

# Years of Service in Public Schools Rewarded by Honorable Retirement

TWENTY years in the Omaha schools! In that time many changes would be noted in the stick of progress; changes not only in the externals of school life—buildings, equipment and kindred things—but also in the methods of teaching. Likewise in that time a long procession of young Americans—native and naturalized—who have entered the primary department, timidly and fearfully, waving their diplomas in testimony that they've "finished school"; so far, that is, as the city's public school is concerned. Measured in this way twenty years become an epoch; indeed, but there is even a more vivid way of getting the picture. Remember that the four teachers who this summer entered the retired list have all served at least that time in the Omaha schools, and most of them for longer.

Miss Nancy Lewis, Miss Louise M. Adams, Miss Virginia Kennedy and Mrs. Lucretia S. Bradley, who this year put aside the crayon of the instructor to enjoy a life of more leisure, could each and all give a personal picture of the changes which have come in the twenty years. This retirement list is a comparatively new part of Omaha school life, dating only from the year 1909. It includes, beside the four teachers named above, the five who left active service a year ago—Miss Jennie McKown, Mrs. Ingeletta Ware, Mrs. Nettie C. Rhett, Miss Ada E. Alexander and Miss Villa B. Shippey.

Miss Frances Butterfield, who had taught forty years and was entitled to a place upon the list, did not ask to be retired, but who, during the last year, was forced by ill health to give up her work, did not live to enjoy the pension.

The popular old song, which has itself survived more than the score of years, has many points of pertinence in regard to the story of these teachers' service:

The old school house is altered now; the benches are replaced By new ones, very like the same our penknives once defaced.

But the same old bricks are in the wall; the bell swings to and fro; It's music just the same, dear Tom, 'twas twenty years ago.

For twenty-three years Miss Nancy Lewis taught the toddlers at the Walnut Hill school; that is, they were toddlers twenty-three years ago, when they entered the first grade; now they are much more sophisticated, having gained some school experience in the kindergarten. Twenty-three years ago first grade meant the first of school; the painful or pleasant experience of getting accustomed to the fact that one had a mind which must be trained. Training, too, used to be less painlessly administered. Instead of just assimilating words, sounds, meaning and all that, the beginner used to struggle with the awful sequence of A, B, C, until he could sing-song it off backwards and forwards. The same thing has happened in number work. The child who used to watch with fascination—a kin to terror—the teacher's skillful and quick sliding of the colored balls upon the wires of the number frame, and, trembling, announce that two and two made four, now learns the same important fact with much less difficulty. However, it is recorded that even twenty years ago the toddlers who began their studies at Walnut Hill found school life a thing of joy. The steady march of educational methods did not daunt nor distance this one educator. From the time she left the State Normal School of Nebraska at Peru in 1875 until her retirement in 1909 she was always in step with the fore guard. Before coming to Omaha Miss Lewis taught in Iowa, Missouri and at Peru, Neb., and was at one time principal of a four-room school at Grinnell, Ia. She began teaching in Omaha in 1886 and entered upon her valuable service at the Walnut Hill school in 1887.

Miss Louise Adams has during the last six or seven years of her teaching in Omaha been much interested, and given valuable service to one of the more modern developments of school work—the night school. This work with our foreign charges she found exceedingly interesting, and it was her ambition to some time give all her attention to tutoring the stranger who would be American.

The night school work, while a quite recent development, is already an important and much-needed one. In one of the night schools last year a whole roomful of Greeks were studying the language. The students included, sometimes, whole families—father, mother and all the children—all intent upon learning the lan-

## Omaha Teachers on the Retired List



Miss Virginia Kennedy Mrs. Lucretia Bradley Miss Nancy Lewis Miss Louise Adams

guage of the new country. In some cases the sons, who had already acquired proficiency, came to the school only that they might act as interpreters for their parents. Before coming to Omaha, where she has been identified—to their great benefit—with the work of the seventh and eighth grades, Miss Adams taught in Pittsfield, Ill., and Lincoln. She was a graduate of the Pittsfield High school and later studied English literature at the Nebraska State university.

Miss Kennedy, who likewise was interested in the upper grade work, came to Omaha in 1887. She came from a normal from which Omaha has received many of its other splendid teachers—the Oswego Normal school, Oswego, N. Y. Her own years as a student in the "upper grades" and also in high school were spent in Middleport, O.

Miss McKown, who retired last year, came to Omaha in 1870. She was at one time principal of the old Dodge school, now the city jail. Later, too, she was principal of the Pleasant school—now all schools are pleasant and none is distinguished by the special title. That it was the "pleasant" school may, with reason, be judged due to the principalship of Miss

McKown. For years she was principal of the training school. Like Miss Kennedy, she received her normal training at Oswego, N. Y. After teaching for fourteen years in Council Bluffs Mrs. Ware crossed the Missouri at the earliest solicitation of the then school board and began her work with the Omaha youth. She taught from the first grade up to the eighth and back again. All her years of teaching were also years of study for her, because she was assiduous in keeping abreast of the educational movements. She was graduated from the Council Bluffs High school in 1872. For several years Mrs. Ware taught at the eastgate school and was influential in keeping the children interested in school work. Many acknowledge that when the season of unrest and desire to "leave school and studies and get out into the world" seized them it was Mrs. Ware who made them realize how important it was that instead they keep on with their studies.

Another eighth grade teacher among those retired is Miss Ada E. Alexander. At the time of her retirement she was teaching the eighth grade at the Columbian school.

Mrs. Nettie C. Rhett, who came to Omaha in 1888, received her education at St. Joseph. She was graduated from the Colon seminary in 1848 and taught in Michigan and also in Kansas City before coming to Omaha.

Miss Shippey, whose years of teaching were years which helped put value into many lives, is now living with her sister in the home of the treats of rural life—the flowers and green and quiet of the eastern village.

These dates and scattered facts give but glimpses of those years of service in the great army of education. They don't tell anything of the thousand and one times "teacher" has reached out and helped some discouraged or slipping pupil back into the path of endeavor. They do not tell, either, of teacher's weary and discouraged hours, nor of her inspiration which has in turn come from appreciative pupil. These facts only glimpse at that great human side of the matter—glimpse it even as the pension system does—know it is there.

## Her Money Helps Young Men and Women

IN MAKING her recent most generous gift to the Young Women's Christian association and Young Men's Christian association Mrs. Ida M. Wharton paid a substantial tribute of appreciation, since the gift was impelled by a belief that it was through these organizations the money could be made to reach with most benefit the most lives.

This wasn't what Mrs. Wharton said in so many words in reply to the query, because Mrs. Wharton did not reply directly; in fact, she prefers not to talk of her gift. And so, for the story of the gift, it is more satisfactory to address the query to the "right hand" rather than to the dowering left hand; that is, to ask her husband, John C. Wharton, to tell you about it.

And as Mr. Wharton is himself exceedingly interested in the work of the associations, particularly that for the young men, the talk rapidly resolves itself into a discussion of the good work being done. Immediately, then, you have your finger on the motive—the appeal and the importance of the work which the associations are doing.

"You see, five years ago, when we were carrying on the campaign to raise the \$100,000 for the Young Men's Christian association, Mrs. Wharton became much interested in the work. She was interested at that time, contributed to the fund then, and her interest has grown as she has investigated the work which the association is doing.



expense attached to the night school is prohibitive, and so she thought if a fund would help these boys to the education they needed, wanted, such a fund would be well applied, and so—she made the gift. There are no strings to the endowment; the income can be applied as the directors see fit, but these are the possibilities which particularly impressed her. At the Young Women's Christian association I think it was the travelers' aid work which impressed her most vividly. She realized that many girls do come to the city totally unprepared to cope with conditions here; unacquainted with conditions and quite unprovided with funds. Their assistance she considers an important part of the work. And the rest room, which offers an hour's rest to the business women whose work means hours of standing, seems to her a very much needed department. She is exceedingly interested in the business women.

"In fact, when we were talking about her gift she asked me which I thought really more important, this work for young men or that for young women. She herself felt that the work for the girls was.

"The girl who comes to the city usually gets smaller wages than the young man. She must then live in a cheap room, and after business hours she must stay in that room; she hasn't the freedom that is accorded to the young man. So the institution which enlarges her opportunities of living and puts some of the social elements into her life is doing a much-needed work."

Mrs. Wharton is decidedly an Omaha woman, having lived here for more than thirty years. She came here when her father, Daniel Kendall was bridge contractor for the Union Pacific, with headquarters here, and her subsequent life has been identified with Omaha.

The Omaha pension bill, by the way, is considered to be one of the best of many such, inasmuch as it recognizes both the teachers' and the people's interests. The pension fund is supported by both teachers and the community; the teachers give 1 per cent of every month's salary and the board gives one and a half times this amount.

To be eligible to the retired list a teacher must have taught for thirty-five years—twenty years in the Omaha schools. Upon retirement she receives \$500 a year so long as she lives. The annuity is a recognition of her work for the community. It means, in a way, an appreciation of all those thousands of right impulses the teacher, in her public service, has set in motion in the lives of Omaha's children. It means that after twenty years' work for Omaha children, Omaha children grow up will contribute through their representatives to the comfort of their one-time preceptor.

Omaha has made considerable progress in the matter of providing for the honorable retirement of civic employees. Firemen have long had a pension list, to which members of the paid fire department are eligible after continuous service of twenty-one years. For the policemen a similar provision was recently made and several of both departments have been placed on the pension list. This pension fund is for the purpose of insuring the men against want in their old age, after they have spent the best years of their life in public service at a rate of pay that does not permit the accumulation of any considerable competency.

The public discussion that is so general concerning workmen's compensation and old-age insurance brings the matter closer home. The Omaha plan for providing retiring pensions for public servants is such as has been proven expedient in the relation between employers and employed in private enterprise. Great corporations all over the land make provision for the retirement of faithful employees, and the city is but a great business enterprise and should see to it that the men and women who spend their lives in its service are provided against the days when they are no longer available for the strenuous activity of the city's business.

### KING GEORGE IS THRIFTY

Inherits Saving Traits from His Late Grandmother.

### MARY A CAREFUL HOUSEKEEPER

Tradeunion Who Supply the Royal Larder Must Furnish the Best at Prevailing Prices—No Chance for Craft.

BY LADY MARY MANWARIING.

LONDON, July 9.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—King George inherits a goodly share of the thrifty spirit of his grandmother, Queen Victoria. His majesty is not in the least parsimonious, but he is scrupulous, and he is firmly of the opinion that the royal household is entitled to full value for the money it expends just the same as the humblest of his subjects. In this he has the hearty co-operation of Queen Mary, who is a careful housekeeper.

Mr. William Carrington, keeper of the king's privy purse, under the direction of his majesty, has formed a clerical department consisting of three clerks. Dockets for goods purchased for the kitchen, storekeeper or butler's departments has to be made out by the head of each department responsible for the orders, which are sent up to the clerk's office.

Accounting is complete. A docket gives all particulars of the article purchased and the name of the tradesman who supplied it and its cost. The particulars of all the daily dockets are entered up in a general day-book, from which they are transferred to each tradesman's account in the royal ledger. The ledgers, by the way, are bound in dark red leather, and a crown is stamped in gold on the back of each.

Each tradesman who has the royal custom must send in his bill at the end of the month, when it is compared with the ledger account, and if it is found to be correct, is discharged during the first week in the month. No discount is asked for off any royal accounts. A tradesman who receives the royal custom is informed that he must supply goods at the lowest reasonable prices, when it is necessary any attempt at bargaining by the official of the royal household. If a tradesman is thought to be making extortionate charges, he simply loses the royal custom, so he rarely or never attempts to do so.

There are, of course, several articles

which are supplied to the royal household by contract, such as coal. For example, the contracts, in most instances, are made for three years, and the contractors are, as a rule, paid in equal half-yearly installments. A great deal of work is also done at Marlborough house under contract, such as window cleaning, carpet cleaning, chimney sweeping and the glass frames of a number of large pictures are also cleaned under contract.

All the servants' wages are paid monthly. The upper servants, holding important and responsible positions, are paid by check, which is sent to each from the treasurer's department. The other servants attend at the clerk's office to receive their wages. The king's accounts for clothes, cigars, theater tickets, newspapers, books and other personal articles are sent in to his secretary, and are not dealt with at all in the clerical department. These accounts are also discharged every month, but King George always likes to see them before they are paid.

Queen a Painter. It is not generally known that Queen Mary is an artist of no small merit. Among the many souvenirs of her travels are some charmingly executed water colors of her own painting. Encouraged by Queen Alexandra, her majesty has also become a devotee to photography, which is now one of her favorite hobbies. Her artistic talents have been inherited by Princess Mary, who rates exceedingly well. Among the queen's most valued treasures is a little drawing, done specially for the wall of her cabin in the Ophir during the long colonial tour by Princess Mary, and which was duly hung in a place of honor. When the cruise came to an end the picture was carefully taken down and sent to Marlborough house to be kept among the many mementoes of that memorable journey.

Marlborough May Make Up. A report is current in high social circles that the differences between the duke and duchess of Marlborough have been or are about to be compromised and that they soon will be together again. I have been unable to get any official confirmation of this report, but it is generally believed to be true in well informed circles.

Keat in Canada. The duke of Connaught, when he takes possession of Rideau Hall, Ottawa, will not be the first of his family to serve the crown in Canada. His grandfather, the duke of Kent, acted as commander-in-chief there for some time, and his residence, now converted into a hotel, may still be seen near the Montgomery Falls, Quebec. His-royalty proved too much of a martinet at Gibraltar, the duke was sent to cool his heels in Canada; but, being inviolable by fall from his horse, he—the father-in-law

### FINE EDINBURGH RECEPTION

Great Welcome for Delegates to Conference.

### MISSION WORK IN ALL NATIONS

Scotch Capital in Gala Attire for the Visitors, and Organizations from Everywhere Are Represented.

BY D. J. FRANCIS.

NEW YORK, July 9.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Some of the delegates to the great missionary conference at Edinburgh are returning home and without exception they are enthusiastic over their reception at the Scotch capital and the splendid spirit shown at the great gathering of earnest Christian men. There were present at the conference more than 1,100 delegates representing nearly every organization existing for the purpose of propagating the Christian faith throughout the world. The majority of them are engaged in the work in foreign fields, and have been so engaged—scholars, statesmen, publicists, soldiers, sailors, divines, thinkers—the very cream of the Christian community on earth gathered together to consider how best they can attack heathenism and most advantageously take the gospel to the non-Christian world. The conference ignored the points and minor differences which divide the forces of Christ, and one of the most pleasing and most promising signs is that while the Roman Catholics stood aloof, they were not in any way antagonistic.

In point of numbers the conference exceeds any council held in past ages. It includes experts from the four corners of the earth, not only white men, but representatives of nearly every nation and race under the sun. The leading students of missions and the most experienced missionary administrators in Europe and America were included among the members of the commission. The Edinburgh conference differed from all former conferences, in that for the first time the delegates were directly nominated by recognized missionary societies in due proportion. All sections of the Christian church have long seen the folly of perpetuating in China or India the divisions which have acted so disastrously at home, and the necessity for union is being more widely recognized each year. One of the most sanguine expectations of the promoters is

the drawing together of the churches at home as the direct result of the world missionary conference, which rightly regarded, will no doubt prove another epoch-making event which will mightily affect the world's history and destiny.

From all sections of the world reports were made showing the great progress being made by the missionaries. The following figures show the magnitude of the missionary work of the world: One year's contributions, \$5,331,157; ordained missionaries, 5,222; ordained and unordained workers, 28,228; native Christians, 2,281,571; and woman physicians, working as missionaries, 341.

"The missionary outputs are the kingly lines of the advancing army of civilization," said Rev. Martin S. Eldridge of Tokio, now in this country. "That their mere presence means opening new territory to foreign influence, and hence a new market for foreign goods, no one can deny."

It is interesting to study the methods by which these results were accomplished. For instance, one missionary came to Japan twenty-five years ago and went to live in a remote town in the interior. This man and his family could not buy the simplest article for household use, as no European had ever lived in that section. The people went to see the foreign house and furniture just as they might crowd into a museum.

"They examined the queer foreign clothes with their curious buttons. They were filled with admiration when they gazed upon the metal wash basin in which the foreign barbarians washed their face and hands. The first knowledge that came to the missionary that he was a drummer in disguise was when a delegation of prominent citizens waited upon him and requested him to stop in one of the open ports and buy them some metal basins."

Then followed the demand for underclothing with buttons, which is one feature of occidental dress quite generally adopted now, even in rural Japan. The hardness of a pocket knife finally struck the Japanese, so that the missionary imported a supply of them. Within two years there was such a demand for foreign goods that a foreign store. A stock was purchased at one of the ports and the store was opened. From that little beginning grew up one of the great trading companies of inland Japan, handling many thousands of dollars worth of goods every year. Not all of this trade now goes abroad, for the company has a number of factories, one of which makes metal wash basins and such utensils, and the other spins and knits cotton underwear.

Arrangements have been made under the

auspices of the Catholic Association of England for the journey from England to Montreal for this year's Eucharistic congress, which will be held from September 7 to September 11. A party will embark at Liverpool on Friday, August 25, and arrive at Quebec and Montreal on the Friday following. This allows of four clear days before the congress opens on Wednesday, September 7. Midnight mass will be sung at the church of Notre Dame. Thursday will be given up to the ordinary sessions of the congress, and on Friday, September 8, pontifical high mass will be sung at Maneau park in the open air. The ordinary sessions will be resumed on Saturday, and Sunday will be the concluding day, when a procession of the blessed sacrament will take place. The party will not go on board for the return journey till Friday, September 10.

The German emperor, in one of his many frank moments, has given what would be deemed in certain circles a good religious testimony. He not only reads and studies the Bible, but he admits that in the perplexing affairs of his life he constantly turns to it and asks "What does the Bible say on this point?" The Bible is to him the source from which he draws strength and light. In hours of trembling and fear he has found on this treasure of comfort. There is a touch of human pathos in the last admission, and the outspoken pathos of the monarch coincides with the publication of a work that is sure to command much of the public interest in days to come—namely, "The Religious Life of Gladstone." It is said of the great statesman that he seldom traveled any distance to a cabinet meeting without learning a portion of scripture or consulting his prayer book. And if one studies the temperaments of the two Williams, one finds much in common. They were both fearless and when compelled to speak the convictions of the soul, regardless of public opinion and when, as we four the first of public men in all our history, we consider it a happy coincidence that the Kaiser and Gladstone, one by his living voice and the other by his memoirs, should reveal us to the value, and inspiration of that "impreachable rock," the Bible.

The principal services in connection with the Eucharistic congress of the Westminister cathedral in England were as follows: On June 28, the high mass, at which the bishop of Portsmouth was celebrant, began about 12 noon. At 7:30 p. m. first vespers of St. Peter and Paul, the archbishop was the celebrant. The session was presided by the bishop of Clifton, and the De Teign sang at Good Friday.

On June 28, the feast of St. Peter and Paul, a solemn mass of thanksgiving for

the consecration of the cathedral and the restoration of the hierarchy. The sermon was preached by the bishop of Newport. At 4 p. m. second vespers of St. Peter and Paul was sung. The bishop of Birmingham acted as celebrant.

### OFF TO ROUGH IT OUT WEST

Bunch of Amateur Hunters Start from New York for Wyoming.

With some slight modification the lobby of the Manhattan hotel, New York, Monday afternoon might have looked like that of the principal hotel at Nalbrook, where the big hunt started, so many gun cases and other leather carriers of various sorts being in evidence. The hunters were just about to start on a big hunt, but their destination is the Rockies and the Yellowstone park. The party was Charles C. Moore's outfit, and it included youngsters from Harvard, Yale, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania, and from such preparatory schools as St. Paul's, Groton, Pomfret and Lawrenceville. They were starting out to see the real "wild west," to become cowboys temporarily, to follow the trail and live in camp, just as if they were real hardy ranchmen. Mr. Moore has a ranch out there in Wyoming. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and four years ago, having entertained several of his schoolmates out there, he got the idea it would be a good thing to give eastern youngsters a chance to see the far west as it really is. He started out with four boys, and this year he will have twenty-five, which he says is his limit. Besides the youngsters there were a lot of anxious mothers at the Manhattan who personally commended their sons into Mr. Moore's care and gave him hints as to Tommy's or Freddy's peculiar needs. The party had been assembling since the morning of the day before. The outfit left at 4:30 o'clock in a special car. A stop of three hours was made in Chicago to take on some members of the party who live thereabout. Lander, Wyo., was reached on Thursday, June 30, and thence the journey will be made by coaches to Fort Washburn, where Mr. Moore's ranch is. A few days will be spent in breaking in those who do not ride and giving the others practice and in visiting Indian encampments, and then, on July 27, a long horseback trip to and through the Yellowstone park will start. The party will break up September 1. Among those in the party are G. Hall Houshelt, A. W. Chaucey, Joseph H. Stearns, George W. Young, jr., of New York, and E. W. Clark and Barclay McCadden of Philadelphia—New York Sun.