

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1895.

OBSERVATIONS.

WITHIN the last year the Chicago morning newspapers have followed up the prior invasion of Nebraska territory by a vigorous policy of advertising and canvassing; and the progress that they have made is phenomenal. The Chicago papers now reach Omaha a little after dinner time, and they are for sale in this city soon after 4 o'clock. The *Tribune*, *Record*, *Times-Herald* and *Inter-Ocean* each has a subscription patronage in Lincoln running up into the hundreds. The steady advance being made by these papers recalls the remarks made in these columns a year and a half ago. In discussing the enterprise of the Chicago newspapers I said it was only a question of time when Nebraska's three big dailies, the *Bee*, *World-Herald* and *State Journal*, would be compelled to draw in some of their tendrils and be content with a more restricted field. The time will come it was said, when these three papers that now boast of their metropolitan frills and seek to win patronage on account of their general news and literary features will have to be made into local newspapers, if they are to be maintained successfully, and events have borne out the truth of my statements. The gain of the Chicago newspapers in Nebraska is, to a considerable extent, the loss of the morning papers in Lincoln and Omaha. The afternoon papers are affected by this competition, but not to anything like the extent of the morning papers. There is a growing disposition on the part of reading public to take a Chicago morning paper and a local evening paper. The Chicago newspaper business is undergoing an unprecedented development, and the big Nebraska dailies will be more and more affected by their competition.

There was a time when the *Bee* circulated thousands of papers in Iowa and all over this part of the west, to say nothing of Nebraska. Now the Chicago papers have full possession of the field; and the *Bee* is forced to depend almost entirely on Omaha and near-by points in the state. If report be true this state circulation is materially reduced. That Mr. Rosewater has felt the effect of the Chicago competition was made evident some months ago when he appeared before congress and protested against the train service that enabled the Chicago papers to levy tribute on the entire west this side of Colorado. But Mr. Rosewater protested in vain, and all the objections that he and his brother publishers may raise will not reduce this competition. It is a condition that will have to be met.

Lincoln merchants, among whom are some notable clams, may take lessons from Omaha business men, who are advertising their wares in the Lincoln papers. These Omaha merchants find it profitable to go away from home and advertise in outside papers. Some Lin-

coln merchants are so clammy that they do not even advertise at home.

Anyone who is much about town cannot help noticing the remarkable development of the bucket shop business. Perhaps some of the dealers may object to this term; but it expresses the idea, and it therefore goes. Of late the speculative fever seems to be largely on the increase. The business has really assumed formidable proportions. I can

major portion of it did. These shops are not doing the town any good.

Considering the large amount of money involved the indifference of the public during the trial of the Hill case was remarkable. Friday and Saturday of last week, the closing days of the trial, the court, jury and attorneys were, practically the only occupants of the senate chamber. Only occasionally did a spectator saunter in. More than once I have intimated that the opinion

Apropos of the Hill case a great deal is heard just now concerning the liability of state treasurers. I believe most people will agree that when a state treasurer is given the absolute and unqualified control of the state money, receiving personally the interest profit on the money, he should be made to insure the safety of the fund and be held responsible for any loss. But there is a difference in the case of a treasurer who receives a definite salary, the state designating the depositories and receiving the benefit of all interest.

Patrick Egan, an old-time conspicuous citizen of Lincoln, emerges from the obscurity in which he has been enveloped since his return from Chile, long enough to tell a waiting and anxious public what he thinks about the money question. Egan is emotional, and those who know him are not surprised to find him a free silverite. If there is a sensational side to a question Mr. Egan always finds it. But the opinion of the ex-minister to Chile is not specially important.

So "Professor" W. M. Croan, of the Western Normal college is going to quit town. 'Tis sad, sad news. The flags on all the public buildings ought to be hung at half mast, and the town ought to be draped in mourning. The professor is a wonderful man. Lincoln never saw his like before and in all probability will never see his like again. He will be missed, because of his kind he is a mighty rare specimen. With his departure Lincoln will lose one of the most unique and in some respects the most remarkable person in all the town.

The "professor" will, it is announced, sever his connection with the Western Normal college and return to Anderson, Ind., the home of his youth. He was lately in Anderson and his visit was made the subject of the following dispatch which appeared in the Chicago papers:

"Anderson, Ind., May 8.—Prof. Croan president of the Normal college at Lincoln, Neb., which two years ago has 1,700 students enrolled, but owing to the famine in that state had but 150 last year, today is in the city, and was offered by Anderson real estate men a \$20,000 bonus for the location of his college here on a site which he has picked out. He will probably accept the offer."

The fact that the "professor" is able to gull the people of his own town into believing his stories about that 1700 attendance of two years ago, and more than that, inducing them to offer him a cash bonus to come back to them, emphasizes his smoothness, and to some extent lessens the humiliation of the people of this town who have been victimized by him. It is safe to say that the people of Lincoln, much as they will miss the professor, will never offer him \$20,000 to return to them.

Seriously, this man Croan is one of



PEOPLE WITH "THE PASSING SHOW."

name at least seven concerns that do a bucket shop business, and every afternoon the black boards in these trading shops are eagerly watched by crowds of men. There is much more speculating than ever before. A well known banker and business man told me the other day that he had been given to understand that one concern had, in the six or seven years it had been in business, sent to Chicago \$1,600,000 more than it had brought to Lincoln. These figures give a good idea of the average unprofitableness of amateur dealings on the board of trade. Of course all of this money did not come out of Lincoln; but the

is generally entertained that nothing will come of this much advertised suit, and that such is the case was evident by the utter absence of public interest during last week's proceedings. The disagreement of the jury on the point submitted was a foregone conclusion. The instructions of the court were, some of the attorneys thought, strongly in favor of the state; but the idea that the jury would agree on the state's proposition was not at any time seriously entertained. The court has adjourned now until May 21. Further proceedings can hardly destroy the advantage gained by the defense.