

## BIG ARSON PLOT SUSPECTED HERE

Five Fires of Suspicious Origin Are  
Now Being Investigated by  
the Fire Warden.

### TRAIL OF OIL IS FOUND

Fire Warden Morris is investigating a series of incendiary cottage fires in the neighborhood of Thirtieth and Center streets, the fifth fire occurring at 10 p. m. Friday evening at 1907 South Thirtieth street, under circumstances which leave no doubt that the fire was incendiary.

The fire warden believes there is an arson plot and has asked the city detective department to assist in the investigation.

The house fired Friday evening is a frame structure, five rooms bearing evidence that the fire was carefully planned, but quick action by the fire department resulted in saving most of the evidence.

#### Trail of Oil.

The blaze was started at a stove in the dining room and a trail of saturated sheets and excelsior was laid to two bedrooms, bathroom and kitchen. Dresser drawers were left open and contents saturated with oil. The fire did not reach an open half-gallon glass jug of gasoline. There were no occupants in the house when the fire department reached the scene. Through an electric light bill the fire warden established the fact that the house had been occupied by A. R. Randome, who could not be located by the fire officials. The warden states nobody appeared at the house today.

Four other fires of similar nature are said by the fire warden to have been started in the same neighborhood during the last five weeks. In all instances the fire warden was unable to find occupants at time of fire. He explains that investigations resulted in finding that the tenants were out of the city or at picture shows when the fires occurred, which makes prosecutions futile tasks, Mr. Morris stated.

"I am inclined to believe there is an arson plot, but it is difficult to get evidence for prosecution. We have evidence that these fires were set. The fire Friday evening was the most positive case of the kind I have had. The trail of saturated sheets did not burn as fast as was expected and the jar of gasoline did not ignite, otherwise we would not have had the evidence which was left," said the fire warden.

## Biggest Week in History of Omaha Clearing House

The last week was the biggest in the history of the Omaha clearing house. The total bank clearings for the week were \$25,835,464.89, as against a total of \$20,025,235.89 for the corresponding week a year ago. The clearings for Omaha Saturday were \$3,774,823.50, while the clearings a year ago were \$2,983,429.11.

## Mrs. Ira Kelley Dies in Montana

Information has reached members of the family in Omaha and Council Bluffs of the death of Mrs. Ira Kelley at Snowbelt, Mont., last Tuesday. Mrs. Kelley was 51 years of age. She was reared in Council Bluffs and was married there some ten years ago. A few years ago her health began to fail and the family moved to Montana, hoping to find relief. Together with her mother and brother, homestead claims were taken up and maintained. But the hoped-for improvement in health was not realized. Mrs. Kelley was the daughter of John and Ellen Murphy of Council Bluffs. Her father was a locomotive engineer on the Northwestern road, who lost his life in the service. Besides her husband she is survived by her mother, Mrs. Ellen Murphy; Frank and Emmet Murphy, brothers, of Council Bluffs; Mrs. T. F. Swift of Omaha; Mrs. Robert Miles of Council Bluffs, and Miss Florence Murphy, sisters.

## Omaha Advertised to Entire World

A total of 36,700 booklets, pamphlets, views and statistical leaflets concerning Omaha were distributed throughout the United States and the world during the year by the bureau of publicity. Besides these 50,000 other pieces of publicity matter, such as pointed facts about Omaha, and statistical tables on the covers of convention programs, and folders.

## BEQUEST TO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH HERE

A \$4,000 bequest to the Christian Science church of Omaha is made by the will of the late Mrs. Hannah J. Hall Palmer, filed for probate. The church will receive all the remainder of the estate after several cash bequests are paid.

Other bequests are as follows: Silver tea set and jewelry and \$200 to her niece, Hannah Charlotte Luther. Gold beads to Mrs. Jennie Leach of Peoria, Ill.

## START TO MAKE PLANS FOR MERCHANTS' MARKET WEEK

Plans for Merchants' market week in the spring in Omaha are already made. The wholesale trade committee of the Commercial club has its meeting the other day and unanimously praise the merchants' market week movement, while they voted to leave it to the market week committee to select a spring date for another of these trade weeks.

## Married Here Fifty Years Ago



Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Burmester

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Burmester of 2512 North Fifty-ninth avenue today are observing in a quiet way their fiftieth wedding anniversary. This golden celebration is attended by members of the family and a few old-time friends.

This pioneer was 32 years of age last June and is able to continue his daily work in his metal shop at Benson.

He was married in Omaha to Rosa Maria Wehrer. The children were: Louis, Emma, William, Charles L. and George. William and George are deceased, the former losing his life while serving as a fireman in this city. Louis is a former member of the city council and at this time is city furnace inspector.

Mr. Burmester was born at Hamburg, Germany, and served in the Prussian army from 1882 to 1884. He enlisted June

5, 1881, for the civil war and was mustered into service as corporal of Captain William Baumer's Company B, First regiment, Nebraska infantry, which later was changed to the First regiment, Nebraska volunteer cavalry. Colonel John M. Thayer commanding. The regiment was attached to the Department of Missouri, later to the Army of Tennessee and then to the Army of Southeast Missouri. He participated in the investment and capture of Fort Davidson, in the battle of Shiloh, and in the siege of Corinth; also many other engagements and services.

He drilled the first company of volunteers organized in Omaha for the union army and was promoted for meritorious service to sergeant in 1862. He is a member of George A. Custer post, No. 7, Grand Army of the Republic.

## Forty Farmer Lads Would Sail Raging Main for Uncle Sam

A record week was last week at the local navy recruiting office. Thirty-nine farmer lads came in and expressed ardent desires to sail the raging main, to beat their hunking peas into martini spikes, to exchange the plow for the 35-inch gun.

Out of the thirty-nine only eight could pass the physical examination. This, however, is better than the usual average.

Enlistments always "pick up" when midwinter is reached, because then the work on the farm is pretty well done and the farm boys get time to look about them for an outlet for their energies and many of them decide to see something of the big world.

## Funeral Services for John Power to Be Held on Monday

Funeral services for John Power, former Omaha sheriff who died of pneumonia, will be held from the residence, 1813 South Tenth street, Monday morning at 8:30 to St. Patrick's church at 9 o'clock. Interment will be in Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

The honorary pall bearers will be: Richard O'Keefe, P. C. Healey, John Rush, James P. English, Andrew Murphy, T. F. Malone. The active pall bearers will be: Joseph Sherry, C. E. Parsons, James Roach, Patrick Egan, T. J. Flynn, John Garvey.

## Hummel Will Stop Rowdism at Parks

Chairman Hummel and Superintendent English of the Recreation board state they are doing all they can to provide desirable ice and comfortable conditions for the skaters and they would ask that those attending public skating places cooperate by observing rules of fairness.

A situation has arisen at Hanscom park necessitating stricter supervision on the ice. Complaints have been received that a gang of youths has been disturbing others. Special Officer Sudde will be given assistance at this park and orders have been issued to eject or arrest persons who do not know how to respect the rights of others on the ice.

"We want everybody to have a good time, but we intend to stop rowdism," stated Commissioner Hummel.

## FORMER OMAHA GIRL DIES AT STAMFORD, CONN.

Mrs. Ralph Erskine, who died in Stamford, Conn., December 24, is well remembered in Omaha as Miss Barbara Peattie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns Peattie of Chicago, formerly of Omaha, both well known in literary and social circles. Mrs. Erskine's mother-in-law, Mrs. Charles Erskine, is one of the popular novelists of this country and Great Britain and under her pen name of Payne Erskine, is author of two of the six best sellers, one of which, "The Mountain Girl," was the leader of its season. Mrs. Ralph Erskine distinguished herself by writing a prize story at the age of 16. After her marriage, in her teens, Mrs. Erskine settled in an Italian villa, near Tyron, N. C., and gave her artistic energies to helping her husband develop a new field in American pottery. Her work in decoration and illumination won highest praise from critics.

Mrs. Erskine is survived by her husband, parents and three young sons, the eldest 6 years old.

## WING SING, HERE FOR THIRTY YEARS, IS DEAD

Wing Sing, well known Chinese laundryman and resident of Omaha for thirty years, died at his home, 326 North Sixteenth street, Saturday morning of dropsy. He was 50 years of age.

The funeral will be held from Omaha's undertaking establishment Tuesday morning, with burial in Forest Lawn cemetery.

## MORE HORSES ARE BEING SHIPPED TO ALLIED ARMIES

Another bunch of 1,000 horses are being gathered up in Denver designed for the armies of the allies in Europe. They will be shipped out Sunday, reaching Omaha Monday, and laying over at the stock yards a couple of days for rest and feed.

## COUNSMAN TO RUN FOR COURT CLERK

County Assessor States Platform On  
Which He Intends to Make  
the Race.

### DOES NOT WANT EXTRA FEES

Harry G. Counsman, county assessor, has announced that he is a candidate for the republican nomination for clerk of the district court, on a platform of which strict honesty in public office will be the principal plank. He said that if elected he will not attempt to pocket the naturalization fees or insanity fees, which the present clerk has attempted to do, and declared against star-chamber insanity board proceedings.

Robert Smith, present clerk, paid his filing fee as a candidate for re-nomination, without announcement as to his continuance of the fee graft if elected, suit to determine whether it is legal being now pending in the courts.

W. G. Ure, county treasurer, and avowed candidate for sheriff, says he will make clear his position on the jail-feeding and mileage perquisites which make the sheriff the richest official in the state, when he files.

The law relating to jail-feeding now allows the sheriff 2 cents per day for each of the 300 prisoners in the county jail, which is greatly in excess of the cost and results in the present democratic sheriff taking from the county treasury, in salary, mileage and jail-feeding graft, about \$50 a day.

States His Position. Mr. Counsman, candidate for nomination for clerk of the district court, was asked: "What is your position regarding naturalization fees?"

"My position," he said, "is that I believe the clerk's salary is sufficient for him. I do not want fees which place me in the position of robbing the country. If I am elected the salary will be all the compensation which I will ask, and I will not attempt to take money which does not belong to me. If there is any doubt the doubt will be settled in favor of the county."

"The naturalization fees do not belong to the office and should be paid to the county as the law provides. I also favor fair and open proceedings of the Douglas County insanity board and am opposed to star-chamber sessions dealing with the liberty and property of helpless persons."

It Will Relieve Backache. Apply Sloan's Liniment to your back, pain gone almost instantly. Don't rub it penetrates. See All druggists.—Advertisement.

## NEW PRESIDENT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.



B. W. BESLEY.

B. W. Besley, manager of the Hydraulic Press Brick company, was elected president of the Omaha Manufacturers' association at a meeting of the newly elected board of directors of the association at the Commercial club at noon, W. L. Burgess was elected vice president; R. A. Leussler, treasurer, and Duane Arnold secretary.

## Fire Drives Boarders in Scant Attire Into Chilly Morning Air

Mrs. E. B. Marshall of 1730 Dodge street wrapped her 2-year-old infant in a blanket and rushed to the street at 5 a. m. Saturday when an alarm of fire aroused occupants of 1715-30-32 Dodge street. Mrs. Marshall did not take much time in selecting garments for her own protection. She aroused a neighbor, who admitted the shivering mother and child.

The fire was discovered by William Graham, son of Nettie H. Graham, who is proprietress of 1715 Dodge street. The alarm started soon after the morning fire was started. The loss was nominal. Thirty occupants appeared on the sidewalk, carrying personal effects.

Read The Bee Want Ads. It pays!

## MATCH RACE TODAY ON ICE SKATES AT CARTER LAKE

Skaters representing Hanscom park and Miller park districts will race at Carter lake Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The park department has cleared the sand and off a large area of the lake. The ice is in splendid condition for skating.

## EACH MEMBER TO GET ONE

Manufacturers' Association Has  
Unique Plan to Double Its  
Membership.

### AND TUESDAY AT ONE THE TIME

To double its membership in thirty minutes, that is the program of the Nebraska State Manufacturers' association. There are 47 members at the present time. It is characteristic of Commissioner Frank I. Ringer's energetic disposition to undertake a campaign, the object of which is to double that membership in a cyclone campaign that is to last just a half hour.

This stormy half hour is to arrive at 1:30 and close at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, January 11.

Oh, no, Mr. Ringer is not going to

solicit all the new members himself. He is going to have the old members do it. So every one of the 47 present members in all parts of the state are watching the clock and the calendar, for at 1:30 Tuesday he must run down the roll-top of his desk, whether he be in Hastings, Scott's Bluff, Lincoln, Fremont, Grand Island, Kearney or Omaha, and must stalk straight to the office of the nearest manufacturer who is not yet a member.

There he must put up such a talk as a book agent puts up in a parlor when he hopes to sell his book before that soap agent he passed down the street reaches the back door to sell his soap.

In short, every member is to get one more member on that day and during that particular half hour.

A "For Sale" or "For Rent" Ad placed in The Bee will accomplish its purpose.

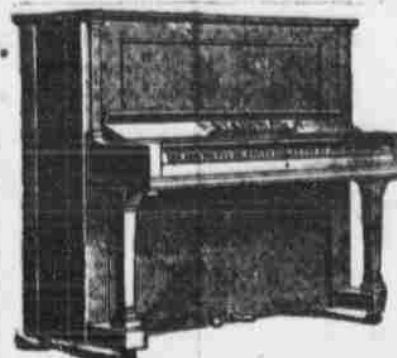
## Steinway Fame Has Encircled the World

Wherever love of music prevails in the palace of Old World Royalty, in the mansion of aristocracy, in the home of the true music lover everywhere—the

## Steinway

is known and preferred above all other Pianos.

Supremacy of tone and workmanship has achieved this international renown, and four generations have faithfully upheld the art ideal which produced the first Steinway.



When you buy a Steinway you buy the standard piano of the world. We invite you to inspect our display of Steinways. Beautiful Art finish Mahogany Grands . . . \$750 and up. Colonial Satin finish mahogany Uprights . . . \$500 and up.

Convenient terms arranged if desired.  
**Schmoller & Mueller Piano Co.**  
1311-13 Farnam Street -2- Omaha, Neb.  
The Steinway House of Nebraska and Western Iowa.

# Brandeis Stores

## BE SURE TO GET YOUR

# Polly Prim

SELF FEEDING

# POLISH MOP

## FREE THIS WEEK

**YOU don't need to go over your varnished floors with a dry mop after using a Polly Prim, as this latest, improved and up-to-date mop does not smear or streak. The self-feeding feature is the secret.**

The Polly Prim Mop may be replenished without soiling the hands, merely pour a little polish into the reservoir and it will be evenly distributed through each and every strand, giving perfect saturation.

You never saw another mop like the Polly Prim. No other mop has so many exclusive features. And this is the mop that you can get free this week with a purchase of a dollar can of Polly Prim Polish.

Remember, we stand back of and guarantee every word in this advertisement. Your money back without quibble or question if you are not completely satisfied.

### The Formula of a Scientist

**POLLY PRIM POLISH** is made under the world famous formula of Dubeck-Monhardt of Germany and is a scientific compound. It contains no gum, rosin, acid, alkali or other ingredient injurious to varnish or paint. It is a clear solution, without grit or solids and will not gum, become rancid or precipitate (settle). It will not soil clothing, curtains or rugs.

Polly Prim Polish is used with splendid results on everything from oil paintings to hand-painted floors—on pianos, good furniture, automobiles, carriages and the like—on any painted or varnished surface.

Polly Prim Polish imparts a tonic action to the varnish by entering the varnish pores and stimulating it, thus preventing "age dry," "crystallization," checking, cracking, scaling or chalking. It heals a cracked or checked varnished surface the same as a lotion does cuts on the skin.

Polly Prim Polish quickly and easily removes stains, dirt, dust and grime. Polly Prim Polish is employed in fine homes, hotels, art galleries, piano and furniture show rooms in America and Europe. It is scientific and modern, as far superior to ordinary furniture polish as an electric light is to a candle.

Full quart (32 oz.) \$1.00; 14 oz. 50c; 6 oz., 25c

### The New, Different, Better Mop

**THROW** away your old-style, heavy, thing, awkward mop. You cannot afford to continue to use it when you can get a light, strong, compact, mechanically correct Polly Prim Mop free with a \$1.00 full quart (32-oz.) can of Polly Prim Polish. There is no other mop like the Polly Prim. The all metal holding device is so small that you can get into every nook and corner of a room, under beds, bureaus, bookcases, stoves, radiators—anywhere you can put the human hand.

Polly Prim Mop is made of metal and handlessly nickel plated with enameled handle. It is strong and durable, for there are no wooden parts to break, and the mop strands cannot come out. It is easy to clean; simply remove the handle and throw mop into boiling water. You can hang this mop back of the door without soiling woodwork or wall.

Many thousands of Polly Prim Mops have been sold at the regular retail price of \$3.25 each. Every day, thousands of women willingly and cheerfully pay \$1.00 for a full quart can of Polly Prim Polish.

**This week you can get a Polly Prim Mop free with the purchase of \$1.00 can of Polly Prim Polish**

### Brandeis Stores

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS FOR

## OMAHA

DEPT. 2—Main Floor.

## MEN WHO SELL MOTOR CARS KNOW THE WORTH

## HYATT QUIET ROLLER BEARINGS

# FLORIDA

VIA

## ILLINOIS CENTRAL

Route of the Genuine Limited.  
**THE ALL STEEL TRAIN**

Consisting of Magnificent Sun Parlor Observation and Up-to-date Steel Pullman Cars.

### THE MOST DIRECT SERVICE TO THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST

Round trip reduced WINTER tourist tickets on schedule, limited to return June 1st, 1916.

Rates to Principal Points as follows:

Jacksonville	\$50.08	St. Louis	\$71.88
Orlando	57.08	Fort Worth	69.18
St. Petersburg	62.28	Miami	72.78
Daytona	57.38	Key West	83.78
Tempe	62.28	Fort Myers	67.38
Orange City	59.78		

Tickets to many other points at same proportional rates. Tickets via Washington, D. C., in one direction, returning via any direct line, at slightly higher rates.

For full particulars, descriptive literature and sleeping car reservations, call at City Ticket Office or write S. North, District Passenger Agent, 407 S. 16th St., Omaha. Phone Douglas 204.