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Speaking about sermons in stone! What about coal and brick?

The recent awarding of coal contracts by the board of education has been followed by the usual charges of unfairness, and there is material in the facts in this connection for a good, wholesome sermon that would, if properly advertised, draw every coal dealer in the city save one.

Judge Broady in recording his findings in the Buckstaff-McDonald case knocked the lid off Pandor's box and there has been the deuce to pay ever since. The average citizen is prepared to accept almost any tale of official corruption and Mr. Buckstaff's story is given general credence. He says it cost him \$5,500 to secure the paving contracts, the intimation being that councilmen and other city officers at that time got the money. Mr. Buckstaff's story is interesting; but it stops short at the vital point. It is all very well to say that city officers had to be corrupted to the extent of \$5,500; but it would be much better and far more interesting if Mr. Buckstaff would furnish plans and specifications of the \$5,500 job, with the names of the principal beneficiaries, dates and amounts, etc.

The city council is always, by reputation, corrupt. The present aldermanic body has however happily escaped with very little criticism of this sort; but the suspicion that attached to the council way back in the years when Mr. Buckstaff secured his contracts has never been dispelled and such disclosures as that made in the findings of Referee Broady do not whiten the record of the past.

One of the ways in which Lincoln has improved in the last two years is the emancipation of the dramatic critics. After a long fight independence has at last been secured. The criticisms of theatrical performances in this city which appear in the newspapers may not at all times be marvels of accuracy or good judgment, but they are generally characterized by honesty. The critic tries to do justice to the play, and there is no longer any fear of managerial coercion to influence the critic's expressed opinion. And this progress that has been made is of value in many ways. An interesting addition has been made to the material that goes to make up the papers of the city, and there is, unquestionably, more genuine interest in theatricals than in the days when the office cats and dogs used to criticize the play.

John M. Thurston is going to meet W. J. Bryan in joint debate. The debates will be interest, but so far as the impression on the crowd goes, Mr. Bryan will come out ahead. The congressman is volatile, while Mr. Thurston is directly the opposite. A mixed crowd such as usually gathers to hear a political debate is susceptible, chiefly, to the arts and graces which are the special gift of Mr. Bryan. A bland smile and uplifted palm, a note of sarcasm, a word of repartee, the dodges and tricks of the facile oratorical gymnast, outweigh, every time sound argument, and the people who hear the debate in this city next Tuesday will see that the burden of the guffaws and ki-yis will be with classic-featured "boy orator of the Platte."

Rev. Byron Beall's last word on suicide closed and forever settled all controversy on this subject, just as we thought it would. The Third Presbyterian church was packed to suffocation last Sunday night. Melodrama is popular elsewhere than the theatre.

Lincoln has got a Commercial Club now. What will she do with it? Will it degenerate into a social club, the easy and natural thing to do, or will it be successful in living up to its name, an endeavor that will be attended with many difficulties and much hard work? Its usefulness lies entirely along the lines of commercial development and there is a great and promising work before the club.

The Corse Payton company will open a week's engagement at the Lansing theatre, Monday night, presenting as the opening bill "A Persian Princess." There will be a change of program nightly, the repertory including popular plays in which this company has appeared in before in the city. The Payton company is well known in Lincoln, having played here regularly every season for some years, and is one of the best liked of the popular priced organizations. Popular prices will prevail, 10, 20 and 30 cents.

Sleepy-Eye Cream Flour,

Warranted the BEST FLOUR in America.

Any Grocer can get it for you.

None Genuine without cut of Indian on back of sack.

J. K. Ives & Co., Wholesale Agts.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA