



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1895.



The legislature did many things it should not have done and failed to do many things it should have done; but in the consideration of the question of the adoption of a floral emblem of the state it rose bravely to the occasion and covered itself

with glory. By legislative enactment the brazen sun flower is deposed from its high position and it can no longer flaunt itself in our faces with same long necked insolence as before. The beautiful *Solidago* is a much more appropriate state flower. It is a thing of beauty and a constant joy.

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Not in a great many years has there been such a disgraceful session of the legislature as that which came to an end last Saturday. The little the legislature did that deserves commendation could have been done in ten days. The rest of the time was largely spent in the introduction of bills brought forth for revenue only. For three months corruption stalked the corridors of the state house and crouched in the lobbies. Dishonesty showed itself constantly in the action of legislators. Deception and intrigue marked the proceedings. Personal honor and the welfare of the state were recklessly sacrificed. The lobbyists scattered gold pieces and legislators crawled on all fours to gather them up. The briber pursued his vocation openly. The legislature was wholly indifferent to the wishes of the people, and criminally prodigal in voting away public money. The republican party is humiliated and disgraced by the dishonesty and incompetence of republican members, and the state suffers and will suffer from the acts of this body, the like of which, it is to be hoped, will never be seen again in this state.

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The railroad companies escaped with comparative ease at the late session, but the South Omaha stock yards company, electric light and telephone companies, the Oxnard beet sugar interest, and other concerns maintained paid lobbyists whose principal duty was to buy votes. Ed Roggen, John H. Sahler, E. Rosewater, Snyder, the beet sugar promotor, Babcock of the stockyards and Frank Ransom, were among the more prominent of the men who influenced legislation. That large sums of money were used to corrupt legislators there is no doubt, and the success of the labors of the

lobbyists can be readily learned by a perusal of the record of work done by the legislature. The money making possibilities of a membership in the Nebraska legislature are so well known that men get into this body for the sole purpose of obtaining a place on certain committees where there are special opportunities to bleed the corporations.

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Perhaps the most disgraceful feature of the session SEELEY was the man Barber, of Grand Island, who, to the AND shame of the senate, was allowed to hold the post of BARBER assistant secretary to the very end. Barber entered into a close compact with Walt Seeley before the session began, and these two precious scamps acted together, one on the inside and the other very near the inside, from first to last. Barber, with scarcely any experience in the work in which Seeley is such an expert, proved himself an apt pupil. He soon became as proficient as Seeley. Everybody knows that there was a senate combine. Barber was one of the keys, and Seeley was another. The former could tell just how much it would cost to get a measure through, or the contrary, and much of the business of the combine was done through him. Barber was one of the worst nuisances that afflicted the Nebraska legislature.

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Is England tottering on its foundations? Is the THE nation whose empire almost encircles the world, the MODERN nation that for eight centuries was the dominant BABYLON spirit in the world's civilization, beginning to decay? Has civilization in England become over-civilized? Is the licentiousness growing out of this hot bed of luxury fated to overwhelm this proudest kingdom on the earth? These questions are suggested by the recent disclosures in London. The awful degradation that exists in the highest circles in England today is what undermined the power of the Roman empire.

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The board of education will reduce the REDUGING salaries of teachers in the public schools. ECONOMY, when practiced by a municipal government on a school board generally affects those least able to accept its conditions. The teachers have already suffered a material reduction. Another cut at this time will impose a hardship on a most deserving class. Most of the city teachers earn more than they get. Few can live decently on less than they now receive. One member of the board of education has lately been making the rounds of the stores with a view of ascertaining how the teachers spend their money. This gentleman might have been engaged in better business. We are not living in France of a hundred years ago. The salaries are small enough, heaven knows, and it is no business of the board of education how they are spent, so long as the teachers live respectably.