THE STATE NORMAL BOARD.

The Biennial Report Submitted to the State Superintendent.

A VERY FLATTERING SHOWING.

Some Facts About the Railroad Commission—Opening of the Firemen's Charity Fair Concert—Other Lincoln Happenings.

[FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN BUREAU.]

The state normal board of education have handed their biennial report to the state superintendent. The report has just been compiled by the board meeting held at the state normal school this week, and which meeting was attended by B. E. B. Kennedy of Omaha, J. W. Love of Fremont, J. T. Spencer of Dakota City, C. W. Kaley of Red Cloud, and Church Howe of Auburn, all members of the normal school board. Their report will prove a very attering one for this state institution and show a remarkably good progress in the growth of the school and the work it is doing. Mr. J. W. Love was in Lincoln yesterday on his way home from this session of the board, and is very enthusiastic over the school and the present order of progress that it is maintaining. The location of the school is in the quiet little village of Peru, in the eastern part of Nemaha county, the buildings being situated on a high and commanding bluff, surrounded with handsome grounds and overlooking three states. Members of the board consider the location admirable in every way for good, thorough and attentive work, removed as it is from towns filled with saloons and yet being in a village are equal to all wants of the school and furnishing exceptional society. During the past two years the buildings have been greatly increased, a large wing having been added to the main building and some $30,000 expended in substantial improvements of this character, and the board asks comparisons of the work done for the money in connection with any other improvements in the state. As an evidence of the necessity existing for new buildings, more room and more accommodations, the enrollment is the best testimony, the increase in the past four years being from 250 to 470, most of which substantial gain has been made in the two years last past. The average attendance at each term the present year has been nearly 350, which is nearly as large a number as the buildings will accommodate even under their increased capacity of the past year. In the year past there have been 238 ladies enrolled, and 178 gentlemen, seventy-six of whom are in the higher or complete course in the school the balance in the elementary departments. The average age of the students in attendance is nineteen years. To show the distribution of the students over the state, forty counties are represented and there are students in the school from sixteen states in all. The total number enrolled the past year from Nebraska was 455, leaving twenty-one coming from outside states and as non resident students. Of the counties in the state Nemaha and Otoe send the largest number of students their representation in the school being nearly equal. Douglas has a good attendance, as has also Cass, Richardson, Johnson and counties adjacent, while there are students enrolled from as far west as Red Willow and Hall counties and from as far orth as Pierce county. There are at present ten instructors in the school, including the business and musical classes, and outside the principal their salaries range from $700 to $1,500 each for the school year. The board express in their report that owing to the rapid increase in attendance that at least two additional instructors will be a necessity at once. The board make in their report no estimate for any new buildings the coming year, stating that for the two years an appropriation of $30,500 will be necessary to conduct the school, but $5,000 of this will be used in completing the dormitory. The only complaint that the members of the board had to make was that it was hard work in some instances for students to get accommodations in the way of rooms and board in the village, and the member of the board volunteering this statement requested that it be mentioned.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION

report that has journeyed through the unfinished part of the capitol building to the office of the governor is a good deal improved upon from the mess of melange that was prepared before the change in the board. What reception it may receive is wholly to be determined in future. Liberal extracts from the report, however, will be interesting, and presumably point out one of the pathways that will lead to a free for all discussion of the railroad problem in the coming session. One of the extracts from the report is as follows: "Your commissioners doubt not the legal and constitutional right of the legislature of this state to fix rates of charges on freight and passengers for all traffic arising and terminating in this state. And we recommend that the board of railway commissioners be invested with legal power and authority to decide upon and determine what shall be deemed prima facie rates for the transportation of freight over one or more railroads from and to all points wholly within the state of Nebraska, and the rate of charges when so fixed by the commissioners shall be taken and deemed as reasonable rates until otherwise decided by the courts of this state upon appeal to said courts, and when the court has decided what is a reasonable rate such decision and rate so fixed shall be taken and deemed a reasonable rate." The report discusses at considerable length the long and short haul problem, and discusses the features of the Reagan and Cullom bills on this question. The report also, upon the grounds of the rapidly increasing and changing population of the state, believes that the power in the commission can adapt itself to these changes by the exercise of discretion and fix reasonable rates accordingly. The report recites that in the opinion of the commission many and indeed most of the rates of charge in the state of Nebraska for the transportation of freight by the act of 1881 are now too high; that the population of the state has greatly increased and the volume of traffic correspondingly, thereby enabling the railroads to carry freight at a less rate of charges and without diminution of earnings or profits, and therefore the commission deem it advisable and of importance to the state of Nebraska that the act of 1881, known as the Doane law, be repealed.

The commission recommend that the act creating the commission be so amended as to confer upon the commissioners the power and authority to determine what shall be deemed a reasonable rate of charges for the transportation of freights between all points wholly within the state of Nebraska, and over one or more roads, leaving the different roads over which the freight is carried to settle the division of charges between themselves unless they fail to agree in the work, when the commission is to decide for them. In the opinion expressed in the report it is also deemed advisable that the law require the roads in the state to carry the commissioners' secretaries and clerks of the commission free of charge when traveling in the performance of their duties, holding that transportation of the commission should not be as a compliment, but as the performance of a legal obligation. Attached to the voluminous report is a minority report on the part of Secretary Roggen, stating that if these modifications of the law, giving the commissioners power to fix rates and power to act in cases of complaint are not added that he, as one of the board of railway commissioners, favors the repeal of the law.

THE LOUP CITY ROLLER MILLS.

Articles incorporating the Loup City roller mills, of Loup City, Sherman county, were received at the office of the secretary of state yesterday, the capital stock of the company being $50,000 in shares of $100 each, all to be paid up at the commencement of business and shares non-assessable. The limit defined for the continuance of the corporation is January 1, 1907, and the incorporators are: N. D. D. Emerson, W. H. Morris, M. A. Theis and E. E. Whaley.

STATE HOUSE NOTES.

Sheriff J. H. Hamilton, of York, has brought to the penitentiary for incarceration two men named Martin Schmael and Charles Mathny, who are sent up for two years each, one for shooting and the other for cutting. The sheriff was at the auditor's office yesterday and collected $57.75 as fees and mileage.

George W. Washburn, of Minden, who has been an inmate of the asylum, has been pronounced cured and yesterday he was a passenger homeward on the noon train.

J. K. Vandemark, of Saunders county; H. C. Rose, of Colfax, and John Warnlaw, of Otoe, members of the incoming legislature, were at the capital yesterday.

THE FIREMEN'S FAIR.

The charity fair, concert and exposition that has been the labors of the fire department and their friends has opened under auspicious circumstances at the Metropolitan rink and it will continue open every afternoon and evening for the week. A large number of business men make elaborate displays in the booths and arrangements are complete for concerts in the evening and for dancing. Mrs. Weber and Mr. Baker are among the vocalists assisting and it is the hope of the firemen that they can secure through this fair a generous fund to set aside for the benefit of disabled firemen, when such cases may arise in the future.

LIGHTING THE CITY.

The 200 gasoline street lamps contracted for have arrived and will be planted at once. These, with the 150 gas lamps, will give a total of 350 lamps in the city after January 1. The gentlemen who are putting in the gasoline lamps have bought the western territory of the Ohio Street Light company and have organized a company of their own, which will be known as the Western Street Light company and will have headquarters at Omaha and Lincoln. The parties to the firm are J. E. Greenlach, B. C. Goodwill, of Omaha, and W. F. Goodwill, of North Platte.

MERE MENTION.

The convention of county superintendents, after a large amount of work, adjourned yesterday and departed homeward. A great many recommendations of changes in the school laws were passed upon and the convention passed resolutions highly complimentary to the retiring state superintendent.

The intelligent compositor or his half-brother, the telegraphic operator, so mutilated the names of the officers of the base ball association of Lincoln as telegraphed to the BEE, that they are herewith appended again, that the officers may recognize themselves: President, C. W. Mosher; vice president, Frank L. Sheldon; secretary, J. H. Threw; treasurer, J. E. Baum; directors, Jeff W. Glass, R. L. McDonald, and R. H. Townly.

Police court trasacted a very light business yesterday, only one homeless vagrant being up before his honor, who was given a fine and sentence to serve for the city.

The Jewish Sabbath school celebrated their Christmas at Harmonica hall Wednesday, which was very largely attended and a success in every particular. Mr. I. Friend, of the Bee Hive, having the entertainment in charge.

C. E. Mayne's prices are always the lowest and his terms are always the easiest. Go to his office and buy a lot in Cotner & Archer's add. to South Omaha for $250 to $500, that will double inside of a year.

Baker Place.

Cotner & Archer's add. to South Omaha contains 104 lots which C. E. Mayne has agreed to sell in 30 days, and to do this the prices have been placed very low. Go and investigate. For sale at $250 to $500, each on easy terms by C. E. Mayne, N. W. cor. 15th and Harney.

Threw Mud at Her.

Mrs. Mary Grebber has sworn out in Justice Anderson's court a warrant for the arrest of Fred E. Hemper. The lady claims that Hemper has some kind of a grudge against her, and that the other day when he passed her on South Thirteenth street, he picked up a handful of mud and threw it in her face.

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A Lively Runaway.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon a runaway horse and buggy had undisputed right of way down Sixteenth street. In front of the city jail the buggy collided with a brick pile and its occupant, G. Zimmerman, was thrown out but escaped injury. The collision unjointed the buggy and freed the horse, which was caught on Dodge street before any further damage was committed.

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The Union Pacific weather reports show that the coldest point on the line yesterday was Gunnison, Col., where the mercury stood at 6 degrees above zero.

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Don't Get Left

But go to C. E. Mayne and get one of the beautiful lots in Cotner & Archer's add. to South Omaha. We are selling these lots at one-half the price asked for adjoining lots. Come and investigate.

C. E. MAYNE,
N. W. Cor. 15th and Harney.

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Taking Time.

Charles Anderson, who keeps a boarding house on Douglas street, between Ninth and and Tenth streets, yesterday caused the arrest of a fellow who gave his name as Lewis Norman and charged him with the larceny of three watches. A little daughter of Mr. Anderson claims to have seen Norman taking the watches.

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Licensed to Wed.

Judge McCulloch granted marriage licenses yesterday to the following parties:

Name.	Residence.	Age.
John S. Williams	Omaha,	31
Mrs. Annie Dorsey	Omaha,	30
George L. Hughes	Omaha,	27
Rebecca E. Cook	Omaha,	24

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