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Mayor Weir's crusade has been going on now for over two weeks, and those persons who always oppose movements of this sort, on the ground that it is better for business to have everything run "wide open," can hardly

contend that Lincoln has suffered in any way by the campaign against crime and vice that has recently been waged. Whether the cause of purity has been appreciably advanced, we are unable to say. But certain it is that no harm has been done.

Perhaps the principal objection that has been made to the mayor's course is that a closing up of the dives means a scattering of infection into the residence portions of the city. There is some truth in this; but the police are well acquainted with the offenders, and they can, if the proper effort is put forth, reduce this danger to a minimum.

The Omaha *Excelsior* is informed that THE COURIER has no intention of making Bank Examiner Griffith the "scapegoat for all the trouble brought on those poor people by the Capital National bank." We merely take the position that Mr. Griffith is a tremendous scoundrel or a hopeless ninny, and that inasmuch as he was and is paid to protect the interests of the public, and yet allowed Mosher to gut the bank, he ought to be summarily removed from office in the interest of the public.

The *Excelsior* says: "The bank examiner was surely not allowed to see the true condition of the bank. The figures were falsified out and out." Such statements as this furnish no palliation for Mr. Griffith's dereliction. The law contemplates that a national bank examiner shall be something more than a wooden man or dummy. Our contemporary remarks that Governor Crouse, before accepting the bond signed by Mosher and Outcalt for state money on deposit in the Capital National bank, made inquiry of three of the leading bank presidents in this city, Mr. E. E. Brown and Mr. S. H. Burnham being among the number, and that these gentlemen assured the governor that the bond was good. "If three bank presidents in Lincoln, who would have good reason to suggest caution in such a case had they known of anything wrong, did not only not know, but actually recommended their brother bankers, what might be expected of the national bank examiner who visited that institution but twice a year?" says the *Excelsior*.

We do not know whether Governor Crouse sought and obtained this counsel; but admitting that he did, there is nothing in this circumstance to lighten the enormity of Mr. Griffith's offense. The

three "bank presidents" did not have access to the books of Mosher's bank, and it was impossible for them to know anything about the condition of that institution. All they had to go by was the reputation of the bank, which at that time was good. But, by his own admission, the Capital National had for a long time been one of Mr. Griffith's "hospital cases," and he made very frequent examinations of the concern. For years he had been on the inside of the Capital National's operations, and with perhaps two exceptions, he knew more about the bank's condition and its rottenness than anybody. He could not help knowing. He did know. That is what makes him so inexcusably culpable.

There can be no satisfactory excuse for Griffith's remissness. He is a glittering example of official incompetency or a rascally accessory in a tremendous steal, and he ought to be turned out.

In referring to some of Mr. Griffith's other experiences with "hospital cases," we said a few weeks ago that E. M. Morsman, of Omaha, upon the advice of Griffith, purchased Judge Gaslin's stock in the defunct City National bank of Hastings, and that he advanced money to put the bank on its feet again, all of which he lost. The *Excelsior* says this is true, and that Mr. Morsman also lost \$6,000 more in assessments. Our Omaha contemporary adds: "But Mr. Morsman informs us that he does not blame Mr. Griffith at all in the matter, nor does he attach any blame to him in the fact that he also lost heavily in the failure of the Grand Island bank," another "hospital case" where Mr. Morsman took Griffith's advice. Mr. Griffith is certainly to be congratulated on having such steadfast friends, who will lose money by him and yet grin and bear it, and continue to defend him.

Some discussion that must be more or less annoying to innocent persons having been caused by our series of "Character Sketches," the author, "Teyn," desires us to say that the sketches are not written for local application. The characters briefly outlined are merely superficial sketches of types that exist in nearly every community

It must be a source of unalloyed gratification to the readers of the stolid Sunday *Journal* to note the attempt of the management to leaven the heavy mass with a frappe of excruciatingly funny cuts or cartoons. Anything of this kind in our contemporary is a relief. Then humor appears to such excellent advantage in the *Journal*. It has a most effective bas relief in the practically unvarying dullness that exploits itself in a measured and deliberate manner in that paper's columns.

The unhappy editor of the Lincoln *Herald*, whose naturally sunny disposition has been appreciably clouded by certain untoward political circumstances that we need not mention, objects to our position on the income tax, and is pleased to make some very unkind remarks concerning the editor of this paper who, Major Calhoun says, would never be reached by the provisions of the income tax bill, which it will be remembered, effects only incomes of \$4,000 or over. For years the editor of this paper has made a studied endeavor to convey the impression that he is a man of wealth, with large estates and country houses and ships on the high seas, and it is cruel in the major, whom we have always regarded as our friend, to dispel the illusion which had become so effective. Humiliating

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