### **Carpenter's** Letter

#### (Continued from Sixth Page.)

and a common price is \$60 a year, with a suit of clothes and a pair of boots thrown Many of the farmhands now go off to In. Belgium and France at harvest time, so that labor is scarce. There is also an exodus from the country to the cities and the factories, where the wages are higher.

Even in the cities the wages paid seem ridiculous in comparison with those of the United States. The government usually pays as much as anyone. Here are some figures recently published as to what men receive who work on state contracts: Common workmen got 5 cents an hour, car-penters 7 cents. Blacksmiths receive 7 cents an hour and turners, planers, fitters and iron workers 8 cents. The wages in the factories are no better, and the hours of work range all the way from nine to thirteen per day. On the farms both men and women work, and the women, as a rule, do as much as the men.

In the factories there are also women and children. Children are allowed in the factories at the age of 12. The little ones go to their labors at 6 o'clock, starting work on nothing but a cup of hot coffee ot perhaps a piece of rye bread, and coming home to breakfast at \$. They go back an hour later, and lay off for dinner from 12 to 1, when they return to complete the day. The wages paid children are but a few cents a day, and boys start into a trade as low as 20 cents a week. There are fixed rules as to apprentices, some shops refusing to take them because there are no laws by which they can hold them after they have learned enough to be of value.

Of late, however, technical schools have been established and the children will have a better chance to learn trades than in the FRANK G. CARPENTER. past.

### Diamond in a Meteor

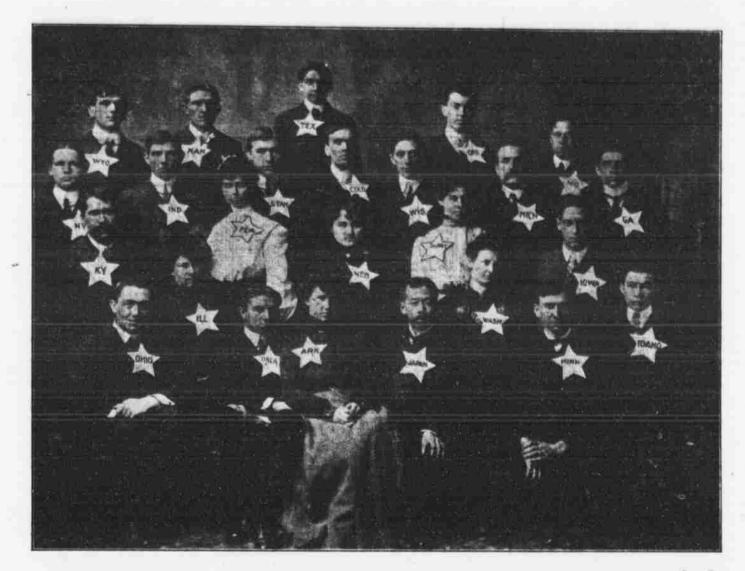
A diamond imbedded in the center of a forty-pound metcorite, the first specimen of the sort ever discovered, was placed on exhibition in the American Museum of Natural History, reports the New York Mail and Express. This is the first time the specimen has been publicly exhibited, as it is a part of the private collection of George Frederick Kunz, recently loaned to the museum.

Though small the diamond is perfect and of the purest and hardest carbon. With several other minute particles of black diamond dust it rests in a small jagged area of less pure carbon about the size of a large marble. This area is surrounded by solid meteorite iron from four to five inches thick.

The meteorite is one of a number of specimens of sederite discovered by Prof. G. A. Koenig in Canyon Diablo, at the foot of Crater mountain, Arizona. The idea of a prospector that he had discovered a surface vein of pure iron led to the discovery. Several specimens were sent to Dr. A. E. Foote, in Philadelphia, where they were cut in pieces or "slices" for museum distribution.

The presence of the diamond was revealed when, after two days and a half, nearly all of the chisels in Dr. Foote's possession had been broken and an emery wheel ruined by contact with the hard surface. Polished corundum, the hardest substance next to diamond, was tried in polishing, but the meteor diamond cut through it. Tests proved the substance to be a genuine diamond and troilite and daubreelite substances which proved an origin not terrestrial were both found in the iron which incased the gem.

Whether diamonds exist in the mineralogy of other planets or whether the diamond was formed in the flight to earth is a question. In connection with the latter idea the theory is advanced that the enormous pressure applied to the interior of a mass of iron by the heating of the exterior by friction would crystallize the carbon in the center and form a diamond. As meteorites are generally acknowledged by scientists to be identical with shooting stars the remark made at the museum that the specimen was a "shooting star with a diamond heart" possessed poetry and accuracy.



The above cut is published to call the attention of our readers to the fact that we have an institution in our city whose standing and efficiency are recognized at least in twenty-four different states and territories of our union and one foreign country. All in this group are now students of the Omaha Commercial college and have come from the places indicated on the stars. It is not only a unique but a most remarkable showing. It is the first time that any kind of a school in the great middle west could make such a showing. A college so widely and so favorably known is a credit both to our city and state.

thousands of merchants in Arabia, Egypt and Persia.

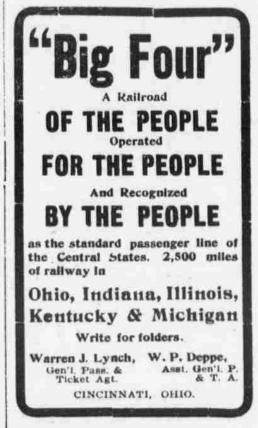
A single typewriter company of this city advertises "one hundred styles of typeshuttles in twenty-six languages." Many of these languages, of course, have nearly the same characters as the English. For instance, the French, Spanish and Scandinavian machines are like ours evcept that the keyboards contain certain accents that are not needed by us. The German, Greek, and Russian keyboards, of course, have their distinctive characters, but the number of keys is practically the same in every case. There are special machines for writing Gaelic and these the dealers speak of as "Irish typewriters."

One company makes a typewriter for Chinese. This one is necessarily very incomplete, for the language contains an almost unlimited number of characters, but it serves in ordinary business. There is another machine with a keyboard of Burmese characters, as well as one for the Siamese. There is no instrument for writing Hebrew, and this fact a typewriter maker explains by saying that, although thousands use that language, business operations are not conducted in it very extensively .- New York Times.

# **Testing Damaged Ears**

Mrs. Caroline Buck has a suit on trial in the supreme court against the New York Central railway, alleging deafness from an accident. She claims to be deaf in the right ear. Attorney L. B. Williams pulled out his watch and held it to her right ear. "Can you hear that?" he asked. "No."





## **Polyglot Typewriters**

How many typewriter operators know that machines have been invented for peoples using more than twenty-five different languages? The latest patent is the Trable typewriter, with a keyboard no larger than the one we use in America, although the Arabic of textbooks is described as having 638 different characters. Up to dats the Japanese tongue is about the only one in extensive use that does not boast its typewriting machine, but it is announced that a scholar of the language is now working on a keyboard arrangement, with a view to supplying the deficiency.

The difficulties of providing keyboard arrangements for a language having so many characters as the Arabic can be guessed at. That language's 638 forms, however, consist of variations of only about thirty letters, and the inventor had to do a lot of compromising with the variations. It is too early yet, according to men connected with the manufacture of machines, to tell how successful the latest addition will prove, but it is presumably to serve many

"Can you hear it now?" holding it to the other ear.

"Yes."

"Now?" holding it three feet away. "Yes."

Mr. Williams opened the watch and showed the jury that it had no works and consequently could not tick .- Syracuse (N. Y.) Dispatch in New York Sun.



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