

SCHOOLS OPEN TODAY

Nearly 50,000 Pupils Have Been Enrolled.

THE PROSPECTS GOOD

APPARATUS IN BUILDINGS FOR STERILIZING DRINKING WATER.

Congestion in McKinley Manual Training School Matter of Comment—The Central's Growth.

One hundred and forty school buildings were opened in the District of Columbia at 9 o'clock this morning to receive nearly fifty thousand pupils for the term of 1904-05.

"This is my busy day," said Superintendent Stuart in his office this morning, indicating that he considered it no easy task to set the vast educational machine in motion so smoothly.

The opening this fall is under favorable conditions in most respects, as foretold in The Star, and the prospects are bright for a good year.

A little overcrowding in the high schools and in the graded schools of Georgetown and the trouble of introducing apparatus for typhoid fever prevention are the only clouds on the horizon.

But the cloud of overcrowding that a pupil was turned away today, nor will any be who answer the requirements of the board of education.

"We may not always be able to let a child go to the graded school he or she prefers," said the superintendent good-naturedly, "but we always send each one who applies to some school."

As for the youngsters who started to school this morning, they are both happy and sorrowful—happy to be among their comrades and teachers, and sad because the care-free days of vacation are over for another nine months.

In the High Schools things are starting with a good deal of animation. Plans are under way for a splendid cadet regiment this year, foot drills are being worked over, and new courses of study arranged under the revised system which is being inaugurated this fall.

"What's your name, teacher; who's your teacher?"

"Fourth, Miss ... teacher; who's your teacher?"

"Oh, I've got Miss ... and she's all right, too."

And so the topic uppermost in the minds of the boys or girls in the District is school, with the boys or girls in the District must devote the best part of their time to it for a long time for an endless time to them.

Sterilizing the Drinking Water.

The emergency fund granted the school board for some in installing the Potomac water for drinking purposes in the public schools is being used to the best possible advantage, but it is recognized that its benefits can only reach so far and no further.

Every school building has been equipped with filters holding ten gallons each—three or four a building—connected with a two-burner gas stove.

All this was done Saturday. The purchasing of these articles was not without its difficulties.

It is not hard to see under what difficulties the school board has had to operate in this connection. It takes from two to three hours to fill ten gallons of water on three times as long for a building to get the water as there is no fee.

Under the circumstances it will be impossible to supply the children with all the normal quantity of water that is needed.

Parents of the school children are urged to tell the teachers in this matter and help their children to get the water of the pure sort.

The school board has not yet been able to ascertain whether the water can be made normal. They believe it. The bull has been taken by the horns in the providing of the stoves and filters. It is believed that precautions will be taken as soon as possible.

Medical Inspections.

The schools will enter this fall upon the second year of the school medical inspection. The success of this work last year has, it is believed, insured its permanence in the local schools.

The number of cases of communicable diseases was materially decreased last year in accordance to the system, according to the greatest accuracy. The work is carried on along lines laid down by the health department and is supervised by the Commissioners and the board of education.

Some minor changes, the results of a year's experience, have been made this fall.

Superintendent Stuart is quite proud of the fact which he made known last spring, that all the children of the District had passed the strict physical examination required to be taken before entering the District schools.

He thinks, speaks well for the local schools, as far as physical training goes, for the girls had nearly all been through twelve years of it in preparation for the coming year.

The congestion in Georgetown, previously reported, is not regarded as serious. A new school building was under way some time ago in order that this condition might be relieved, and it will be made a part of the board's recommendations this year.

It is some of the school buildings, the creek are now on half time who would otherwise go all day.

The two new school buildings, the Gage and the Ludlow, will not be ready for occupancy for two weeks, owing to a delay in the furnishings, but the pupils destined to occupy them will be accommodated for on half time in nearby buildings.

Training School Lacks Room.

The congestion in the McKinley Manual Training School, 7th and Rhode Island avenue, is worse than ever this year. There was a very large growth last year and now there is a growth of nearly a hundred pupils, making the total number so great that all cannot be accommodated in the building.

Last year some were housed in the central, but now this school is also increased in numbers and the McKinley overflow has had to occupy quarters in the Henry, a graded school, several squares from the McKinley building.

The superintendent of schools made an appeal for sanitary quarters for the McKinley, not only because there is no room for them, but because he believed that it is some of the school buildings, the creek are now on half time who would otherwise go all day.

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A POSSIBLE REDUCTION

PLIGHT OF THE POST OFFICE AT THE CITY OF NOME, ALASKA.

Elevated to Second Class, but New Conditions Are Not Found to Be Altogether Advantageous.

Far-away Nome in Alaska is in fear of a possible post office in grade, and the enterprise of Postmaster Frank W. Swanton, whose pride in the town and whose energetic qualities helped build up a great postal trade, seem destined to be set at naught.

Until July 1 last the Nome office thrived tranquilly under the title of a post office of the third class. There was a lot of mail handled by the force at the command of Postmaster Swanton and the sales of stamps and receipts from letter box rentals rapidly brought the office dangerously near the second class.

Postmaster Swanton did not regard this fact as dangerous at the time, but he was a fascinating individual and the coming greatness of Nome when that frozen city should be the only office of the second class within the borders of Alaska was a matter of course.

In fact, the postmaster worked hard to achieve this result, so hard, in fact, that he met with success, having a report which said that the office had been elevated to something more than \$8,000 during the year, and was, therefore, entitled to the distinction of being elevated to the second class.

The post office authorities looked into the matter and elevated it accordingly, and the postmaster's ambition and at the same time giving her, all unknowingly, a decided setback.

Third-class post offices are allowed \$10.0 a year for the northern domain, but at \$1,000 a year for the "separation of the mails." In other words, clerk hire.

Postmaster Swanton, however, was not satisfied with the distribution of his vouchers for the restricted to the number of clerks he may hire to do the work. All required by the law is that the postmaster furnish a bulletin for the proper performance of his duties and that he do them.

Individual claims are being forwarded as much as possible, and the friends of each are endeavoring to support the measure by forcing a ballot at the convention, but at the same time there is considerable talk among the conservatives of securing such a result.

The rest of the ticket depends so much upon the selection of the candidate for government that it is possible to vote for the probable candidates for the minor places.

Take on Convention Aspect.

The hotel corridors today for the first time began to take on a rural anti-convention aspect. Each train during the morning increased the crowd gathered in advance of the democratic state convention, which will be held on the morning of the 20th.

The weather is cloudy and cool today, with indications of rain.

Parker and Davis signs, portraits and banners are widely distributed throughout the village, and the hotels are generally decorated with flags and bunting.

After luncheon at 12 o'clock, the party will be divided into groups and visited to a number of points of interest, including the various electrical and power stations, the navy yard, the government printing office, Mount Vernon, the various schools, the city hall, the government monument and bureau of engraving and printing.

At 6 o'clock the visitors will be entertained at supper at the New Willard and at 8 o'clock their special train leaves for Philadelphia, the latter city being reached at 10 o'clock.

The afternoon will be under the care and guidance of local members of the electrical institute.

The hosts have prepared a handbook for the visitors, telling of the various points of interest in the capital, and the following local institutions: "The National Bureau of Standards," "The National Bureau of Investigation," "The National Bureau of the Development of the Conduit System of Street Railroads," "The Washington Railway and Electric Company," "The Potomac Electric Power Company," "The Capital Traction Company," "The Telephone Plant of Washington," "Electricity in the District of Columbia," "The Government Testing Tank for Ship Models at the Washington Navy Yard," "Electricity in the Government Printing Office," "The Electrical Department, District of Columbia."

CARAVAN OF DUMB ACTORS.

Gentry Brothers' Shows Open at 14th and W Streets.

There will be no rest for the children this week. One will inquire of the mother, "What is the matter with you?" and the other will answer "No." This is the beginning of the end, and the fond parents will be pained with not in vain. Whenever the Gentry Brothers' shows come to town, with their trained monkeys, dogs, camels and baby elephants, everything in miniature, as it were, there is a great following of the crowd, which follows in the wake of the parade this morning the attendance will be exceptional.

The parade came down 14th street to K street, thence to Washington Circle, down Pennsylvania avenue to 1st street, to Massachusetts avenue, to 7th street, to U street and back to the grounds.

It seemed to be a parade in miniature with the tiny ponies, almost too small to be driven, and the tiny dogs, white and black dogs, and others were content to pull cages containing all sorts and conditions of monkeys.

The parade was followed in the wake of the Gentry Brothers' fire department, about the size that should be used for toy house configurations.

It was estimated that more than 200 ponies were included in the parade, which had for its rear guard half a dozen small ponies, which started toward the front, however, and played good music, which kept the ponies on their mettle.

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SELECTION OF CANDIDATES BY NEW YORK DEMOCRATS

SARATOGA CONVENTION

COLLATERAL MATTERS HELD AWAITING FINAL OUTCOME.

David B. Hill the Central Figure at All Events—Proves Himself a Good Listener.

SARATOGA, N. Y., September 19.—Whether the democratic state convention, which opens here at noon tomorrow, is to be an "open convention," or whether the selection of the state ticket will be made in conferences to be held tonight by the leaders representing the various interests in the state, as yet an undecided question.

Upon the latter measure depends the subordinate questions of the duration of the convention and the general atmosphere which shall surround it.

Many of those gathered here this afternoon went so far as to say that the ticket itself, to a considerable extent, depends upon whether the various candidates are actually before the convention, through agreement beforehand, only one name is presented for consideration by the delegates.

This afternoon practically all the candidates are holding off, awaiting a decision of the convention.

David B. Hill is the central figure in the anti-convention situation from the time he arrived. He devoted most of his time to the "open convention" question.

Individual claims are being forwarded as much as possible, and the friends of each are endeavoring to support the measure by forcing a ballot at the convention, but at the same time there is considerable talk among the conservatives of securing such a result.

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THREATENED SUICIDE.

James E. Fiedler Draws Revolver, but is Prevented From Using It.

James Edmund Fiedler, thirty years old, assistant superintendent of the Baltimore office of the Prudential Insurance Company, was named as defendant in the Police Court today in a case involving a charge of carrying a dangerous weapon.

The case arose from a quarrel which occurred at the home of the pastor of the Union Methodist Church Saturday night, when Fiedler denied this privilege, he drew his revolver from his pocket and made an effort to take the life of the pastor.

Pastor Murray grabbed him, and the young man regained his self-control, and the pastor returned to his home.

After reaching the police station the young man regained his self-control, and the pastor returned to his home.

The minister had taken the weapon from him. The Rev. Reese Murray was pastor of the church.

He called upon her at irregular intervals and many letters were exchanged.

"We often met clandestinely," Fiedler said, "the last time I saw her in this way being in the 140 letter of the Corcoran Art Galleries, at his home in the city of New York. She answered all of mine except one I wrote her last week. Instead of hearing from her, I received a letter from her father, informing me of her death."

There are about one hundred of the machines in operation, and many are to be purchased and distributed whenever the demands of the service call for them. It is expected that the bicycle will be used for the delivery of mail, and the distance they cover in figures available at any time.

It is accurate, because it records the actual distance traveled by the vehicle to which it is attached, and not the length of the road.

The bicycle is attached to a pair of iron rods of the nature of shafts, which are made to fit over the axle, the other ends being fastened to the middle of the axle of the vehicle carrying the mails. In this way the bicycle revolves and the cyclistometer records the distance.

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EXPERT IN ELECTRICITY

ENGINEERS OF WORLD-RENOWN TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Will Be Entertained Tomorrow by Local Branch of American Institute of Electrical Engineers.—Itinerary for the Day.

Electrical engineers of renown from all parts of Europe and of the United States will visit Washington tomorrow and be entertained by the Washington branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The visitors are on a tour of the country, after having attended the international electrical congress in St. Louis, the session of which closed September 12.

The party will leave Pittsburgh this evening and will reach the capital city tomorrow morning at 7:30 o'clock in a special train over the Pennsylvania railroad.

Mr. Philander Betts, secretary of the local reception committee, has gone to the smoky city to meet the engineers and act as their escort to Washington.

The party will meet the train tomorrow morning and take the visitors in charge. General George H. Harries, vice president of the Washington branch, and Electric Company, chairman of the reception committee, and the members, in addition to Secretary Betts, are:

Major John Biddle, U. S. A.; George T. Dunlop, R. A. Fessenden, Bernard R. Green, Willis L. Moore, H. W. Fuller, Charles W. Johnson, J. H. Johnson, J. H. Reber, U. S. A.; E. B. Ross, L. E. Sinclair, S. W. Stratton, O. H. Tittman, J. D. Walden, F. W. Wolf.

Finance chairman—Frank H. Bethell, chairman, D. S. Carr, Proctor L. Dougherty, H. H. Seabrook, E. E. Clement, Harold Lockwood, John P. Judge and Walter C. Allen.

Publication committee—Geo. H. Harries, chairman, Philander Betts and Frank H. Bethell.

Entertaining the Visitors.

Breakfast will be served at the New Willard at 8 o'clock, after which the party will take trolleys to the bureau of standards, where an hour will be spent.

The itinerary then includes a visit to the Capitol and the Congressional Library, where luncheon will be served at 1 o'clock.

After luncheon at 1 o'clock, the party will be divided into groups and visited to a number of points of interest, including the various electrical and power stations, the navy yard, the government printing office, Mount Vernon, the various schools, the city hall, the government monument and bureau of engraving and printing.

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