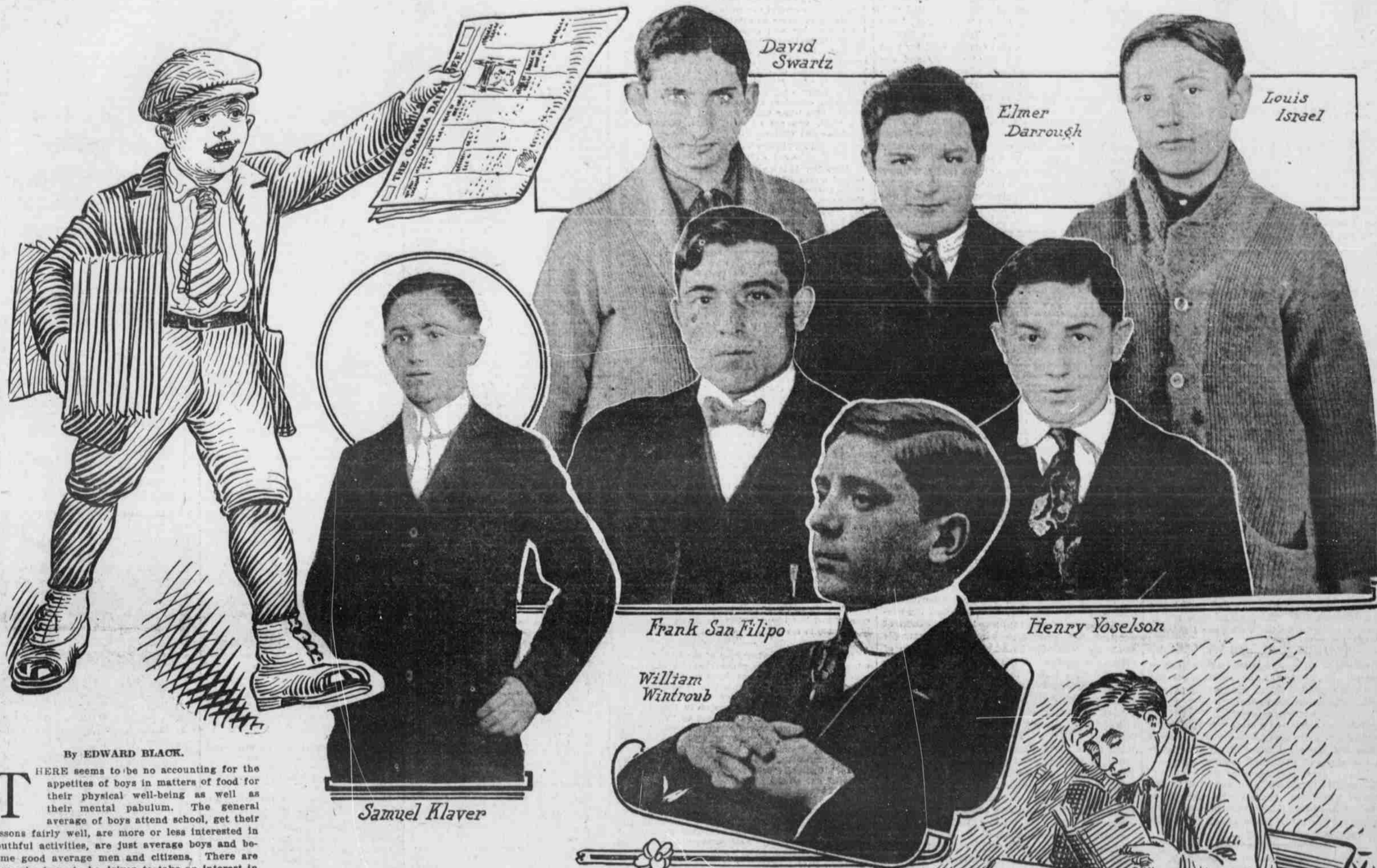


## Ambitious Lads Sure to Climb Higher

### Industry and Hard Work Still the Rungs of the Ladder to Success



By EDWARD BLACK.

HERE seems to be no accounting for the appetites of boys in matters of food for their physical well-being as well as their mental pabulum. The general average of boys attend school, get their lessons fairly well, are more or less interested in youthful activities, are just average boys and become good average men and citizens. There are boys who have to be driven to take an interest in their lessons. The school room bores them and getting lessons does not seem to be their lot. Some of this class become subjects for the juvenile court. Another class comprises boys who have an insatiable desire for learning, who will bend every effort to advance themselves, even against the greatest odds.

#### Public Schools the Open Sesame

The public school system in recent years has been elaborated to reach boys (as well as girls) who need extra attention, or whose conditions of life warrant special provisions. The new evening high school proved a success right from the start. The Fort School for Boys reaches a class of boys who do not respond to the ordinary methods of the grade schools. There are ungraded rooms in several of the elementary schools, some of the attendants being passed their majority. The High School of Commerce is another striking instance of specialization in public school work. Every opportunity and advantage is offered to the ambitious boy or girl to succeed.

The efforts being made by some boys and young men recently from Europe might be referred to as prodigious. Take, for example, five youths in the eighth B room at Kellom school. The names of these aspirants are Frank San Filippo, David Swartz, Elmer Darrough, Henry Yoselson and Louis Israel.

#### Fine Example of Self-Denial

Frank San Filippo furnishes an exceptional, though not altogether exclusive, instance of heroism and self-denial by a youth who has well-grounded ideas of what it means to become a desirable citizen of this country; of the value an education will be to him in after years, and how to succeed in the world without kith or kin in this country to help him. Frank is 22 years of age. He came to this country for the first time when he was 17½ years of age, locating in Omaha for no particular reason except that he had heard of the great west and its opportunities. Soon after he arrived here, he secured work with a Union Pacific bridge gang, then five months with a section gang at \$1.50 a day and for a year and a half worked in the Union station at Council Bluffs. During that time he saved \$500 and acquired some knowledge of the English language by studying after work hours. He went back to Italy to help his father provide a dowry of \$400 for one of the boy's sisters who was to be married. That was voluntary on Frank's part. He stayed four months in Italy and then resolved to return to Omaha and get an education. He returned to his work at the

Here is a Group of Omaha Boys Who Will Some Day Be Typical Self-Made Men. They Are Working Their Way Through School and Doubling Up on Their Lessons Night and Day in Order to Get the Education Which They Know to Be the Needful Foundation for Their Future Usefulness

Council Bluffs station and for three months worked in the Kirkendall shoe factory, saving enough money to enable him to start to school. He entered the ungraded room at Pacific school and later was transferred to Kellom school. Last May he found his money depleted, so he worked in a freight house for four months, returning to school in the fall. At the end of June, barring any misfortune, he will be ready to enter the High School of Commerce, with a total of two years of school in this country and only two years in Italy! Last fall he entered the Kellom night school, as the day school did not provide his ambition sufficient material for progress. He carries an evening paper route and every hour of the day, from early in the morning until late in the evening, is made to count for something worth while. He lives alone, cooks his own meals and is able to sustain himself on the earnings from his newspaper work.

#### Boy Who Knows the Constitution

August 2 of last year he faced a judge of the district court and answered such questions as were required to qualify him to be a citizen of the United States and the judge complimented him upon his excellent preparation for this examination. He knows the constitution of the United

States by heart and knows the meaning of the text and the most valued of his possessions is his citizenship certificate. He says he has no relatives in this country. At 9 years of age, in his native country, he began the seriousness of life by carrying rocks from uncultivated land. He received 10 cents a day for that service and one day, so he relates, while resting from the wearying work of carrying rocks, he vowed he would some day get an education. A few years later he bought a little volume which had translation of Italian words into English. Then he bought a map of the United States and in his childish way imagined himself far beyond the Atlantic, in that land known as the great west. Today he is beginning to realize the dream of his boyhood. He intends to go through the High School of Commerce.

#### How to Be Real Economical

Frank says he has lived on a loaf of bread a day at times, just to be economical. Ella Reed of the day school at Kellom and Principal Gepson of the night school take an interest in this youth whose fire of ambition keeps burning under circumstances which have discouraged others more favored.

In the same day school class with Frank are the four other boys mentioned. All attend the

same night school and all expect to graduate in June and enter the high school next fall. All have employment between day and evening school hours. Three have regular paper routes, one sells papers on the streets and another works from 4 to 5:30 in a box factory. There seems to be a community of interest among these boys and the teachers are doing all they can to help them succeed. Three are 16 years of age, one is 15, and Frank San Filippo is 22. Three are Jews, one German and one is Italian.

#### Here's the Determination That Wins

Samuel Klaver is another boy who believes that determination will win. He has just started a course at the High School of Commerce. Six years ago he came from Russia and at once began a business career by selling newspapers. He attended Cass school, where a year ago he was captain of the athletic team and proved himself a natural leader. During last school semester he went to the Kellom night school, which extra work enabled him to enter High School of Commerce at the beginning of this semester, rather than wait for the opening next September. The advancement of half a year in the struggle to enter high school means much to these boys who are fighting their ways to the front by dint of their own perseverance.

Willie Wintroub, one of the new entrants at Central High school, is another example of what a poor boy from Europe can do when he makes up

his mind. Sweeping aside difficulties which would stagger most boys, this lad faced the world unflinchingly, cheerfully; accepting conditions as he found them and having mounted the peaks which formerly seemed so far away, he has set his face toward still higher places. This boy does not have to be cajoled or scolded when it is time for him to arise in the morning. Four o'clock sees him out of bed and before most boys are awake he is selling his papers on West Farnam street. He is at Central High school before opening time. He has paid for his board at home ever since he was 11 years of age, has money in a bank and after completing his high school course, intends to go to an advanced institution. He attended Kellom night school last term.

#### Apt Pupils Please Teachers

These boys illustrate in a concrete way what the public school system is doing for boys who would otherwise be unable to realize their ambitions. Night and day school teachers take a kindly interest in these youngsters within whom the fires of ambition seem to have been kindled even before they crossed the great Atlantic.

From a pedagogical point of view there is considerable satisfaction in training such apt pupils. They give little or no trouble and usually are exemplars for the other children. Freed from their cramped conditions in Europe, they respond readily to the spirit of the west and are eager to take advantage of the free institutions provided for all who will become amenable.