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LARGEST MORNING CIRCULATION IN KANSAS CITY

Indications.

Washington, Nov. 26.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory—Warmer, fair, southerly winds.

For Missouri—Fair; warmer; southerly winds.

For Kansas—Fair; warmer; southerly winds.

GOOD MORNING.

The state of Texas doesn't bother its head much about immigration. Texas has people to burn.

Mrs.Ease warns the Kansas Prohibitionists that Dave Overmyer will get 'em if they don't watch out.

It is as we suspected. The recent snow saved the Kansas wheat crop, and the farmers are "jubilant."

Excelsior Springs seems to yearn for violent excitement. It is holding for the Democratic state convention.

Ex-Speaker Reed has shown up in Washington, apparently none the worse for his long sojourn underground.

Birds, in their little nests, do not always agree. Labor Commissioner Bird, of Kansas, has brought suit for divorce.

No matter what the president may put into his message it will not materially injure the prospects of his party, for obvious reasons.

One of McKinley's chief recommendations to his party is the fact that of all the Republican leaders he is most sincerely hated by Democrats.

Kansas City's cattle receipts yesterday were greater by 4,500 than Chicago's, and more than double the receipts at St. Louis and Omaha together.

We feel sure Mr. Bayard can show the administration that Great Britain doesn't mean any harm by attempting to gobble those Alaskan gold mines.

Senator Sherman's book may have increased his store of personal satisfaction, but it has considerably reduced the number of his speaking acquaintances.

It is much cheaper for the country to bury congressmen by whoboards, as it did a few weeks ago, than to give them separate burials with funeral junket attachments.

Missouri Democrats shouldn't worry too much over their discords. The sweeping Republican victory of next year will do much to restore harmony in the ranks.

That Jefferson City clergyman appears to have chosen a bad time for his assault on Minister Terrell. Mr. Terrell has just been getting considerable action on his jingoism.

The fact that the "gang" bosses no longer supply bail for their convicted tools is gratifying evidence that they consider their rascality business broken up in Kansas City.

Colonel Breckinridge, of Kentucky, would respectfully call attention to the fact that it is hard to keep a good man down. He announces that he is again in the hands of his friends.

The report that the sultan has not kept faith with the powers is not really startling. The sultan has not been regarded as a man of rigorous and unimpeachable honesty for some time.

Possibly it is true, as Keir Hardie says, that trolley cars have decreased the demand for cars in this country 75 dozen bushels, but think how they have stimulated the demand for tombstones.

The "disfranchisers" of the South Carolina negroes is not likely to worry them much. The fear of the shadow is not of much consequence to those who have never been permitted to enjoy the substance.

Exchanges have been doing considerable punning on the name of Minister Peak, but so far as we have noticed none of them has been depraved enough to remark that unsuccessful applicants felt piqued over his appointment.

Great Britain has planted Maxim guns on the Venezuelan border, and Venezuela naturally wants to know what the Monroe doctrine is going to do about it. The Monroe doctrine doesn't know. It hasn't heard from Grover.

The fact that less than 9,000 of the 149,000 women of Boston exercised their privilege of voting for school officers this year shows that a woman does not necessarily hanker after suffrage merely because she wears spectacles and uses words of nine syllables.

A prison "trusty," while enjoying more liberty than other prisoners, is supposed to be confined and restricted sufficiently to give him a fair amount of punishment. It is not contemplated that he shall have the freedom of the town and come and go at his own sweet will, the public merely supplying him with board and lodging when he sees fit to accept its hospitality. The spectacle of tough characters who have been duly convicted of crimes and sentenced to imprisonment, roaming about the streets at all hours of the day and night, frequenting saloons and being hauled up in the police court for disorderly conduct, is not an edifying one. It is not worth while to spend money and labor to convict criminals if their punishment is to be made a mere farcical pretense.

The decision of the supreme court of Missouri in the case of the striking employes of a St. Louis shoe company only reaffirms a principle which has been laid down by courts in many other states. Employes have the right to quit whenever they so desire, but they have not the right to force others, either with violence or threats of violence, to follow their example. The court well says that while the strikers are their own masters they "are not the masters of the other employes, and not only are they not their masters, but they are not even their guardians," and that the same law which guarantees the right to quit work also guarantees the right to remain at work. In other words, the workingman's liberty of action is protected just as sacredly when he doesn't want to strike as when he does. This is not only good law, but it is good sense and common justice as well.

COST OF CONTRACT WORK.

A property owner has directed the attention of the Journal to the fact that contractors for building sidewalks and curbing often get higher prices for work done on contracts with the city than they do for that done for the individual property owner.

It has been the experience of many that they can procure this class of work in advance of the letting of the public contract, in small jobs, at a very material saving below the price bargained for by the city where the contractor has a large amount of work to do with no question at all as to the security of the payment. This should not be so. The city should be able to place contracts for public work at as favorable figures as the individual.

Every possible safeguard is placed around the interest of the contractor in public work of the kind. If his money is not forthcoming when the work is done and accepted by the proper officers, a penalty is provided which well compensates the holder of the tax bills for the delay. The tax bills are the best of security for the claim, and are eagerly sought for, by those who have money, as an investment. It is by no means uncommon, however, for the property owner to save from ten to fifteen per cent of the cost of public improvements of the character in question by dealing with the contractor direct, without waiting for the letting of the general contract.

There should be a way of obviating this. In doing the work under a general contract the contractor has but one individual to deal with after he gets his lines from the city engineer, whereas in making independent contracts he must deal with each individual property owner and with the officials of the city besides. Let it be understood that public work will always be done at the minimum price, and there will be less hesitation on the part of the people in having public improvements go on. And it would be better for all concerned.

LET THE HEALERS MULTIPLY.

A perfect wave of healers seems to be sweeping over the country. But there should be no rivalry among them. There is room for all. They are, to say the least, a vast improvement upon the sort of "healer" with whom the American people are all too familiar. Whether they do any good or not, they seem to be at least harmless and therefore deserve to be looked upon with leniency. Whether they cure anybody or not, there are plenty of people who think they have been cured; that much good is done, at least. There are aches and pains enough to be eased; there are ills and maladies enough to be cured. If enthusiasm, the exaltation of religious fervor and unexplained powers, can soothe and seem to cure where science has given up, then let the healers multiply. What matters it what they claim? What matters it how grotesque their methods, how extravagant and outlandish their pretensions may seem to those who disbelieve? If those who do believe are benefited, or if they merely think they are helped or cured, why should one harsh word be said against the medium of relief?

But after all, who has set forth in text books the pathology of hope, the efficacy of faith, the potency of enthusiasm? Who has demonstrated by lecture and clinic that all healing comes out of phials and powders and the surgeon's knife? There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in the philosophy of the incredulous. Until positive harm has been done, let the smallest portion of admitted good command the healers to charity, if not to unqualified belief.

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IT WOULD BE FATAL.

The report comes that the Cuban leaders have determined to destroy vast amounts of property owned by Americans. Some estimates of the value of this property place it as high as $20,000,000. No doubt the enormities of the case call for stern measures, but the destruction of this property would be fatal to the Cuban cause, so far as this country is concerned. It would result in the complete alienation of that sympathy which is essential to the success of Cuba's righteous struggle. Nor is the value of American sympathy to be underrated. Still more highly is it to be regarded in view of the fact that the administration is against the independence of the island. Thus far in the contest, the sympathy of the American people has gone out to the patriots battling for liberty, and despite the hostile attitude of the administration it has been invaluable.

All hope of recognition would be necessarily abandoned, at least it would be futile, if millions of dollars worth of American property were destroyed by the insurgents. It is to be hoped that wiser measures will prevail and that the war will be prosecuted in the future, as in the past, within civilized limits. The epicedrium of despotism has thus far rested solely upon Spain; the barbarous treatment of prisoners, the cruel repression of popular sympathy, have been Spain's. This is a crucial time. Let not Cuba jeopardize what is so nearly attained.

IT IS GENUINE CONTEMPT.

The discharge of a janitor for no other reason than that he was compelled to leave his position to serve upon a jury, serves to call attention to the manner in which Judge Gibson once brought a too exacting employer to time in short order. It was a year or two ago. A clerk had been discharged by his employer because he had served upon a jury. Judge Gibson called the offending merchant before him and gave him a choice of immediately reinstating the clerk or of going to jail for contempt. The clerk got his job back.

Instances of this kind are not frequent, fortunately. It is manifestly unjust to discharge an employe because he was obliged to suspend his regular duties to serve the community as a juror. The employe is made a victim of both the court and his employer. If he refuses to serve, he is in contempt; if he does serve, he runs the risk of losing his place. The courts do right in protecting the citizen in such an extremity.

Business men have the welfare of the community at heart; they are earnest and persistent in their efforts to advance its material welfare. Sometimes, however, engrossed in commercial pursuits, they are prone to forget that they owe a share of at least their personal convenience to the good of all. But such remissness is extremely exceptional. The business man knows that only by everyone doing his share can the best results be attained.

JEFFERSONIAN SIMPLICITY.

Senator Hill has just leased a large house in the vicinity of the president's Washington home. Simultaneously with this action on the senator's part, the president has doubled the sentries who are always on guard to preserve the sacred person of the chief magistrate from molestation or interference. The sentry boxes, which command the presidential residence, have been shifted to adjust themselves to the new neighbor. There is something ludicrous in the coincidence, but in view of the elaborate precautions that are being taken to guard the president from surprise, attack or disturbance of any sort, the affair becomes grotesque. Mr. Cleveland seems to have a morbid fear that somebody is going to abduct him or offer him bodily harm in some shape or another. On the occasion of the Vanderbilt wedding, he was shadowed by detectives, and he is never out of the sight of one or more of these guardians.

A large force of watchmen, including police officers, will be on duty, day and night, in and out of the White House. The six sentry boxes which command the various approaches to the presidential mansion will be occupied on cold nights by the six private watchmen selected by the private secretary. Automatic alarm signals will be fixed in various parts of the house and a strong force of police will be available at a moment's notice.

All these things look a little ridiculous to the average American citizen familiar with the characteristic Democratic devotion to Jeffersonian simplicity. Mr. Cleveland may need watching, but nobody is going to hurt him. Nobody wants to hurt him. He is safe among the Americans. What do these antics mean? Does his conscience trouble him?

"A Kansas City preacher," says the Philadelphia Press, "advertises thirty-five girls in bloomers as one of his Sunday morning attractions." We prefer to think that the Press has been misled rather than believe it guilty of reckless prevarication. Kansas City ministers are wide-awake and enterprising, but they are neither cranks nor fakirs.

The charge that Mr. Thurber is preparing the president's message to congress, in the absence of positive proof to that effect, is gross injustice to an innocent and well-meaning young man.

"An American Opinion."

is the title of a lecture to be delivered by Colonel Edwin R. Wilson at Woodland hall on Saturday evening, November 30, at 8 o'clock. The well known reputation of Colonel Wilson as a writer of forceful English, and an able student of men and affairs, should call together a large audience. The lecture is pronounced by many who have heard it as a brilliant and original review of American political questions filled with flashes of wit, eloquence and wisdom. It is the initial one of a series of lectures to be delivered by Colonel Wilson under the auspices of a well known lecture bureau. It is copyrighted, and will not be published, although arrangements have been made to have this lecture delivered free.

LINCOLN CLUB MEETING.

Resolutions Condemning Grover Cleveland for His Inactivity in the Case of Waller Adopted.

The Lincoln Club met last night at its club room, in the New York Life building. There was a large attendance of the members, and some important business was brought before the meeting and passed upon.

One of the first was concerning the action of the United States with regard to the imprisonment of John L. Waller in France, and the indignation of the members of the club was expressed in the following resolution:

"Whereas, An American citizen is now incarcerated in a French prison for an alleged political offense, and

"Whereas, The administration at Washington appears to be entirely indifferent to the rights of our fellow-citizen therein, be it

"Resolved, That we, the members of the Lincoln Club of Kansas City, Mo., condemn the inaction and indifference of the president of the United States in allowing a foreign power to hold in prison a citizen of the United States, without authority and without the protest of this government.

"Resolved, That the patriotic press of the United States is hereby called upon to urge the government to immediate, aggressive action, in order that steps may be taken for the speedy liberation of our fellow-citizen."

E. M. Rolfe read a long and interesting paper on "The Monroe Doctrine." It was well received.

A lighter vein was introduced into the serious business before the meeting by the Woodbridge-Chanute Glee Club, which entertained the meeting with several appropriate songs, among others the cuckoo selection.

BIG REAL ESTATE DEALS.

Main Street and Grand Avenue Property Bring Good Prices.

J. E. Threlkeld & Son yesterday sold for F. J. Gray to William J. Madlock the property at 1506 Main street for $12,000. The property will be remodeled and put in first-class repair.

This firm also sold to Fred F. Ray, for Albert M. Winter, for $3,000, a fine 80 acre farm nine miles southwest of the city. Mr. Ray will improve his farm and go into the fine stock business for the Kansas City market.

The new building adjoining the Shukert building, at Eleventh street and Grand avenue, has been sold by E. G. Altman to William Ryley for $6,000 cash and a twenty years' lease to Mr. Altman at 8 per cent. The building on the ground is thus sold at an estimated value of $7,000.

SCHLATTER IN COLORADO.

At Green Horn, Bound for Albuquerque, to Begin a Forty-day Fast.

Denver, Col., Nov. 26.—A special to the News from Greenhorn, Colo., says Francis Schlatter, the healer, is at Green Horn, some nine miles from here. There is no question as to his identity, as he was recognized by the writer and by George Sears and wife, all of whom were treated by him in Denver. Schlatter rides a fine gray horse and carries a bundle of blankets. He says he is on his way to Albuquerque, and will follow the old Santa Fe trail to that point. On his arrival there he will commence a forty day fast. He could not say if he would go to Chicago or not.

SCHLATTER IN KANSAS.

Is Registered at the Revere House, Jennings, Decatur County.

Topeka, Kas., Nov. 26.—A special from the Echo at Jennings, Kas., to the Capital says: Francis Schlatter registered at the Revere house in this little city to-day. He has kept his room nearly all the time and very few have so far been able to see him.

No Storm West of the Rockies.

San Francisco, Nov. 26.—The severe storm that has been raging through the East does not extend west of the Rockies. The weather on the Pacific coast has been unusually cold during the past few days, and is still cold in places in Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Snow has fallen throughout the last named state, but there has been no interruption of railroad traffic or any serious damage to the telegraph or telephone wires.

New Postoffice in Johnson County.

Warrensburg, Mo., Nov. 26.—(Special.) "Bristleridge" is the euphonious name of a new postoffice which has been established eight miles southeast of Warrensburg, in Johnson county. The office is located on the farm of Lewis Rudy, and Mrs. Mary Rudy has been appointed postmistress.

SOBER AND WEIGHTY WORDS.

The Recent Elections From a Leading Banker and Republican Politician.

The American, published in Philadelphia, has an article on the recent election that will attract the attention of all thoughtful people, and especially of that class of Republicans.

The editor and publisher of the American is Mr. Wharton Barker, a leading banker of Philadelphia, who was conspicuous for years as the leader of the Blaine Republicans of Pennsylvania. It is true he is an advocate of the restoration of silver, but his views are those of a politician and financier of broad and statesmanlike ability. They are in the American of Saturday last, and are as follows:

"The supporters of the gold standard, who think the agitation for the restoration of silver is the result of a theory and not of a situation, are very confident that the elections have disposed of the agitation. It is true that in Kentucky and in Nebraska the vote was not favorable to the silver cause, these being the only two states in which that issue was presented with definiteness. It is equally true, however, that a vote for silver has implicit in the general decision of the country against the present administration. Before the people, Mr. Cleveland's administration is identified with the present situation of trade and industry. It was voted into power because times were felt to be growing bad through the general fall of prices. It was thought this was due to the unsatisfactory character of the tariff, and that the proper course to take is such a readjustment of duties as will increase the revenue and turn the balance of trade in our favor. If the president chooses to interpose his veto to prevent this, the responsibility rests with him, and not with congress. Mr. Sherman especially indicates his purpose to have wool taken from the free list, in the interests of the wool growers of Ohio and other states. This would involve, logically, a restoration of the duties on woolens and on cottons, where heavy importation has been especially disastrous to our home industries. We therefore may expect to see the new committee of ways and means introduce a revised tariff.

"The same logic must lead to a refusal to make the operations of the treasury in borrowing gold more easy than they now are. These operations are the gross and unsatisfactory condition of foreign trade, and it is hardly logical to ask the Republicans to apply one remedy when they believe that the other is the proper one. Their refusals, however, will irritate the gold organs and their constituents, and we may expect to see this congress as heartily abused by them as was the last for the same refusal. It is certain to be held responsible for the whole business depression on the ground that it will have refused to co-operate with the administration in restoring confidence. And perhaps before the session is over the Republican leaders will acquire some useful insight into the character and aims of the gold-monometallist factions."

ESTIMATES OF THE DAMAGE

ARMENIANS SAY IT WILL REACH $50,000,000 AND 40,000 LIVES.

Damage Certainly Beyond Anything Hitherto Estimated or Described—Famine and Death Will Reign This Winter—Fleets Still in Turkish Waters.

Constantinople, Nov. 26.—Now that matters seem to be quieting down again here and in the Asiatic provinces, people are beginning to form estimates of the amount of damage done and the number of lives lost during the recent disturbances. Armenians estimate the losses in Anatolia alone at $50,000,000, and the number of victims at 40,000. Of course, these are Armenian estimates, but there seems good reason for believing that the property destroyed, the number of lives sacrificed and outrages committed are far beyond anything hitherto estimated or described.

People competent to pronounce an opinion upon the subject say that with the coming of winter there will be very many more deaths from exposure and famine and that even relief funds, food and clothing cannot avert much loss of life and great suffering. Famine is threatened in a number of districts and there seems to be no way of preventing it.

The powers, instead of ordering their fleets away from Turkish waters, as the sultan requested, seem to be determined to keep them in this vicinity for an indefinite period. The warships of Great Britain expected to rendezvous at Smyrna this week and will include nine battleships, four cruisers and four smaller boats. The rest of the Salonica bay fleet will, it is said, remain off that port for the present, ready for any emergency. France has already at Smyrna one battleship, two cruisers and two smaller ships. Italy's flag floats from two battleships, two cruisers and four small craft in the waters of Smyrna. Russia has two cruisers on the way to Smyrna, in addition to a powerful fleet cruising on the western portion of the Black sea. The United States has been represented by two cruisers and Germany has one small gunboat and Austria has one battleship, two cruisers and two small gunboats.

The ambassadors will hold an informal meeting to-day in order to decide what steps to take to put an end to the so-called "shuffling" of the porte. The impression prevails that if the firmans are not very soon granted the extra gunboats will pass the Dardanelles without the porte's permission, even if they have to be convoyed through by battleships stripped for action. Indeed, nobody here can see how the powers can retreat from the position they have assumed without serious loss of prestige, especially as their demands are based on treaty rights which are admitted by the sultan and his advisers.

News from the interior of Asiatic Turkey is more difficult to obtain than for a long time past.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH FAIR.

Many Attractive Features and Attentive Entertainers to Interest Visitors—Will Continue Until Saturday.

A genuine old-fashioned fair was formally opened in the basement of St. John's Catholic church, at 1638 Independence avenue, last night, and the youths and the maids and the matrons and the bachelors of the matrons gathered there to celebrate the event. The fair will be prolonged until Saturday night. The basement of the edifice is a mimic fairyland and wonderland. There were booths filled with pretty women, flags were draped from the walls, graceful girls threaded the room and stringed instruments in the hands of commendable players filled the air with soft music. The fair was opened by the Hibernian Society, that is, last night was given over to the management of the members of this society. To-night the members of the Knights of Father Mathew will be in charge, and Friday the Knights of America will take the fair in hand. There is an excellent chance for a pretty race between these three societies as to the extent of their popular favor in a flag contest that is duly raging. A handsome silken flag of the regulation army pattern, with stripes as broad as your hand and great big stars that swim in a sea of azure, will be voted to the most popular society. Each vote costs a certain price, and there will be a measuring of purses before the contest is decided.

The booths are very pretty. There is a "curiosity," in charge of Mrs. J. F. Mensing, that offers some wonderful inducements to separate the curious and their money. A sample inducement is "the ostrich" man, who not only is warranted to "eat tacks, nails and spikes, but also home made pies." Monte Carlo is in charge of Misses Agnes Burke and Maggie Tobin. The destiny of a charming horse shoe booth, where candies of all kinds are on sale, is presided over by Mesdames Othella and Lavinia Hartwood and Miss Gilchrist. Mrs. J. M. Cole, Mrs. G. W. Jones ad Mrs. William Kendrick are the three graces at the Fairy booth. There are two Rebeccas at the lemonade well, the Misses Dehougherty. The prize table is guarded by Miss Sallie Harrington and Miss May Kenedick. Over at the Mystic Well are Misses Nellie McManus and Mamie Hanlon, always smiling and ready to reveal the secrets of the lemonade cavern to those who pass that way. A postoffice stands in a corner; it is located by a sign above a window, in which a fair postmistress is bowered in pink and green; there are three postmistresses, and they are Misses O'Connors, Tobin and Hagan. The refreshment booth is cared for by Mrs. J. F. McDonald, Mrs. D. Cantwell, Mrs. McManus, Miss Kate Martana and the Misses Shannon.

In a prominent place above a pocket edition stage flies a flag that Phil Sheridan carried at the outset of the late unpleasantness.

WANT UNDERGROUND WIRES

FULL REPORT OF THE COMMERCIAL CLUB'S COMMITTEE.

Strong Appeal for the Removal of Overhead Wires—Reduction of Rates Recommended and Discussed—Other Business Transacted.

There was a very large attendance at last night's meeting of the Commercial Club, the principal feature of which was the report of the committee on municipal legislation.

A resolution was referred to this committee at the last meeting of the Commercial Club suggesting that the city authorities should take the necessary steps to at once cause the overhead wires of the telegraph and telephone companies to be placed in underground conduits subject to the approval and constructed under the supervision of the board of public works. That the president of the club appoint a committee of three to present the matter to the mayor and city council. The report was

"Your committee held a full meeting on Friday evening, listened to an exposition of the subject in hand from Mr. Hurt, general manager of the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company; Mr. Woods, general manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Mr. Weeks, general manager of the Kansas City Electric Light Company. Subsequently the committee discussed the propositions before it thoroughly and unanimously agreed to the report as laid before you.

"First—We recommend to the club the adoption of the resolutions as above for the following reasons:

"The poles and vast numbers of wires on them at present are unsightly; they impede the efficient operation of the fire department and the service is frequently demoralized on account of damage resulting from storms, fire and accidents. The fact that the fire alarm service is dependent upon the telegraph wires which may at any time be accidently broken is a menace to the safety of the city.

"The committee have felt at liberty to go somewhat beyond the scope of the resolutions as referred to it, and to recommend to the city council the propositions beyond the first already discussed.

"Second—We submit that we believe it is practicable to only compel each company to use its own conduits and that it is not feasible to provide a general conduit into which all wires could be placed. The conduits as built in other cities consist of a number of pipes of clay or other material laid in concrete and provided with manholes at intervals of convenience for inspection. Some hundred wires are contained in the lead casing of each cable and one cable is placed in a tube of the conduit. Enormous damage to the property and service might result from the carelessness or malice of the workmen of one company in opening the manholes containing wires of another, because at the manholes the cables are exposed. To avoid interference with the wires the manholes have to be kept locked. We are positively assured that the telegraph and telephone company will not permit other cables to use conduits in which others have access. The multiplication of conduits necessary to provide for separate accommodations for each company is not so great as might be expected. There are about 50 separate wires belonging to the Western Union telegraph system; perhaps half as many belonging to the Postal Telegraph Company, and between 2,000 and 3,000 miles belonging to the telephone company. These are practically the only wires which we consider practicable at this time to be put in the conduits. As a rule the telegraph and telephone wires do not occupy the same streets; so their conduits would not interfere. Where they do occupy the same streets it is practicable for the telegraph conduit to be placed in the same trench with the telephone conduit, each having separate manholes. The telephone conduit is necessary in the district containing the west wires and would disturb a strip of pavement about 22 inches wide. The alleys which we consider should be used as far as possible for placing conduits to avoid tearing up the streets. Insofar as the city is put in a position to build conduits, we think such a plan desirable in a modern city, and further, as it appears to your committee to be unreasonable as a business proposition to expect one company to use the conduits of another company, it appears to your committee to be safe for the city to recommend that each company be allowed to put down and control its own conduits under the proper regulations and control of the city authorities.

"Third—This introduces the third proposition, 'Rates of telephone service.'

"Your committee feels that it has not enough light to enable it to form an opinion as to whether the present rates are or are not excessive. To arrive at a conclusion on such a point would require an extensive examination of the books of the company, inquiries as to investments, earnings and expenses of the present company and an examination of its books, which would probably not be tolerated, and which could legitimately be demanded only by the intervention of the courts. Notwithstanding it thinks it is safe to indorse the second proposition discussed above, because the city counselor, after extensive investigation, has declared that in his opinion the city has the power to regulate rates of service if it uses this right in a reasonable manner, and that this right will in no manner be impaired by placing the wires under ground. The rates can be regulated after the wires are placed in conduits as well as while they are on poles. The telephone company has recently reconstructed its overhead system, and is prepared to operate for several years with its present arrangement. It would seem to be fair to the company to put down conduits which would be for the manifest good of the city, and which it is willing to do, notwithstanding its recent outlay in overhead construction, and with the distinct understanding that no right of the city at present vested is to be abrogated by that action.

"Fourth—Is it practicable to put other wires than telegraph and telephone wires in conduits?

"Other wires than as above at present on poles in this city are electric light wires. These are operated with currents of high voltage or pressure. Such wires could not be placed in conduits near wires containing low tension currents because the latter would be rendered inoperative by induced currents from the former. Dampness of the earth is so destructive to the insulation of wires and currents of high tension are so liable to escape from the wires that it has been found elsewhere that gas and water pipes, the earth and buildings become charged, and great damage to life and property results.

"Illustrating this, photographs were exhibited to your committee showing perforations in gas and water pipes resulting from electrolysis caused by the high tension currents operated in conduits in Omaha. Reports from many cities where the attempt has been made convince your committee that with the present development of science it is not practicable to require the electric light wires to be placed in conduits. If the telephone wires alone are placed below ground 90 per cent of all the wires will be disposed of. If the telegraph and telephone wires are placed in conduits, 95 per cent will be removed. Recapitulating, we present the following propositions:

"First—Certain wires at present on poles should be placed in conduits.

"Second—Each company needing conduits should be allowed to put them down under proper regulations that exclusively control them.

"Third—Rates we are at present not in a position to discuss and consider as foreign to the subject of conduits.

"Fourth—It is not practicable to put in conduits wires carrying currents of high voltage. J. V. C. KARNES, Chairman."

The report of the committee was adopted without adverse argument, several of the club's most prominent members talking in favor of it.

While the report was being acted upon, Judge James Gibson prepared the following resolutions, which were read by Secretary Clendening and which called for much discussion:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this club that the present telephone charges are exorbitant and should be reduced.

"Resolved, Further, that the city authorities be and they are hereby requested to pass an ordinance reducing the present telephone rates."

Judge Gibson then moved the adoption of the resolutions, and an hour was spent in discussion.

Alderman Morgan made a speech, in which he referred to the Weaver telephone and conduit ordinance, which has passed the lower house of the council and is now before the upper house, and requested that the ordinance be read. Secretary Clendening read the first page of the lengthy document, when he was stopped by a motion to dispense with it. Then Mr. Morgan called on Speaker Stoner, of the lower house, who was present with a number of the members of both houses, who made a clear statement of the purposes of the Weaver ordinance and said some very nice things about it. At the conclusion of his talk Mr. E. H. Phelps offered an amendment to the original motion that the resolution be referred to a committee of five, to report at the next meeting of the Commercial Club.

It was carried and President Meyer named Judge Gibson as chairman of the committee. He will select the other four members to-day.

Several minor matters occupied the attention of the club during the early part of the evening. A letter from R. C. Kerens, representative of Missouri on the Republican national committee, acknowledging the receipt of the resolutions passed at a recent meeting of the club, pertaining to shorter presidential campaigns. Mr. Kerens said it would be a tedious matter to place before the committee, but he thought it would be acted upon favorably.

A communication from Hon. John L. Peak was read, thanking the club for recommending to the president his appointment as minister to the Swiss republic.

Secretary W. D. Charde, of the board of trade, expressed thanks through a letter to the club for its prompt action in bringing about an amicable termination to the rate discriminations of the Union Pacific against Kansas City at points along its line in Nebraska.

Mayor Davis extended a written invitation to the club membership to attend a meeting to-night in the New Lyceum hall, on West Ninth street, which invitation was accepted after some discussion, as some of the members desired to know the character of the purpose for which the meeting was called. It was not divulged.

Through a letter to the club, W. C. Melville, of the Old Mexico Land and Improvement Association, of this city, extended, on behalf of the management of the Mexico national exposition of industry and fine arts, which will be held in the City of Mexico during the coming year, an invitation to the merchants of Kansas City to send exhibits to the exposition. The purpose of this is to take advantage of the opportunity to place the goods of Kansas City on Mexican markets and extend trade throughout the Southern Spanish and American countries. St. Louis, Chicago and Cincinnati merchants are making a strong effort to control this trade at present.

THE SOUL'S REINCARNATION.

ERNEST T. HARGROVE EXPLAINS THE DOCTRINE OF THEOSOPHY.

Says It Is an Ancient Belief and That the World's Greatest Thinkers Have Been Theosophists—Will Deliver Two More Lectures.

Ernest T. Hargrove, the English theosophist, lectured in the Masonic building last night, on the topic, "Theosophy and What It Teaches." He is about 30 years of age and speaks with a decided British accent. He dealt with only the superficial aspects of the system, though he took pains to present its salient tenets quite clearly and plainly. He was introduced by Attorney R. W. Goldsby. By way of introduction, Mr. Hargrove told of the age of theosophy, how it existed through all the ages that separate the people of to-day from Buddha, Pythagoras, Plato and Christ, and said that it has been the belief of the world's greatest and most profound thinkers and philosophers. He declared that its one aim is the formation of a nucleus, which shall ultimately develope into the universal brotherhood of man.

Passing to a discussion of the soul, he said that the Christian belief is that death leaves the soul in an eternity from which it never departs, and that according to the same religion a man has a soul. "Why," said he, "that is not the truth. The soul is the man himself. It is not capable of being dragged around by the body like a tail to a kite. Man is the ego. That was the teaching of Buddha, Plato and Jesus." Reincarnation, he claimed, had always been a belief of theosophy. Up to within a few years it had been sneered at, but when Huxley took it up it became popular. Huxley had held that the law of expansion and contraction was universal, and this was the fundamental principle of the doctrine of incarnation. The same process is going on throughout the entire realm of nature. The law is seen to operate in the case of microbes, the growth and decay of fruits, the action of the heart, the following of day by night and night by day. From this it is followed that the soul has its periods of activity and comparative inactivity. It is incarnated, then passes from that state into an intermediate state, where it assimilates what it has learned in the state preceding, and so goes on from state to state eternally.

Mr. Hargrove also said that Christians ridiculed this belief, but that Origen, one of the early fathers of the church, the Alexandria school and the Gnostics were firm believers in reincarnation. "It follows from this that man is the arbiter of his own destiny and his acts and being in the one state must be followed by a reaction in the next state. This law of cause and effect is the law of Karma."

In the course of his explanation of reincarnation Mr. Hargrove said that he had known children to be born into families, die after a few months, pass through their intermediary state and again be reincarnated in the same family. After the lecture he answered four or five questions. One of them he put himself for the benefit of his audience. It was, "If we have been eternally undergoing reincarnation why do we not remember the states in which we have been previous to the present one?" He answered this by saying that we have not the same brains, but that in certain instances the memory of a previous state is registered on the brain and many persons who have willed to do have been able to collect states antedating this one.

Mr. Hargrove will leave Kansas City for Memphis on Sunday. To-night he will lecture in the Masonic building on "Reincarnation and Karma," and on Thursday night on "Theosophy and Modern Thought." The last lecture will be for Theosophists only.

BRIEF BITS OF NEWS.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fitzsimmons, at Houston, Tex., a boy.

The plurality of Griggs, Republican, governor-elect of New Jersey, was 26,900.

The Akron, O., street railway and general electric plant has been sold to a New York syndicate for $2,300,000.

Sharp earthquake shocks were felt yesterday morning at Athens, Greece, and also at Thebis, Corinth and other towns.

Governor Morrill has appointed Dr. Charles Gardiner as coroner of Lyon county, Kas., vice Dr. G. W. Frost, resigned.

Thomas Colt, a New York photographer