BLUNDERS LIGHTEN BURDENS

Curious Mistakes of Pupils Help to Spice Life of Teachers.

GROWN ONES, TOO, WHO SOMETIMES ERR

Pedagogues Relate Some of the Funny Things Which Go to Break the Monotony of Their Work.

Teachers in the public schools say their exacting labors are lightened many days by the funny replies made by pupils to questions put both in examinations and in class rooms. It is in the tests, however, where the young idea seems to have an inherent tendency to shoot wide of the mark by aiming too high. Often it seems the more ambitious the child, the more droll becomes his performance.

In an examination held in the lower grades of the Omaha public schools not long ago, one of the questions in grammar work was merely to give the plural of the word "wood." There was no attempt at catch-work by a play on the word as applied to a forest, nor had there been anything in the previous work to confuse the mind of the pupils. But one bright young mind, inspired by influences beyond the ken of the instructor, filled in the blank with "splinters."

What Is in the Sky?

"What is in the sky?" was a query propounded in a higher grade after a good deal of preliminary work in physical geography.

One little girl wrote, "The sun, the moon and the stars," and had she stopped there would have made a perfect answer, but evidently having a fancy for the spiritual she added, "and God and the angels."

A pupil in another school was not satisfied with including "God and the angels" but reverently added, "our father and mother who are in heaven and who watch over us."

Strange to say, the parents of this youngster are alive and in the best of health.

In a history class a teacher asked who might be the chief executive of the United States and where does he live.

"Mr. Pearse (the superintendent) is the chief executive," wrote one little boy, "and he lives in his office."

A number of abbreviations had been patiently explained to a class. One of them was the designation "B. C." for before Christ. In going back over the list to find out how much her pupils remembered the teacher came across a dreamy-eyed little miss who appeared to have been romancing at large during the instruction. B. C., however, she said she knew. She was quite positive it meant "candles before Christ." Being a Catholic her reference became obvious.

Another Smart One.

"Why are the meridians of longitude and parallels of latitude drawn around the earth?" questioned the teacher.

"To keep it warm," was the instant reply of an urchin, whose elbows were sticking through his coat sleeves.

Considerable work was recently spent on relief maps in the Eighth grade. However, when asked to describe the drainage of Europe, one of the girls wrote solemnly:

"Europe is drained by a system of underground pipes called sewers."

"Children make mistakes that are ridiculous enough while under the peculiar nervous strain of an examination, but it requires young women who stand the tests for teachers' certificates to cap the climax," said a local educator. "Not long ago in an Omaha competition the embryo teachers were asked to write an essay on 'Nature.' One of the girls wrote charmingly to the subject and among other things described feeling. 'How good it is to go out into the woods and listen to the twittering of the butterflies.'"

Another person taking a teachers' examination, was telling about the events that took place in old Boston town anent "no taxation without reciprocation," etc. She had to tell about the spilling of the tea and remarked that the patriots "left the church, were tarred and feathered and went to the harbor."

CAR DASHES DOWN HILL

Sixteen Passengers Injured in a Trolley Wreck at Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

CHAGRIN FALLS, O., Feb. 15.—The worst wreck in the history of the Eastern Ohio Traction company occurred tonight in this village, when a heavily loaded passenger car dashed down a steep hill for more than a mile from the center of the town and jumped the track at a sharp curve. The motorman lost control of the brakes. Sixteen persons were more or less seriously hurt by the car overturning and sliding along the ground for twenty-five feet.

PLAY FOR WHIST TROPHIES

Annual Meeting of Central Association at Sioux Falls Largely Attended.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—The tenth annual meeting of the Central Whist association, composed of clubs from various western cities, ended in this city last night at a late hour. It was voted to hold the next annual meeting at Topeka, Kan., on February 11 and 12, 1905. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, John P. Organ, Council Bluffs; vice president, J. Howard Gates, Sioux Falls; secretary-treasurer, M. Waters, Sioux City; board of directors, M. Wendover, St. Joseph; J. C. Neff, Kansas City; E. L. Copeland, Topeka; C. M. Aitken, Lincoln, Neb.; Judge Redick, Omaha; Ed Stinson, Council Bluffs.

A resolution was adopted dropping Des Moines and Marshalltown from membership in the association. Kansas City, Topeka, St. Joseph, Sioux City, Council Bluffs, Yankton, Watertown, Huron and Elk Point were represented at the meeting.

In the first play of the fours for the Richards trophy, which was won at the last tournament by Kansas City, the Dacotah club of Sioux Falls defeated the Antelope club of Sioux City four points, the Sioux City Whist club defeated the Commercial club of Sioux Falls six points and Kansas City defeated Council Bluffs eight points.

In the pair contest for the Des Moines trophy, won last year by a pair from Lincoln, Messrs. Apple and Wendover were plus 8¼; Stites and Abbott, plus 6¼; Bailey and Glidden, plus 2⅝; Perry and Grose, plus 1⅝; Buxbaum and Corson, plus 1⅝; Edmison and Baker, minus 1⅛; Nichols and Fosdick, minus 1⅛; Brown and Bratrud, minus 2⅝; Jewett and Williams, minus 3⅝; Swenson and Vreeland, minus 11⅝.

In the first match of the series of fours the Commercial club defeated the Dacotah club four points, Sioux City defeated Council Bluffs four points, and Kansas City defeated Antelope twenty-one points. In the second play the Commercial club defeated Antelope two points, Kansas City beat Sioux City one point and Dacotah beat Council Bluffs six points.

In the second play of the pair contest for the Des Moines trophy, Apple and Wendover were plus 11⅝; Stites and Abbott minus 1⅝; Perry and Grose, minus 11⅝; Jewett and Williams, plus 9⅝; Vreeland and Swenson, minus 11⅝; Buxbaum and Corson, plus 2⅝; Bailey and Glidden, minus 3⅝; Edmison and Baker, plus 13⅝; Nichols and Fosdick, minus 7⅝. This leaves Apple and Wendover in first place, with Baker and Edmison second.

The contest for the Schmelzer trophy in the free-for-all class was a spirited one, twenty-two pairs playing for the trophy. Baker and Buxbaum of Sioux Falls made the highest average and secured the trophy for Sioux Falls.

The play of fours for the Richards trophy was won by the Sioux City club, with the Commercial club of Sioux Falls second.

The play of pairs for the Des Moines trophy was won by Apple and Wendover of St. Joseph, with Baker and Edmison of Sioux Falls second.

PLEIADES EFFECTS ESCAPE

Was Detained First by Russian Wrecks and Then by Authorities Until Storm Came.

BOSTON, Feb. 15.—Word was received here today that the Boston Steamship company's steamer Pleiades had got away from Port Arthur, where, it is believed, the vessel was detained for a week or more, first by the wrecks of the Russian warships which blocked the exits from the harbor and later by the refusal of the Russian authorities to permit its departure.

Alfred Winsor of this city, president of the company, received a cablegram today conveying the information that the Pleiades had been released and had arrived at Che Foo on Saturday.

CHE FOO, Feb. 15.—The American steamer Pleiades, which was detained several days at Port Arthur by the Russian authorities, has arrived here, having left quietly during a storm. On Saturday night a part of the Russian fleet came out.

BANKERS OBJECT TO NOTICE

Declare Act Destroys Negotiability of Cuban Bonds Affected.

HAVANA, Feb. 15.—Bankers are taking strong exception to the notice issued by Senor Roloff, the treasurer of Cuba to the effect that the revolutionary bonds on which interest is about to be paid must have the owner's names stamped or written across their face and also that they must bear the name of the person or institution authorized to collect thereupon.

The bankers say that this requirement destroys the negotiability of the bonds and that they will not handle them unless the treasurer's ruling be annulled or modified. The bonds are to be presented to the treasurer for ratification beginning tomorrow.

Farmers Meet at Humboldt.

HUMBOLDT, Neb., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—The farmers of this section of the county held an interesting annual institute at the opera house, the session having begun Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Among the first things done was the awarding of prizes on the best displays of home grown corn, the most successful farmer in this line being Mr. Ernest Fergus, while Hugh Philpot took second place. A number entered the contest, but both of the prize winning displays were of the yellow variety. The session opened with prayer by Rev. L. B. Smith of the local Presbyterian church, and during the afternoon H. P. Miller of Sanbury, O., talked on soil fertility and C. M. Lewelling gave some pointers on the selection of seed corn. A part of the afternoon session was given over to the women, with Mrs. A. L. Lake in charge. Mrs. Edie of this city led in a discussion of the evils of the liquor traffic. Saturday morning the session opened at 10 o'clock with a talk from C. H. Barnard of Table Rock on growing fruits, followed by Mrs. Melton of Fairbury on domestic science. M. M. Sterns of the Spring Creek Stock Farm, north of the city, gave some interesting views on cattle and said the best breed for farmers to raise was the one he loved the best. The institute is still in session.

HUMBOLDT, Neb., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—Saturday D. Ward King of Maitland, Mo., who is recognized as the best authority in the west on the subject, spoke for some time on "Good Roads" and urged the farmers to adopt the plan which had proven so successful under his experiments. Mr. C. M. Lewelling gave his ideas on "Poultry as the Poor Man's Friend." In the contest for prize corn A. E. Stalder won in the white class, while Ernest Fergus captured first in the yellow class. Officers were chosen as follows: G. H. Hummell, president; B. W. Sterns, vice president; Don Gridley, secretary; James Holman, treasurer; Miss Claire Sterns, lady president; Miss Grace Jones, lady vice president.

AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Bright Prospects Confront Ticket Nominated by the Republicans.

MOST OF MEN WELL KNOWN IN POLITICS

Party Leaders Regard Ticket as Exceptionally Strong and Some Democrats Look Upon It in Same Way.

Republicans generally say the ticket nominated Saturday afternoon is one of the strongest ever put up here. One well known democrat said last night to a reporter for The Bee that it would take a very strong ticket on the democratic side to beat the republicans at the polls this spring.

Most of the candidates on the ticket are so well known they scarcely need any introduction to the public. Frank Koutsky, for mayor, has served one term and has shown himself to be an economical mayor. He has cut down expenses in every department in the city and promised the delegates at the convention that if re-elected he would keep up the policy he has enforced for nearly two years.

E. L. Howe, the present city treasurer, is a most efficient officer and republicans generally say he is entitled to a second term.

E. L. Gustafson, candidate for city clerk, is one of the best known young men in the city. He is exceedingly popular. During his service in the city treasurer's office he has made many friends. His election is almost a certainty.

A. H. Murdock, candidate for city attorney, has worked hard in his office for the interests of the city and naturally expects the taxpayers, regardless of party, will vote for him on election day.

George McBride is a well known civil engineer and has lived in South Omaha for years. His friends say there will be no trouble about electing him to the office of tax commissioner.

For members of the council the republicans think they have put up an exceptionally strong ticket. W. P. Adkins, from the First ward, has served two terms in the council and has been on every important committee. He has worked faithfully for the party and for the city, and even democrats concede his election.

For representative from the Second ward the republicans nominated Frank Dworak. Mr. Dworak is well known all over the city and especially in the section south of N street. He is in the grocery business and is a prosperous merchant.

Herman Krittenbrink, from the Third ward, is a business man of long standing here. He is engaged in the manufacture of brick. He is a general favorite among the Germans and the statement is made that his election is assured.

There is hardly a more popular man in South Omaha than William McCraith. For a number of years he has been an efficient officer of the police force. He always has taken an active part in republican politics and his friends give it out that he cannot be defeated.

From the Fifth ward comes John Klewit, jr. This candidate has hosts of friends all over the city, who have promised him that he shall have a seat in the city council. Mr. Klewit is one of the well known architects in the city.

There is hardly any need of speaking of W. B. Vansant, the nominee from the Sixth ward. Every one knows Mr. Vansant. His long residence here and his extensive business at the stock yards has made him acquainted with nearly every one. Republicans say Vansant will come out of the race with a big majority over his democratic opponent.

Bids Received Tonight.

Tonight the city council will meet and receive bids for the paving, grading and curbing of Railroad avenue. Fifteen contractors have applied for specifications and the chances are there will be close competition. Galesburg and Coffeyville will be the opposing materials.

Bids also will be opened for the construction of permanent sidewalks ordered by the mayor and council during the year 1903. This contract will mean the laying of a great many permanent walks in the city this year. Unless the property owners have the work done the city will direct the contractor to lay the walks provided for in the ordinances and the cost will be taxed against the property. The contractor will be paid by the issuing of general fund warrants.

German-American Club Meets.

There was a meeting of the German-American Democratic club yesterday afternoon with a large number of the members present. It was decided by the club to hold another meeting on next Sunday to talk over candidates. The plan is to get a list of the filings of candidates on Saturday of this week and then to take up each name individually and vote on it. The slate arranged at this meeting will, it is stated, be voted at the primaries by members of this club.

Humane Society Meeting.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock the committee on organization of a South Omaha Humane society will meet at the parlors of the South Omaha club to agree upon a list of officers to be submitted to a meeting of those interested. When the committee agrees it is expected that Rev. Mr. Wise, rector of St. Martin's church, who is the promotor of the association here, will issue a call for a general meeting when the association officers will be chosen and the membership lists opened.

Will Not Resign.

W. B. Vansant, nominee for member of the city council from the Sixth ward, stated to a reporter for The Bee last night, that he had no intention of resigning as a member of the Fire and Police Board in order to make a campaign. Mr. Vansant said if it was possible to do so he proposed holding onto his office as chairman of the Police Board until he was elected to the city council. He did not seem to think the rule about taking an active part in politics, which has been issued to members of the fire and police departments, would interfere with his being a candidate for member of the city council.

Exchange Meets This Afternoon.

This afternoon the South Omaha Live Stock exchange will hold a meeting for the purpose of voting on a new rule regarding firms to send out solicitors. From the talk among commission men there seems to be no doubt but that the present rule will be rescinded by the passing of the proposed rule which has been read and posted. This new rule permits members of firms to go into the country and solicit trade for a certain number of days each month.

Magic City Gossip.

Rock Springs coal. Christie Bros. Tel 16.

The Schubert club will give a dancing party in the upper hall at Workman temple this evening.

Captain D. S. Parkhurst has withdrawn from the race for candidate for mayor on the democratic ticket.

Mrs. B. E. Wilcox and Miss Fannie Chandler have returned from a six months' stay on the Pacific coast.

Lenten services will be held at St. Martin's church, Twenty-fourth and J streets at 8 a. m. and also at 9 a. m., Wednesday.

The Ritchie entertainment for the benefit of the Highland Park Methodist Episcopal church will be held at the Swedish church, Twenty-third and Vinton streets on Tuesday evening of this week, instead of on Thursday evening as announced on Sunday through error.

"The Punkin Husker" at the Boyd.

Two large audiences enjoyed a repetition of "The Punkin Husker" at the Boyd yesterday afternoon and evening. This story of rural life is apparently becoming popular in Omaha, and if Mr. Russell were to locate it here as a fixture he might in time get even on his life.

GABE RUNKLES PASSES AWAY

Old-Time Printer Dies of Locomotor Ataxia at His Home in Omaha.

William A. Runkles, for many years head proofreader on The Bee, died at his home, 2729 Blondo street, yesterday morning from locomotor ataxia, after being confined to his bed for about two weeks. He had been in poor health for more than a year and his death had been expected for several days.

Mr. Runkles, who was better known as "Gabe," a nickname applied to him early in life, was a native of Iowa, being born at Winterset in 1860. He served his apprenticeship as a printer on the Des Moines Register and worked there for several years as a journeyman printer before coming to Omaha. His mother came here during the 70s, and Gabe and his two brothers soon accompanied her. Mrs. Runkles kept the Emmett house on Eleventh street for many years, one or the other of her sons assisting her in its management. Soon after coming to Omaha Gabe was employed on The Bee as a printer, then as telegraph editor and finally as head proofreader. He has been connected with this paper almost continuously for nearly twenty-five years; but, like the printers of his time, made many excursions abroad, working as far east as New York and Boston, but never extending his journeys to the westward. His acquaintance among the craft was such as to make him a prominent member of its ranks, and it is not too much to say that Gabe Runkles was one of the best known printers in the country. He was the only charter member of Omaha Typographical union No. 190 living in Omaha at the time of his death. He served the union in various capacities, being president one term, and being elected one of the delegates to the convention of the International Typographical union which met at Chicago in 1893.

Gabe Runkles was a patient, painstaking workman, whose fidelity is attested by the fact that he had stuck to his desk in the proof room of The Bee for more than ten years, with no extended vacation or absence other than that caused by sickness. His wide scope of general information and his vigilance made him invaluable in the position he filled, while his genial ways endeared him to all with whom he worked. His death will be learned with deep and genuine regret, not only by those with whom he had so long worked side by side, but by all who still live of that almost immortal phalanx of old-time printers who are now passing into story under the name of "Missouri River Pirates."

Mr. Runkles was married about seven years ago. His wife was with him when death came, having watched ceaselessly at the bedside since the inception of his fatal illness, hoping always to detect some change for the better. A brother, Kerwin W. Runkles, a job printer at the Omaha Printing company, and a sister in Chicago, also survive him.

The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon and interment will be made in Prospect Hill cemetery.

PALMER ENTERS UPON WORK

New Postmaster Assumes Actual Charge, Making No Changes in the Force.

The formal transfer of the Omaha postoffice from Joseph Crow to Captain H. E. Palmer took place yesterday. The incident was void of any particular ceremony except the receipting of the inventory of the postoffice effects by Captain Palmer. The transfer was made in the presence of an agent of the Postoffice department at Washington, and then Postmaster Palmer was introduced to the several heads of the office force.

There will be practically no change in the personnel of the subordinates, all of whom remain under the civil service rules. The only appointment made by the incoming postmaster was that of the reappointment of J. A. Woodard as assistant postmaster, an office which he has held for nearly a quarter of a century.

Mr. Crow, the retiring postmaster, has held the position since 1898.

TO COME IN LINE AFTER ALL

Lobeck and Withnell, Wright Says, Will Adopt City Engineer's Specifications.

City Attorney Wright yesterday expressed the opinion that the democratic members of the Board of Public Works will approve the specifications for paving prepared by Engineer Rosewater and corrected and approved by the attorney.

Mr. Rosewater made the legal alterations demanded and placed the documents in the hands of Wright, Saturday. Yesterday noon the council requested information as to what has been done, in order to be assured that the specifications will come before it for formal confirmation Tuesday night.

In this connection Councilman Hoye secured what he thinks will be a provision enabling contractors to make lower bids than heretofore. It has been the custom in the past to reserve 15 per cent of the payment for the length of the guarantee period. This has now been changed to 7½ per cent, the remainder being secured by a guaranty company bond. All guarantees are to run five years. Councilman Hoye is confident that this change will cause more bidders to enter the list besides promising better proposals. He says the 15 per cent reserve is a serious handicap to the small contractor.

BUILDING WEST AND SOUTH

Business on the Move and These Sections Compete for Center.

Y. M. C. A. SITE FIGURES IN THE CONTEST

Property Owners on Both Sides Are Bidding for Sales and Prospects for Development Generally Are Excellent.

The selection of a site for the new building of the Young Men's Christian association has developed an interesting contest among real estate men. This selection is considered as very important for the reason that it will have a large effect in assisting the movement of building development either west or south. The McCague Investment company is the principal champion of the movement to throw the course of building up Douglas street, and George & Co. is the leader of the opposition, which is making every effort to start the business center on its way south along Sixteenth street.

The recent contract between Thompson, Belden & Co. and George A. Hoagland for a business block at Sixteenth and Howard streets was a victory for the south side interests and the Brandeis purchase for those who have real estate west of Sixteenth and north of Farnam.

"Real estate men regard the present as a crisis," said a prominent holder of property in the retail district. "Omaha has been growing and its large stores have reached a point where several of them must have more room. This means buildings. The present retail district is fully occupied, so that new territory must be taken in. A big fight is therefore on by men interested in the several possible districts to secure these buildings.

Expanding South and West.

The eligible directions for expansion are south on Sixteenth street, southwest on Harney to the vacant lots about Boyd's theater, or west on Douglas and Dodge streets, principally the former. Bennett's was a pioneer on South Sixteenth street and suffered for it at first, but the location there of Thompson & Belden and possibly another firm makes that part of the street perhaps as good as any other. The importance of the selection made by the Young Men's Christian association lies in the fact that a single location now may swing the scale in favor of one district or another. Three locations on the east side of South Sixteenth had been offered the association, at Harney and at Howard and two near Seventeenth and Douglas streets. The Grossman property at the northwest corner of this intersection has been offered, I understand, for $53,000. The directors of the association meanwhile keep us all in suspense, for they are divided as to whether the building should be put up in a business location with a lower floor for shops, or built a little further out without any space for business rentals.

As Mr. Hoagland pointed out, in speaking some days ago of the four story building is to erect at Sixteenth and Howard for Thompson, Belden & Co., a good building space will be left between that and the Bennett building on Sixteenth and Harney. Mr. Hoagland declined to say what would be done with that space, but rumor has it that a building will be erected to be occupied by Mrs. J. Benson, another tenant of the Young Men's Christian association building at present.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Be good and you'll be happy—and probably poor.

Culpability is about the only ability some men possess.

A woman never doubts what her husband says when he gets home late. She knows he is lying.—Chicago News.

There is plenty of room at the top for the half tones manufacturer.

When a man gets the matrimonial fever he catches it from some woman.

No matter how bad a thing is you should be thankful that it isn't any worse.

Some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some remain little to the end.

Perhaps some people are descended from monkeys, while others merely dress differently.

It was probably some married man who first discovered that troubles never come singly.