

about dazed until he got accustomed to things. Lincoln, after its three or four years uninterrupted sleep, has the same difficulty in rousing itself. The sheets and blankets that have enshrouded the town still cling to it, despite the earnest effort to leave these things and enter upon a new career.

A great many business men in Lincoln are not enterprising. They take what comes to them and are content. They pay no heed to the whirr of progress to be heard on all sides of them, and have, apparently, few ideas outside of their shops. They don't take any particular interest in Lincoln or anything. If Lincoln is slow or if business is bad, they are not disturbed. They do not know what public spirit means. Hence it is not surprising that the efforts of the men who are responsible for the organization of the Commercial club did not, at first, meet with an enthusiastic reception; neither is it surprising that so little interest, comparatively, has been manifested in the meetings so far held. The business men haven't quite recovered from their doze yet; and no one would expect Lincoln people to exhibit any marked enthusiasm on any subject. Somehow the business activity so noticeable in Sioux City and Denver is entirely lacking in Lincoln. Here we would rather sleep than be up and doing.

But there has been some interest displayed, probably more than some of the movers anticipated, and it is quite probable that something definite and tangible may yet result from the movement the first step of which was the organization of a Commercial club. Maybe the sleepers will wake up and do something.

THE COURIER has been hammering away along this line for nearly a year now; and it would hardly be proper for us to make any stronger appeal for the proper development of the Commercial club than we have already made, or to emphasize more forcibly the importance of such a movement as the one just inaugurated in this city. Surely a great deal has been accomplished in the formation of the club. We are hopeful that it will not be allowed to dissipate into a state of nothingness through sheer neglect. We would go so far as to say that we really believe much good will be accomplished by the club, that Lincoln is on the verge of a new activity and prosperity.

The fact that an attempt will be made to amend the charter of the city of Lincoln at the coming session of the legislature so as to make the salary of the mayor \$2,500 has doubtless had some effect in encouraging citizens to become candidates for this office. Even at this early day there are a number of candidates, and the crop will be enlarged before spring. George Woods sustained what might be called his first real defeat, or met with the first obstacle in his conspicuous progress in political preferment at the recent republican county convention when something struck his candidacy for the chairmanship of the convention; but the young councilman's serenity was hardly disturbed, and he has already forgotten all about it. Mr. Woods is a prominent prospective candidate for mayor, and if he makes an effort to secure the nomination he would not be an easy man to beat. At least one other councilman, Frank Graham, is, or will be, a candidate. There is also some talk of Ed. R. Sizer for the office, and the traveling men expect to bring out a candidate of their own, F. A. Bartholomew being mentioned in this connection.

What Mayor Weir is going to do is not very clear. It is pretty certain that he will be foiled in his great ambition to be nominated for governor by the populists. In default of anything else he would probably like to run for mayor again; but this would do him no good. Weir could not by any possibility be re-elected mayor. There is a flattering prospect that his honor will re-enter private life next year.

Intimate friends of G. M. Hitchcock, editor of the Omaha *World Herald*, and others who are familiar with the facts, have observed the political attitude of that gentleman with a great amount of interest during the last three or four years. Mr. Hitchcock, as is well known, is the son of a man who was an ardent republican, and it

has frequently been said that had it not been for the fact that the principal newspaper in Omaha was republican in politics, he would have made his original paper, the *World*, a republican organ; that he was forced to get on the democratic side of the fence because *Roosevelt* had usurped the republican field. This is denied by some of those who know Mr. Hitchcock well, and we are of those who believe the editor of the *World Herald* to be conscientious in his political beliefs, peculiar though they may be. Since the *World* was united with the *Herald* the policy of the hyphenated journal has gradually grown more and more complex and variegated, until today it is far from an easy matter to tell just what the politics of the *World-Herald* is.

Sometimes a careful reader of Mr. Hitchcock's paper may discover traces of what might be called republican sentiment; but five times out of six the editorial page of the *World-Herald* leans either towards democracy or populism; generally towards populism. And this is where the strange part of it comes in. Mr. Hitchcock was supposed to be worth something like \$750,000 a few years ago, before his newspaper had begun to eat up his assets. His friends and associates were and are people of wealth, and he naturally inclines toward aristocracy. There is nothing democratic in his mode of life. And yet this man of wealth has for years been advocating the doctrines of socialism with all the force at his command. The democratic party has not contained enough of socialistic doctrine to suit him, and he has taken up and advocated nearly every one of the so-called principles of populism. He has inveighed against capital and monopoly with all the eloquence of a bare-foot and empty-stomached street orator, and he has pleaded for the workingman with unremitting ardor. In his enthusiasm he has gone to extreme lengths, advocating some of the most heretical of socialistic or populist ideas. His friends have joked him for this leaning in the direction of the fads; but he has been indifferent to ridicule and has persevered in his course, upholding Bryan and Allen and the various extremists of both the democratic and populist parties. We do not know that Mr. Hitchcock has ever been called a demagogue, a term that is sometimes applied rather indiscriminately, and the fact that he is not accused of hypocrisy is a high tribute to his character. Mr. Hitchcock, we are sure, believes in the ideas so industriously advocated in his newspaper.

Mr. Hitchcock's father-in-law, Lorenzo Crouse, governor of Nebraska, with whom he is on the most intimate terms, is in many respects the exact opposite of the young editor. Government has long been a hobby of Governor Crouse. He believes heartily in the preservation of law and order, and he has no sort of sympathy with the fanatical ideas of the Burrowses and VanWycks and Schraders and Allens and Bryans. He takes a hopeful view of conditions and believes the country will be able to cope with any emergency that may arise. He is a republican and he thinks the republican party can be depended upon to provide every needful reform. For a great many years he has been looked upon as an anti-monopolist; but he has never gone to the extreme lengths to which his son-in-law so often goes. People say that the discussions between Governor Crouse and Mr. Hitchcock on socialistic subjects are particularly interesting.

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