

FOR YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

Catholic Order's Directors Gather for Biennial Meeting. HOPE TO REVIVE THE OMAHA COUNCIL. Plan to So Entertain Local Members that They Will Reorganize— Omaha is Surprised to the Visitors.

With the exception of one member of the board of directors, all the officers of the supreme council of the Young Men's institute have arrived in the city and will begin their biennial meeting this morning with the celebration of mass at 10 o'clock in St. Philomena cathedral.

The Young Men's institute is a Catholic fraternal order organized in 1883 for moral, social and fraternal improvement. Its membership now includes nearly 12,000, extending over the entire United States.

In Omaha the order has several members who were formerly organized into a council. This was allowed to disband and it is for the purpose of creating more interest among the local members and because of the central location of the city, that the supreme council decided to hold this session in Omaha.

The officers present are: F. J. Kieroe, supreme secretary, San Francisco; James O'Brien, supreme president, Roskoe, Va.; J. P. Collins, supreme first vice president, Carbondale, Pa.; J. P. Ankenbrandt, supreme second vice president, Cincinnati; D. J. Cullinan, supreme treasurer, Pittsburgh, Pa.

This is the first session of the supreme council ever held in Omaha, and it is the first visit here of many of the officers. J. M. O'Brien, supreme secretary, is among those who are west for the first time, and expressed his surprise at the greatness of Omaha.

"I have been over most of the city today," he said, last night, "and I am much surprised at the size of Omaha and at its progressive appearance. This afternoon I have enjoyed something that we never have on Sunday in Virginia—the ball game. It is the first one I ever saw on Sunday and it seemed just as good as any. In such a community we should be able to create much interest in the institute, and if all the local members are as enthusiastic as those I have met, I am sure that before we leave the local council will have been reorganized."

MERIT SYSTEM IN SCHOOLS

South Omaha Situation Points the Moral in Manner Most Plain. SOUTH OMAHA, Oct. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: The present is a most opportune time to call attention to the absence of the merit system in administering South Omaha's school affairs and to point to the fact that this lack is responsible very largely for the innumerable practical failures of the school system.

Inaugurate a merit system, allow it to work naturally, insist on the elimination of all political influences, and the political and financial and sentimental, and the positions now parcelled out by the manipulations of ignorant and vicious officials will be sought after and filled by men and women of ability who scorn to accept a favor or a professional position except on the basis of merit.

The charge has been made in open meeting by a member of the present school board in our city that teachers are on the payroll who are not competent, and while this assertion would have come from him with much better grace before their appointment than at present, it serves to show that our present system is at fault, that no matter how vigilant reformers may be, that after they are dumped in the waste basket almost all applications bearing respectable and suggestive names, unaccompanied by the proper credentials, still abuses will creep in which work a detriment to the children and that it is only through anger or accident those abuses are discovered.

At last, though not least, the merit system in school matters would bring untold blessings to the members of our school boards. If it found them virtuous, it would prevent them becoming vicious. If it found them already tainted, it would most assuredly retard their mental decay and by removing the opportunity for indulgence would probably effect a complete cure in time, and, after their terms of office had expired, return them to the community good, law-abiding citizens. It would make very difficult, if it did not entirely oblige the way to the penitentiary, an institution which many officials of these days make a persistent effort to reach. It would undoubtedly remove many of the strong temptations by which they are assailed and to which, unfortunately, they so often and so easily and so unaccountably succumb. In fine, the merit system would prove beneficial to the community as a whole.

That it is not in operation here is evidence that we are not alive to its importance and worth. Its value has been demonstrated by the United States government, by several of the state governments, and by many of our large cities. The spirit of reform is in the air. We must come to it. We may find it difficult to get out of the beaten path. We may find it difficult to root out our old and pernicious habits, and harder still to supplant them with new and improved ones, but the benefits to be derived from it are so great that we will persevere and work earnestly for it, we will get it, respectively.

While opening a box, J. C. Mount of Three Mills Bar, N. T., has a ten-penny nail in his hand, and he says, "I thought at once of all the pain and soreness this would cause me," he says, "and immediately applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm and occasionally afterwards. To my surprise it removed all pain and soreness and the injured parts were soon healed."

Announcements of the Theaters. "All on Account of Eliza," one of the most humorous legitimate comedies that has visited Omaha in a long time, will open at the Boyd Tuesday night for an engagement that will include Wednesday matinee and night. The play deals with the tribulations of a young school teacher in a small country town, who has gained the enmity of the school board, with the exception of the president, an old German with a hair-raising dialect, who becomes smitten with her. He retains her in school against the wishes of the board. Edward See enacts the role of the old German and Miss Stella Kenny that of the school teacher. The play was originally produced at the Broadway theater, New York, and an entire original production is promised here.

CHURCH NEARLY COLLAPSES

Walls and Beams Give Way Under Pressure of Immense Crowd. CONGREGATION ESCAPES WITHOUT INJURY. Janitor Discovers Unsafe Condition and Preacher Empties the Edifice Without Alarming Great Throng of People.

A condition which came near being a calamity prevailed at the First Christian church yesterday morning. The pastor, Rev. J. P. Jones, was preaching when the old colored janitor of the church, Harrison Rose, discovered, to his surprise, that the walls of the church were giving way and that the lives of the large congregation were endangered. The preacher was notified and he made known his discovery to the congregation, and he then proceeded to empty the church of its worshippers. No one was injured.

Not far had the services progressed when the old janitor found the walls in the basement of the building were cracking. Then he found that the entire wall of the center, which runs lengthwise of the edifice under the floor, was insecure and that the church auditorium had sagged at least two and a half inches. One of the bent beams gave way entirely and the fears of the janitor were increased, but before going up to make known his discovery he examined still further, finding that the building was in danger of falling any minute. In the upper part of the building the papering was torn by the gaping breaches in the walls and the plaster in many places had begun to fall.

Hurriedly Rose went upstairs and before reaching the congregation's room he found Contractor Garlow, who built the edifice, to whom he related his discovery. Garlow understood the structure and knew there was imminent danger. He notified Rev. Mr. Wilson of the alarming situation. He informed the minister, after a careful investigation as could be made in a brief time, that the building was likely to go to pieces at any moment and that prompt action was necessary.

Ignorant of Impending Danger. Calmly the minister announced to his congregation that up to this time was entirely ignorant of the impending danger, that the services would be continued outside. This announcement created no little surprise, and even amusement was evident in many faces. The minister wisely withheld from the people any further details of the situation, knowing that to do otherwise would mean a panic and probably some fatal results. In perfect keeping with the calm manner in which the minister had made the announcement, the congregation arose and deliberately walked from their pews to the outside of the building, where they learned of the trouble.

The church was filled to its utmost capacity. Even the aisles were crowded and when Rev. Wilson told the congregation that services would be continued outside he thoughtfully requested that those standing please pass out first, those in the seats remaining seated while the ones in the aisles and passageways left the house. The only thought that occurred to the people was that the church being so uncomfortably crowded the minister had decided best to go outside, where the general air was available. It was a beautiful day and an open air meeting did not seem a bad thing. Open air meetings, likewise, are not uncommon for convention times such as this was.

The church did not collapse as was feared when the condition was first discovered, but it is not so certain that it would have remained inside some worse results might have ensued. Not a soul was hurt and the services seemed all the more impressive for the incident, especially that part of the minister's sermon in which he so strikingly compared the church to a structure of God's ways and works to the insecurity of temporal things.

It is only a dozen years ago when The Bee building and New York Life building were located on Seventeenth street, that all except a few far-sighted business men thought a location so far away from the business center a rash move. The business center of Omaha at that time was at Thirtieth and Farnam and Thirteenth street was a busy retail thoroughfare. Sixteenth street was a narrow right-of-way as the business center was shifted another ten years will bring forth none of us can tell.

The location, however, of the new and one of the most promising business enterprises at 1712 Farnam street in The Bee building, next to the city hall, by the McCarty Tailoring company shows the tendency of business to move west on Farnam street and also the promoter's faith that the business center will in time be beyond them.

In fact, Mr. McCarthy, who is a business man who has been familiar with Omaha for some years, in talking about the center of business in different parts of the city says: "When I first came to Omaha, fourteen years ago, most of the retail district was on Farnam street, east of Fifteenth. In the meantime, having been in business in St. Louis and elsewhere, I have made a study of the changes in the center of business in different towns. In studying Omaha I really believe that it will only a question of a few years before we will see the corner of Twenty-fourth and Farnam one of the best retail locations in the city. Sooner or later there is bound to be a cross-street at Sixteenth and Twenty-fourth street to South Omaha. When this happens Twenty-fourth and Farnam will be a business corner, and business will fill in the gaps between Sixteenth and Twenty-fourth streets."

"In any event, we have located our store right in the heart of the class of men whose business we are after—the population of office men in the public buildings and in Omaha's two largest office buildings. These are the kind of men who need and are seeking something better than they are getting in 'made-to-order' garments at less prices than are asked by the so-called 'well-tailors,' but goods and workmanship that are equal to the very best. Besides reaching this office population we know that business men will walk the block from Sixteenth to Seventeenth building in order to see a display of fine woolen shawls in our 1,600 square feet of floor space. In fact, our goods are necessarily all new and fresh, selected from the best fashion markets. I am certainly delighted with the wonderful beautiful plate glass show front which the owners of The Bee building have arranged for our window display. I have not seen the new store front before since its completion, but it certainly is an ornament both to The Bee building and Farnam street. I, of course, have charge of our St. Louis establishment and will not be located here, but my active partners, Mr. J. W. Jesselyn and Mr. E. H. Wilson, are well known to the Omaha business men and we have brought Mr. W. D. Fowler from Philadelphia, a specialist in tailoring who is really an artist in his way and cannot help but meet the wants of the young men who desire thoroughly fashionable fabrics, perfectly fitted, without having to pay extravagant prices for them.

RETURNS FROM ALASKA HOME

Mrs. Mullen Says Fifty Below Zero is Really Not Uncomfortable. Mrs. F. M. Mullen, whose Omaha home is at 1914 Grace street, returned there for a visit Friday, from her present home in Alaska, bearing with her a trunkful of trophies and curios of the land of the Arctic circle. Mrs. Mullen accompanied her husband to Alaska a year ago last July, where he went as registrar of the land office at Rampart. Last June Mr. Mullen was transferred to the office of receiver at Juneau, where he is now stationed.

"I don't know what I expected to find," she remarked, "but I confess that it wasn't my idea that there would be much of civilization or refinement or culture and I had been taught to believe that 50 to 80 below zero was unbearable. I went there prepared to be a martyr, and a frontier woman and ready to rough it, and I come home thinking it's the finest country in the world."

"The climate at Rampart, which is a city in the interior, is far superior to Juneau, on the coast, where we are now. There is no wind at Rampart, and 40 to 50 below zero is really not at all uncomfortable. At that place, of course, we could not get all the comforts we have on the coast, and for two months each fall while the river is freezing and two months in the spring while the stream is breaking up, we had to do without mail. But the miners are well educated, refined people and the society is very agreeable. The prices in the interior are extremely high. A dozen eggs, when we could get eggs at all, cost \$1.50; five pounds of sugar a dollar, and butter was 75 cents a pound. The only difference between living at Juneau and in this country is the climate, and I believe I prefer that of Juneau."

Mrs. Mullen brought with her a collection of gold nuggets, also a large collection of Alaskan Indian work, which far surpasses any basket or beadwork of the Indians of this country. No Time to Fool Away. Coughs, colds and lung troubles demand prompt treatment with Dr. King's New Discovery. No cure, no pay. 50c. \$1. For sale by Kuhn & Co.

Home-seekers' Excursions. The Missouri Pacific will sell round trip tickets at very low rates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, November 4th and 11th, December 2d and 9th, for certain points in southwest Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Texas, Arkansas, etc. Stopovers allowed on going journey. Final limit of tickets, 21 days. For further information, maps, rates, etc., address any agent of the company, or Thos. P. Godfrey, passenger and ticket agent, southeast corner 14th and Douglas sts., Omaha, Neb.

"MOGY" HAS USE FOR REVOLVER Seizes Away Robber After Receiving Bad Blow on the Head. By the hasty use of a revolver "Mogy" Bernstein frustrated two men who attempted to rob him at an early hour Sunday morning, though the general run-up he was badly beaten about the face and head.

Bernstein was returning to his home at 210 North Twenty-sixth street from the Coliseum, where he has a concession to sell hedges. In his purse he had about \$10, the proceeds of the day's sales. When he was on the sidewalk, dazed from the effects of the blow on the head, a second party rushed up to him and kicked him in the face. It is not known who the robbers were, though two men who had been looting around the booth at the Coliseum during the day were seen to follow him up. These men saw Bernstein when he counted up the day's cash and started home, and then followed him. The attempted holdup was not reported to the police Saturday night.

6:00 P. M. ELECTRIC LIGHTED, STEAM HEATED, SOLID VESTIBULED. Limited train via MILWAUKEE Railway Leaves Omaha Union depot daily, Monday morning, at 6:15 a. m. and about 11:00 a. m. If the conductor has within a few blocks of his home a man suddenly rushed past him and struck him with a slung shot. As Bernstein fell he drew his revolver and began to shoot. He heard the man scream and that was the last of his robber.

ANOTHER BOY ESCAPES DEATH Catches a Pole to Touch Electric Light Wire and Lives to Tell of It. Earl Johnston, the 14-year-old son of J. W. Johnston of 2222 South Sixteenth street, was knocked insensible last night about 8 o'clock by touching the wire of the center light on the west side of the Sixteenth street viaduct. Officer Reynolds found him lying on the footway and took him to Begh's drug store, where he regained consciousness. His left arm was deeply burned where it had touched the pole and the fingers of his right were also burned. Johnston said that he had climbed on the iron railing of the viaduct and reached up to the wire. He happened to fall backward, and not out to the ground twenty-five feet below. Last July Fred Bristal of Twenty-sixth street had a similar adventure with this same light wire, with similar results. Lineman Innis, who was last night sent to examine the wire, as he was on the former occasion, said that no change would be necessary, as the wire could only be reached with difficulty. The wire has a capacity of 600 volts.

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Amusements. At the Boyd. "Rudolph and Adolph" are not likely to be the subject of either denunciatory or reconstructive resolutions on account of any outrage they may put upon sensitive feelings. They are simply a pair of laugh-makers, and as they have adopted the name of Dinkelspiel, so likewise have they taken up the exaggerated German dialect of that creation of a New York Journal. It may be that their wit and somewhat superficial wit are more palatable and more easily assimilated when disguised in this vehicle. At any rate, if expressed in plain English their jokes would hardly win the laughter that greets their tortuous delivery in an envelope of mispronounced and disjointed words whose wretched twitting and turning are beyond the most hopeless of Teuton tongues. In this regard the Messrs. Mason are really clever, and they carry on their impersonations, the one of a horse doctor and the other of a ladies' tailor, of the same name but not related, nor even acquainted with a seriousness that almost leads one to think that they are not trying to encourage mirth. Incidentally, they sing well, their "Down Where the Wurzburger Flows" having a lilt and snap to it that entitles it to consideration in the noble company of dramatic songs with which the lyric list of our common country has lately been enriched. Music, indeed, is the greater part of the show, and some new songs and a number that are not new sung well by the soloists, who are supported by a chorus which is comely and useful, if not numerous. Two large audiences were entertained at the Boyd by this company yesterday. The engagement closes with the performance this evening.

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