

THE COURIER

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In this county, where republican nominations carry assurance of election at the polls, the people have time to count their chickens before they are hatched and this year especially they are counting them. The timely resolutions passed by the republican county convention were in this line and they were opportune and to the point. The legislative delegation stands pledged to them and if they are faithfully carried out, some past wrongs will be righted and some needed legislation for better things in municipal government, will come.

In addition to the action of the republican convention, the people of the city are already discussing needed legislation in municipal affairs and, when the time comes for the amendments to the city charter, there will be some radical changes proposed. There is a very prevailing opinion among tax-payers that a reduction of municipal expenses and the number of city officers, is eminently in order. It is discussed by many that a needed reform in the changing of the charter so as to elect in the city a board of four councilmen, electing them at large, and paying a salary of \$1500 or \$1800 each annually so as to command their entire time, secure business men who can afford to give their time for the compensation given. In this plan is involved the doing away of the excise board and the board of public works, the business of the latter being, very largely, transacted by the city engineer at all times.

Another change under discussion is in the manner of assessing property and there are many advocating the plan of electing one assessor for the city entire, paying a suitable salary and supplying him with the clerical help necessary to transact the entire business. Under present assessment laws the expense is greater than it would be with one man, and the difficulties in getting an equitable assessment of the entire city, is most apparent. With seven different men doing the work and as many as four different assessors valuing property on O street, the present system certainly cannot be in many instances satisfactory.

There is another side to the question of these proposed changes and that is the fact that it would greatly reduce the number of office-holders and destroy a great many political pulls. It is a question, too, when it comes to the effort to legislate these reforms, if the office holding and office seeking element will not interpose a lobby of such proportions as to practically put a stop to the changes advocated. The discussion of these changes however is profitable and may bring good results.

The man who has paid his sixth assessment on wood paving in this city and is hustling to secure the wherewith to meet the seventh, is confronted with a condition and not a theory. If he critically examines the wood paving before his property he will find that three years more is all that he can expect of it. By that time he will have it paid for and then he will have the pleasure of commencing over again to pay for paving. In the meantime an interesting question of an increase in the bonded indebtedness of the city presents itself, when the question of repaving the intersections comes up for action.

While you are waiting wait for the Nebraska state fair.

The article by ex-Governor Thayer in *THE COURIER* two weeks ago, in which the general paid his respects to Benjamin H. Bristow, a conspicuous member of Grant's Cabinet, has attracted considerable attention. The *World-Herald* republished the larger part of the article with editorial comment, mildly critising some of General Thayer's statements. In Sunday's *World-Herald* Patrick O'Hawes comes to the front with the following letter:

OMAHA, July 13.—My attention was this day called to an article in your editorial columns headed "Thayer on Bristow." I cannot understand what General Thayer means by assailing, through the press and on the stump, as pure a character as that of Ben Bristow. General Thayer is not only mistaken in a good many assertions in his article, but he seems to have forgotten nearly all the facts touching the relations between Grant and Bristow at the time of the latter's resignation as secretary of the treasury. To begin with, General Thayer says that when General Grant appointed Bristow as United States district attorney for the district of Kentucky he was a third-rate lawyer. The fact is that General Grant never appointed Bristow as the United States attorney for the state of Kentucky. He was appointed by Mr. Lincoln, United States attorney. He prosecuted and procured the conviction in the United States court of the only man that was ever found guilty of treason in a civil court

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