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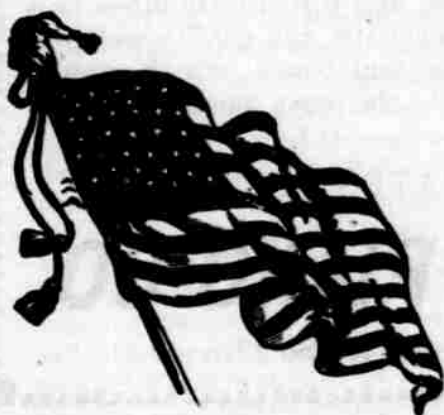
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## OBSERVATIONS.

Councilman Woodward in a recent letter to one of the city dailies refers to THE COURIER'S criticism of his opposition to the reduction of the salaries of city employes and gives several reasons why the suggestions made by representatives of the burdened taxpayers were disregarded. Mr. Woodward's letter, carefully read, will disclose one of the reasons why the finances of the city are in the condition they are in today, viz., first, unsound reasoning and jealousy on the part of some councilmen, and suspicion of fellow members in the council who have shown themselves capable of brilliant and economic municipal legislation; and secondly, a ten-

dency to advocate spending more money than there is in the treasury for the purpose of placating votes for a long desired office.

Referring to the salary reduction ordinance drawn up by Mr. Whedon, Mr. Hall and Mr. Roscoe Pound in the hope of helping the city out of a condition which Messrs. Woodward and Mockett will not recognize, or recognizing will not lend a hand to help. Mr. Woodward says:

"One might have felt like giving the ordinance consideration had it been framed by a man or men who are considered cheap in their charges when asked for legal advice."

Mr. Woodward's reasoning that because the ordinance in question was drawn up by able lawyers whose services are of such a character and quality that they command the highest price paid for legal services in the city is an evidence of imbecility very dangerous to the interests of the people when exhibited by one who has been chosen for a member of the city's legislative body. That the lawyers in question do not overvalue their services to the community is indicated in their constant selection by those who reside here. When these services are proffered free to the city, a man like Woodward (who was accused in last Monday's council meeting of boasting that he had out \$100,000 of securities and returned to the assessor \$1,000), rejects it because it is the best and highest priced advice in the city. If the ordinance had been drawn up by poor lawyers whose advice has been proven unsound, Mr. Woodward intimates that he would have voted for it, thus proving his devotion to the interests of the city while at the same time the illegality of the worthless ordinance would have made it non-effective.

Councilman Webster mentioned the authorship of the ordinance, thinking that the advice of two men who came to Lincoln poor and have secured a competency and the respect of everyone by sheer force of intellect and character as well as of the younger member of the bar who is gaining distinction on account of the possession of the same characteristics, would be considered worth listening to. But it was finally decided that the proffered ordinance was an impertinent intrusion on the part of outsiders into the deliberations of the council.

"It is true that our city is not in the very best condition financially at present, but this matter should have been looked at many years ago in stead of now jumping onto a few city employes and recommending the cutting of their wages way down below living wages."

If the matter of the city's shortage should have been considered and reme-

died years ago, why did not Mr. Woodward do it? This is his second term in the council.

"But, thank goodness, the water franchise belongs to the citizens of Lincoln and proud they may be of the fact."

The only fact that the citizens of Lincoln have to be thankful for in regard to the water department, is that the city (not the "citizens") owns it. The department if it were conducted according to business principles ought to be self supporting. It is a matter of record that in the last ten years there has been levied in addition to the tax to pay interest on the water bonds, more than \$150,000 taxes for the purpose of maintaining and operating the waterworks, and upwards of \$78,000 under the designation of "water emergency" and "fire and water emergency." This is not a record to be proud of and the voters have begun to realize it. The mere fact of ownership is not enough to awaken feelings of gratitude to what Mr. Woodward rather pointlessly addresses as "goodness." The time for congratulations will arrive when the council shall consist only of men who are able to dismiss all personal prejudice when discussing and deliberating with each other upon the affairs of the city. There are three and occasionally four of this rare type of legislator in the council now and they are creating a valuable constituency of all those who read their frank, disinterested, wise arguments to induce the rest of the council to join with them in their efforts to reduce the tax assessment in this city.

Most of Mr. Woodward's letter has nothing to do with the ordinance in question or with the actual relations between an empty treasury and an increasing expenditure. The special pleas for the policemen and firemen are evidently designed for the edification of those employes and to be referred to when the next mayor is elected. In so far as I have been able to discover sentences relating to the original criticism in these columns, I have attempted to reply.

The time has arrived when the hands-off policy asserted in the Monroe doctrine is no longer expedient for America and it is a question of expediency. When a nation whose citizens possess a high degree of intelligence, attains the control of a large part of the earth's surface it has been the invariable custom to establish a protectorate over contiguous and weaker nations. The Monroe doctrine contemplates a state of international amity ruled by unselfishness which has never yet existed. With a navy

proportioned to the size and wealth of the United States we shall have to take a position a little nearer to European politics than we have ever done. Such a position is consequent upon growth and if we ignore our responsibilities we shall lose the respect of Europe and any third rate power will dare to blow up our ships, or treat American residents in foreign countries or travellers with the contempt due to the resignation of our responsibilities.

In colonial times when the union between the new born states was as feeble as all young things, Washington's enunciation of the isolation of this country from European interests, was a measure of self preservation. But we have entered upon another stage of development and a definite colonial policy will have to take the place of the Monroe doctrine. With a formidable navy and a strong Anglo-American alliance the United States can take the place that size and wealth and power entitle her to. And by so doing democratic institutions will have a patron and a great exemplar and in South American revolutionary instances, perhaps a friend. Unless the ways of men and nations change in an instant it will be necessary for the United States to take the same course recorded of all other great nations and that is to colonize. To support a large standing army and a powerful navy. The adoption of such a policy is not progressing towards that state of universal brotherhood that the socialists and the dreamers of non-resistance talk about; but it is necessary and imminent.

Messrs. Mockett and Woodward were especially horrified by the clause in the salary reduction ordinance affecting the mayor's salary. To those who are acquainted with the special political ambitions of these very loquacious gentlemen their opposition was not without a certain pathos when the accidents that are liable to occur between now and the realization of their dreams are considered.

The lessons of the last campaign might be considered by candidates for city offices with benefit unless it be already too late. The only republican candidate defeated in the last election owed his defeat to the suspicion on the part of republican voters that his council vote represented his mistaken views of his own interest rather than, and frequently in opposition to those of the city. It is no longer possible to elect any candidate at large who has shown that he is willing to strain the resources of the city in order to secure the favor of the district or ward in which the money unwisely appro-