BRIEF CITY NEWS

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Lighting Fixtures—Burgess Granden Co. 1509.
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Store Your Fine Furs in moth proof vaults. Nominal cost. Shukerts, 15 & Harney.

Every Dollar Placed with the Nebraska Savings and Loan Ass'n helps to earn another. Six per cent per annum credited semi-annually. 104 Board of Trade Bldg.

Help the Census Man—Supervisor of Census Charles L. Saunders asks that parties knowing the family history of persons who have left the city temporarily will kindly send in such information to the census bureau in the federal building. It is the wish of the census department to get as accurate a census of the population of Omaha as possible, and to this end the assistance of all good citizens is requested.

Brogan Represents Omaha—Omaha's representative on the speakers' program at the annual dinner of the Nebraska State Association of Commercial clubs at Columbus, April 22, will be Francis A. Brogan. His subject will be, "Law and Business." Announcement has not been made of the other speakers.

Omaha—the Market Town—"Omaha is surely the market town for the whole west," said N. P. Dean at the Commercial club. "Last Saturday I received by registered mail, ten watches from Tillamook, Ore., to be repaired. Think of that, within a few miles of Portland. Just how Omaha gets this business is hard to figure out unless by reason of the favorable advertising it gets through our trade excursions."

Collision Injures Kirk—C. J. Kirk, an expressman, was knocked from his wagon at Twenty-fourth and Leavenworth streets Wednesday afternoon by a rear-end collision with an automobile, which sped away from the scene of the accident. Kirk was removed to his home, 3229 Charles street. He noted the number of the machine, which he says was driven by a man with a woman passenger. The police are looking for the machine.

Grain Company Makes Return—The Nebraska-Iowa Grain company is the first grain corporation to make its presence known in the office of the county assessor. The return shows $38,610 worth of personal property. The law firm of McGilton, Gaines & Smith is running Sullivan & Hait close for putting in a law library at somewhere near the true valuation, the last named having some time ago reported $700, and McGilton, Gaines & Smith now returning $650.

Prince Boy Lak is Coming—Henry Sling, the Union Pacific's Chinese agent, visited the general offices Wednesday, preparatory to making a trip to San Francisco, where he will meet the party, consisting of the Chinese minister, his son and secretary, who are on their way to San Francisco to escort Prince Boy Lak to Washington, where he expects to meet President Taft. The Chinese prince is coming to America to study American methods of maintaining the military.

More Changes in New York Life Building—New owners of the New York Life building have taken out a second permit for work to the amount of $40,000, to be done on the structure, in preparing it for the Omaha National bank, which is to take possession about June 1. The first permit was for the amount of $35,000, making a total of $75,000 in all to be spent on alterations and improvements, with probably more to come yet. On the new plumbing alone $12,000 is being spent, which means a thorough overhauling and much new work on every one of the ten floors.

Postmaster Thomas Returns—Postmaster B. B. Thomas returned Tuesday evening from the big Shriners' convention at New Orleans, which adjourned April 13. He reports having a big time and that over 13,000 Shriners were in attendance, and with the visitors it was one of the biggest crowds that New Orleans had seen for years, surpassing the Mardi Gras festivities. Arab patrols were present from every part of the country and kept things moving. One thing that impressed Postmaster Thomas a little out of the ordinary was that New Orleans with 360,000 population, had $3 less postal receipts last month than Omaha.

Mark Twain Growing Weaker.

REDDING, Conn., April 20.—The condition of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), who is seriously ill of angina pectoris at his home here, was reported practically unchanged this morning from that of last night, when he was said to be resting quietly, but to have grown weaker.

PROMISES FOR INDEPENDENT

Receiver Abbott Says 'Phone Company Will Show Some Speed.

RUSHING SOUTH OMAHA PLANT

To Use Three Hundred Men in Installation of New System—Necessary Materials Are Under Contract.

Lysle I. Abbott receiver for the Independent Telephone company, has returned from Chicago, where he was buying supplies for the South Omaha and Florence plants. He says that a record is going to be made in installing the South Omaha plant. The two-story, brick, cement and steel fireproof building must be completed by May 10, and the supplies are expected to be all here by May 1, ready for installation as soon as the building is ready to receive them.

"By the latter part of this week," said Mr. Abbott, "we expect to have about 300 men on the job, laying conduit material. In a few days I expect that I will be able to name the date when telephone communication will be established with the South Omaha plant. Construction Manager F. E. Ebersole and I have been to Chicago, and Monday and Tuesday we let the contracts for several carloads of material. Twelve carloads of poles, thirty-two of conduit, fourteen of cable and one of miscellaneous stuff will soon be on their way here.

"The important thing in connection with the installation of such a plant is to get the instruments, that is, the telephones, themselves. In this we were most fortunate. We succeeded in getting the manufacturers to let us have two carloads of equipment, including 1,000 phones and material for installing 5,000, which was about to be shipped to another firm. It has been agreed that the instruments will be here by May 1, which is as soon as we can use them. Arrangements have been made with the railroads to ship all of our goods on express time, and they have guaranteed that the material will be here within two days after it is shipped in Chicago."

John C. Troutan is Chosen for Trainor's Place

Former Police Captain of South Omaha Elected to Vacancy in County Board.

John C. Troutan is elected a member of the Board of County Commissioners to succeed P. J. Trainor, who resigned to become mayor of South Omaha.

Mr. Troutan's election took place Wednesday at noon and was unanimous. It is reported that none of the three members of the electoral board, County Judge Leslie, County Clerk Haverly and County Treasurer Furay, inclined strongly to the support of any other candidate than the man chosen.

"Troutan has a good many friends in South Omaha, who came to the front for him," said Judge Leslie, discussing the choice of the board. "The other candidates have friends, of course, but they were not enthusiastic enough to make themselves known as ardent in support."

The successful candidate has been captain of police in South Omaha and at present is an inspector of pavements for South Omaha.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Dr. James Irvin was called to Minnesota Tuesday by the death of his sister.

Lieutenant Collins of the Eighth cavalry, who was operated upon for appendicitis at the Fort Omaha hospital Tuesday, is getting along nicely. He is stationed at Fort Robinson.

Elks' New Home Dedicated with Formal Ritual

Local Lodge to Dedicate New Home with Pomp and Ceremony Thursday.

The Elks' lodge and club rooms in the Omaha Elks' Home building, formerly the Granite block, are to be formerly opened Thursday afternoon with a reception. In the evening the ritualistic dedication by the Elks will be held.

The reception Thursday afternoon is to the Elks, their families and invited friends. The guests will be received by Sidney W. Smith, exalted ruler; Gould Dietz, vice president of the Elks' building company; Mrs. Dietz, General and Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, Judge and Mrs. E. Wakeley, Rev. George A. Beecher and Mrs Beecher, Mayor and Mrs. James C. Dahlman and Mr. and Mrs. William I. Kierstead.

Judge James U. Sammis of LeMars, Ia., grand exalted ruler of the Elks, is to arrive at 3:20 in the afternoon, and will be present at the close of the afternoon function and through the ritualistic services of the evening. He will be entertained at dinner at the Henshaw at 6 o'clock by the officers of the Omaha lodge.

Flowers and shrubs will decorate the rooms for the reception. Music will be furnished by Dimick's orchestra. Refreshments will be served. Daughters of the members will assist at the punch bowls.

The dedicatory ceremony will begin at 8 o'clock in the evening. A large number of the members of the lodge at Council Bluffs will be present. There will also be visitors from Lincoln, Fremont, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Shenendoah, Ia., and St. Joseph, Mo. The visiting Elks in Omaha are invited to the ceremony. Arthur C. Wakeley will be orator of the evening. Clinton Miller's Elks' quartet will furnish the vocal music. Judge Sammis will make the official greeting to the members in attendance. Admission will be by Elks' cards. After the close of the ceremonial refreshments will be served. The function will be one of full dress for the officers of the lodge, while the matter of garb is optional with other members.

T. B. McPherson, president of the Elks' building company will not be present. He was called away from the city by business affairs of importance.

Shippers Oppose Change in Rates

Storm of Protest from Omaha Men Over Increase Proposed for Returning Goods.

The proposed change in rates on returned shipments is causing such a storm of protest among Omaha shippers, especially dealers in implements, vehicles and wind mills, that the Interstate Commerce commission has announced that public hearings will be held on the matter, pertaining to the rules, regulations and practices respecting the transportation of returned shipments and the rates governing them. As an example of the change, agricultural implements returned have taken a rate of 50 per cent of what it cost to ship the goods out.

Hearings have been assigned to Minneapolis on April 22 and at Chicago on April 25. They will be held before Examiner Lyon. The low rates will be canceled May 1, unless immediate action is taken.

In addition to implements, many other articles are affected in the same way.

Essay Medals Are Awarded

Miss Helen Davis and Robert Strehlow Take Prizes in High School Contests.

Miss Helen Davis won the gold medal offered by the Daughters of the American Revolution for the best essay written by an Omaha High school girl, and Robert Strehlow won the one offered by the Sons of the Revolution for the best essay written by an Omaha High school boy.

This essay contest is an annual event in the Omaha High school, but this year the two organizations combined and the same subject was given to both the boys and girls. The subject offered was, "Resolved, That the Treatment of the Loyalists of the Revolution was Justifiable." The girls debated the affirmative side of the argument and the boys the negative side.

Besides the winners of the contest being announced, honorable mention was made of six boys and six girls who had written especially good essays. These were Orville Andrews, William Grodinsky, Wilson Heller, William Sandy, Maurice Shillington, Laurence Wilbur, Helen Davidson, Alice Gideon, Edith Neale, Amy Nelson, Irene Shepard and Florence Smith.

HAVENS NEW CONGRESSMAN

Democrats Are Successful in Thirty-Second District of New York.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., April 20.—More than 14,000 voters of Monroe county changed from the republican to the democratic column today and elected the first democratic congressman that has represented the Thirty-second district in twenty years. James S. Havens, a democrat, running on the tariff reform platform, defeated George W. Aldridge, for a score of years the ruler of county republican organizations, by 5,900 votes.

Some Things You Want to Know

Indian Dances.

For more than a month the news of the day has been enlivened with reports from different sections of the country recounting feats of endurance at so-called "Marathon dances," in which the terpsichorean marvels are said to have danced from eight to fifteen hours continuously. In more than one instance the police have interfered. But how trivial seem these efforts when compared with the truly remarkable feats of endurance performed by the Indian braves of the plains! For the Sioux, the Cheyenne and the Arapahoe tribes a dance of seventy-five hours was not an infrequent event in the old days when the Indians were allowed to celebrate their victories in orgies of blood and torture.

The most striking of all Indian dances is known as the "Medicine Dance," which now has passed into history. Originally the medicine man, or doctor, was the dictator of these dances. Usually about once a year he sent out his call to the warriors of the tribe, naming those individuals whom he wished to dance in this ceremony of divination, for the medicine dance was not a ceremony of devotion, but rather a sort of American "Delphic Oracle" to determine what were to be the fortunes of war, the state of the crops and the health of the tribe.

When all the warrior dancers were assembled they marched to the Hoch-e-a-yum, or lodge of the cotton-wood poles, beneath which a circle of about twenty feet in diameter was roped off. The dancers assembled in this ring. Then began the beating of the tom-toms and the Indians, slowly hopping from one foot to the other, began to make the circuit of the central pole, from which was suspended a two-faced image, one of the faces representing the "Bad Medicine" and the other representing the "Good Medicine."

During the dance the women and children of the village would gather around the roped circle and shout encouragement to the dancers. After about ten or twelve hours of this ordeal the dancers would begin to drop from exhaustion. As soon as a warrior was overcome he would be seized by the feet and dragged from the circle. The medicine man would bend over him and paint symbolic figures over his body, which was always naked except for the breech clout. If these symbols did not revive him he was hauled from beneath the lodge and water was thrown in his face. This usually caused the warrior to revive and he would be ordered back into the circle to continue the dance, unless the medicine man could be persuaded by the members of the dancer's family, through the gift of ponies, blankets or beads, to allow him to retire.

It is estimated that ordinarily, if 100 warriors were in a dance, fifty would drop out before the end of thirty hours, and another twenty-five by the end of the forty-eighth hour. Usually from ten to fifteen survived to the fourth day, or the seventy-fifth hour. During this long period there was no rest, no sleep, no eating and no drinking. No warrior was ever required to perform the medicine dance a second time, however. Usually one dancer was selected for every 100 inhabitants.

After the waning of the power of the medicine man these dances were continued but the participants were always volunteers and these were confined to young men who were anxious to impress some of the young women of the tribe with their prowess, or some warrior who wanted to do penance for a supposed transgression, or else some person anxious to propitiate the evil spirit and restore the health of some member of his family. Usually the volunteers were the young bucks who joined in the ceremony chiefly because it was "the thing to do"—fashionable, in other words.

After the dances there were the self-inflicted tortures of the young men of the tribe who were anxious to be rolled as full-fledged warriors.

These ordeals were truly remarkable. A lad of 18 would be examined by the medicine man and there would be a council to determine how much torture he ought to be able to endure. He would lay bare his breast and the medicine man, armed with a broad bladed knife would make two incisions in each breast, about one inch apart and about four inches long. The flesh and muscle would be lifted away from the bone, and beneath these two strips would be passed a horsehair rope, about three-quarters of an inch in circumference. Then, fastened by his own flesh the young man would be tied to the top of the central pole of the lodge, with about ten feet of play, and would be required to remain there until he could tear himself loose. Sometimes if the youth were particularly robust he would be suspended three or four feet above the ground and would be required to remain until through his own exertions or the softening of the tissues, he was able to break the cords of flesh and muscle. No food or water was given to the would-be warriors during this ordeal. As soon as they succeeded in breaking loose the victims usually plunged into a river or lake to cool their fevered flesh, and after this their wounds were dressed by the medicine man. The herbs used were of such a healing quality that the young braves generally recovered within three or four weeks. If during this torture there was any outcry of pain on the part of the sufferer, he was released and sent away in disgrace, thenceforth to be known as a "woman man," and made to do the work of woman. Such a man was never allowed to marry or hold property.

The medicine dance among the Sioux Indians was known as the sun dance. In all of the Indian dances there is practically no variety in the movement of the legs. The feet are kept close together and the whole weight rests upon the ball of the foot, the heels being free from the ground. There is a rising and falling of the shoulders to the beating of the tom-toms. This form of exercise is particularly trying on the muscles of the calves of the legs and while an Indian can keep up the movement all night and seem perfectly fresh in the morning a white man is utterly exhausted at the end of half an hour of this sort of exertion.

From the time when "Davis danced before the Lord," dancing has been an important part in religious observances of every race and students of customs even trace the rising and kneeling for prayer on the part of Christians as an embryonic, or perhaps more properly a decadent, form of dancing. At any rate, the Indians had many forms of religious dances, one of the most interesting being the green corn dance of the Florida Seminoles. In many respects this dance seems to link the red man with the Greeks and Romans of 3,000 years ago, when harvest time was celebrated with the dance to Cerelia, followed by the orgies devoted to Venus.

One of the most grewsome of all Indian ceremonies is the scalp dance, now practically unknown. Warriors returning with their bloody trophies retired to a place near the village and stretched the skins from the heads of their victims around the edge of hoops. Willow poles ten or twelve feet long were then stripped and the hoops tied to the ends of these, after which the warriors marched into the village, set their poles upright in a circle and began their weird hopping dance about the gory trophies, keeping time to the tom-toms. As the dance proceeded the warriors would grow wild with the thought of the battle and each man in turn would narrate the story of his combat, all the time going through the most extravagant antics.

Among the most curious customs of the Indians were the "begging dances." These were really civilization's old-fashioned surprise parties, and the participants were two tribes recently at war with each other, but at peace when the dance took place. The surprising tribe would swope down upon the friendly village with every evidence of hostility, and the surprised tribe often was at a loss to know the intention of the visitors until they assembled in the center of the village and began their dance. Then the unwilling hosts assembled around the performers who from time to time darted out and embraced the onlookers. Each host so embraced was in duty bound to bestow upon upon the dancing visitor some present. These begging dances practically bankrupted the host tribe, for it was a point of honor that the beggars should be royally rewarded.

During the dry season on the plains, which frequently extends over a period of eight months, social dances are much in vogue among the tribes, there sometimes being as many as five a week. These dances have been compared to our own favor germans. The entertainments are never formal. A youth will begin to pound upon a tom-tom at dusk and the guests begin to assemble at his family's teepe. The men drift in together by ones and twos and take their seats at one end of the teepe and the women assemble in the same manner. After all are assembled the drum is struck by one of the young bucks, and all the other dancing men, grouped around the drum, begin to beat time with drum sticks about two feet long. Then one of the girls will rise and go over to the group of men, taking one by the hand. They will go to the center of the teepe and begin to dance with their arms about each other, such as the white man does in his round dance. Finally they separate and the girl chooses another man, and the man another girl, both of the new dancers joining each other in the center of the teepe and continuing.

In the "kissing dance" the fun is increased because each girl has to kiss her partner. White men who attend these dances are often selected to take part in the "kissing" feature, and the only way in which they can avoid paying the forfeit is to give the chooser something, usually a nickel. As soon as it is discovered, however, that the victim is willing to pay for his release he is choosen each time and a pocketfull of small coins is barely sufficient for the osculatory favors showered upon him.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Tomorrow—"Making a Garden."

Battalions Meet in Track Events

Preliminary to the Big Contests to Be Waged Later in the Year.

Omaha High school will hold its annual Battalion meet in track athletics next Saturday at the Omaha Driving park, near Courtland beach. The meet will be more of a trial practice of all the track men in school than a regular contest. Each of the three military battalions in the cadet regiment will have a team to represent it, and the band and bugle corps will combine to try and defeat the others.

By means of this event and the annual class meet to be held on April 29, Coach Carns expects to be able to pick the track squad to represent Omaha in the Interscholastic State meet to be held at Lincoln on May 6. He stated yesterday that he thought that over seveny-five athletes would be out for competition next Saturday.

A series of twelve events will be run off Saturday for the High school lads to contest for, the list being practically the same as will be used in the big school meets to be held later in the spring, including pole vault, 120-yard hurdles, 100-yard dash, mile run, running high jump, 440 yard run, 220 yard hurdles, 220 yard dash, twelve pound hammer throw, 880 yard run, twelve pound shotput, and running broad jump.

Real Estate Men to Help Census

Resolution for Co-Operation with Enumerators Passed at Meeting of Exchange Members.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Omaha Real Estate exchange Wednesday noon signifying a desire on the part of the members to assist the census enumerators as much as possible in making the count of Omaha's population. Every member who has not filled out one of the blanks was required to do so at once in order to expedite the work as much as possible.

George C. Morton talked to the meeting on "Improvement of Residence Property." He expressed himself as being heartily in favor of the platting of new additions and the establishment of street grades before the sale of the property began. He was especially in favor of the establishment of a grade which would have to be sanctioned by the city engineer before accepted as an addition.