

**THE ILLUSTRATED BEE.**

Published Weekly by The Bee Publishing Company, Bee Building, Omaha, Neb.  
 Price, 5c per copy—per year, \$2.00.  
 Entered at the Omaha Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.  
 For advertising rates address publisher.  
 Communications relating to photographs or articles for publication should be addressed, "Editor The Illustrated Bee, Omaha."

**Pen and Picture Pointers**

**B**ENJAMIN D. ODELL, governor of the Empire state, fills considerable space in the New York eye just now, for the reason that another state campaign is not very far away, and the head of the republican ticket will be expected to carry further the work begun in the last city campaign, when the Tammany tier was a hotly crit-

to a degree, but not on the day when his chum, the High school girl, comes to share with him the humdrum hardships of existence in the tented field. Authority and discipline and all the pomp and circumstance of war may still be there, but it doesn't stand much show against the shirt-waisted golf-skirted brigade who come out for the sole purpose of seeing how the cadets are standing camp life. War's pamply is easily adapted for the moment and the young people manage to overlook things in a way that might shock the very proper, but which go as a matter of course in the glorious west. And anyone who doubts that the boys and girls had a good time on Decoration day at Camp Lawton needs only to inspect the pictures in this number to be convinced of the error of such conclusions.

The church of St. Mary Magdalene has had quite a diversified existence, but has come out of each initiation bigger and brighter and better. In the beginning the zealous father who chose a lot in the then outskirts of Omaha because it was cheap and his people were poor, only wanted to secure a place where the German Catholics could hear the gospel expounded in their native tongue. He builded better than he knew, for the church came to be surrounded by business blocks whose cornices overtopped the spire of the modest little building. And then came a fire and magnificent business block and humble church were swept away. Out of the ruins both rose, each larger and handsomer than before. Still the church nestled timidly between the towering piles devoted to commerce, and the land on which it stood increased in value. It was needed for the extension of business, and finally the church was sold. Only a little way further, and on a piece of ground whose value would have dumbfounded the priest who bought the first site for the church the congregation of St. Mary Magdalene's will soon have a new home, one of the handsomest among the many handsome church edifices of Omaha. Last Sunday, amid the display of the church's power and magnificence, Bishops Scannell with solemn ritualistic ceremonies, laid the corner stone and blessed it, and all the week the walls of the new building have risen higher until the exterior outline of the beautiful structure at Nineteenth and Dodge streets are now apparent to all. While Father Judge is dedicating his beautiful new church of the Sacred Heart today, Father Glauber is looking forward to the not far distant day when he can dedicate his equally beautiful new Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

Clifford Wilkins of York is another of those young men who have developed oratorical ability of unusual quality while attending the public schools of his home town. At the recent meeting of the State Oratorical association at Grand Island he won first place among a large number of competitors. In this competition he was pitted against the tested champions of the other schools of the state and his victory therefore well entitles him to the distinction of champion in this particular line.

Mary Bell Murrell, a native of Tennessee, an Arkansas school teacher, the wife of a successful country doctor, now dead, has become one of the really remarkable business women of the country. She came into prominence as long ago as the early 90's, by reason of her connection with a wonderfully successful Woman's Loan and Building association in the south. Since then she has devoted her attention to mining and one of the most stupendous undertakings in the whole mining history of the west was conceived and carried out successfully by her. She determined on a tunnel five miles long piercing a mountain believed to contain valuable mineral veins. Difficulties innumerable appeared in the way, but Mrs. Murrell went about her work in a most systematic manner. She cleared up the title to the ground she wanted, went east and enlisted the capital she needed, and is now the principal stockholder in one of the most successful

of Colorado ventures. The tunnel was built and is a success, both for railroad and mining purposes, and Mrs. Murrell could easily be president of the company which operates it, did she not prefer to enjoy the princely income it yields her rather than take up the burdens of active management.

Falls City has a public library of which its people may well feel proud. It is the gift primarily of the late Mrs. Lydia Bruun Woods, who was a long-time resident of Falls City, but who died in Denver. In her will Mrs. Woods made a bequest of \$10,000 to be devoted to the erection and equipment of a public library, the people of Falls City to maintain it. J. H. Miles donated the site upon which the building stands. It is a handsome two-story structure, the lower floor being given over to library purposes and the upper floor used as a council chamber and offices for the city officials. Early in May the building was formally opened and dedicated to its uses. The affairs of the library are managed by a board composed of J. H. Miles, president; Edwin S. Towle, vice president; W. A. Greenwald, secretary; John W. Holt, J. L. Slocum, J. E. Leyda, A. J. Weaver, A. E. Gantt and S. H. Harvey.

Matt R. Thurber of Tecumseh is an inventor of somewhat remarkable ability. He is a young man, being but 26 years of age, and of an inventive frame of mind. Before he entered his teens he constructed a crude "hand car" on which four boys could ride through the streets of the town by giving power to the vehicle very much the same as the railroad employes do a regulation hand car. At the age of 14 he made a miniature stationary steam engine which run with accuracy. Dozens of other constructions, mostly of an electrical character, followed these during the next few years. At the age of 18 young Thurber, who was at that time thrown upon his own resources, was appointed city electrician of Tecumseh, which position he still holds. During the years that he has been serving the city in this capacity he has at the same time devoted much time to study. His latest accomplishments are the perfection and complete construction of an X-ray apparatus a year ago and, finally, the making and decidedly successful experimenting of wireless telegraphing devices, not wholly unlike the ones invented by Marconi. Mr. Thurber's X-ray machine is now being used by a Beatrice physician in the treatment of cancer, and his devices for space telegraphy are exhibited at his home here daily. The first test of his machines proved conclusively to him that his experiment was a success, though he has since greatly improved his outfit. Messages are successfully transmitted several blocks through houses, brick walls, or any other obstruction, with no regard to the direction the wind is in. One of the machines in a cellar three blocks away promptly responds to a message sent from the one in the second story of the young man's home. Two operators send messages back and forth with satisfactory results several blocks apart. Practically the same kind of a transmitter is used as that used by Mr. Marconi, but Mr. Thurber's method requires no vertical wires. In place of these metal plates about 5x12 inches in size are used in transmitting and receiving the electrical vibrations. Mr. Thurber is the son of the late Dr. S. W. Thurber of Tecumseh and he lives with his widowed mother there. He was born in Omro, Wis., but has lived in Tecumseh since infancy.

**Another Rash Break**

Baltimore American: "I think the seventeen-year locust is an interesting study," observes the lady of uncertain age.  
 "It must be," we answered thoughtlessly, "especially to one who has traced them down from generation to generation."  
 But, of course, it was her own fault that she took it personally.



CLIFFORD WILKINS, YORK, Neb.—WINNER STATE ORATORICAL PRIZE.



MATT THURBER OF TECUMSEH, A YOUNG NEBRASKA INVENTOR.

**Freaks of Color-Blindness**

**Y**OU hear very little nowadays about color blindness among railroad employes," said the railroad manager quoted by the New York Sun, "because a very rigid and constant system of examination and inspection is maintained. Some very interesting experiments are made in these examinations and some odd incidents occur."

"The color inspector gets in time to be something of an amateur scientist and gathers a considerable stock of knowledge. He learns for one thing that men whose sense of color is deficient are blind to red, still others to green and only a few to violet."

"A man blind to red cannot distinguish between red and green; neither can the green-blind. The red-blind man will see red, but it looks light green to him. The green to the green-blind is a light hue of red."

"At first our inspection was confined entirely to the eyes of engineers and firemen, but nowadays every man in the operating department, whether switchman, brakeman or train hand, must pass the tests prescribed. We find that about 5 per cent of the applicants have a defect of one kind or other and re-examinations are necessary often because luck or boldness sometimes favors a man, and then once in a while a man develops blindness later."

"When we first began the inspection we were constantly surprised at finding that some of our most careful engineers, men who had driven engines for years without any accident that could be traced to mistaken signals, were affected. It may seem odd that railroads happened to select green and red for their danger signals, the two colors upon which most cases of blindness occur, but it was simply because no other colors have the luminous character of these, can be seen further or more distinctly."

"Much of this immunity is due in the first place to the fact that every old engineer on a road is familiar with the location of the signal lights. In the second place, supposing him to be red-blind, he is quick to discover the difference this kind of a lamp presents to him from the ordinary green."

"He sees in the red lamp simply a lighter shade of green, and if aware of his defect strives to differentiate between the two. The danger, of course, lies in the fact that the difference is not sufficiently marked to him to make it possible all the time to distinguish it."

"Once in a while we have run across cases in which a man once rejected for

supposed color blindness successfully passed a second examination. This was not due to any defect in the last inspection, but to the fact that the man had previously suffered from lack of color development. He simply did not know. Color blindness is itself incurable. But there are so many different shades and hues that very few can pass an examination save in the ordinary colors."

"It may sound a little odd, but among laboring people, especially in large cities, there is a woeful lack of education even in the simpler colors. If an afflicted person learn early enough in life that he is defective in his color sense he may be able to keep the knowledge from others by learning to apply color designation to objects just as the child learns to name objects by the form in which they present themselves to him."

"But when one of these color-blind persons attempts to deceive the examiners he falls down. It might be assumed that because we want to find out if the men can distinguish between red and green lights we use these lights to make our examination."

"This, it will be admitted, seems to be the fair thing to do, but as trainmen must learn to distinguish lights in all sorts of weather, on foggy, damp nights as well as on clear nights, with distances constantly varying, it can readily be seen that these are not safe tests for the employing company. Some railroad inspectors use skeins of woolen yarn, others balls of yarn, others screens of various colors."

"The first test system used was a very cumbersome one. It was invented by a Swedish professor, who used a batch of about a gross of skeins of all gradations of the more common colors. His method was to take one skein and then have his man pick out of the heap as many skeins as he could of the same color, disregarding light and dark shades; in short, to find all gradations of that color in the heap."

"This took too long, although it still stands as the most complete test. Colored glass and yarn balls form the usual implements of test nowadays. It is practicable with these to pick out the defective man."

"Some of them betray their defect in their extreme caution, others in their confusion of colors. The quickest way to catch them is by placing a bright red or bright green for matching purposes. The red-blind man will carefully pick out dark greens and dark browns, while the green-blind man picks out greens and browns that are lighter than his sample."

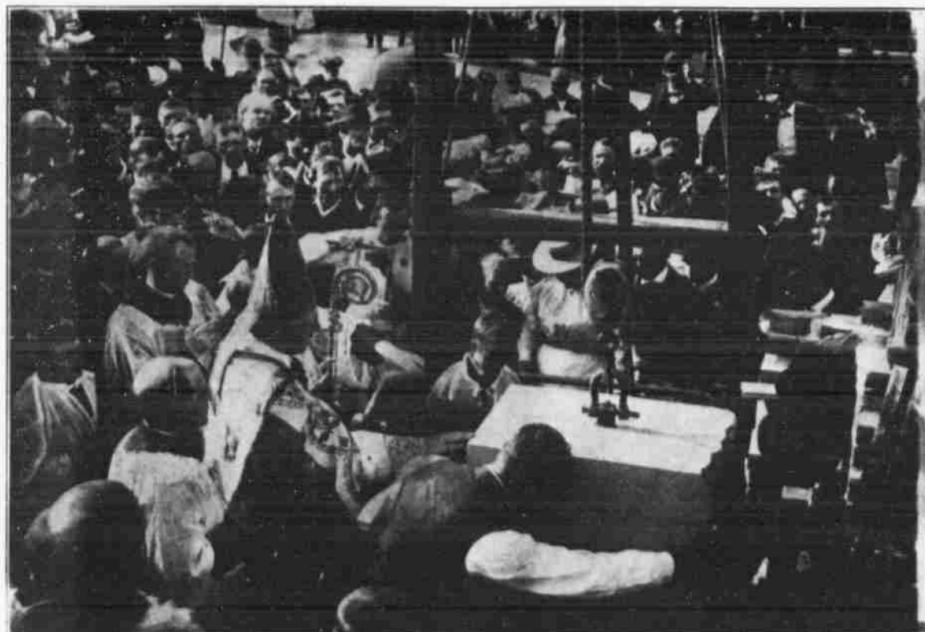


MRS. MARY BELL MURRELL, THE "MADONNA OF THE MINES."

pled. During his term as governor Mr. Odell has been most active in the tax reform campaign in New York, the ultimate object of the movement being to secure revenue sufficient to carry on the affairs of the great state without resorting to direct taxation. While this has been the chief feature of his administration, he has been active in other ways and has done many things of value locally which his people fully appreciate. When he was in Omaha on his way home from a transcontinental excursion he refused to talk politics or anything pertaining to New York affairs, as he had come west solely for rest and to get away from his official cares. The picture on the first page of this issue was taken as he came down the steps at the front door of the Omaha club, where he informally met a number of Omaha business and professional men. His appearance readily impresses one with the trait apparently most dominant in his character—keen persistency in pursuit of anything undertaken. This has marked his career in both business and politics and he has been successful in both. Governor Odell is still a young man, being under 50.

High school boys who go to camp as cadets may find the routine duty of a soldier's life monotonous and may be irksome

**Two Scenes at the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Omaha**



BEECP SCANNELL BLESSES THE STONE AS IT IS LOWERED TO PLACE.



ONE VIEW OF THE THRONG WHICH WITNESSED THE CEREMONY.