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#### AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Superintendent McLean Compiling History of the City Schools.

DATES BACK TO THE LOG CABIN DAYS

First Building Stood Where Union Pacific Depot Now Is and Was Surrounded by Corn Fields.

With the assistance of teachers, pupils and others Superintendent McLean is preparing a history of the South Omaha schools. He proposes to go back as far as 1857, when only two teachers were employed. With log cabins in those days two teachers worked during the fall, winter and spring trying to teach the youngsters under their charge the three rudiments. Since the date mentioned the schools have grown so that now there are 123 teachers and nine fully equipped schoolhouses besides a high school building now under course of construction.

Superintendent McLean says that any authentic items of interest connected with the early history of the schools here will be gladly received. Some of the old-timers here have been asked to contribute items about the early days when the schoolhouse was a log cabin where the Union Pacific depot now stands. All of the surrounding ground at that time was covered with corn, so the pioneers say. There was only one teacher in those days and those who attended this school say that they can tell some interesting stories if called upon. Pupils of the school are much interested in assisting Superintendent McLean in compiling this data and promise that some of the early history of the schools here will soon be made public. The chronicle of the history will be printed in such form that it will be issued to each pupil in the schools.

**Gathering Statistics.** The Department of Commerce and Labor at Washington is gathering statistics regarding the number of prisoners incarcerated in the city jail at South Omaha. For the forwarding of proper reports every three months and the keeping of data up to date to be called for at any time the government pays the sum of \$25. Chief Briggs has designated Nils Turnquist as keeper of the records for this work and already Turnquist has completed one sheet. He is now ready to send his formal papers to Washington. This government report deals particularly with those charged with criminal offenses and omits the petit cases so common in a city of this class.

**Campaign Against Vagrants.** According to reports received at police headquarters the city is again overrun with bums and common vagrants. Chief of Police Briggs said last night that he was going to direct the men under him to arrest all suspicious characters, vagrants and boxer bums. The chief proposes by making arrests of this kind to keep the residence portion of the city clear of petty thieves. As soon as released from the city jail the chief says that he will see to it personally that people of the classes mentioned get out of the city. If they come back a jail sentence at hard labor will await them.

**Laying New Walks.** Just now the force employed by the street department is engaged in laying new plank walks in all parts of the city. In addition to this work many holes in walks already laid are being filled with cinders. Mayor Koutsky is giving his personal attention to this work, as the city engineer is engaged in making out plans for grading and paving districts to be submitted to the Board of Equalization at the meeting to be held next month. The mayor says that he wants to get all of the walks in as good condition as possible before soft weather comes.

**Democratic Politicians Busy.** Today, from noon until 7 p. m. democratic primaries will be held. All day yesterday the democrats who have filed their applications for places on the ticket were busy fixing up their fences. It is expected that the democratic city central committee will receive unofficial returns from the judges and clerks before midnight, but the official announcement will not be made until after

#### COUNTY TO CURB THE RIVER

Commissioners Vote to Build Crib at East Omaha.

PEOPLE THERE PAY HALF THE COST

Total Will Be Four Thousand Dollars, Thirteen Hundred of Which is Already Raised by Property Owners.

The Board of County Commissioners voted to build a crib in the Missouri river at East Omaha to prevent further disastrous overflows of the river there, where it has wrought such great damage and destruction. This was the result of the commissioners' visit to the scene yesterday. The crib will cost \$4,000, \$2,000 to be raised by the property owners. Kennard alone voted against the proposition. He thought the county should wait for the government to do its own work.

This resolution was adopted: We have carefully examined the condition of the river at East Omaha and would recommend that Douglas county construct one crib fifty feet long by twelve feet wide and sixteen feet deep, well constructed with piling and plank and filled with rock, at a point designated by the county surveyor and to the grading and throw up dikes sufficient to protect the interests of Douglas county as shown on profile now on file in the office of the county surveyor. The above work to be done under the direction of the county commissioners and the county surveyor.

When it came to a vote on this resolution Commissioner Kennard said he would like to explain why he felt he must vote against the adoption of the measure. He did not want to be put on record as against doing any work there, as there was no doubt but it was needed and at once, but he did not think it was incumbent on Douglas county to build any crib or put up any temporary work of any kind. He was in favor of doing the proposed grading, he said, but he did not think the commission had any right to spend the county's money for work that was manifestly the government's. Another reason why he opposed the measure was on account of the shortage of funds at the disposal of the commission and the large number of demands upon its resources.

Commissioner McDonald voted in favor of the resolution and thought the only trouble with it was that they had not gone into the restraining of the river to an extent as they should have done nor as the danger to the property of the people on that particular part of the bank warranted. He wanted it understood, however, that he was in favor of the work only on the condition of the government's consent and approval.

Commissioner Connolly said it was true that, as had been intimated, a government engineer had surveyed the situation within a short time, but it was not true that he had not seen it to make any recommendation. On the contrary, he had seen the dangerous situation in that vicinity and had said so. But, Mr. Connolly said, there is so much red tape attached to everything that the government does that it would take a year or more before it would even get started to do anything, and by that time the water would be doing the work that he would be doing. Therefore, he voted in favor of the adoption of the resolution.

Chairman O'Keefe also voted in favor. He was inclined to second Mr. Connolly's sentiments in the matter and further cited the fact that if something was not done immediately the rip-raps that already have been put in by the government at a cost of \$15,000 will surely be washed out in the spring.

The resolution was therefore adopted by a vote of four to one. A committee will at once wait upon Colonel Chittenden, the government engineer in charge of the Missouri river at this point, now at Sioux City, and get his permission to proceed with the work. In addition to the work that will be paid for by the county, East Omaha carries already have raised a fund of \$3,000 with which to put in eight fascines to further hold the river to its course. These will cost \$250 apiece, so that in order to complete them at least \$700 more must be raised. It is proposed further to get the government machinery to working at once, so that by the time the local work shall have become insufficient Uncle Sam will have taken the matter up and begun something that will keep the river where it belongs for all time to come.

The work which the commissioners decided to have the county pay will cost in the vicinity of \$2,000, according to the statement of one of the members of the board.

**Australian Mothers Use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.**

The following letter from Mrs. W. F. Mitchell of Bradford, Victoria, Australia, shows that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy furnishes the same prompt relief and is prized as highly by the mothers of that far away country as in the United States. She says: "In my family of eight, all of whom are subject to colds and coughs, I have tried many good mixtures, but have found nothing so good as Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Even in whooping cough it makes the attack very much lighter. In fact I have used nothing else since first trying it, for its value was proved. I always recommend it."

#### AT THE PLAYHOUSES.

"The Isle of Spies" at the Boyd.

"The Isle of Spies," a musical extravaganza in three acts, book and lyrics by Allen Lovell, E. Stoddard, and music by Paul Schindler and Ben M. Jerome, under direction of F. C. and B. C. Whitney. The principals: Bom Popka, 6th king of Nicobar; Harry Kelly Mack, the hero of the Muddy; Harold Katchall, the hero of the Muddy; William M. Armstrong Collins, a deserter from the U. S. S. Roosevelt; Denman Mailey Mackinaw, his companion in arms; Toby Lyons Katchall, an unscrupulous court treasurer; Don F. Grinnell Koiner, his jealous brother; Harvey Spencer Tark, a regular boxer; Michael E. Kourker Sam Snap, sergeant of marines; Otto Booker Tom Long, a busy corporal; Nelson Riley Terrell, the king's ward; Joan May Kamorta, whose lease has almost expired; Miss Leslie Leigh, Mattie Marta Asbena, the ex-empress of Nicobar; Leslie Bloodgood Trickett, on a long lease as queen.

Miss Leslie Leigh planted the roots of a new song in Omaha last night, and if pretty Peggy Brady isn't heard from during the next few days, it will be because the Omaha boy has lost his memory or his capacity for whistling. Miss Leigh had such a reception as is not often accorded anyone in Omaha, and may rest easy in the knowledge that she earned it or she wouldn't have had it.

So much by way of introducing the general remark to "The Isle of Spies" made a distinct and appreciable hit in Omaha on its first appearance, and the large, though not ultra fashionable, audience enjoyed every moment of the evening, and laughed and applauded until the theater resounded with merriment. The piece is one well calculated to engage the attention of the picture-goer. It is built on the good old-fashioned lines of extravaganza, and brims with witty remarks, comic situations, pretty music of the light order, the music with the spirit and the sparkle in it, choruses that are melodious without being mere fling, and snappy movements that are pictures of beauty. Indeed, the ending of the second act is one of the prettiest ever seen, being novel in conception, artistic in design and almost perfect in execution. The curtain was raised several times to satisfy the demand for the picture.

It would take too long to give individual mention to the songs of the evening. Mr. Kelly worked like a man trying to make good with his role, and as he has the qualifications of a first-class singing comedian, he had no trouble. Toby Lyons and Denman Mailey share with Mr. Kelly in the success of the comic part. Mr. Lyons' topical songs in his "You and I," "The People and the Government," "The Goo Man," with its chorus of lively midgets, was very warmly received, and its local hits a success. Mr. Kelly's "Father's Always Talking in His Sleep" was another of the hits. But the greatest winner, probably of the evening, was the duet between Mr. Armstrong and Miss May. "You and I," the people enjoyed the very realistic ending of the refrain, and insisted on having it repeated until it became plainly embarrassing to Miss May, and the audience in mercy forebore. The chorus is well calculated for its part in the presentation, both in point of looks and for ability to sing, and the staging is good. Altogether, "The Isle of Spies" is one of the most enjoyable things of the kind ever seen in Omaha.

Incidentally, it was a field night for the Buttrick club, whose members were out in force to cheer on the whole company and Mr. Lyons in particular, who is the guest of the club while in Omaha. Many bouquets were sent over the footlights during the evening. After the performance Mr. Lyons was the guest of the club at an informal spread at the Henshaw.

**"For Mother's Sake" at the Krug.**

The title to the play at the Krug is somewhat misleading because the "sake" line of plays is generally known to be of the melodramatic class. There is nothing of the melodramatic style, however, about "For Mother's Sake," although there are dramatic situations of strong character throughout the story. The play is best staged among the rural productions, for it tells a story of the country in a clear and natural way without resort to any improbable incidents. The company appearing in the piece is one of more than ordinary merit, all of the parts being in capable hands. Marie Heath plays a boy's part with much dash, and displays her dramatic ability in the stronger situations. Two little children, the McKinley twins, have important roles and carry them well. The play is handsomely staged.

**For Sore Throat, Cold in Chest or Tonsillitis try a 10c bottle of Omea Oil.**

**TELLS OF PLAN OF SALVATION**

Dr. Elliott Preaches Stirring Sermon at Central Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Elliott preached at the Central Presbyterian church last evening from Hebrews 11: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

"Wonder of wonders is God's way of salvation. It is possible to know a great deal about it and yet understand it very little, because it is beyond the natural man's comprehension. It has been the study of the profoundest thinkers, who have stumbled over it while a child; by help divine has understood and entered into the peace and joy of it. The trouble with men is that they seek a way of escape from the prison house of sin along lines and methods of their own. God's way of sal-

vation is by way of the pardon, and this is in the end the most satisfactory way out. When the best efforts of a prisoner to escape all fail, the governor's pardon makes a sure, safe and satisfactory way of deliverance.

"God's way of salvation is great. First, because of its conception, so free and full. Second, great in all its provisions—covers the past, present and future. Third, great in all its completeness—leaves nothing more to be done. God's way is through the Son.

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me."

The speaker told an effective story of Tad Lincoln, the president's favorite son, taking an old soldier into his father's presence when every other method had failed. Even so, he added, we shall never see God's face in peace except through the son.

St. Louis Man Commits Suicide, CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—His paternity was in high living, Ross P. Colcord, a

member of a wealthy St. Louis family, was found dead today in a rooming house on State street, where he had committed suicide. Colcord's body was found on a bed, fully dressed. The keyhole of the door and any crevice through which air might enter the room, had been carefully stuffed with cotton batting. Two gas valves were turned on. In a notebook was written the following paraphrase: "The world is nothing but a stage and all the men and women are but actors. Some play comic parts, while others play drama."

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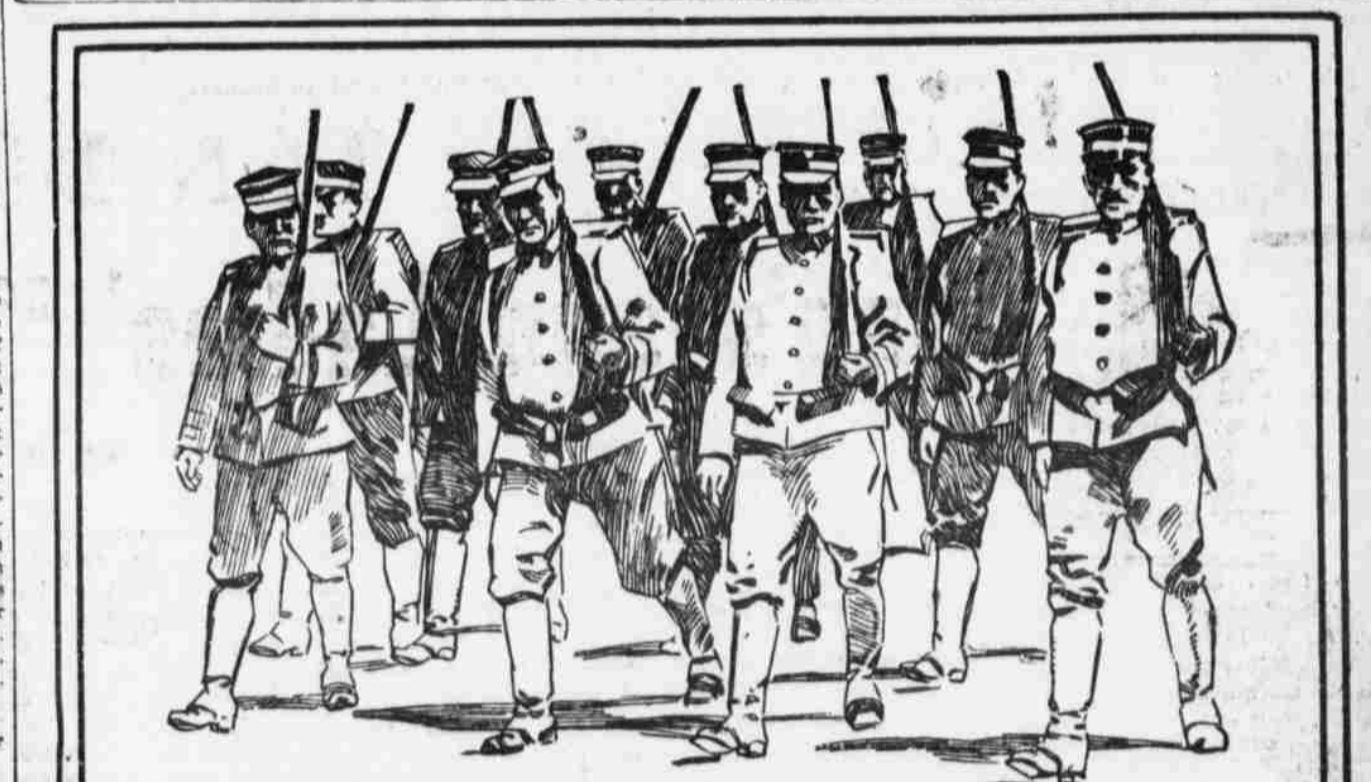
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Ida M. Tarbell tells how the Standard Oil was accused of buying Payne's seat in the Senate and how Mr. Rockefeller replied with silence.

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