

## AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Public Improvements Are Getting Much Attention Just Now.

BIG CAMPAIGN IS WELL UNDER WAY

Uncertainty Exists Only as to Details, for the Work Must Be Well Carried Out When Done.

Public improvements forms an issue in South Omaha at the present time. There never was a time when so many big improvements were in contemplation, and to use the language of a prominent city official, there never was a time when the improvements planned were so uncertain.

There are the sewer bonds, the two big paving contracts and the city hall and park improvements so long discussed. None of them seem absolutely certain at the present time, although it is considered by those who profess to know, that at least the paving jobs will be carried through at an early date, or as soon as the work can be done.

The sewer bonds constitute a big proposition. The city is facing a suit on account of Mud creek, which the new sewer system will probably dispose of for good. The finance committee of the city council is still deliberating as to the amount of money required to build the sewer system, and it is understood that the amount will be no less than \$250,000. Under the new law this city can expend but \$50,000 for sewer purposes.

Readers of The Bee are quite familiar in a general way with the plans drawn by City Engineer Rosewater of Omaha, at the request of the city council here. The plans contemplate a complete sewer system, and members of the council are inclined to believe that the plans ought to be adhered to pretty generally when the system is to be voted for in finally designated by the council. It is believed that such an undertaking should be deliberately undertaken, when so much is involved, and when it is considered too, that the system of sewers contemplated would, when constructed, withstand the ravages of time long after the present generation is gone.

**Place Voting Machines.**

City Clerk Gillin is placing a number of the new voting machines in as many places throughout the city to enable the voters to learn the machines as well as possible before the election. One machine has been placed at the barber shop of Frank Fitzsimmons, Twentieth and L streets, another at the Arthur East building on South Twenty-fourth, still another on West L street and others will be placed elsewhere. The authorities are well pleased with the interest manifested in the machines and it is believed that, with the learning the voters will acquire at the primaries, they will be enabled to use the machines intelligently on election day, November 6.

**Rain Does Damage.**

The recent rains have done a considerable amount of damage in various ways to South Omaha. The electrical features of the storm is probably responsible for interference with the electric light plant, which has been more or less bothered, and in some instances the telephone company has had trouble. The washouts, already had been made much worse by the down-pour of Friday evening, and the street gangs will find trouble in repairing the worst places for several days to come.

**Improvement Club Officers.**

At the regular monthly meeting of the Highland Park Improvement club held Thursday evening the president announced the following standing committee for the ensuing year: Municipal Improvement, J. J. Markey, J. H. Van Dusen, J. J. Fitzgerald, J. S. Walters, J. S. Gosney; schools, J. T. Sullivan, T. G. Ingraham, A. D. Ladd; to fill the vacancy on the executive committee caused by the resignation of C. W. Smith, Mr. J. C. Harvey was elected. A special committee was appointed to wait on the city council committee on sewers in the interest of the northern section of the city. Resolutions were adopted endorsing the action taken at the last meeting of Mr. R. H. Postlethwaite as instructor in mechanical drawing. Mr. Postlethwaite beside being an Armour Institute man, has a thorough practical knowledge of the needs of our city, having been for some years assistant master mechanic of the Swift plant.

The bathing facilities have been improved and enhanced by the recent overhauling and the installing of a larger water heater. A beautiful art booklet, which has been delayed in printing, is being put out announcing the entertainment course. Special Agent Charles Beaver says that at the present time the seating capacity of the high school auditorium will be sold out next week. The sale of reserved seats will

**Notes of the Y. M. C. A.**

The men's meeting will open Sunday at 4 o'clock with an address by Mr. Arthur Chase on "The Cost of Influence." Christian men especially should hear this address.

The list of teachers for the night school has been filled by the securing of Mr. R. H. Postlethwaite as instructor in mechanical drawing. Mr. Postlethwaite beside being an Armour Institute man, has a thorough practical knowledge of the needs of our city, having been for some years assistant master mechanic of the Swift plant.

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**Clothing On Credit**

Our new Fall and Winter Clothing is now complete, and we offer you something in new styles for Men, Women and Children at strictly cash store prices ON CREDIT.

**Men's Department**

MEN'S SUITS, at \$22.50 down to 5.00  
MEN'S HATS, Fall Styles, at \$3.75, down to 1.50  
A new line of Men's Fall Styles in Men's Shoes, prices ranging from \$5.75 down to 2.00  
Boys' Suits in 2-piece, at \$4.25, down to 1.50  
Young Men's Suits in 3-piece, at \$12.50 down to 4.00

**Ladies' Department**

Ladies' New Fall Style Suits, at \$22.50, down to 7.50  
Ladies' New Cravettes, at \$18.50, down to 6.50  
Ladies' New Pleated Skirts, at \$15.50, down to 4.50  
A new fall line of Ladies' Hats, Waists and a fine line of Ladies' Shoes, all prices.

**CREDIT IS FREE TO ALL**

PAY WHILE YOU WEAR.

**RDGLEYS,**

Open Saturday Evenings.

1447 DOUGLAS, ELMER BEDEDO, MGR.

begin two weeks from Monday at the rooms at 720.

**Maie City Gossip.**

Dr. Robert L. Wheeler has returned from the meeting of the Omaha Presbytery at Cedar Rapids.

The Swedish-Norwegian Republican club will hold a meeting at 230 Sunday afternoon and all candidates are invited.

Mrs. W. R. Havens left yesterday for her future home in Omaha, Iowa, and will stop and visit with her son Verna at Alliance.

The body of the unknown fender found in the river near Vista Springs, Thursday night was interred in the Forest Lawn cemetery.

Sherriff Bateman of Jackson county, Kansas, took into custody one Ike Fox, a colored alleged bootlegger, yesterday, after he had been captured by the local police.

City Clerk Gillin received a letter from W. J. Hayes & Sons yesterday stating their intention to take the bonds after the necessary requirements have been complied with.

The English Lutherans of this city will formally organize the church at the Masonic hall Sunday forenoon. Rev. John P. Schubert of North Bend and Dr. H. L. Yarger of Atchison, Kan., will be present to assist Rev. Ralph W. Livers in the organization.

William Henderson, aged 25 years, died yesterday at his home near Thirty-first and Q streets. His death was pronounced by Dr. W. J. Hayes.

Quincy of Omaha to be due to a shock followed by lightning which struck the house Thursday morning.

The First and Sixth wards will undoubtedly give Hancock a heavy majority for the nomination for police judge. Mr. Hancock is looked upon as the cleanest and most capable man in the city.

For this office. The reform element insisted upon him being a candidate for the purpose of securing the nomination of the present conditions of the police court.

**WHY IVORY IS EXPENSIVE**

Task Buyers in This Country on the Jump for Bargains—Workers in the Material Are Few.

It is a curious fact that notwithstanding the marked increase in the price of ivory in recent years the volume of sales has not diminished, but has actually increased. Tusks have been selling in the markets of London and Antwerp at an advance of about 50 per cent over the prices charged a few years ago.

The causes which have led to this advance in price are very interesting. It is not due to any artificial manipulation of the markets, in the great centers, nor is it due to increased demand or scarcity of elephants. For the cause we must look to the heart of Africa where a spirit of genuine commercialism is manifesting itself among the natives. Their wealth is in ivory, and they have learned to value it as such. Indeed, the wealth of leading men among the natives was once commonly counted in tusks.

They would say of a dusky capitalist of this kind that he was worth so many tusks, just as one in this country would say that a man is worth so many dollars. Of course, that is a primitive phase in the development of a primitive people. The red man estimated his riches in wampum, and the Laplander in furs. They often would part with their possessions for a few beads or trinkets. They did not know the value of a dollar. Certainly it can no longer be said of the natives of Africa that they do not know the value of money. They have learned. Thus it comes that the "heaven in his blindness" is not so blind as has been supposed.

Increased transportation facilities and telegraphic communication have brought Africa into closer touch with the rest of the world. It is said that a native may be working 1,000 miles in the interior, and yet he can quote you the cash value of tusks in the Antwerp or London market.

Of course, it is a far cry from Africa to the United States, and yet there is a very good market for ivory in this country. Alert and enterprising buyers are always on the lookout for opportunities to pick up good tusks. Increased transportation facilities and telegraphic communication have brought Africa into closer touch with the rest of the world. It is said that a native may be working 1,000 miles in the interior, and yet he can quote you the cash value of tusks in the Antwerp or London market.

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**Railway Notes and Personalities.**

F. Montmorency, assistant general freight agent of the Burlington, has gone to Kansas City.

W. W. Elliott, district passenger freight agent of the Burlington at Los Angeles, is in the city.

W. Ruppel, formerly of Omaha, at present general agent of the Burlington at Billings, is in the city.

P. C. Green, passenger traffic manager of the Burlington, is in the city looking after some routine matters in connection with his department.

John Greenwood, stenographer to Chief Clerk Lewis of the passenger department of the Burlington, is promoted to be cashier of the local passenger department.

Chandler, a local passenger department employee, is made rate clerk, to take the place of R. C. Greenwood, who goes to Chicago as the rate department of the general office.

**Artist of the Shell Game**

Cy Warman's Recollections of Soapy Smith, Who Died Suddenly.

WORKED CREEDE WHEN CREEDE WAS HOT

Characteristics of a Smooth Sharp Who Gravitated Over the Western Hemisphere—Etchings of Life in Creede.

Some of the most entertaining features in the life of "Soapy" Smith were overlooked by The Bee correspondent, whose ruminations at the Skagway graveside of the noted gambler appeared in the last issue of The Sunday Bee. Smith was one of the pioneer players of Creede, Colo., and the way he worked the game in that noted silver camp is told by Cy Warman, editor, historian and poet of Creede. Listen to Cy's tale:

With a press franchise, a force of printers, a lead pencil and a power press, the writer had gone to the booming camp to establish a morning paper, with a telegraph service, in a town that had been in existence but three short moons and was not yet definitely located on the maps.

It was March, 1892, and that means mid-winter in the mountains, 4,000 or 5,000 feet above tide-water. The snow was blustering down Windy Gulch and flecking the felt hats that covered the heads of the motley multitude that was buying lots from the state land board that had come up from Denver to sell the federal lands upon which the town had been built. Lots sold at auction for \$10, \$50 and even \$5,000, that had been worth nothing the year before and were worth little more than nothing a year after the sale.

The water washing down the dumps was the only water, and many men were sick. Having secured a lot by the side of the little river that ran through the camp, the first payment upon which was \$100, we turned, tired, cold, homesick and hungry, to walk away.

In a little bushes spot by the roadside was a board shanty upon the door of which was tacked a tin beer sign. Inside half a dozen workmen—laborers or miners they might be—were sitting on the wooden benches about the stove. They had been in animated conversation, but hushed it as they noted the entrance of a newcomer.

A Business Venture. One small man with pale, lusterless hair and cold gray eyes, was recognizable as Tom, the shell man—"Troublesome Tom," they called him. I had seen a carpenter pause at Tom's three-legged stool that day, watch the game for a moment, then slowly slide his tool bag from his shoulder to the ground, put \$5 on the table and pounce upon one of the shells. He lost his \$5 and twice, called the shell man a thief and demanded his money back.

"Yes," said the man with the cold eyes fixed upon the top of the mountain. "I presume that's what you wanted with my money—to give it back."

Now the carpenter was pushed aside by a man who could guess. This man was able to win three times out of five.

Seeing that the game could be beaten a merchant from Denver put down \$10, tried again and lost. Crumpling a \$5 bill in his left hand, the merchant watched the two half shells for a moment and then made a grab. "Turn it over, turn it over," he demanded excitedly, dropping the crumpled bill. Tom turned it over, but there was nothing in it—nothing for the merchant.

"Why didn't you turn it so 'er?" said a man with a southern accent and a full black beard; "that fellow's a shark."

The merchant glanced at his questioner, flashed another bill and watched the shells. Suddenly he nailed one of them. "Take yo' hooks off that shell," said the dark man to Tom, "and let the gentleman turn it over."

"I don't see any money," said Troublesome Tom.

"There's my money," said the merchant, dropping the bill.

"Yo' betty fitter," said Tom.

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Now the shell man moved his hand from the shell and allowed it to hover over the new note.

The man turned the shell slowly, but the pea was not there. Even as he turned it Tom's velvet fingers were close to the shell.

Now this same man with the Georgia pronunciation came from behind the pine bar and spoke to me. He had no whiskeys, but I could swear that this was the man that had helped the merchant play off the hundred.

"Yo' th' artist that's goin' to stah the daily papah, eh?"

"Yes," I answered, and as my eyes wandered over the faces of the company my mind went back to Denver.

"Colored boy," I heard one of the News had said: "when you come back you'll be wearing a wooden overcoat." There was something in the air of this place that recalled the colonel's prophecy.

"Goin' to make wah on the gambler?" asked the dark man.

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"Sandbags, six-shooters and masks," was the reply.

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Now came Soapy, of his own motion, standing for the editor, who was unarmed, and the desperado was awed into quiet.

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Gambler Joe Simmens, one of Soapy's "working men," died suddenly five days before the first issue of the Chronicle, and Soapy gave him a big funeral. Standing at the open grave, he opened champagne, pouring some into the grave and drank some, saying as he did so: "Here's to Joe's soul over there, if there is any over there," and passed the bottle to his next friend.

The description of that funeral which Hartigan wrote for the first issue gave the Chronicle a start and made it welcome at the exchange table before it was two days old.

It's a mistake to assume that gamblers do no good. Joe Simmens helped make the Chronicle.

One day a man came over from Chalk Creek to burn a lot of money that he had just received for a group of claims. At dusk, when he had entered the Chronicle office his trousers were stuffed like the trousers of a foot ball player—stuffed with money. His face was flushed and his eyes dancing. He was a miner by profession, a gambler by instinct and a deep drinker.

He told Taber frankly that he had expected a reporter would find him out at the hotel, but seeing the paper was shy on enterprise he had come in to give up the news of the Chalk Creek district. He hinted that seeing his name repeated in the paper would help him over at the new camp where he was mayor, magistrate, postmaster and notary public.

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page," he said sliding a photograph over to the reporter. "I'd be willing to pay for the cut."

He offered to "open wine" for the game. Printers and all, if they would join him at the Albany for a midnight feed.

In the twilight of the following day he called again. He was not nearly so frisky. The stuff was gone from his trousers and the twinkle from his eye. Pulling a chair up to the reporter's desk he began to pour out the story of his undoing.

Hartigan, seeing a smile beginning to play about the smooth face of the reporter, went over to give Taber an assignment, and Vaughn, the master mechanic (and general manager in the editor's absence) came in from the back room.

Half an hour later the man went out. "Say," he called back from the door, "you don't need to mention names, but I'll stand by the paper if you give the outfit a good roast."

## COMPETITION IN TELEPHONES

Opposition Encountered by the Independent Seems Strange to A. H. Hunt.

"It seems strange to me," said A. H. Hunt, who is one of a group of men seeking a telephone franchise for an independent company in Omaha, "that we should be met at every step with such strong opposition, without any good or sufficient reason being offered why such a franchise should not be granted."

"This new company is to be an Omaha and Nebraska concern, backed by Nebraska capital. We stand willing to give any sort of guaranty that it is not a self-out proposition."

"Here are our business organizations spending large sums of money and much valuable time to draw trade and attract friendship to Omaha; now, when we offer to put in operation a powerful instrumentality for that very purpose, we are hindered and blocked in every possible way by the monopoly which happens at present to have control of the local field."

"We have made the most liberal offer for a public franchise ever made in this city. It is in line with the best development of municipal government. And we ask simply that the people be given a chance to vote on the proposition. What possible argument can councilmen present against that proposition?"

"For several years I have stood ready to take such a franchise, and our first attempt to secure it resulted in a material reduction in the rate charged for house telephones by the Nebraska Telephone company."

"Now, we want to appeal directly to the people on a plain, straight proposition, and we think the people—business men and workmen alike—should insist that we be given that privilege."

A MODEL LODGING HOUSE New York Poor to Have an Abode Unequaled for Comfort and Healthfulness.

Poor men and women are to have a lodging house which, in point of comfort and healthfulness, is not equaled. Work on the building will be started in about a week, so that the house may be ready for lodgers on January 1, 1906.

While providing every comfort and necessity, the charge to lodgers will simply be that they abide by the rules and keep clean. As a first installment for the expense of the new lodging house the city will pay out \$15,000 for its construction. The site selected for the building is in the south side of Twenty-fifth street, just east of Fifth avenue.

With a large dining room, where good food will be served, many baths, comfortable beds, a large court and a roof garden, those who go into the house will find better accommodations than they receive in any of the lodging houses in the city where a charge is made. While through the medium of a fine, free lodging house, the city is attempting to improve the condition of houses where a charge is made, it is also providing, through the lodging house, to reduce the number of men in the city who do not work.

In the new house there will be accommodations for 80 persons—50 men and 30 women. There will be two entrances in Twenty-fifth street, one for men and the other for women, who on entering the building will be ushered into separate reception rooms. From there the men will go to the basement, where they will leave their street garments, and pass under warm shower baths into a drying room, where they will be given night clothes. After that they will be taken back to the first floor, into a large dining room where meals of healthy food will be served, after which they either sit in the court on the roof or go to comfortable enameled beds prepared for them on the third, fourth and fifth floors.

Before going to their baths all the men will be examined by a nurse suffering from disease will be sent to separate baths and after that a separate sleeping room.

On the second floor of the building are the baths for women. Each of these is separated from the others by a partition. After dressing in a room women will be allowed to touch his or her clothing again until he or she is ready to leave the next morning. In the interim all clothes will be passed through a disinfecting room.

Although it will be extremely easy for all persons to get into the new lodging house, it will be no matter for some to get out. On passing out every person must pass a window, where watchers will be stationed. Here men wanted for crimes will be taken out and detained.—New York Times.

Regulated by the Weather. "You must make your window displays according to the weather," said the successful merchant to the new clerk. "On sunny days, have dress goods of bright colors; when it's cold, show dark, heavy fabrics. Thus you will catch the women."

"I see. And when it rains, I am to make a display of umbrellas, I suppose?"

"Not at all. Fill the window with fancy hose."—Cleveland Leader.