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OBSERVATIONS

Mr. W.E. Annin, the industrious and discursive Washington correspondent of the Journal, is following the straight line of duty when he discusses national politics from the view point of the nation's capital for the benefit of provincial Nebraskans. He is not departing from his proper work when he entertains us with accounts of the movings and mouthings of the senators and representatives from this state, tho' he sometimes surfeits us with enthusiastic praise of trivial performances. But when Mr. Annin telegraphs from Washington the particulars of the political situation in Nebraska he is exceeding his authority, and sending coals to Newcastle that are conspicuously undesirable. Mr. Annin is a clever writer and one of the best correspondents in Washington. He may know all about Washington politics and have an open sesame to the nursery of Frances and Ruth, but there are a few things here in Nebraska that he does not know. The Roentgen system has not as yet reached the state of development where it is possible to obtain a correct photograph of things a thousand miles distant. Mr. Annin, clever and interesting as he is, is not omniscient, and he is not gifted in prescience. It is, therefore, presumptuous in him to telegraph from Washington the latest news of Nebraska.

Mr. Annin has been sending to the Journal some peculiar information concerning the Manderson movement in this state. His contribution to the political excitement here is entirely gratuitous, and boldly inaccurate. The Manderson boom has been largely made

up of Mr. Annin's somewhat transparent correspondence. It has been demonstrated that a boom for president must have other and a more solid foundation than distorted dispatches sent out by enthusiastic writers for the press.

The Manderson "boom" hardly reached the proportions of a boom. The work of other hands than Manderson's was so plainly seen in the sudden demonstration that the people refused to take the candidacy of the ex-senator seriously, and the effect has been a concentration of McKinley sentiment. McKinley is stronger in Nebraska today than before Manderson's name was mentioned.

Republican politics has its share of trickery, and trickery is exerting itself just now, and chiefly for the purpose of defeating McKinley. Pretty soon honest men will be saying of the Ohio candidate: "We love him for the enemies he has made." Matt Quay a candidate for president! This is a sort of vicious buffoonery that is disgraceful to the republican party. Quay is one of the most accomplished boodlers and skillful "workers" in this country. He represents everything that is base in politics. He is a jobber and a corruptionist of the most advanced sort. Quay has never been sincere in anything, and he is not sincere in his present candidacy. He is dealing with Tom Reed. The Manderson movement came straight from Quay and Platte, and it is not surprising that it was discredited in this state. The wonder is that Mr. Manderson allowed himself to be tricked by these political pirates. The ex-senator unwittingly permitted himself to be placed in a ridiculous position by the chief tricksters of the party.

Last week I predicted that Manderson would decline to be a candidate before the delegates are selected in this state. If the ex-senator values his reputation and cares to retain the respect of the people of Nebraska, he will withdraw at once, while he can do so with honor. Should he permit his name to be used and to go before the state convention Manderson stock would fall to a very low figure in Nebraska. The republicans of this state would find it difficult to respect a man who acted as a cat's paw for Quay and Reed and stood in the way of the honest sentiment of the party. But it is certain that Manderson will stop the farce before it goes too far. The vote at the G. A. R. reunion in Omaha and the incidents of last week's meeting of the republican state central committee in this city should make it clear to the ex-senator that he cannot stem the current of McKinley enthusiasm.

The whole truth about that meeting of the state central committee will probably never be told. If a certain plan of Congressman Hainer's had been carried out there would have been an uproar in

this state that would have culminated in the repudiation of the committee at the state convention. Congressman Hainer has made a fairly good record in Washington and he was in a fair way to get a permanent hold on the republicans of the Fourth district, when, in an unguarded moment, he succumbed to the blandishments of the Reed machine, and for a paltry committee appointment bargained to attempt to defeat the wishes of an overwhelming majority of the republican voters of Nebraska. There was a feeling that it was inadvisable to appoint a congressman to the post of chairman of the state central committee. When that congressman inspired by motives clearly unpatriotic sought to use his position as chairman in the furtherance of a scheme of the Reed-Quay-Platte combination, and against the expressed will of his party in his own state, it became apparent to many republicans that the selection of Mr. Hainer was a serious mistake. The meeting of the committee brought out a lobby that reminded the onlookers of the palmy days of the legislature. Workers were whisked in from all parts of the state, and the word was passed around that the McKinley talk must be stopped, that the party should rally to the support of Manderson. Chairman Hainer was foolish enough to imagine that he could force the committee to go on record as pledging the party to Manderson's candidacy. Senator Thurston and other leading republicans were on hand, and Mr. Hainer very promptly altered his program. Manderson was not trotted out. Mr. Hainer and his co-workers left the city much disgruntled. It was a palpable defeat for Manderson, and a victory for the McKinley advocates on the opposition's battleground.

Mr. Hainer advocated the favorite son idea while in this city. It was not surprising, therefore, that some republicans were disposed to advance the same idea with reference to Mr. Hainer's district and bring out favorite sons from the various counties to contest with him for the nomination for congress this year. The congressman's stand in opposition to the prevailing sentiment of the state and the district, dictated as it was by no lofty idea, was a grave mistake, and it may cause his defeat for renomination. Already there are numerous candidates in the Fourth district, among whom is Senator Pope, of Saline county, who may develop into a formidable opponent.

Mayor Graham, for some reason, does not follow up the curfew ordinance with an order to close the gambling houses. The curfew sounds nightly and the little boys are chased off the streets; but the real vice and depravity that infest the town are unchecked. The curfew sounds, but the rattle of the chips is still heard in the licensed gambling hells. The curfew sounds, but the unmentionable dens of infamy send out

their garish light undimmed, and the worst form of vice is practiced under the protection of the police. Mr. Lawlor every evening beams ecstatically as the curfew sounds, but all over the city the law is being openly violated and wickedness stalks with presumptuous gait. The curfew sounds, but the town is still wide open, and Lincoln still deserves its reputation as one of the toughest towns in the west. Why is the mayor inactive? Surely after the curfew he cannot stand still. He is in duty bound to prosecute the good work. Let the mayor ring all the bells of the city some fine morning as a notice to the people that from that hour the law will be enforced, that the gates that opened wide to admit vice and lawlessness and crime will close to protect the moral health of the city. When will the mayor act?

There is one feature of this wide open regime in Lincoln that is not generally thought of. Twice, within a week, it has been called to my attention. The word has gone out all over this part of the country that Lincoln is the loosest town, morally, west of the Mississippi river. I am not in a position to debate this question, but it is probable that there are other places equally as loose. Be that as it may, this city has secured a notoriety that is most unenviable, that may work serious injury to its welfare. Traveling men and others spread the information that in Lincoln no attempt is made to enforce the laws against gambling, and the allied vices, and the daily newspapers contain ample corroborative particulars. Twice in seven days I have heard of instances where parents in the state refused to send their children to this city and to the state university because of the immorality that is not only allowed to go unchecked here, but is protected by the very authority that is lawfully bound to stamp it out. It may readily be seen that this state of things is a standing menace to the university and the city. When the town has reached the point in viciousness and outlawry that parents are afraid to trust their children to its temptations, the idea may occur to many people that it is time to make a radical change in the policy of the city government. Perhaps the mayor will think this over and hasten to sound the warning note.

Now that candidates for governor in this state are soon to be nominated, and candidates for the nomination are springing up in half the counties, it is in order to discuss the qualifications that a man should have to properly fit him for the gubernatorial office. In this state the office of governor has been too lightly regarded. Politicians have been disposed to look upon the governorship as a mere political snap, to be scrambled for the same as any other office. No distinction has been made between candidates for governor and candidates for oil inspector or sanitary