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OBSERVATIONS

Apropos of the recent meeting of the state editorial association in this city and The Courier's remarks concerning the notable absence of Omaha newspaper men and women, Mrs. Peattie remarks that the press association is a "singularly useless thing," and the Bee, answering the friendly paragraphs which appeared in these columns said: "It was not egotism that caused the absence of the editors of the Omaha dailies, but the eternal grind that keeps them at the daily mill. Incidentally it must be admitted that the principal dailies of the country can not, in the nature of things, have the same interest in state and district editorial associations that the country papers have, which almost exclusively make up the rank and file of their memberships. As a matter of necessity, the standard dailies are compelled to join with other leading dailies in associations for the collection of telegraphic news and for the protection and promotion of business interests which they have in common, but with which the weeklies and smaller dailies have little or no concern. On this score the relations of the Omaha dailies to the Nebraska state editorial association differ in no way from the relations of the Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Milwaukee or San Francisco dailies to the associations of their respective states."

The excuse of the "principal dailies of the country" for their non-representation at the state meeting of "country editors" is interesting, but it savors strongly of arrogance. The "country" newspapers will no doubt be

glad to learn that they are accorded no place in the protection and promotion of the business interests which the "principal dailies" have under their care. The average country editor has fondly imagined that he, in common with the great editors of the "standard dailies," was laboring in the common cause of the welfare and upbuilding of Nebraska. He is doubtless unprepared for the cold announcement which comes from Mr. Rosewater that the county weeklies have nothing in common with the "principal dailies," and he is, perchance, shocked. The excuse is, if the truth must be told, a little thin. There's the State Journal! It has seams and spots, but if the Bee and World-Herald are principal dailies the Journal must be given a place in the same class, and that paper, or rather, its editors, have found it possible to leave the eternal grind long enough to give some recognition to the state association. The Journal would scarcely contend that it has nothing in common with the country newspapers. Mrs. Peattie's remark is unfortunate. Country editors may construe it to mean that their papers are "singularly useless," and that idea will not enhance their love for the World-Herald. Country editors have found the association useful. The fact that the great Omaha editors find it useless will generally be taken as a species of arrogance.

It is rather a dull day in Omaha when somebody does not commit suicide. A number of those who voluntarily seek death are non-residents. Omaha is becoming widely known as a good place to die in.

The people of Lincoln and the state have this week had impressed upon them the importance of the state unity. The exercises have attracted much interest and many people. The public is beginning to realize that the university is the greatest thing in Nebraska.

The curfew ordinance is in full force and effect. Outraged authority is on the warpath and boys and girls are finding it necessary to provide themselves with guardians. Vigilance is the sign and seal of the city administration. Unattended youth are the especial mark of the high moral Grahamesque regime. With the ringing of the curfew, or rather the blowing of the curfew, a wave of virtuous zeal rolls over this city of variegated morals. Angels of mercy and tender care, disguised as blue-coated policemen, rise up on the street corners and the boys and girls are driven back from the confessed foulness of the town.

The curfew in Lincoln! It is said they have evening prayers in Hades. Who, among those who helped prepare for "wide open" Lincoln, thought the curfew would ever sound in the evening stillness in this great and up-to-date

community? Who, of the bronzed and battle scarred warriors who flourished pikes in the municipal melee of one year ago, and joined in the frantic chorus of glory to Graham, as the coming opener, imagined that ere a year had passed, the curfew would send its warning note into every nook and cranny of the place, hurrying unaccompanied youth away from the evil that stalks the streets, into the protected enclosure of the home? Who, in heaven's name, thought that Lincoln would come to this? The curfew in Lincoln as the observer of today finds it, is an anomaly so conspicuous that persons of rational mind find in it a source of increasing wonder and interest.

No one can question the desirability of the curfew ordinance. It is a good thing and Mr. Lawlor, who introduced it, is a great man, and the councilmen who passed it, and the mayor who signed it, are, in a limited way, great men. Mr. Graham's administration has manifested such an eager solicitude in catering to the sentiment that demanded a wide open town that the curfew demonstration was hardly looked for. The curfew is a great disappointment to the boys of the city—and they are many—who were wont to join the maturer revelling contingent in the nocturnal efforts to keep things wide open. These youthful celebrants now regard His Honor with unconcealed disfavor. It is hard, so it seems to them, to have to keep within doors after nightfall, while their elders are out gambling and gambling in freedom, passing from one form of vice to another with no restraint other than their own will or their means. But these pent up youngsters notwithstanding, the new ordinance is a fine thing and the authorities should be encouraged by public sentiment to enforce it to the letter.

It is curious, tho', this passing of the curfew law. Naturally there is much speculation as to the reasons that prompted its enactment. Are the authorities preparing for a wider opening and driving back the youth as a slight concession to conscience? Or are they tiring of the outlawry that obtains and is the curfew the first step in a general movement to restore Lincoln to its former place in the moral scale? Surely the men who have taken the oath of office and pledged themselves to administer public affairs for the best interest of the people cannot be pleased with the state of things now existing. It must be that they are convinced that running a town wide open is not, as they supposed, the proper way to promote its business interests, and that, morally, the wide open plan is decidedly objectionable. Taking this presumption then as the only reasonable explanation of the curfew incident the people may look for a general onslaught on the evil of the town. Gambling is going on daily and nightly in this city in open defiance of the law. Nowhere, not even except-

ing the mining towns of Colorado, where vice is given the freedom of the place, is there a more shameless disregard for the law than in Lincoln. Gambling rooms are located in the very center of the city and are even given police protection. Here, all day long, and far into the night, men openly violate the law. Boys crowd these places, even after the curfew sounds, and the police stand by to see that the gamblers are not disturbed. Of course, after the curfew, the mayor intends to be consistent and close these places, and others more vicious. Certainly he will not stop at the curfew when there is so much to attend to in this wide open town. When will he begin the general attack? When will the curfew ordinance be followed by an order to close the gambling houses? It is past belief that after this recent manifestation the mayor can stand still. He must proceed. The eyes of the people are upon him.

Joseph R. Dunlop, the publisher of the Chicago Dispatch was sentenced to a fine of \$2,000 and to serve two years in the penitentiary, for sending obscene matter through the mails. The offense consisted in publishing "personals" of evident vicious purport. Sometimes it is right that an editor should go to jail. Dunlop got no more than he deserved. There is room in the jails for a few more newspaper men of his stripe.

The Times-Herald in discussing the conviction of Dunlop, said: "Many people are surprised that the aid of the federal law and a federal court had to be invoked to rid the town of the unclean Dispatch as conducted by Joseph R. Dunlop. Have we no state law, they inquire, that will cover such offenses? \* \* Is it because our law is inadequate? Not at all. It is because the administrators of the law are unfaithful to their duties and are too fearful that their personal fortunes may suffer if they should attack an unscrupulous newspaper and its owners. In the federal courts no such feeling controls the action of their officers and the result is that the people have faith in them."

The federal court throughout the country is given the same distinction accorded to the United States court in Illinois by the Times-Herald. Generally this court is above assail. It is for this reason that the federal court in Nebraska, under Judge Dundy's rule, is conspicuous for its shortcomings.

University students may have to be brought within the provisions of the curfew ordinance. The interruption of the performance at the Funke opera house last Saturday night, may have been higher criticism; but there is no demand for that sort of thing in Lincoln.

A couple of weeks ago reference was made in these columns to the patriotic movement in this state which has