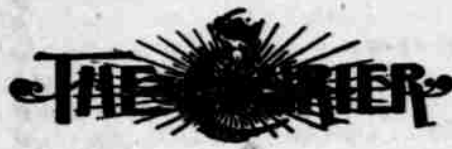


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OBSERVATIONS.

In the short time that he has been at work, Mr. McArthur has fully justified his appointment as water inspector. His report made to the council last Monday evening presents the results of an inspection of the south side of O street from the viaduct to thirty-second street and includes the Lindell hotel. The most startling item of the report concerns the Brace building which has not paid any water rent since October 1895. Water commissioner Byers' register shows that although there is a meter in the Brace building, no one has inspected it since he assumed the office. Mr. McArthur found that the meter had been moved from the spot where it had originally been located by an official of the water department, into a place almost inaccessible under the elevator. It has probably been dead for many months. When Mr. McArthur shut off the water mains he found that water only flowed from the faucets on the first floor. When the city water was turned on it was a few moments before the water reached the fifth story. Of course if the water had come from a reservoir in the roof the faucets on the fifth story would have been the first to respond.

Such immunities, secured by unscrupulous rich men, from a tax which is supposed to be shared by all is what makes a man a socialist and if he is not careful he becomes what the ultra conservative calls, an anarchist. Oppression of the whole community

by an outlaw who holds the community up by cleverer and safer means than foot pads use should bring the oppressed to the support of the law instead of causing them to cry out against the system. Now the system that the people have evolved through centuries of institutional growth is all right. It is organic and can not without danger be radically changed. All the trouble is with the men, whom year after year the voters elect to see that the system is carried out. Therefore the trouble is with the community itself. The ring that has so long been in control of the city of Lincoln has brought it to a condition where the many are made to bear the burdens of the few and their own too. He who hath much has laid his load on the back of his neighbor and by an occasional gift to the neighborhood persuades him that the load is not so heavy as it feels. The rate of assessment in the last four years has been constantly increasing. Why? Is it because as in the case of the Brace block, certain landlords have been enabled by manipulating the mayor or the heads of municipal departments to have their taxes remitted or overlooked? Through these pinching years of want the small holders of real estate in this town and county have paid their taxes with increasing difficulty. The fire, school, police and administrative expenses of the city remain the same but the individual owner pays more and more. Why? Is it as easy to get out of paying a tax on real property as it is to elude the water tax? All those citizens whose property has been sold for taxes in the last three or four years or who have paid them at the cost of privations are interested in these questions and should encourage Mr. McArthur who is fearlessly inspecting the revenues of the department to pay the expenses of which it has been necessary to raise the levy. When the citizens of Lincoln once realize and confess that the heavy taxation is due to the hoodling of the ring so long in control, they will rise up and forget the names they once answered to, they will be no longer republicans or democrats, but citizens banded together to protect their property from hoodlers.

The Slot machines are the primary schools of gambling which the most respectable and worldly-wise resist with difficulty when away from home. Yet the slot machine is presented to the small boy on every peanut and candy stand in the city. The professional gamblers do not oppose the slot machines for they admit that it is educating a clientele from which in a few years they will

reap a benefit. It is so easy to make a little tree crooked. County Attorney Munger says it is very difficult to get rid of the machines. If the present city ordinance is hard to construe against the slot machines, it is easy enough for the city council to make one especially formed to destroy this particular evil. Something ought to be done before the potential statesmen and philanthropists are all turned gamblers and hangers on of fortune's skirts.

The Dingley bill is creating trouble in more than one way. A letter from a correspondent in Paris says:

"We drove morning and afternoon and the great city was finer to me than it had ever been before. I had no shopping to absorb my time as there is general cessation of that occupation under the pernicious tariff. I bought one gown which absorbed the entire sum allowed me by the government. We all feel as if we were under an autocracy that limits our free will and I hear curses loud and deep against our legislation. Already the governments on this side are plotting counter restriction and already the system is beginning to cut off commerce with other nations. The *New York Evening Post* publishes daily statistics of this falling off. Some wise heads think that the policy must be moderated owing to the pressure of general indignation. It is mortifying to me to feel ashamed of my country." The foregoing is written by a woman of unusual acumen and knowledge and her observations are worthy of attention.

The yellow fever scare is frightening much business away from New Orleans. Even those migratory families who leave the north when the mercury drops below zero have decided not to go to any of the Gulf resorts this winter though they must know that all fever germs are killed by the first frost. New Orleans, after the first frost, is as free from yellow fever germs as the arctic regions. Since Ben Butler's day no germs have ever developed there. The fever is brought into the city from South America by steamers insufficiently quarantined. Of course when once started in that warm, moist climate, the evil is done and an epidemic rages of greater or less extent according to the strictness of the quarantine and the sanitary condition of the city at the time of infection. The feeling in the southern states whose commerce has been so greatly damaged by this last attack of yellow fever, is very strong against allowing ships from fever infected ports to

touch at any United States port. The sanitation in cities of islands in the South Atlantic and in cities of South America is very bad. American ports should be strictly protected from these places where yellow fever flourishes the year around, where there is no frost to destroy germs in ambush a hundred years or more waiting for a human animal, not inoculate by climate in which to develop. There are quarantine regulations but that they are not strict enough is indicated by the present epidemic.

Mr. Thomas Doane who died last Friday at West Townshend, Vermont was known in Nebraska as the founder of Doane college. In the east his fame was established by the construction of the Hoosac tunnel of which he was chief engineer. As a civil engineer Mr. Doane's reputation was among the first in this country. His work will live long after this generation is dust. He built the first line of Burlington track into Nebraska. After the fire in Boston he straightened the streets which was perhaps a greater feat than boring into opposite ends of the Hoosac mountain and meeting in the center with a variation of only a quarter of an inch in the alignment. Mr. Doane was a fervent member of the Congregational church, and a life long believer in Christian education. It was largely by his influence that Doane college was established at Crete where Mr. Doane then lived. Every year at commencement time, he was present at the exercises. In appearance and character he was the erect uncompromising Puritan of colonial history, with the puritan's sternness modified by a sunny, warm hearted nature which made him the center of a large group of friends and relatives.

An unprejudiced onlooker at the football games at the university feels nothing but admiration for the splendid young fellows who meet each other in shocks which would loosen the tendons of an ordinary human being. They are fearless, eager and very seldom unfair, they cast themselves on the ground between touch downs, with an abandon, an unconsciousness that the ground is made of dirt that helps the spectator to get rid of any over fastidiousness that has been accumulating since the time when he was but a handful of dust himself. The game requires courage, brawn, a quick eye and a quick wit. Fatalities sometimes occur, but considering the number of games and the twenty-two players engaged in each one, football has very few victims. The Wesleyan and State university teams are samples of young Nebraska manhood, that