

# Our Biggest Circulating Library Handles Text Books Exclusively



CUSTODIAN GRIMES AT HIS WORK IN STOREROOM.

**T**HE free textbook system was introduced in the Omaha public schools about a score of years ago, and has never been abandoned. It was put in practice pursuant to a state law giving school districts the option of furnishing school books and supplies down to the last slate pencil and bit of crayon if the Board of Education so elects. The cost to the school district of Omaha now amounts to about \$15,000 annually, or about 12 cents per capita, estimating on a population of 125,000. Very few complaints and no serious objections have been made to the system and nothing is ever heard of changing it. School officers say that it enables not less than 10 per cent of the 1,500 students attending the high school to do so. High school textbooks are much more expensive than those used in the grades and were it not for the fact that the volumes are had for the asking and proper care may a boy or girl would have difficulty or could not obtain the books.

**Contents of the Library.**  
The total number of textbooks in the thirty-five Omaha public schools is about 110,000. Of this number nearly 30,000 are at the high school, where they are in the special charge of a librarian and an assistant. Two rooms are set aside for the books besides a reference room, which is a study room, and in charge of the registrar. In the reference room are about 1,600 volumes including dictionaries, encyclopedias, histories, government, state and municipal reports and working reference books of all descriptions that are constantly receiving accessions. From the reference room no books go out, but books are issued from the textbook library to the students on a card system, and are retained by the students until they are no longer needed. H. A. Senter, head of the chemistry department, is librarian, receiving \$15 additional salary monthly for the service; Miss Nellie Faye is assistant librarian at \$5 a month and Miss Mabel Christie is registrar and monitor of the reference room at the same wage. The textbook rooms are not fitted particularly well as to furniture, but the reference room is large, well arranged and lighted and is always a busy place.

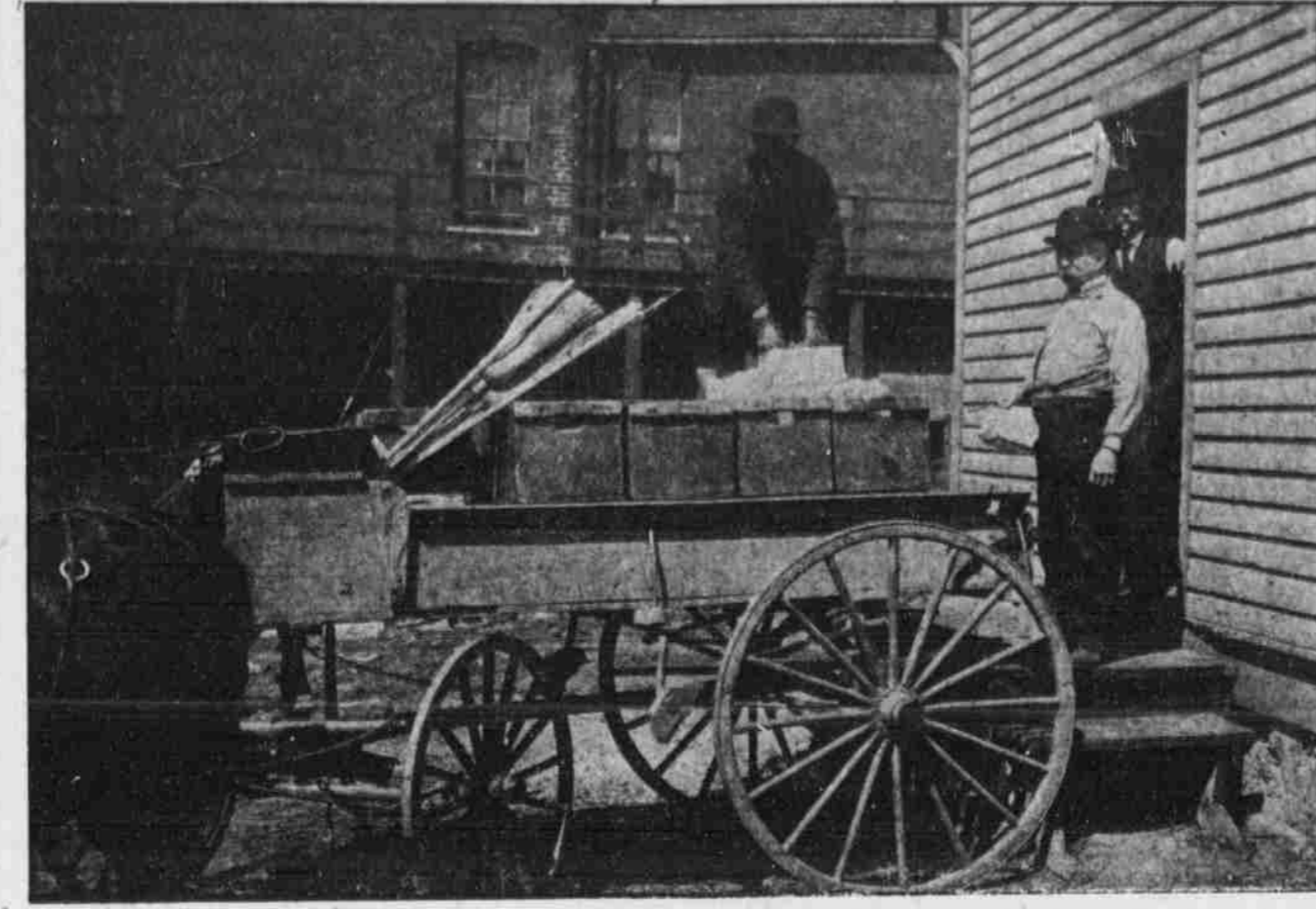
**Custodian of Supplies.**  
All of the books and supplies, before they are delivered to the schools, are in charge of E. F. Grimes, custodian and inspector of fuel. Mr. Grimes has his office at 1217 Jackson street in an abandoned school building, where about 3,500 volumes are kept on hand and great quantities of stationery, janitors' and other supplies. About 25,000 textbooks are handled each year, 20,000 blank exercise books, from twenty to thirty cases of slates, about twenty cases of crayons, 300 reams of foolscap and legal cap and something like 5,000 packages of drawing paper, together with a great mass of smaller supplies and stuff for the janitors and sanitary care of the buildings.

**Distributing the Books.**  
When a principal finds that new books or stationery is wanted in the rooms under her control, she makes a requisition in duplicate, one of the copies addressed to the secretary of the board and the other to the custodian, and sends it to the secretary. If the latter approves it, the requisition is sent to the custodian. The custodian selects from his stock, prepares the goods in packages and delivers them twice a month on the first and third Mondays. A teamster regularly in the employ of the board, C. A. Baker, is the agent through which the deliveries are made. He takes out three wagon loads of stuff every fortnight and spends two days distributing it among the thirty-five buildings. He carries the original order and has the principal check it in her office before he leaves, returning it finally to the custodian, who retains it. Formerly deliveries were made every week, and by an express company, but this plan was found unsatisfactory and was given up for the one now in vogue. On the requisitions the principals order janitors' supplies as well as those for the school room.

**Principal's Responsibility.**  
Every school room is equipped with a cabinet in which the books and stationery are stored at night. Once delivered to the principal all the property is hers in trust and she must account for it at the end of a year on invoice blanks showing what was received in the period, what was worn out, consumed or destroyed and how much remains on hand. The custodian likewise has to make an annual invoice and has to submit his stock accounts to the inspection of an expert employed by the board for the purpose. The bills for all goods delivered to the custodian are sent to the secretary.

**Books Well Cared For.**  
In the grade schools little trouble is had with pupils destroying or defacing books. The warning stamped in each one by the custodian is usually sufficient to prevent children from regarding the books with anything but respect. In cases of mutilation, however, the cost of the book is charged to the pupil. The amount received from this source is very small. Books cannot be taken from the grade schools without special permit from the teacher. It is different at the high school. Once a student draws a book he uses it and takes it where he pleases provided he returns it safely at the end of the term. Librarian Senter each year turns over about \$300 to the secretary for loss and damage to books and the breakage of chemistry and other apparatus. A close check is kept on all the property, and it must be accounted for paid for.

**Changes in Textbooks.**  
Changes in textbooks are made upon the advice of the superintendent of education and the recommendation of the textbook committee of the board by the Board of Education. Of late years the changes are comparatively rare, as no less than 150 different textbooks are used in the schools. When changes are made the books replaced are turned over to the book company making the deal and a rebate averaging 25 per cent is made volume for volume. For self dollar-for dollar is paid. The exchange rebate is offered as an extra inducement for the change of texts. Once a series is installed nothing is given in exchange for old books, which, when they are too badly disfigured to be of use longer in the Omaha schools, are good for nothing but in the manufacture of new paper.



LOAD OF SUPPLIES FOR CITY SCHOOLS LEAVING THE STOREROOM ON JACKSON STREET.

**Who is able to check an annual report of supplies disbursed against the bills. What remains must be in the store at 1217 Jackson street. If it is not, the custodian is held responsible. The books and other material are delivered direct to the store from the railway freight depot and never come within sight of the city hall where the Board of Education's office are.**

## Wind-Wrecked Building of the Omaha Casket Company



GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE WRECK ON THE MORNING AFTER THE STORM.



PLACE WHERE THE RESCUERS FOUND THE BODIES.

## Gossip and Stories About Noted People

**Chicago Traction Lawyer.**  
**L**ARENCE S. DARROW, who has been appointed special counsel in traction matters for Chicago, will be paid by the day for the time he is employed on the matter, according to Mr. Tolman, and as Mr. Darrow, by his own statement, expects to devote his whole time to the subject, his salary probably will be \$50 a day, or \$15,000 for a year devoted to the work exclusively. This is the highest fee that Chicago has ever paid to a special counsel in traction matters.

The first work of Mr. Darrow in Chicago, says the Record-Herald, was in the city law department. During Mayor Creger's term he served for a time as special assessment attorney; then he was promoted to be assistant corporation counsel under Corporation Counsel Jonas Hutchinson. Mr. Darrow resigned the office of assistant corporation attorney to become one of the attorneys for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway company, as an associate of the late W. C. Goudy. After Mr. Goudy's death Mr. Darrow returned to the city law department under the senior Harrison's last term as mayor.

The practice of Mr. Darrow has been divided between acting as counsel for both corporations and labor organizations. His income from the two sources is said to have been large. He is the counsel for the Hearst newspapers in Chicago, and has become well known for his radical utterances on labor questions. On the corporation side of his practice he has been special counsel for the Chicago City Railway company, and is said to have been employed for nearly all the other traction lines of the city. The large fee demanded by him as attorney for the anthracite miners in the arbitration proceedings of the great strike of 1902-\$15,000, it is said—caused much criticism of Mr. Darrow.

In a book, "Resist Not Evil," he has advocated Tolstoid ideas regarding government and property, and in his labor utterances he has shown more sympathy with anarchism than with socialism. He has lately published a volume of childhood reminiscences.

## Morgan Lost Good Money.

**J.** Pierpont Morgan was standing before a picture in a New York gallery when a handsomely dressed woman asked him a question bearing on the painting. Mr. Morgan, delighted to discuss such a subject, chatted freely about art matters and then bowed himself out. The woman said to the proprietor: "That man was an art critic, I guess. He seemed to know all about pictures. If you know his address I wish you would send him this check, for I'm sure I appreciate his kindness very much." The dealer gasped: "Why, madam, that was J. Pierpont Morgan." Later he told the millionaire what had occurred. "You might have let her send the check," granted Mr. Morgan. "It would have been the first money I ever made out of my hobby."

## Justice Harlan as a Golfer.

**A**LTHOUGH 72, Justice Harlan of the supreme court plays golf with spirit. He is a member of the Chevy Chase club of Washington. Recently he saved his club from defeat by its rival—the Columbia. All the scores had been turned in except that of Justice Harlan and his opponent, Justice Job Barnard of the district court. All interest was centered in this match, for if Justice Harlan won it the silver cup in the "Osler tournament," a term playfully applied by Justice Harlan himself, went to Chevy Chase. Had he lost the match would have been a tie. At the last hole the supreme court justice nerved himself for the emergency and won in bogie play. The match took place on the Columbia links and one of the conditions was that each player should be over 50 years of age. As a matter of fact, out of the sixteen players many of them were well-nigh 70, and some of them beyond.

## "Jones Pays the Freight."

**Ex-Lieutenant Governor Edward F. Jones** a few evenings ago visited the New York senate, over which he used to preside, and was received with great honor. He is nearly 77 years old, blind, but still a strong man, and it is yet true that "Jones pays the freight" on his machines. He fell in with General Fitzhugh Lee, who was also a visitor in Albany, and the federal and confederate veterans had a good time together swapping stories. General Jones was colonel of the Sixth Massachusetts regiment, that first body of northern troops to reach Washington, and the first to shed

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## The Astor Fortune.

**A**stor had invested about \$2,000,000 in New York real estate. At his death its value was \$3,000,000. When William B. Astor died, in 1875, it had increased to \$500,000,000. By 1890 competent authorities estimated it at more than \$250,000,000. The total Astor holding now, distributed among several branches of the family, amount to at least \$450,000,000. Here, evidently, we have a most notable instance of the unearned increment. When John Jacob Astor died the New York Herald, in an editorial article, gravely suggested that his property be divided in two parts, one-half to go to his heirs, the other to the city of New York. For it was not Astor's energy or genius, said the Herald, which had made him so rich; it was the city's commerce, its fashion, its men of progress and enlightenment, which had converted his goat farms and swamps into the richest rent-bearing soil. The owner of great railroads or steel corporations must constantly nurse his fortune, must join in the competition for improved methods and the indispensable men. Under these conditions a great fortune is a great burden, maintained only by constant vigilance. The whole Astor family, however, could sleep for 100 years and at the end find that their riches had grown a hundredfold. All the economic and social forces which have made New York the American metropolis have, entirely without their instigation, also made their wealth.

# Omaha Amateurs Preparing to Present the Ever-Popular "Pinafore"

**T**HE PROUD and crusty old sea dog, Admiral Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B., commander of H. M. S. Pinafore, and his jovial crew of musical mirthmakers, his sisters, his cousins and his aunts, will assemble on the quarterdeck of the Boyd stage next Thursday evening for a brief engagement. The mission of ship and crew is peaceful. If any guns are brought into port they will be wreathed with flowers, and no sign of hostile intent will mar the pleasure of the occasion.

The object of the reappearance of Gilbert & Sullivan's famous naval comedy is charity and pleasure—charity's kindly help for the unfortunate; pleasure for those contributing to a goodly cause. The proceeds are to be divided equally between the St. James Orphanage and the Home of the Good Shepherd.

## Purpose of the Entertainment.

The project of aiding these institutions by means of a public performance was brooded during the winter, but ways and means for a satisfactory one did not appear until local talent showed its fine caliber in the production of the opera "Pinafore" in Creighton University hall last February. The exhibition of musical and dramatic skill on that occasion was a delightful surprise to a large audience and caused a very general request for a repetition of the opera. Members of the company, however, did not seriously encourage the idea, preferring to rest on the honors won and take up other studies. With this in view the principals organized the Omaha Opera company. Then the Knights of Columbus renewed their efforts for a charity benefit. An intimation of their readiness to take charge of a performance downtown brought a hearty acceptance from the company and the arrangements for the performance since have been carried forward

with energy and enthusiasm by both the company and the managing knights.

## Principals in the Performance.

The principals will be the same as in the first performance. The chorus has been largely increased to meet the necessities of a larger auditorium and a larger stage. Principals and chorus are undergoing steady, systematic drilling, under the direction of Edward Norman Kent, to whose skill and enthusiasm much of the first success was due. Mr. Kent possesses the training and experience that go to make a masterful director. He secured his musical education in London, studying for four years under the elder Rubin. To this training he has added wide experience as pianist, tenor soloist and supervisor of musical organizations in the east, has made a professional tour as tenor soloist with Sousa's band and played leading parts in the "Prince of Pilsen" and "Sultan of Sulu" companies. His success in directing the Omaha opera company is a tribute to his talents and he may be pardoned for esteeming his associates as the best ever.

Mr. Kent has a capable and sturdy ally in Thomas F. Guthrie, who performs the duties of stage director. Mr. Guthrie has had varied experience in amateur theatricals and is said to have hit the road with a professional troupe. He is not only familiar with stage trappings, but can act and sing a part most acceptably. In "Pinafore" he appears as Dick Deadeye, and his makeup in that character is enough to frighten the gallery gods.

## Carrying Minor Roles.

All members of the popular Elks quartet take parts in the opera. Practically all members of the company and chorus belong to different church choirs. Will H. Brown, who takes the part of Sir Joseph, is a Dubuque boy transferred to Omaha. Possessing a well trained barytone voice, an

imposing stage presence and natural talent for comedy, he makes an excellent Sir Joseph.

Miss Mae O'Brien as Josephine will undoubtedly repeat her success in the first performance. "She possesses a sweet and sympathetic voice," said one critic, "that is both strong and flexible, with a range and purity of tone that is seldom granted an amateur."

Miss Grace Lowe, one of the leading singers in St. John's choir, is a charming Hebe. Miss Carolyn Purvis, one of the principals of St. Cecilia's choir, possesses a delightful mezzo-soprano voice which will be heard in the pleasing role of Buttercup.

Lou Traynor brings to the role of Captain Corcoran a robust voice, as befits a commander, and the lyric tenor, C. P. Moriarty, a sailor bold, will render the part of Ralph Rackstraw.

During the intermission Miss Mazie Staphenurst will sing "Bluebell" to the accompaniment of a bayonet drill by a squad of the Omaha Guards.

## Cast of Characters.

The sale of tickets and the reservations which began last Monday indicate a crowded house. All the lower boxes are taken, and most of the second tier are spoken for. The cast:

Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B., first lord of the Admiralty..... Brown  
Captain Corcoran, commanding H. M. S. Pinafore..... Lou Traynor  
Ralph Rackstraw, able seaman..... C. P. Moriarty  
Dick Deadeye, able seaman..... T. F. Guthrie  
Bill Bobstay, boatswain..... Mark Martin  
Tom Tucker, boatswain's mate..... Swift  
John Sparr, able seaman..... C. F. Williams  
Bob Hecker, able seaman..... C. R. Miller  
Sergeant of marines, Lieutenant Guy Puray Josephine, Captain Corcoran's daughter..... Carolyn Purvis  
Hebe..... Mae O'Brien  
Buttercup..... Miss Grace Lowe  
Lilith Buttercup..... Miss Carolyn Purvis  
Sailors, marines, the admiral's sisters, cousins and aunts.....



MISS MAE O'BRIEN AS JOSEPHINE IN "PINAFORE."



LOU TRAYNOR, W. H. BROWN, C. P. MORIARTY AS CAPTAIN CORCORAN, SIR JOSEPH PORTER AND RALPH RACKSTRAW OF H. M. S. PINAFORE.



MISS GRACE LOWE AS HEBE IN "PINAFORE."