A GREAT WANT FILLED

BY THE ONLY McNICHOL.

Vice presidents are scarce enough
With us now it appears,
We've not had such a dearth of "graft"
In many, many years.
Good men and true are awful few,
If we believe report;
But still old glory even now
Will wave above the fort!

Good men are not to go to waste,
But bring their full reward,
But there's one thing in frantic haste,
Folks search for in this hard,
Vice presidents you may replace,
The harvest reap with sickles;
So many may be in the chase—
But there's but ONE McNICHOLS!

No better man breathes there today—
His work speaks for its own;
He gives no bonus for weekly pay,
He builds for love a throne.
Five years, morn till late at night
We seek this busy man;
Who tackles wrong and makes it right
With his installment plan.

Life is a serious thing with us,
Whom fortune still deserts;
We may not make a row or fuss,
But a HOMELESS state—it hurts!
McNichol feels this fearful need,
This craving want to fill;
He proves himself a friend indeed—
You'll never dread its bills.

There is some comfort for those who cannot go to the Klondike—Their gold mine is HERE. Make a home while you can for little money. Interview (Trademark.) THE ONLY McNICHOL, 1035-1037-1039 Market st., St. Louis, Mo.

P. S.—Great men are scarce. Generous men, who want to give you anything, are few. Hold on to the man who makes you a home! And gives you time to pay for it. MAKES YOUR CHANCE. Furniture, Carpets, Curtains, Clocks, Lamps, Pictures, Dishes, Parlor and Bedroom effects; Office, Library and Hall Goods; Baby Cribs and Carriages, Go-Carts; Brass, Iron and Folding Beds, Bedding; Coal, Gas and Oil Stoves, Ranges, Refrigerators; the Ice-Box of the country; Kitchen and Laundry Ware, New Granite. Everything needed.
CASH OR CREDIT. LOW EASY TERMS.
THE ONLY McNICHOL,
ALWAYS READY.

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ROYAL BLUE TRAINS.

WASHINGTON,
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Liberal Stop-Overs on Through Tickets.

STEAMSHIPS.

PARIS EXPOSITION.
Best Ships—Cheapest Prices—Popular Routes.
Mrs. M. D. Frazar, who has for many years managed and conducted parties abroad, offers the most attractive trips for the season to the Exposition and through Europe. The Frazar tours are noted all over the country for excellence of management.
Parties now available for June are those sailing the 26th, 21st and 23d. Four parties for July. Four for August.
If you wish to see Europe in the best and cheapest possible way, send for itineraries and references to MRS. M. D. FRAZAR,
72 Globe Bldg., Boston, Mass.

ANCHOR LINE
Steamships from New York Weekly for Glasgow via Londonderry.
Saloon Passage, $50 and upwards.
To Paris and return, first-class, $65 and upwards.
Second Cabin, $30 to $37.50.
Steerage, $23.50 to $25.50.
For Book of Tours and further information, Apply to HENDERSON BROTHERS, New York, or Jas. F. Healy & Co., 103 Pine st., or M. Jacobs, 521 Pine st., or Wasserman & Co., 103 Broadway, or Travelers' Ticket Office Co., Broadway and Chestnut st., St. Louis.

The way Barr's are selling dry goods now makes it worth walking downtown to buy them. All our summer goods have had the prices temptingly re-marked. None but the brave deserve the bargains in such crises as these.

WIFE SECURED A PARDON.

Charges Against Doctor Smith of Kirksville Dismissed.

Chicago, Ill., May 19.—Mrs. William Smith of Kirksville, Mo., who came to Chicago to secure the dismissal of grave-robbing charges against her husband of eight months so that the two might travel outside of Missouri without fear that he would be arrested has won her point and left last night for Kirksville a happy woman.

The last straw that turned the scale in Mrs. Smith's favor was a letter that came to Superintendent of Public Service Daniel D. Healy from Doctor Smith himself. The letter contained the statement:

"The matter has already driven my already overwrought brain off its balance. For five weary months we have existed—only existed—and now that it appears as though, through your kindness, there may be release and prosperity in view, it seems too good to be true."

Mr. Healy saw State's Attorney Deneen, and the latter agreed to strike the cases against Doctor Smith off the call, with leave to reinstate.

Before her departure Mrs. Smith said she and her husband might visit Chicago soon, and this would be his first trip out of Kirksville since a reward was offered for his arrest, soon after the robbery of several graves at Dunning in October, 1897.

The Governor of Missouri refused to honor a requisition for Smith, but Smith was afraid Governors in other States might not take the same view of his case and felt constrained to stay in Missouri.

Read the announcement of the Hotel Empire, New York City, on page opposite editorial of this paper.

SPECIALTIES.

6,500,000
CAPITAL and SURPLUS.
Mississippi Valley Trust Co.

THAT'S IT.
The high-grade, fair price BAKING POWDER.
JACK FROST
A full pound can, 25 cents.
Your grocer recommends JACK FROST.

DEATHS.

MACMILLEN—At his residence, No. 4158 Olive street, May 17, 1900, Colonel Wm. Macmillen, aged 72 years.
Funeral Sunday at 2:30 p. m.
Chicago, Ill.; Grand Rapids, Mich., and Phelps, N. Y., papers please copy.

OBER—On Saturday, May 19, 1900, Robert H. Ober, aged 67 years.
Funeral services at residence, No. 2436 Laclede avenue, Monday, May 21, at 9 a. m. Interment private.
Baltimore papers please copy.

For Other Death Notices See Page Two, Part One.

THE GOODNESS AND BADNESS OF MAN.

"Woman Sets the Pace in Morals."

BY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.
REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, May 19.—Some time ago I uttered the assertion that "every man is safe or unsafe as a woman chooses to make him."

The statement has brought me an avalanche of letters, reproving and disapproving, criticising and commending. The majority are written by women who take exceptions to my assertion. One writer says:

"Would you mind being more explicit in your next article? You must be aware that constantly, sweet, high-minded young girls and women are insulted by the men whom they unsuspectingly trust themselves with. I know many women not yet twenty-one years of age who are completely disillusioned in regard to men being gentlemen. It is unjust to your sex to say we are to blame. I do wish, Mrs. Wilcox, that you would refute the stereotyped old expression and the old belief on the part of men and some women that a man's conduct is what a woman makes it when in her company. It is a fallacy."

Another woman writes me that I would change my ideas were I to be a "pretty widow" for a few years.

This reminds me of Oliver Herford's bright epigram—"A little widow is a dangerous thing."

Men love danger.

Meantime, I must adhere to my statement. But I will particularize. The ignorant young girl, reared with the idea that men are spiritual beings by nature and education, is liable to be shocked into worldly wisdom if she associates freely with the opposite sex. If she is properly instructed by her parents she can avoid many of these disillusioning experiences.

Knowledge is power and protection, and it is in no sense incompatible with innocence.

Man is a strange being. He is in some things more complex than woman. He is aggressive; he is immoral in action; he is often selfish, and, withal, he has a paradoxical love of the goodness he seeks to molest.

In his secret heart—so secret he does not always know it is there—every man hides a hope that the woman he unlawfully pursues will be strong enough to resist him. While he is using his most persuasive arguments to overthrow her scruples, he is wishing she might prove to him that she is invulnerable. When she does prove so, like the strange, inconsistent being he is, he goes away and leaves "virtue to be its own reward."

But always the fact remains that he is looking for the ideal who can resist him, and that he always respects her (and usually leaves her) after he finds her.

But there is one satisfaction in the experience to the woman who has been left in wisdom and solitude—that is the knowledge that the one kiss a man remembers all his life is the kiss he did not get.

Woman is not as angelic always as she thinks herself. It would be better for her and for the world if she were taught from the beginning that she is half human. Let her believe that the divine rules, but let her know that she, as well as man, has the human side to her, which needs to be guided and guarded.

Man knows she has, and he knows that her education in these matters is a sham and a deceit. He likes to introduce a woman to her earthly self, and he is often brutal in his methods. It is then he offends and falls.

Once let a man realize that a woman understands all about herself, and that she is discreet and prudent because she wants to be so, not because she knows no better, and he will accept the situation with grace.

A man possesses an overwhelming desire to impart instruction to the ignorant.

Woman is taught to hide, conceal and lie about her natural and God-given impulses and emotions, and man knows it. He knows, too, that curiosity is the vulnerable point in her armor.

Woman so often wonders what a man will do next, that she frequently finds out to her sorrow.

If she had not wondered, she need not have sorrowed.

Woman is not responsible for man's feelings or words. But she can control his conducts, when he is sober; not his attempt at conduct, but his behavior.

A man may kiss a woman's hand or even her cheek, once, against her will, but he does not continue his trespasses without cooperation.

This statement refers to civilized men—not to the savage brute.

The schoolgirl told teasing Tommy loudly to "let her alone." After Tommy desisted from his teasing, she cried: "Stop letting me alone!" There are a great number of these grown-up schoolgirls in society today, married and single.

Woman sets the pace for man in morals.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK AMONG FRATERNAL ORDERS.

STRIKE STILL MAKES ATTENDANCE SMALL.

Knights of the Maccabees Make Progress — Entertainment by Ivanhoe Tent.

To celebrate its rapid increase in membership during the past year Ivanhoe Tent, No. 18, Knights of the Maccabees, gave an entertainment of rare merit at its last review, following the routine business, during which four applications were received and candidates reported on. The entertainment was graced by the presence of a large delegation of the ladies of Ora Hive. The programme included graphophone selections by Sir Knight Sipmann, Ivanhoe Mandolin Club, a sketch by Sir Knight Bestman, song by Sir Knight Goldstein of Liberty Tent, legerdemain by Sir Knight Grapner and other numbers. Refreshments and cigars followed.

Attendance at the last review of Capen Tent, No. 102, was, under circumstances, most commendable. Past Commander Sommers presided, with Sir Knight Dobbin acting recorkkeeper and Major Pruch as sergeant. Capen's general fund, under the management of its financial officers, Sir Knights Utley and Brown, has reached over $900.

At its own expense, Emmett Tent, No. 136, secured the attendance at its review on Tuesday evening of last week of fourteen out of the promised score of candidates, and put them through under the auspices of the Great Camp Degree team. Among the visitors was Deputy Great Commander Carter of Indiana. Emmett Tent has secured a set of officers' jewels for its work during May, and has in pain sight a set of members' badges for work during June.

St. Louis and Springfield divisions of the Uniform Rank made a good showing in the Dewey parade. The Springfield contingent was the guest of the local members of the Uniform Rank and were banqueted by the latter after the parade. The guests were enthusiastic in their expressions of appreciation and promise to look for an opportunity to demonstrate it practically. The Maccabee Drum Corps, now being organized, it is said will be attached to Division No. 1.

California Tent, No. 111, at California, Mo., has received a new $75 paraphernalia and will use it in conducting an initiation for Ocean Tent on May 30. At its review on May 7 the California tent initiated five candidates and received seven applications.

Sir Knight Doctor R. W. Carter of Ivanhoe Tent, surgeon general of the Uniform Rank, is in St. Louis and will remain a few weeks visiting friends.

Sir Knight Flathy of United Tent, who was shot in the back during the present strike trouble in a disturbance on Easton avenue, is reported out of danger.

A dispatch received this week announced the death on May 18 of Sir Knight Z. Goodman of United Tent, who recently went to Texas in search of health. He carried insurance of $2,000. He was one of the oldest members of the order in St. Louis, past commander of United Tent, and a charter member of the old St. Louis Camp, as well as an active worker in the organization of the new St. Louis Camp, being nearly all the time a representative from his tent to the camp. His body will be brought to St. Louis and buried from his son's residence on Evans avenue, probably Sunday (to-day). See regular announcement elsewhere. All Sir Knights are urged to turn out and show their respect for his memory.

Deputy Grand Commander McAlister departed for Kansas City on Thursday of last week in the interest of the order at that place.

From May 1 to May 14 the Supreme Tent issued over 2,000 beneficiary certificates.

Sir Knight Mettler of Brookfield was a visitor at Great Camp headquarters last week, accompanied by Mrs. Mettler, Deputy Supreme Commander L. O. T. M., and Sir Knight Turner of Brookfield.

Deputy Great Commander Ritchey of Sedalia visited Ocean week before last and secured fifteen applications for the tent at that place.

Sir Knight Erhardt of Sarcoxie has twenty names on the list for a tent to be started at Neosho.

Sir Knight Auzat of Crystal City was a visitor at great camp headquarters this week en route to the Paris Exposition, where he will spend some months.

Imperial Tent held a rousing review on Thursday evening of last week, having one initiation and six candidates in the Red Robe. Committee made a fine report of assistance rendered. St. Louis Camp attended in a body, and formally presented Commander Beal the camp membership broom. Sir Knight McCorkell, chairman of the Camp Entertainment Committee, presided at an excellent programme. The Gordon Minstrels gave some comic songs. Sir Knight Bodson of St. Louis Tent gave some of his original comic sketches. Sir Knight Supreme Deputy Doctor R. W. Carter, who is also Surgeon General of the Uniform rank, formerly of St. Louis, but now of Chicago, gave the sir knights a rousing talk on fraternalism. During the last five years he has visited 982 tents, and added nearly a thousand members by his individual work. Sir Knights Sommers, Sodler, Maddox and Hatfield also spoke under the wood of the order. Union Tent attended this review in a body, and a large delegation from Kirkwood Tent was present. At the close of the review Sir Knights Gaskill and Apperson of Imperial Tent had a boxing match of three four-minute rounds, which Referee Kinnendorfer declared a draw.

Missouri Tent had a pleasant review last Wednesday evening. Several applications were acted upon and Investigating committees were appointed, after which the review adjourned. Sir Knights Bender and Zeug then took charge and entertained the members.

Apollo Tent, No. 128, will hold its regular review on Thursday evening of this week. Several initiations will be in order, and a matter of special interest will be a further report on the proposed perambulating review on June 28.

Knights of Pythias.

The committee having in charge the memorial service contemplated a postponement of the meeting owing to the street railroad strike, but, trusting that the same would not interfere with the enthusiasm of the members, has concluded to hold the ceremonies. C. P. Walbridge will be the orator of the occasion, assisted by the Reverend W. W. Boyd, and the services will be held in the church at the corner of Beaumont and Locust streets.

On May 12 the grand keeper of records and seal instituted a new lodge, forty-two by initiation and eight by card. Great enthusiasm was exhibited by the members, and the lodge promises to grow very materially in a short time.

The grand keeper of records and seal on Friday last instituted a lodge at Oronoro, Jasper County. This makes the seventh lodge in that county. A large gathering of the members of the order from lodges in the county was present at the institution. The charter list asking for the petition was signed by sixty of the best citizens of that thriving town.

Red Cross Lodge, No. 56, conferred the rank of Esquire on four pages at its last convention, a goodly number of members and visitors being present. The recently created esquires have promised to be on hand Wednesday evening, May 23, on which occasion they are to be made full-fledged knights. Company No. 4 of the Uniform Rank has agreed to visit the lodge on that evening and to participate in the work as well as give an exhibition.

Wabash Lodge, No. 248, had lots of work at the last convention. Five pages were promoted to the rank of esquire. The street railway strike did not have any effect as to the attendance. Many knights from sister lodges were present, and all enjoyed the work. The old stand-bys are falling into line again. Third rank will be conferred May 21.

Knights and Ladies of Honor.

On account of the street car strike the official visitation of Grand Protector John H. Gideon and staff on Monday evening, May 14, to Hamilton Lodge, No. 1995, and on Thursday evening to Clover Leaf Lodge, No. 1882, have been postponed until further notice.

The last weekly circular, No. 46, of the grand secretary, Brother Cochran, had the names of sixty applicants for membership in the various lodges in this city distributed as follows: Eos, Golden Crown, Lily, Emanuel, Gethel, Monogram, Chosen and Humboldt, one each; Iron, Camondelet, Cherokee, Sylvan, Fidelity and St. Louis, two each; Eureka and Rising Sun, three each; St. Agnes and Columbia, four each; Victoria, Anchor and Sunset, six each; Seymour, nine.

Golden Crown Lodge, No. 23, on last Tuesday evening at its hall, Barton and Ninth streets, celebrated the eighteenth anniversary of the institution of the lodge. The hall was specially decorated for the occasion, with the national colors and natural flowers. The hall was filled with enthusiastic members and invited guests. Among those who contributed toward the evening's entertainment were vice grand protector Sister Johanna Feldmann, Brother and sister Duenshier, Brothers Gerber and Sharp and Brother Charles A. Brennicke, the old-time secretary of Victoria Lodge, No. 32. During the evening the reports of the various lodge officers were read, showing the lodge in a good condition both in membership and finances. The Frank Brothers Mandolin and Guitar Club furnished music for the occasion. After the close of the regular programme all present were served to a feast in the dining hall, where refreshments were served.

Victoria Lodge, No. 32, at its last meeting, on Tuesday evening, initiated six candidates and conducted three other work roads into the side hearth of mutual protection. Fourteen candidates are still on the list for initiation. During the evening six applications were presented and referred to appropriate committees. Victoria has now a sure "cinch" on the banner, having left all competitors far in the rear. The secretary, Brother Brennicke, says: "We will have 30 members July 1 to be sure."

Protection Lodge, No. 19, the home of Grand Secretary Brother Cochran and Grand Guide Sister Grimes, will have an interesting meeting next Thursday evening at its hall in the Pythian building, Eleventh street and Franklin avenue. Several candidates are on the list for initiation, after which several members will spring surprises which they have up their sleeves. If the street car strike is settled by that time there is no doubt but a large gathering of members will be on hand.

Owing to the street car strike the attendance at the various lodges has been away below the average, in fact, in several of the lodges no quorum materialized, hence the applications which have been filed with the grand secretary during the week will show a falling off from previous issues.

Order of Chosen Friends.

The situation of the street car strike makes it somewhat doubtful as yet whether the anniversary celebration can be given at Suburban Park on June 2. The members of the order and public will, however, be duly advised of whatever action will be taken in the premises by the Arrangement Committee.

The members of Pioneer Council will give an excursion and basket picnic on the 1st of July to Union, Mo., at a very cheap rate for the round trip.

It takes more than a street car strike to suppress the energy of Montefiore Council. Its meeting last Monday was well attended by its own members and by a number of visitors from South St. Louis and from the vicinity of the water tower, all of them walking to the meeting. The collections for the evening were as much as that of any in the history of the council.

Liberty Council, on the South Side, is determined to have its initiations if special conveyances have to be employed to bring the candidates there.

Isabella Council also had a well attended meeting last Tuesday night, with members walking there from a long distance.

A number of entertainments that have been projected in local councils have been suspended for the present.

The Grand Council office during the strike is now opened only during the noon hour, so as to give the attending officers an opportunity to get home in the evening.

Legion of Honor.

Excelsior Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday evening last, elected one applicant to membership and initiated one candidate.

The official visit of Arling Council, which was postponed last week, will take place on Tuesday evening, May 29. An elaborate entertainment and banquet has been provided.

Empire Council met on Saturday evening last with a very small attendance. Two applications for membership were received.

Benton Council, No. 22, of Kansas City, received six applications at the last meeting, several applications were elected and two candidates were initiated.

Lafayette Council will entertain Supreme Chancellor Carlisle and the officers and members of the Supreme Council on Monday evening, May 28, provided the street car strike is over by that date.

Councils meeting this week are: Monday, St. Louis and Lafayette; Tuesday, Alpha, Irving and Franklin; Wednesday, Iris; Thursday, Unity; Friday, Carondelet, Hyde Park, Sedalia and Buena Vista; Saturday, Empire and Bonaparte.

Hyde Park Council will entertain the supreme officers and members of Iris, Stella and Ivanhoe councils on next Friday evening, May 25.

The Executive Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday last with a full attendance. Considerable routine business was transacted and several death losses were approved and ordered paid.

Ancient Order United Workmen.

Farmers' Lodge, No. 94, had a well-attended meeting on Monday, at which two applications were received. A good, lively speaking contest was indulged in, the members telling of their past week's walking experience.

Phoenix Lodge had a very good attendance at its meeting last Thursday night, and initiated one candidate.

Mechanics' Lodge had an unusually large meeting Thursday night, considering that the street cars are not running, and all present enjoyed an interesting meeting, the feature of the evening being the regular monthly drawing for assessments.

On Monday night the grand master workman met with Capital City Lodge, No. 67, at Jefferson City, Mo., to conduct the initiatory ceremonies of fourteen candidates. The attendance was large and enthusiastic, and the occasion one of exceptional enjoyment to the members. This lodge is very active and enterprising, and promised to assist in winning a prize of $100 from the Supreme Lodge during the year to come.

On Tuesday night a meeting of more than usual interest was held by Moreau Lodge, No. 68, at California, Mo. Six candidates were initiated, and the members, being well up in the work, were careful to give them the full amplified form, considerably amplified with interesting side degrees. The attendance was large and the meeting very enthusiastic. The master workman, officers and members of the lodge are working hard, and building up their lodge rapidly. The grand master workman was present and participated in the proceedings.

On Saturday night the grand master workman, with the cooperation of Deputy Grand Master Workman Erbe and visiting brethren, instituted a new lodge at Mineral Point. The new lodge starts off with enthusiasm, and promises to build up rapidly.

Deputy Grand Master Workman Fiery will institute a new lodge in a few days at Inatha, Mo., also a new lodge in a few days at Inatha, Mo., where he is receiving much encouragement, and the prospects are for an enterprising lodge.

On next Monday night the grand master workman will meet with Fruitland Lodge at Fruitland, Mo., at which there is to be a class initiation.

Owing to the street car strike the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the A. O. U. W., which was to have been held on May 12 at Concordia Park, has been postponed, the date of which will be announced later.

Central, Mizpah, Anvil and Hickory lodges report names of applicants for publication on the next weekly circular.

Degree of Honor, A. O. U. W.

Acorn Lodge had a large meeting on last Monday evening, at which twenty-one applicants were elected to membership and nine initiated. A general good time was had under the guard of the order, and musical selections were rendered by Miss Ida Beiers, songs were sung by Sisters Sadler and Kane, recitation by Brother Kane and address by Henry W. Meyer, Grand recorder.

Farmers' Lodge, No. 28, has postponed the open meeting which was to have taken place on Monday evening, on account of the prevailing walking condition now existing in St. Louis.

Royal Arcanum.

Grand Regent L. J. Moser, accompanied by several of the grand officers, will officially visit Valley Council on Monday evening.

The continuance of the strike affected the attendance at the council meetings. The official visit to Mentor Council was postponed to June 5, and the visit to Cote Brilliante Council to June 6.

Victoria Council had an unexpectedly large attendance, Vice Regent James Chalmers presiding. One application was presented. The meeting was entertained with songs by Charles K. Crawford of North End Council, Fred E. Winther and Albert T. Pieper, and Shakespearean recitations by David Walsh.

Old Orchard Council was entertained with instrumental music by F. M. Lashley, and charged in an animated discussion upon "good of the order."

North End Council had three initiations, and arranged for the original visit, May 22. Thomas J. Lucas, guide of Mound City Council, was a visitor.

Shield Council accepted the resignation of Regent George F. Flaherty, and will fill the vacancy by election at the next meeting.

Benton Council has put into operation a plan which is expected to yield a big harvest of new members.

Hyde Park Council had one application and two initiations, and was pleasantly entertained under Duty XVII with songs by Relph Wiggins and Robert Lee Spencer, and instrumental music by James P. Poston. Henry Steeper and W. Meikleder of Carr Lane Council were visitors.

Council meetings this week: Monday, Compton Hill, Lacede, Carr Lane, Olivette, Marquette, Mozart, Fairview, Kingsland, Rockwoodville, Shaw, Fairmount, Valley, Sedalia; Wednesday, North End, Chevalier; Thursday, Valley, Kirkwood, Old Orchard, Felix, Gate City; Friday, Benton, Victoria.

Royal League.

South Side Council at its meeting last Monday conferred the full degree on the candidate and passed two applications. The council voted to pay of folding with other councils in taking part in the proposed assembly excursion. Several members of the degree team will visit Jefferson Council next Monday, to assist the team of that council in properly conferring the degree.

Missouri-Wabash Council at its last meeting initiated two candidates and received several applications. This council is doing very good work, and promises to reach the 100 mark before long.

The degree team of Ivanhoe Council will have a rehearsal to-morrow evening. As the meeting will undoubtedly be a very interesting one, a large attendance is looked for.

St. Louis Council is canvassing in new members at each meeting, and expects to remain the largest council in the State.

American Legion of Honor.

Fourne Council at the last session had a large attendance. All officers were at their posts. Refreshments were served in the cellar.

South Side Council is making elaborate preparations for the prize cycle, which will take place at the next session.

St. Louis Council at the last session had one of its old-time socials, which was largely attended. Refreshments were served.

Crystal Council had a largely attended meeting. All companions having returned to their homes, an increase of membership is expected this month. A social will take place at the next session.

Lafayette Council at the last meeting had a large attendance, and were visited by Companion Michel of Mozart.

Jackson Council had an entertainment at the last session which was largely attended.

The Soto Council had one of its old-time meetings, C. G. Bergmann presiding, member enrolled.

George Washington Council expects a large increase of membership this month. The Committee on Circle is busy completing arrangements.

Garfield Council had an entertainment at the last session, which was large attended. All officers were on deck. Refreshments were served. Companion Boon sang some of the latest songs.

Order of Columbian Knights.

Express Lodge, No. 72, held its regular meeting at Jefferson avenue and Pestalozzi street Thursday night, May 10. While the street car strike affected this lodge to some extent, it had a fair attendance and transacted important business.

Cheltenham Lodge, No. 81, held its regular meeting on Thursday night at Old Fellows' Hall, Cheltenham. There was a very large attendance despite the street strike. Six applications were presented and five candidates were on hand for initiation. An addition of four was made to the Entertainment Committee, and the members were instructed to arrange for a ladies' night entertainment in the near future. Orator Davis brought out a fine programme, participated in by Brothers Gillham, Deffenbaugh, Bigham, Nance and others.

St. Louis Lodge, No. 2, met at its hall in Odd Fellows' building Monday night, May 14. The attendance, while not as large as usual, was a surprise to the officers in point of numbers. There was one candidate to receive the degree. The meeting adjourned early, to give all an opportunity of going home.

Bland Lodge, No. 29, met at Versen's Hall Tuesday night. Twenty-seven members were present. Several candidates were approved by ballot, and other important business was transacted. The contract with the manager of Hyde Park for a picnic was sent to the Lodge for committee signatures, but was returned for revision.

Brother Charles E. Bond, a member of Pinzon Lodge, No. 1, of Chicago, was a caller at St. Louis Lodge, No. 2, last week.

The progressive euchre of Plymouth Lodge, No. 82, had to be again postponed on account of the street car troubles.

Meetings for the coming week: Monday, Pilot, Tuesday, Bond, Wednesday, North End, Thursday, Express and Cheltenham.

Odd Fellows.

Laclede Lodge had double initiation Tuesday night, the following visiting brethren assisting in the work: William H. Castle as noble grand; Doctor J. W. Mitchell, past grand; Alexander Sloan, warden; James W. Hornback, conductor; A. A. Aiken, chaplain.

Summit Lodge had work in the First, Second and Third degrees on two candidates.

Carondelet Lodge had twelve applications for membership at its last meeting and conferred the Third degree on six candidates.

Thirteen past grand masters were present at the meeting of the Grand Lodge during the past week.

James R. Miller, past grand master and now grand secretary of the Illinois Odd Fellows, was present at the meeting of the Grand Lodge and made a speech to the members and visitors, giving a description of the great benefits derived from the Home for the Widows and Orphans of Odd Fellows in Illinois.

The Grand Lodge voted a tax of $1 on each member for the rebuilding of the home.

The Trinle Link, the official paper of the order in Missouri, is well filled with finely executed articles of interest to Odd Fellows in the State. Among them are found those of W. H. Wadsworth, J. H. Crane, T. T. Parson and E. M. Shon of St. Louis.

Naomi Lodge had a house full of visitors, but owing to the absence from city of their officers on account of the strike of the street car employes very little business was transacted. The evening was spent very pleasantly with speechmaking, song and reading.

Mrs. A. M. Lee, W. T. Marshall and O. P. Gentry were elected trustees of the Orphans' Home.

The Rebekah Assembly during its session the past week voted a contribution of $500 to the rebuilding of the home. The same amount was contributed by the assembly last year.

The following were callers at headquarters during the week: A. A. Aikens, Kansas City; Mrs. Anna Hopkins, Pleasant Hill; Mrs. Lillian Bliss, Tracy; Mrs. Eva S. Hill, West Plains; Mrs. Ida Benson, Annapolis; Mrs. Fannie Clements, Doe Run; Mrs. Mary E. Thayer, Sedalia; Mrs. E. J. McCoy, Bismarck.

Among the active members of the order in attendance at the Grand Lodge session during the past week was Colonel John Donahue of St. Joseph. He is 74 years old and has been a continuous visitor for fifty-two years. He has filled all the offices. He was elected to represent the Grand Lodge in 1856; in 1865 he was elected to represent the Grand Encampment at the Sovereign Grand Lodge; in 1868-70 he represented the Grand Lodge at the semi-centennial at San Francisco, and responded to an address of welcome at Sacramento. In 1881 he was selected grand master of the jurisdiction and during the great Civil War he managed to keep the order intact.

The Rebekah Lodge at Cerbonne is represented in the assembly by Mrs. Celinda Ringdale, one of the willing workers of the order. The lodge has on hand nearly $60 to send to the home for its reconstruction.

The decoration of chivalry, an honorary degree of Odd Fellowship, bestowed for meritorious services rendered to the order on the recommendation of Rebekah lodges and cantons of patriarchs, was conferred Tuesday night last at the large hall, Odd Fellows' building, on the following members: Mr. L. M. Mettler, Brookfield; Mrs. Nellie Conway, St. Louis; Mrs. Emma C. Bennett, St. Louis; Mrs. Ida Benson, Annapolis; Mrs. Elizabeth Kretch, Ravenswood; Mrs. Carrie McCormick, St. Louis; Mrs. Helen Lister, Sedalia; Mrs. L. B. Craft, St. Louis; Mrs. A. M. Pratt, St. Louis; Mrs. Emma Shittle, St. Louis; Mrs. C. Bernhardt, Hermann; Mrs. E. E. Lemasters, Monett. Past Department Commander T. T. Parson, on behalf of General O. H. P. Grunden, who is prostrated by illness, acting as department commander, assisted by Charles T. Webster, assistant adjutant general; Major Rufus Gillespie, chaplain general; Colonel Thomas P. Riley, chief of staff, and Misses Maud E. Houghton, Caroline Peck, Lydia M. Delmincee, Mae Pyle and little Miss Gillespie, conducted the ceremonies. About 300 persons were in attendance. Ice cream was served.

A pillow sent to the Grand Lodge by Mrs. Rhode Mulford, to be disposed of for the benefit of the home, brought $25, and was afterwards returned to Mrs. Mulford.

The following officers were installed by the Grand Lodge to serve for the ensuing year: A. B. Levan, grand master; F. M. Alexander, deputy grand master; George Hall, grand warden; E. N. Sloan, grand secretary; W. H. Thompson, grand treasurer; G. W. McFarland, grand marshal; John H. Bryant, grand conductor; G. D. Nelson, grand guardian; the Reverend Isom D. Lanceley, grand chaplain; John W. Black, grand herald.

MATRICIDE CLAY IS INSANE.

Berks County, Pa., Murderer May Never Be Called to Trial.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.

Reading, Pa., May 15.—Excitement still runs high in Berks County over the murder by David Clay of his 85-year-old mother, but there is no longer any talk of lynching, everyone being convinced that the murderer is insane. Clay has been brought here and occupies cell number 41 in the new annex of the County Jail.

All day long he tore about his cell like a mad man, one minute shouting about matters that did not have the slightest bearing on his awful crime, the next singing hymns in a weird note.

Yesterday Clay confessed that he killed his mother "because the Lord told him to," and because she was a witch.

To-day, however, when questioned again regarding the murder he appeared to know nothing of the tragedy, and declared he did not know his mother was dead. Beyond his incoherent statement that he had no knowledge of having committed a crime it was impossible to engage him in anything like an intelligent conversation.

Coroner Rothermel, County Detective Kershner and several others of Reading went to Mount Aetna, where a post mortem examination of Mrs. Rebecca Clay's body was made. Seven frightful bruises, produced by the assassin's hammer, were found on the aged woman's head. It was the opinion that any one of the blows would have caused death.

Coroner Rothermel's investigation developed a somewhat peculiar state of affairs. Soon after Mrs. Clay's death Justice of the Peace Snyder impaneled a jury and proceeded to hold an inquest which resulted in holding the son, David, responsible for the killing. It now appears that Justice Snyder's commission had expired and, therefore, the inquest was illegal. This was the decision of Coroner Rothermel, who to-day held an inquest, the jury returning a verdict that Mrs. Clay came to her death at the hands of her son, David, by means of a hammer.

Mount Aetna, where the tragedy occurred, is one of the most picturesque villages in Berks County. As its name signifies, it is situated upon a hill in a beautiful section of the country. Five hundred people make up the population of the town. The funeral took place from the little homestead in which the victim was so cruelly slain. Services were held in the United Brethren Church, the Reverend Mr. Buricoecke of Jonestown officiating. The remains were interred in the little cemetery adjoining.

The authorities have set about to determine the mental condition of the murderer. It is the general belief that Clay is of unsound mind. It is not unlikely that a Commission in Lunacy will be appointed. If found insane, he will be removed to an asylum and, consequently, he will escape trial.

MERCANTILE TRUST CO.

FESTUS J. WADE, President. GEO. W. WILSON, Treasurer.

Statement for First Six Months, Ending May 15, 1900.

ASSETS.

Loans		$2,107,017.08
First Mortgage Bonds		125,125.55
Revenue Stamps		1,067.62
Furniture and Fixtures		3,101.65
All Other Assets		8,275.35
Cash in Vaults and Depositories		679,035.22
Total		$3,281,535.15

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock	$ 750,000.00	
Surplus	800,000.00	
Undivided Profits	47,692.14	
		$1,597,692.14
Demand Deposits	$1,419,540.23	
Time Deposits	256,302.78	
		1,675,843.01
All Other Liabilities		8,000.00
Total		$3,281,535.15

2 % ON DAILY BALANCES.
4 % ON TIME CERTIFICATES.
4 % ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS.

AMUSEMENTS.

STANDARD
THE HOME OF FOLLY—TWO FROLICS DAILY.
COMMENCING MATINEE TO-DAY.
HURTIG & SEAMON
BOWERY BURLESQUERS!
PRESENTING THEIR SECOND EDITION OF
SLUMMING.

SUBURBAN GARDEN. GRAND OPENING TO-DAY..... Performances at 2:30 and 8:30.
CARROLL JOHNSON. BISON CITY QUARTET. DAVE MEIER. MUSICAL WILLARDS.
CLIFFORD AND HUTH. RAMZA AND ARNO. AL BLANCHARD. CLAYTO AND CLERICE.
This garden is the only one reached by the Suburban Electric Line, now in full and unmolested operation. Admission Free. Reserved seats, 10c and 25c.

SUPPLIES BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Supply Department, Board of Education of the City of St. Louis, Ninth and Locust streets, on or before 3 o'clock p. m., on the 22nd day of May, 1900, for supplies for the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1900, and ending June 30th, 1901.

All bids must be made out on the blanks which will be furnished at the Supply Department on or before the above date.

Bids aggregating $1000.00 or more shall be accompanied by a deposit of $200.00. Bids aggregating from $500.00 to $1,000.00 shall be accompanied by a deposit of $100.00. Bids aggregating from $100.00 to $500.00 shall be accompanied by a deposit of $50.00. Bids aggregating less than $100.00 shall be accompanied by a deposit of $10.00.

All of said deposits to be in cash or certified checks made payable to the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis, which amount or check shall be deposited with the Secretary and Treasurer, who will issue a certificate therefor. Certificates to be placed in the envelope and be deposited with the bid, to be returned after the awards are made.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

No bid delivered shall be withdrawn prior to the close of the next regular meeting of the Board of Education after the bids are opened.

A violation of this provision on the part of a bidder, or a failure on his part to comply with the award made him, shall forfeit to the Board of Education his deposit and render him liable for all damage caused to the Board of Education by breach of his obligation.

Bids will be solicited on the following supplies:

Brooms, brushes, mops.
Dusters.
Sponges, chamois skins.
Laundry and toilet soap, candles, matches.
Dust pans, coal hods.
Step and extension ladders.
Carpenter's tools.
Shovels.
Miscellaneous tools.
Engineer's tools.
Bells.
Water pails, basins, dippers.
Sash ribbon.
Sash cords.
Padlocks.
Hasps and staples, hooks and eyes.
Bolts and locks.
Door checks and springs.
Window shade fixtures.
Glue.
Screws.
Nails and brads.
Picture hooks and wire.
Lawn mowers.
Rubber hose, etc.
Toilet paper and holders.
Salt.
Lime.
Disinfectant and copperas.
Wire mats.
Manila rope mats.
Fire tools.
Air valves.
Wire flue brushes.
Machine cylinder oils.
Floor oil.
Waste, picking, etc.
Gauge glasses.
Rubber washers.
Paints.
Painter's oils.
Gold size ammonia.
Putty.
Paint brushes.
Blue printing.
Drawing paper.
Blackboard erasers.
Rubbers.
Drawing ink.
Lead pencils.
Slate pencils