CITY NEWS

The temperature at 2:30 a. m. was 20 above zero, a drop of 2 degrees since 8 p. m.

The Clergy and Socialism—"The Clergy and Socialism" will be discussed this afternoon at 3 o'clock at Socialist hall, 7½ West Third street by Thomas H. Lucas.

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Venerable Resident Dies—Mrs. Charlotte Pomplum died Friday at her home, 587 Thomas street, at the age of ninety-two years. She was a resident of St. Paul for fifteen years.

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Good Roads Society to Convene—The Minnesota Good Roads association will holds its tenth annual convention Tuesday at the Commercial club. Mayor Smith has been asked to speak.

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Careless With Matches—A carelessly thrown lighted match set fire to bed clothes in the residence of Ernest Benson, 659 Jenks street, late last night, causing $10 damage.

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Rukard Hurd Improves—Rukard Hurd, 123 Nina avenue, who was operated on last Wednesday at the city hospital, is improving rapidly, but will be confined to the hospital for a month or more.

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Will Erect Expensive Flats—Three new flat buildings, each containing six apartments of eight rooms, will be erected at the corner of Grand avenue and Avon street. The total cost will be $65,000.

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Child Dies on Train—The two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklyn Hevener, of Dayton's bluff, died of pneumonia while en route to this city from Turtle Lake, N. D., on a train with his parents, to take treatment.

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Ellerbe Goes to Washington, D. C.—F. H. Ellerbe, city building inspector, left last night for Washington, D. C., where he will attend the first convention of the National Building Inspectors' association, which will be held this week.

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Gets Sixty Days for Immoral Conduct—Henry Grandewald, forty-five years of ago, was sentenced to the workhouse for sixty days by Judge Finehout yesterday on the complaint of West side school girls, who alleged immoral conduct on his part.

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Parker Pleads Not Guilty—David Parker, the colored youth who killed Fred Watson in his father's barn on the night of Feb. 13, was arraigned in the police court yesterday and entered a plea of not guilty. He waived examination and was held to await the action of the grand jury.

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H. A. Monroe Gets Appointment—H. A. Monroe has been appointed immigrant inspector, and will be stationed at Anacortes, on the British Columbia border, having stood highest among a large number of candidates in a competitive examination. He is a letter carrier and head Minnesota consul of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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Will talk of Gen. Grant—Rev. Frank C. Bruner, of Chicago, post chaplain-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, will deliver an address on Gen. Grant at a meeting of the Men's League of the First Methodist Church, Dayton avenue and Third street, this evening at 8 o'clock. Gov. Van Sant will also speak.

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New Black Maria Has All the Comforts—The new "Black Maria," approved by the police commission Friday, will be placed in commission Monday. The van cost $700 and is fitted with plate glass windows. Lieut. Frank Horn, of the police department, suggests that electric reading lamps be placed in the berths, to complete the comfort of prisoners being conveyed to the workhouse.

RAILROADS REPORT EARNINGS TO STATE

Soo Will Pay 3 Per Cent Tax on Earnings Amounting to $2,369,868.

Three railroads yesterday reported on their gross earnings for 1903 to the state auditor. The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Sault Ste. Marie reported earnings in Minnesota for the year of $2,369,868.25, and the 3 per cent tax yielded the state $71,096.04. In the previous year the Soo's gross earnings for Minnesota were $2,256,303, and the tax was therefore but $67,689.03.

The Dubuque & Sioux City, leased by the Rock Island system, reported earnings of $72,084.87, on which it paid a tax of $2,162.55. The Iowa Central on its earnings of $28,487.65 paid a tax of $854.53.

WILL TELL THEM HOW TO PRESERVE HEALTH

Physicians Will Address Society of Memorial Lutheran Church.

The Young People's Society of the Memorial Lutheran church has arranged for a series of lectures on medical subjects for the benefit of its members. Some of the leading physicians of the city have volunteered to lecture on their specialties. The course is systematically planned to take up the different systems of the body in a logical order, to show how the body is constructed and to aid in the preservation of better health in the community.

On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock the class will meet at 175 Iglehart street, where a lecture on the care of the teeth, opening a course on food and digestive organs, will be delivered by a leading dentist of the city.

When Women Have Their Say.

A farce comedy will be presented at the Odeon hall Thursday evening, Feb. 25, for the benefit of the building fund of St. Paul's Universalist church. The cast of the production, which is entitled "The New Woman," includes about thirty women. The scene is laid in the United States senate a century hence, with women as the country's lawmakers.

NEW INCORPORATIONS.

Articles of incorporation have been filed with the secretary of state of the American Showcase company. The capital stock is $200,000, and the principal place of business is Minneapolis. Albert Thon, G. W. Benjamin and Earl G. Benjamin are incorporators.

Articles of the Sacred Heart Church of Effington, Otter Tail county, have also been filed. Bishop James Trobec, of St. Cloud; Edward J. Nagel, Thomas Koep and Valentine Thoennes are named as the incorporators.

Soldiers Unseasonably Clad.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 20.—The First and Second battalions of the Twenty-ninth infantry left here today for Fort Sheridan. The Third battalion has gone to the Columbus barracks. The men are not equipped with winter suits, but are wearing the khaki uniform in which they came out of the Philippines. Maj. Hope, who has charge of the men, says that after their arrival at Fort Sheridan the men will be excused from guard duty and compelled to remain inside the barracks until they are furnished with a proper issue of winter equipment.

SCHOOL BOARD ASKS THE PEOPLE'S ADVICE

Issues Statements Requesting Suggestions as to High School Studies.

The people are asked by the board of school inspectors for suggestions as to how the problems with which they are confronted are to be solved. The questions under consideration relate to high school conditions and the rearrangement of exercises in the several grades of the city schools.

"The members of the board wish to have the advice of the public on these matters which are of vital interest to all, and they do not wish to proceed to make changes which are felt to be necessary before they have secured a popular expression of opinion," said School Inspector Charles A. Fisher, chairman of the committee.

"The investigation has revealed clearly what has been known for a long time, that the present high schools are cramped and that more space is needed. The manner in which we are to solve the question of providing the required facilities will depend upon the responses which we will receive." The statement follows:

At present we have four high schools, the oldest and largest being the Central, corner of Tenth and Minnesota streets; following in order of enrollment are the Mechanic Arts, Central and Park avenues; the Cleveland, Walsh avenue and Jenks street, and the Humboldt, Livingston avenue and Delos street.

For the purpose of showing the condition of these schools the board has prepared a statement giving the size, capacity and cost of maintaining each of the schools.

Expenses of Four High Schools.

The Central high school has thirty-three rooms, with four laboratories and six shop rooms. The rooms range in size from 15x24 to 29x41. The average daily attendance is 1,107.4, and the number of teachers forty. The cost of janitors' service is $1,450; fuel, $1,808.23; supplies, $1,200; teachers' salaries, from Sept. 1903, to February, 1904, $20,219; total expenses, $24,677.23. The per capita cost, last semester, $22.28; per capita 1902 and 1903, $42.02.

The Mechanic Arts high school has fourteen class rooms, two laboratories and five shop rooms, and the rooms range in size from 24x15 to 60x40. The average daily attendance is 387, and there are 22 teachers. The total expenses are $14,363.03. The per capita cost, last semester, was $37.11, and during the past two years, $63.

The Cleveland high school has eight rooms, two laboratories, one shop room, and the rooms range in size from 11x15 to 31x60. The average daily attendance is 181, and the number of teachers, 11. The total expenses, $6,714.79. The cost per capita, last semester, $37.05, and last two years, $59.01.

The Humboldt high school has eleven rooms, one laboratory and one shop room, and the size of the rooms range from 11x27 to 37x40. The average daily attendance is 150, and there are 12 teachers. The total expenses are $6,689.56. The per capita cost last semester was $44.41, and the last two years, $80.43.

The Cleveland and Humboldt schools were never built for high school purposes, and in consequence there are lacking facilities and conveniences that would exist in a building constructed for high school work. All the buildings are quite full. Principal Robinson, of the Central high school says:

"My impression is that our average enrollment comes nearer to the maximum capacity of the school than is usual in high schools."

Principal Weitbrecht says: "The truth of the matter is, the Mechanic Arts school has reached its limit; this occurred two years ago."

Principal Farnsworth says: "Our recitation rooms are too small to accommodate some of the classes that we now have, and we have no room in which to carry on the work of the business course, or our work in expression. We should at once have at least two ordinary class rooms 25x32 for our work in the high school. We need to separate the chemical and physical laboratories. We have but one basement room for manual training, and that with a very low ceiling. We should at least have one more room for wood work and one for iron work. These rooms may be secured if a new heating plant is put in. Our great need is more room for our work, and the present building is much better adapted to grade work than to high school purposes. We have no gymnasium, and the only assembly hall that we have is the high school room, now seated with 140 single desks, and used for high school purposes at all times."

Principal Baker says: "If we had more room there would be introduced one or more branches of domestic science, such as cooking, sewing, etc. As the girls far outnumber the boys, these additions to the courses would benefit many. Our assembly hall is good, but small. We have no gymnasium. The attic, at small expense, could be fitted for a gymnasium."

No Ground for Additions.

None of the high schools has ground upon which to plan additions. The conditions are such that some form of relief must be provided for the opening in September. This will, of necessity, be temporary, and can under no arrangement be satisfactory. Financial conditions will not allow at the present time measures looking to permanent relief, but we feel that the time has now arrived when our citizens must give this question the serious attention that its great importance demands. We feel that it would be quite impossible to rely upon mere expedients, providing from day to day, as circumstances compelled. Certain questions should be determined and a policy established that may give reasonable assurance of being continued indefinitely. Such principles should form the basis of this policy as would assure a safe investment of money and also the facilities for the proper amount and quality of instruction.

The first and most important question, and one that should be settled for all time is, should the location of the several high schools be regarded as definitely fixed, and should it be the policy to add other high schools, as growth in school population in other parts of the city shall require.

2. Assuming that no change in the location of any of the schools is desirable, shall new buildings be provided for the Cleveland and Humboldt?

3. Shall ground be purchased and additions made to the Central and Mechanic Arts?

Is New High School Building Needed?

4. Shall a new high school building be erected in such locality as to afford relief to the present high schools?

5. Is it desirable to make a change in the course of study in the Mechanic Arts high school, taking away its distinctive features as a high school and changing it to a school of technology, proper, offering advanced instruction, or shall all the high schools participate equally in the advantages of manual training?

6. Woul it be at all advisable to abandon the present policy of districts for high schools and build one or two large high school buildings, or one large central building and another, finely equipped, as a school of technology?

7. In this connection, and with a view of giving the largest opportunity for discussion, would it be deemed practicable or wise to establish one or more high schools for boys, and one or more for girls?

8. What change, if any, should be made respecting admission to the high schools; the studies to be pursued there, and the length of time required for graduation?

The members of the board of school inspectors are forced to consider a serious condition and to take steps looking to immediate relief that will possibly require large expenditures. They desire to know the will of the people of St. Paul and to carry out faithfully arrangements that will reflect credit upon the community and, at the same time, be above the suspicion of waste, narrowness or undue bias of any kind.

Studies in Grade Schools.

Touching the second question, as to the studies pursued in the grade schools, we very earnestly desire to have an expression of opinion upon their practical value. Have we any studies in the course that should be discarded, abridged or enlarged? Are any unduly emphasized, to the injury of others, more important? Should the study of a language, other than English, be taken into the course below the high school, and, if so, should the language be Latin, German, French or Spanish? Should the time required for completing the work in the grade school be shortened to seven years, or increased to nine?

Any suggestions that will assist the board of school inspectors in providing the most efficient and desirable system of instruction for our city will be most gratefully received and most carefully considered.

We respectfully urge everyone interested to give this matter earnest and immediate attention and to submit to us, in writing, at an early date, views upon the above matters. Respectfully submitted,

—Chas. A. Fisher, Chairman.
—O. E. Holman.
—Christian Fry.

"As the need of more room and therefore more ground is demonstrated the question the public will have to consider is whether it is willing to assume the additional burdens of taxes which will result from the expenditures necessary to carry out any plan that may be suggested," said Supt. A. J. Smith. "To buy ground and to erect and equip a high school would cost over $100,000, and to make the additions needed in the present high schools would entail a considerable outlay. It is the plan of the members of the board to secure advice to guide them, and with this end in view copies of the statement have been mailed the several hundred prominent men from whom we expect suggestions."

WILL OPEN MISSION AT ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Rev. J. F. Busch and Rev. G. A. Arctander to Conduct It for Two Weeks.

The Diocesan Missionary Fathers, Rev. Joseph F. Busch and Rev. George A. Arctander, will open a mission for Catholics and non-Catholics at St. Patrick's church, Case and Mississippi streets, today at 10:30 a. m., to continue for two weeks, closing March 6. The main weekday services will be held at 3 p. m. and 8 p. m. The same subjects will be treated at the afternoon and the evening service, so as to give all an opportunity to attend. There will also be an early mass each weekday morning at 5:30, followed by a short instruction—the same also at 8 a. m. After the lecture in the afternoon there will be an instruction for the children of the parish, during the first week of the mission.

The Diocesan missionaries are engaged in presenting the doctrines and practices of the Catholic church in a series of lectures, to which both Catholics and non-Catholics are invited; in fact a special effort is made to lay before those outside the Catholic church a dispassioned and systematic exposition of the teachings and practices of the church.

The question box, now grown popular in this kind of work, will be used at the afternoon and evening services, the first half hour being devoted to the answering of such questions as may be handed in at the door of the church.

"Hike" Is Postponed.

The Central High School Hikers' club postponed the "hike" to Prescott which they expected to take yesterday. Prof. Lange said that he could not be responsible for the health of the boys if they marched all day with wet feet from melting snow and slush, so the boys decided they would put off the "hike" until the snow froze again or melted off entirely.