

Omaha High School in New Quarters



ENTRANCE TO LIBRARY, NEW OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING—Photo by Staff Artist.

Capitol square was deserted. An effort on the part of citizens of Omaha secured the ground to the city of Omaha for High school purposes. By the fall of 1873 the High school building Omaha people of later date are familiar with had reached a point where it could be occupied and this building was then used for the first time.

When the Omaha High school moved into this building J. H. Kellum was principal and Job Babin and R. E. Gaylord were assistants. These comprised the entire corps of High school teachers, and between them they divided pupils to the number of forty-seven. The curriculum of the first High school included algebra, geometry, English analysis, natural philosophy and Latin. At that time, as well as later, there was considerable discussion over the course of study, Greek at one time being added and then both Latin and Greek being placed upon the list of elective studies.

Records Are Incomplete.

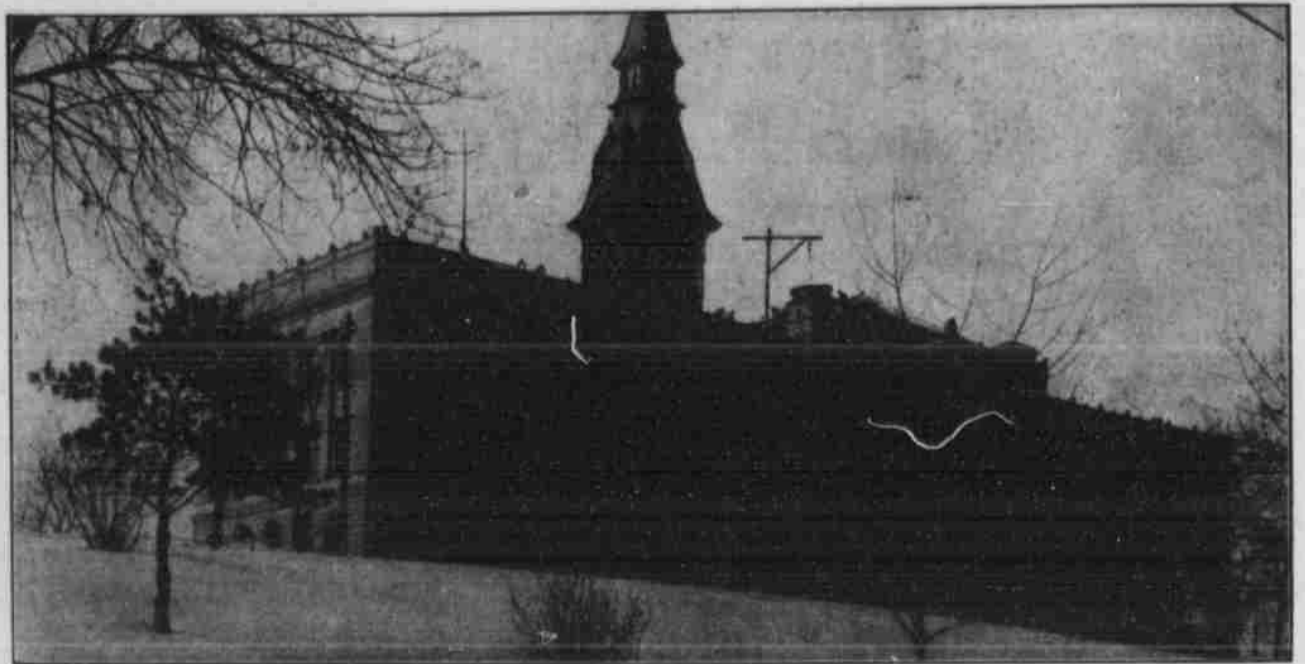
The records of the Omaha High school are imperfect. There are no reports at hand previous to the year 1877-8, which was prepared by the late S. D. Beals, then and at the time of his death an active worker in the Omaha schools, and in 1877 superintendent of the schools of the city. Mr. Beals' report throws much light upon the work of previous years, as in an appendix he gives tabulated reports of the years which intervened from the establishment of the High school, with brief mention of the men connected with that event.

According to this old report there was small change in the personnel of the teachers of the High school until 1875, when W. H. Merritt became principal and James A. Dodge assistant, these two men caring for the sixty-two pupils then enrolled in that school.

At the time the High school was removed to Capitol square the building was used not only for High school purposes, but the greater part was given over to grades below that school. This condition continued until 1890, and there was no suggestion of a change until 1885, when, with 240 pupils in the High school, Henry M. James, then superintendent of city schools, suggested that he could see the time when the entire building would have to be devoted to this department. No further reference is made to the change until 1889, when in his report Mr. James said that six rooms were still occupied by grades lower than the High school and that a new building was greatly needed.

Struggle for More Room.

Then came a lively time in the history of the Omaha High school. Members of the Board of Education purposed to erect a grade school on Capitol square. Citizens objected. There was litigation and agitation, with the result that it was finally de-



EXTERIOR OF NEW OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING—VIEW FROM THE SOUTHEAST—Photo by a Staff Artist.

termined that Capitol square was given to the city for High school purposes alone. Shortly after that the new Central school building was erected and the building on the square used entirely for the High school.

In 1889 Superintendent James, speaking of the crowded condition of the old High school building, mentioned the fact that when the building was constructed questions of ventilation and sanitation were not so well understood, and a new High school building would be needed in a few years, when existing evils could be corrected. Recognizing the apparent necessity for a new building systems and policies were discussed. Some persons proposed that two or more high schools be built in different parts of the city. Others urged a central building, and the latter idea finally prevailed. In 1898 \$150,000 was provided for the construction of the new building. This amount was found inadequate, and an additional bond issue of \$40,000 was authorized two years later.

Design of the New Building.

The plan for the new building was designed by John Latenser, the present architect of the Board of Education, and work on the building was started in the spring of 1901. The design is after the Grecian pattern and the present building is so constructed as to in time become the main part of a building which will in time have commodious wings added on the west.

The building contains, in addition to offices, a gymnasium and other apartments for the convenience of faculty and pupils, twenty class and study rooms, ranging in size from 24x24 feet to 71x36 feet in area. The rooms are well lighted, well ventilated and are pronounced to be the most conveniently arranged school rooms in the west.

With all of this addition to the facilities of the High school it has been found necessary to continue the use of the old building. The rooms below the second story are used as class rooms and recitation rooms in addition to the space occupied in the new building.

There is still considerable work to be done before the new building will present a completed appearance. It has been found necessary to change the grade of the grounds and considerable surface will be removed from the southeast corner of the tract, bringing the building level with the ground.

Growth of the High School.

The annual reports of the superintendents of city schools from 1877 to 1901 show the growth of that institution since its foundation. The school opened with an attendance of forty-seven pupils and three instructors. In 1875 the number of instructors had been reduced to two, but the growth of the school in those years was as follows: 1872, 47; 1873, 60; 1874, 68; 1875, 62; 1876, 59; 1877,

53; 1878, 63. There is no report from 1878 until 1883, but in the report of that year the following figures are given:

Year.	Enrol.	Teach-ment, ers.	Year.	Enrol.	Teach-ment, ers.
1882	746	20	1881	91	22
1882	103	4	1883	875	28
1883	129	6	1884	892	26
1884	172	9	1885	1,082	35
1885	240	11	1886	1,204	32
1886	256	18	1887	1,224	32
1887	372	20	1888	1,380	36
1888	453	18	1889	1,346	40
1889	486	18	1900	1,518	43
1890	533	18	1901	1,552	47
1891	616	23	1902	1,463	47

First Class Graduated.

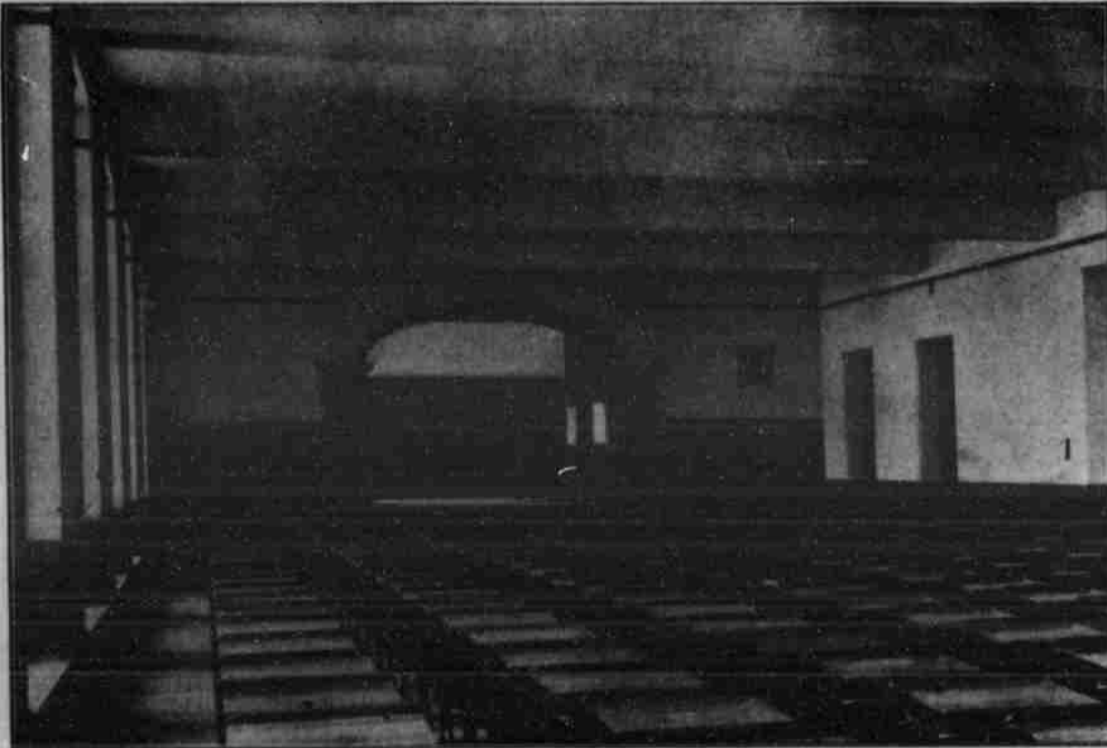
The first class to be graduated at the Omaha High school was that of 1876—the class which entered the year the school was opened. This class, as given by Prof. Beals in his first annual report as superintendent of the city schools, was as follows: Stacia Crowley, Blanch L. Deuel, Ida M. Goodman, Addie Gladstone, Fannie E. Woodbridge (nee Wilson), Esther Jacobs, Margaret M. McCague, Bertha M. McConnell, Nella Carrier (nee Lehmer), Alfred Ramsay and Henry C. Curry. There were no graduates in 1877, and in 1878 the names of the four graduates of that year are given as Maria Manning, Sarah Jacobs, Fannie Langdon and William L. McCague. These are said to have been all of the pupils who attended the High school the year it was moved from Jackson street to its present location.

MONDAY morning, February 3, the Omaha High school moved into the new building which has been in process of construction for a year. This is the fourth building to be occupied by this school since its organization in 1871. Previous to that time, even as far back as 1855, there were schools in Omaha, and as early probably as 1857 there were schools which taught branches similar to those now taught in the High school, but these schools were of the "subscription" variety, the public system contemplating nothing above what are now considered grammar school grades. With the development of the city came a demand for higher education at public expense, and the Omaha High school was organized. Two of the members of the first board of trustees are still residents of the city—A. J. Simpson, who was the president, and B. E. B. Kennedy, a director. The other members of the board were John Evans, treasurer; Ezra Millard, Rev. W. H. Kuhns and J. H. Kellum.

The first session of the Omaha High school was held in the south room of a brick building at the southeast corner of Sixteenth and Chicago streets. Here it continued for one year, when it was removed to a building on Jackson street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets, where the spring term of 1873 was held.

Reir to Capitol Square.

Some time previous to this the capital of the state had been removed from Omaha to Lincoln and the tract of ground known as



MAIN STUDY ROOM NEW OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL—Photo by a Staff Artist.



INTERIOR OF THE GYMNASIUM, NEW OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING—Photo by a Staff Artist.

Some Cranky Notions of People Who Use Tobacco

OF ALL stripes and varieties of cranks, relates the New York Times, there are few who can hold their own with those who have the tobacco habit.

A peculiar sight to be seen in Wilmington, Del., until a few years ago, was one of the wealthiest and oldest citizens of the place driving beside his coachman, who always smoked a huge black cigar. The sight of a coachman smoking while on duty was in itself remarkable enough, but it was the way the man blew the smoke into the old gentleman's face that would have attracted the attention of even a stranger. The coachman would take a huge puff of the weed and, with cheeks puffed with the smoke, lean toward the man beside him as if to whisper something into his ear. Then he would send the entire charge of smoke into his employer's face, who invariably leaned toward the coachman and stuck his nose into the blue cloud, whiffing it with evident satisfaction. For over five years this man was a

familiar sight on the streets of Wilmington. The doctors had forbidden him to smoke, but he had been an inveterate smoker and he was obliged to be satisfied with the compromise of having someone else do the smoking while he enjoyed the aroma.

Another cranky notion in the tobacco line was that of an old police magistrate named Davis, who died several years ago in Orange, at the age of 90 years, and who, the good people said, killed himself by the excessive use of chewing tobacco. The judge's habit, however, was distinctly a peculiar one, in that he invariably used cigars for this purpose; not the entire cigar, but merely the points. His claim was that there was not in the entire market a brand of tobacco that suited him as well as the one end of the cigar, and he said that in discarding the rest of it he took only the choicest part. Natural though it may seem that the nose of a smoker of fine cigars should become peculiarly sensitive, there

was a remarkable instance in this respect in the person of a cigar manufacturer living in West Hoboken. This man smoked only the very best cigars and finally it became almost unbearable for him to remain for any length of time in any public place where smoking was allowed. The odor of a pipe, no matter how good the tobacco, became a horror to him, and his eccentricity grew upon him so that his friends, in order to please him, and more often themselves, smoked only the cigars which he offered them while visiting at his home.

If there are cranks in the cigar line, there are just as many in the pipe line. What pipe smoker, for example, has not had one certain pipe, the like of which heaven never before or since permitted mortal to smoke? The true pipe crank can sit by the hour and tell you yarns about his favorite pipe. How he got it, just how long it took him to break it in, whether he expected from the start that it would prove a "hammer," or whether it developed into an

agreeable disappointment. Then, the occasions when he smoked it; how much so and so offered him for it one night, and, finally, how it broke or how he lost it, and the time he had getting over his loss.

Pipe cranks may be divided into two classes, the men that are cranks on one particular pipe, and those who have a collection of pipes that would gladden an Indian chief. One man, an officer in the firm of the big Harris Paint Works in Philadelphia, has a roll-top desk which is literally loaded with pipes. Not a paper, not even an envelope is in the desk. Pigeon-holes and drawers are full of splendid pipes, every one of them "broken in," each in the pink of condition, and each beautiful enough for a present.

Distinct from this kind of crank is the man who smokes but one pipe. One love, one pipe, seems his motto, and though the pipe may survive fifteen years—as is the

case with some exceptional specimens—once it goes out of commission permanently, the owner is never quite the same smoker again. Some men prefer meerschaum, others briar, but in each case the result is the same—attachment for the pipe that has seen the long service. None but a pipe-smoker can feel sympathy with the man who polishes the black bowl of a meerschaum on his coat sleeve as he affectionately tells its history.

If there is an excuse for the man who is disturbed by the wearing out of his favorite gold pen or even the loss of a long-used penholder, surely there is reason for a similar feeling when the friend of long nights and sad or glad days sees its last. To the beginner, all pipes taste alike, and often have the same effect, but to the confirmed pipe smoker there is as much of a difference between the taste of one pipe and another as there is to the matinee girl between the tastes of ice cream and water loaf.