fact that their bonds filed with and approved by this board are absolutely worthless."

Mr. Ostrom expressed a wish to be given an opportunity to take in a little Blackstone himself before the resolution offered by Mr. Harte was put on its passage and the matter therefore went over to Monday by reference to the judiciary committee.

Neglects His Duties.

Then Mr. Harte called the county attorney to account in the matter of collecting from the cities of Omaha and South Omaha bills for board and lodging of city prisoners at the county jail. He recited in a resolution the fact that the county attorney was ordered by the board as long ago as July, 1899, to sue the city of Omaha for $12,000 and the city of South Omaha for $8,000 on this account, and remarked that nothing had been heard from Mr. Shields in regard to the matter. His resolution, which went over to the next meeting, instructs Mr. Shields to report at once what action, if any, he has taken to collect these board bills.

Commissioner Ostrom then moved to take from the hands of Commissioner Hoctor the bid of A. Lamoreaux on the grading of a road on the county line, together with a check deposited by the bidder. The bid and the check had been placed in the hands of Mr. Hoctor as a member of the road committee and he had unsuccessfully endeavored to persuade the commissioners of Sarpy county to stand half of the expense of grading the road. Now, Mr. Ostrom thought, it was time to abandon the proposed improvement and return the check to the bidder. The motion prevailed and Mr. Hoctor and the check were accordingly separated.

John Goodhardt, who was elected justice of the peace for East Omaha at the last election and failed to qualify in time, was appointed to the position by the commissioners.

Bailiff Appointments Endorsed.

The board concurred in the appointments of J. H. Hurlbut, Charles F. M. Morgan, F. E. Heacock and George B. Sherwood as bailiffs of the district court. The bond of J. J. Daly as constable in South Omaha was approved.

On petition of R. B. Wallace and twelve other freeholders A. W. Jefferies was employed as additional counsel to advise the board in the matter of the franchise and right of way of the Fremont & Omaha Electric Railway company.

Robert Z. Drake, the bridge contractor, was directed to construct a 200-foot steel span bridge across the Elkhorn at the Military road crossing, one and a half miles west of Elk City.

Mrs. Dutcher of Minneapolis explained the work of the Keeley league to the members of the board with a view to interesting them in the local branch to be established here.

WOULD BE A DEATH WARRANT

Mrs. Ada Buchanan So Pleads with Governor Dockery Against Honoring Requisition.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 19.—Governor Dockery, after listening to a dramatic recital of the story of Miss Alma Bowman, now of St. Louis, who recently returned from her home in Shepardstown, Ky., to avoid the alleged ill-treatment of relatives, today refused the requisition of the Governor of Kentucky for the return to that state of her brother-in-law, Asa Buchanan, who is charged in a warrant with having assaulted the girl. The charge against Buchanan was preferred by his sister-in-law, Miss Bowman. Governor Dockery's refusal to honor the requisition was because the papers were not in legal form. Buchanan is now under arrest in St. Louis.

Miss Bowman, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Asa Buchanan, and her attorney, former Mayor E. A. Noonan of St. Louis, together with Sheriff Collins of Bullett county, Kentucky, presented the case to the governor.

"It is a conspiracy, governor," said Mrs. Buchanan, "to do away with my husband. Mr. Governor, if you put your signature to any paper for the return of my husband to Kentucky you will be signing his death warrant."

MARCUS DALY'S WILL FILED

Mrs. Daly is Sole Executor and Gets Usual Third of the Estate.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—The will of the late Marcus Daly, filed for probate today at Anaconda, Mont., makes Mrs. Daly the sole executor of the estate without bonds; makes her guardian of the minor children and gives her one-third of the estate. The remaining two-thirds is to be divided equally between Mr. Daly's three daughters, Mrs. Margaret Brown of Baltimore and Misses Mary and Harriet Daly, and his son, Marcus Daly. In the event of the death of Mrs. Daly before the trusts imposed upon her by the will are executed the four children of the testator or the survivors of them are to be made the trustees and executors in her place, without security. Any of the children may, during the life of the trust, dispose of his or her share by will. The instrument, which bears the date of September 18, 1900, is witnessed by William Scalton of Butte, Mont., John C. Lalor of Anaconda, Mont., and Dillon Brown of New York.

Professor Garner is Safe.

WAUTAUGA, Tenn., Jan. 19.—Mrs. J. Welsh of this place, sister of Prof. R. L. Garner, has telegraphic information from Mrs. Garner in Boston that the professor is alive and safe. Prof. Garner, the student of the monkey language, is now in the heart of Africa, proceeding with his work interpreting the monkey tongue. He is a native of Sullivan county, Tennessee. It was recently reported from Boston that Prof. Garner had been killed in Africa.

LIFE INSURANCE THE ISSUE

Spirited Legal Contest Between Stepfather and Stepson.

MYSTERIOUSLY MISSING POLICY IS FOUND

Fraternal Organization, Being Unable to Settle the Mooted Question, Throws it Upon the District Court.

Guy Haven and his step-father, William Edgerton, are the contending parties in the district court for the possession of $1,000 deposited there by the Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle. The money was paid into court on an insurance policy on the life of Mrs. William Edgerton, who is said to have expressed a will to substitute the name of her son in the place of that of her husband as the beneficiary a few days prior to her death.

It is alleged that Mrs. Edgerton, having a number of life insurance policies in favor of her husband decided a few days before her death that it would be but proper to provide for her son by making him the beneficiary under one of these policies. She sent her mother to the secretary's office of the Woodmen Circle to ascertain what procedure would be necessary to carry out this purpose and the secretary sent word that the beneficiary could be changed by making a certain endorsement on the policy.

Mrs. Edgerton then asked her mother to bring from the attic an old trunk in which she had placed the policy, and the trunk was accordingly brought to the dying woman's bedside, but the policy could not be found.

Mother is Turned Away.

It had been taken from the trunk by some unknown patry. When Mrs. Edgerton's mother called to see her daughter the next day for the purpose of securing information to aid her in the search for the missing policy she was not permitted to enter the sick room by the husband, so it is alleged. She asserts that she was not allowed to see her daughter again until after death had ensued.

A few days after the demise of Mrs. Edgerton her husband produced the missing policy and undertook to collect the money on it. Guy Haven, backed up by his grandmother, put in a claim for the money, asserting it was the intention of his mother to make him the beneficiary and she was prevented from doing so by the actions of his step-father. With this interesting dispute before them, the officers of the Woodmen Circle decided to appeal to the court to assist them in settling the loss. Consequently the money has been paid into court and Guy Haven and his step-father have been ordered to prove their respective claims.

LOOKS LIKE GAMBLING DIVE.

Basement Room in Court House Stocked with Fixtures.

One of the rooms in the basement of the court house yesterday took on the aspect of an up-to-date and well-appointed gambling house. There were crap tables, roulette wheels, faro layouts, slot machines, Klondike boards and other paraphernalia dear to the gambler's heart and all that was lacking to dispel the thought that there was "nothing doing" was the merry rattle of the chips.

These tools of the gambling craft were brought to the court house by Deputy Sheriffs Jones, Roach and Nevo, who raided the place of Jorgenson and Sherman at South Omaha Friday afternoon. If the property is ordered confiscated by the court there will be a lively debate among the people of the sheriff's office as to the best way of doing away with the $22 in coin that now peeps through the window of the slot machine.

CONTEST DRAGS TEDIOUSLY ALONG.

Parish-Shields Contest Case Still On in the County Court.

In the Parish-Shields contest the election judges of the First and Third precincts of the First ward, South Omaha, were examined yesterday. They declared that none of the election officers at the polling places where they were stationed were intoxicated while on duty and that nothing of a fraudulent nature came within their observation. The witnesses identified the ballots returned from their respective precincts and then the counting by the tellers was resumed.

At noon the count of six precincts had been completed, showing a net gain of one vote for Parish.

Why He Didn't Pay Alimony.

Jens Thomsen appeared before Judge Baxter Saturday to explain why he had not paid $400 alimony to his divorced wife, as ordered to do by the court on December 9. Jens simply stated that he had not complied with the order of the court because he had been unable to get possession of the required amount of cash, and Judge Baxter deferred his decision in the contempt proceedings.

Maley's Alleged Assailant in Jail.

Fred Stegeman, who is said to be the man who took a shot at Joseph Maley in a South Omaha saloon several weeks ago, is now safely lodged in the Douglas county jail. He was arrested in Chicago and brought back to Omaha.

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

Section Covering Point Now Under Discussion in the Philippines.

MANILA, Jan. 19.—The section of the municipal code relating to the qualifications of electors was much discussed today before the Philippine commission. The bill requires voters to own real estate to the value of 500 pesos or to pay taxes to the amount of 30 pesos or upward and be males of upwards of 23 years of age, who speak, read and write English or Spanish. All are required to swear allegiance to the United States.

Judge Taft, president of the commission, promised to amend the bill so as to include men paying 20 pesos taxes.

Buencamino and other federal party leaders object to the feature empowering the provincial governors to determine the legality of the elections of the local officers.

The effect of the section covering the taxation of church properties will be to put the assessment largely in country districts on persons to whom the friars have nominally transferred the large tracts of land which they formerly claimed to own. The friars left all the country districts during the disturbed periods. Large holdings of land and business property in Manila are owned directly by the churches. As a similar provision for the taxation of church properties will be included in a separate bill for the civil government of Manila, that question will then be more directly at issue.

Michigan Bank Tapped.

NEW BALTIMORE, Mich., Jan. 19.—William E. Sandell & Co.'s bank here was broken into last night by cracksmen, who forced open the safe and secured about $3,500. No one was aroused by the noise and the thieves escaped with their booty unseen.