

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1903.

SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

Nearly
Everybody
Grades
at
Bennett's

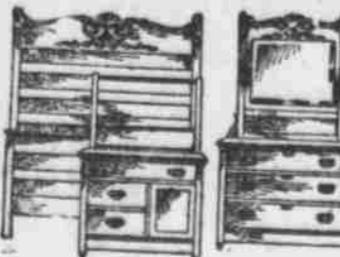
COLORED DRESS
GOODS

25c wool plaids
for children's
dresses—
special,
yd. 5c

FURNITURE SALE

THIRD FLOOR.

A manufacturer's sample stock of bedroom suits bought at almost 50c on the dollar. It was a big deal to swing were equal to the emergency. The beauty of it is these suits are all of this season's patterns but the manufacturer was overstocked and needed the room and we needed the suites. That our customers may benefit with us we quote prices that cannot be duplicated. Three carloads of these suites already in and on sale. Come Monday or as soon as you can. You will not be disappointed. The goods will speak for themselves the wonderful values. We have underrated rather than overestimated their worth.



\$26.50 three-piece bedroom suite,	\$37 three-piece bedroom suite,
French plate mirror, 18.75 sale price 18.75	24x30 mirror—sale price 27.00
\$31.00 three-piece bedroom suite,	27-inch black Taffeta, worth \$1.25 at per yard 27.00
French plate mirror, 22.00 sale price 22.00	28.00 three-piece suite, swell front, all oak, sale price, only 28.00
\$35 three-piece bedroom suite, swell front, 24x30 mirror, sale price, only 24.25	43.50 three-piece suite, swell front, all oak, sale price, only 33.00
\$22 Cheval dresser, oak, large mirror, sale price 16.40	

INGRAIN CARPET SALE

Monday morning we will place on sale 2200 yards of 36-inch wide extra super 2-ply ingrain carpet, regular 50c quality, only a few patterns, but plenty of each, 19c at per yard.

All grains on sale Monday at a fraction of their value

WALL PAPER

Three Days' Sale—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. You can't afford to miss as you will really see the following low prices:

Good grade of white blanks up from 3c	14-in Ba! Bearing Lawn Mower \$4.49
Heavy embossed gold up from 10c	You may pay more for a mower not so good as this.
Ingrain gilds, bronzes, orientals, etc., worth from 30c to 50c per roll. 15c	Grass Catcher 5c Good Grass Hook 14c 2-Burner blue flame coal oil stoves 5.50 Full line rubber hose. Ice Cream Freezers.

BENSON'S CAREER IN KANSAS

Dead Town Marks Spot Where He Became Proficient in Boomer.

SOME SAMPLES OF HIS PECULIAR METHODS

What the Boomer Candidate for Mayor of Omaha Accomplished Before He Migrated to This City.

As a boomer, Erastus A. Benson had had experience before he came to Omaha and the ruins of a town in Kansas stand witness to the boom methods engaged in there by him and his associates. A representative of The Bee who was sent to visit the two Kansas counties in which Mr. Benson operated reports the situation there as follows:

"Benson left Davenport, Ia., for Gove and Sheridan counties in Kansas, not to make a home there, but to win a fortune in land speculation. He was well equipped to ply his art in the new country without unfriendly competition. He acquired options on large tracts of railroad land along the Kansas Pacific road, cultivated close relations with the Union Pacific and B. & M. railway companies, and made free use of printer's ink to advertise his game. As Mr. Benson still has large holdings in this section the community of interest between him and the railroads is far from being a thing of the past."

How the Boomer Game Worked.

The story of the Kansas boom has been often told. Being sent to command the necessary means to make full payment or secure an option on a large body of land from the railroad companies, the "boomer" was allowed certain benefits in the way of free advertising and cheap excursion rates for prospective land buyers. Options were granted on the payment of 10 per cent of the purchase price, which amounted to \$48 for every quarter section. When the quarter section was sold "on long time and easy payments" to an immigrant, the "boomer" deducted the \$48 advanced for the option and the amount of his profit above the original price (\$5 per acre), and transferred his contract with the company to the buyer, who had no security in his claim. As a further inducement to a sale, the buyer was often given free transportation to his home. While the advertising departments of the roads rendered yeoman's service to the cause, the local newspaper, under a general name, was deemed an indispensable auxiliary. It vouchsafed for everything seen, unseen and to be desired, which might gratify the heart

of the anxious homeseeker. The new rail way that was never constructed; the new city that had no existence, hatched kids by the hundred, abounded with churches, schools, libraries and all manner of modern public improvements, especially, "it had the best grain market in the state"; "it had the brawny hands of toll that could guide the plow, wielded the wizard's wand which caused the orchards, vineyards, gardens and fields to flourish in the mudroom; and the copious showers and heavy dews of more favored sections were made to do duty on the gently undulating prairie which affords excellent drainage" were among the subjects treated with no little tact by the editor. Such a cheap and ridiculous display of sentiment appeared ridiculous enough, but yet it paid the fiddler enormously. Many people in the eastern states fell an easy prey to the grafters. Circulars and the local newspapers were addressed to so many post office boxes (the names of persons were not deemed essential) each week, which usually brought in a large number of letters seeking information about the new country. It would be almost an easier task to enumerate the schemes in store for the capture of the interested correspondent; let it suffice, it was difficult for him to get away.

Early Connections with the Railroads.

"Erastus A. Benson 'boomed' Gove and Sheridan counties with might and main. He had options on lands aggregating some 180,000 acres, which he partially disposed by large sales, as in the case of 60,000 acres to Mr. Perkins of the Burlington road and others. He subsequently bought 1000 acres from the Verdins' company and his interests here were quite considerable, chiefly, it is believed, on account of the collapse in land values resulting from the boom, which was at its height in 1887. Gove county was organized in 1886. Mr. Benson took a hand in the county seat fight and succeeded in naming Gove City as the local seat of government. He has no connection with other towns by railway, telegraph or even telephone. City lots which have brought \$500 each could not be disposed of at any price today. The total assessed valuation of lots in the town was \$7,497 last year. The population of Gove county in 1890 was 2,991 and 2,411 in 1892—slightly less than 500 in the intervening years. In 1890 F. D. Coburn, secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, estimated the yields of the following named crops as follows: Spring wheat, 6 bushels per acre; winter wheat, 6 bushels; corn, 12 bushels; oats, 10 bushels; rye, 5 bushels; barley, 12 bushels; Irish potatoes, 60 bushels. Since these figures are for 1902 it is interesting to note how 'cheap' land was during the boom. The Settlers' Guide, a weekly publication issued at Quinter, in this county, March, 1887, contains the

following: 'A home for all in the golden belt of Kansas. Land is from \$4 to \$7.50 per acre. Homestead and timber culture relinquishments can be purchased all the time from \$400 to \$1,000 per quarter, or 160 acres.' Mr. Swartz, an intelligent, industrious and thrifty German farmer, bought land from Mr. E. A. Benson for \$6.75 an acre, but being unable to meet his payments regularly, was obliged to give up his farm. He was offered the same land at \$5 per acre and could not be induced to accept it. He owned one of the best farms in the county. The feeling against the 'boomer' in Kansas is bitter in the extreme. His standing among the dealers in real estate is much the same as that of a 'quack' with professional physicians."

"It is estimated that Mr. Benson's profits from land deals in 1885, 1886 and 1887 amounted to \$12,000. At one time there were eight newspapers in the county and now there is one. On the whole, this association has suffered more from the boom of the '80s than from drouths, blizzards and grasshoppers combined. One building erected at Grafton cost \$14,000 and being mortgaged for \$6,000, went into the hands of the mortgagee. A hotel consisting of stone at Gove City, was built and even a sod house has been built to take the place of the magic metropolis of the plains is at present little better than a city in the sky, and had a course of natural development been resorted to by the early settlers instead of their being subjected to boom interference the county would have been in a fair position to share the prosperity of recent years."

City Missionary Arrives.

Rev. Fred Grimes of Crawfordville, Ind., has arrived in this city to take charge of the mission of the Christian church. This work was planned several months ago by the Monday club, a society composed of members of the business community but has been held in abeyance for some time. Mr. Grimes will hold services in parts of the city far removed from the present churches.

POINTED REMARKS

Necessity keeps a man from getting rusty. He who never seeks his opportunity will never find it.

In order to be sure you are right you must go ahead and find out.

Men love to hear of their power, but dislike to be reminded of their duty.

In after years it makes a man feel sad when he thinks how fresh he used to be.

Paradoxical though it may seem, every time a gun goes off it stays right there.

When a woman nudges you with her elbow it is equivalent to saying "I told you so."

There seems to be a shoddy lining between some people and the bright side of life.

Frank Gilmer, traveling passenger agent, with headquarters at Chicago, to be district passenger agent at Detroit; H. S. Ray, general agent at Denver, to be gen-

eral agent at St. Louis; Phil Auer, district passenger agent at Pittsburg, Kan., to be general agent at Denver; James Powers, district passenger agent at Buffalo, Ill., to be transferred, with same title, to Pittsburg, Kan.; W. F. Crawford, traveling passenger agent, with headquarters at Chicago, to be district passenger agent at Buffalo, Ill.; Warren Colle, city passenger agent at St. Joseph, to be city passenger agent at Peoria.

Railroad Notes and Personals.

President Burt of the Union Pacific goes to Chicago Sunday night.

Chief Engineer Berry of the Union Pacific goes to St. Paul Saturday evening.

G. B. Harton, superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph company, left for Denver Friday night.

C. Hughes and J. W. Munn of the Northern and Wyoming division of the Chicago & Northwestern go to Chicago Sunday night.

HURRICANE DAVIDSON, TERROR

Activities of the Missouri Desperado

Who Loved to Plan and

Carry Out Raids.

Jim McKinney, the outlaw who was shot

to death in a Chinese josshouse at Baketown, Calif., the other day, belonged to a family of terrors on both sides. Twenty years before the civil war there was a

kinsman on his mother's side who was known in the country where he lived as Si Davidson.

The present generation in Cass county, Missouri, probably never heard of him, yet

he was the first terror of a region which

produced the young boys, and in a strip

of the state over which Quantrell and his

guerrilla roamed by day and night when no

man's life was safe.

So far as was known, Si Davidson never

killed a man. In the time in which he

lived the man who killed another had to

show that his own life was in danger before

he killed his assailant, if he wanted to

continue his residence in the country.

One of the early instructions of one of

the first judges of that part of the state

was, according to the memory of his grand-

son, also a judge, as follows:

"If the jury believes that the deceased

was dead shot, as the court understands

he was, and that he died at the defendant

first, and was drawing the bead on him the

second time, the court instructs the jury to

acquit the defendant on the spot."

That was the law on the Big Blue river.

There were those who used to say, when

ever there was a murder or other crime

committed in the county, about which there

was a great deal of talk, that the

dead man's wife was to be tried for murder.

It was his principal delight to stop busi-

ness at the county seat, Harrisonville, or

the village of Harrison, and to sit in his

front porch and smoke his pipe.

The women whom he had made prisoners

of his power, and the children whom he

had captured, showed him the same respect

and fear that they showed the dead man.

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