



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY JULY 16, 1898.

ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS  
SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

—BY—

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs  
Telephone 384.

SARAH B. HARRIS,

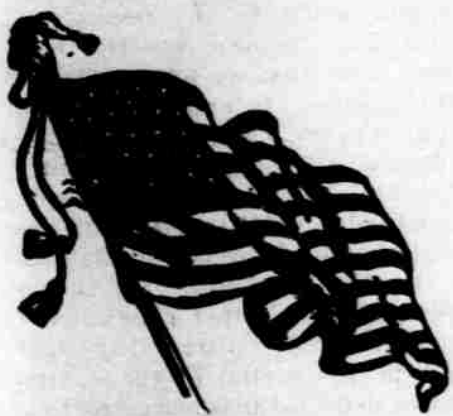
Editor

## Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$1 00
Six months.....	75
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

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## OBSERVATIONS.

The express and telegraph companies which are seeking to make the people pay the tax that it was the intent of the law they should bear themselves, are creating a prejudice against them which may be expressed in legislation. A bill which would remind the companies of their duty to a people who have continued to pay them more than fifty per cent of the cost of transportation, would be very popular. In refusing to bear their share of the war burden the express companies say: "Our business is so large that the duty means a tax of a great many thousand dollars, while to our customers it only means a few cents. Meanwhile the druggists and other mer-

chants are paying the tax without a murmur or an attempt at evasion. For the amount of business which they do and the enormous profit which they make, there is no business which contributes so little to local prosperity as the express companies. Their refusal to bear their share of the war tax is a public expression of their isolation from any share in the national life. The law may be a long time in getting around to them, in the meantime American citizens will send just as much by mail as possible.

The Omaha Excelsior of July 2 gives the best pictorial representation of the exposition which has yet appeared. The handsome buildings with their surroundings have been newly photographed and the result on the pages of the Excelsior is very satisfactory.

The narrow and selfish Rosewater policy, to which the board has acceded with more or less grace, has offended many Nebraska editors so that the exposition has not been advertised as it might have been under the management of a man with ability to appreciate a result not yet unaccomplished but made possible by a preliminary outlay. But the crowds did not arrive on the grounds of the Columbian exposition till September and October. Travellers and summer vacationists are in the mountains and at the seashore. The exposition is a duty as well as a pleasure and real Americans will visit it on their way home July and August are laissez faire days for all the world who can afford it. Those who cannot will take a lemonade and a rocking chair on a porch at home, when the six o'clock bell releases them from a hireling's or an employer's duties. In the fall they will visit the exposition and rejoice the heart of the concessionaire.

There is no one who is aware of the depression of the last few years who will deny that ex-Treasurer's Bartley's deficit was caused by the inability of banks to which he had loaned state money to pay it back again promptly. If, during his incumbency of the office, times had improved instead of getting worse, Mr. Bartley would have been able to show a clean balance sheet to Mr. Meserve. There is also no reason for believing that a panic occurring during the administration of Mr. Hill or Mr. Benton, a panic severe enough to force country banks to close, would not have made it impossible for these gentlemen to render back that which the state had given into their hands. It is supposed that state treasurers of Nebraska, since the passage of the depository law, receive in-

terest over and above that paid to the state for the use of state money. From the nature of investment banks can not pay back a large amount in a hurry or without a time of preparation. In Mr. Bartley's case the usual time was denied him and the banks were slow, on account of the panic, in paying back sums which he had on deposit. When he used state money to discharge his own obligations, he counted on the interest money, which every state treasurer elected in Nebraska has enjoyed, to pay it with. The banks failed and he was a defaulter. The people were justly exasperated and the judge sentenced him for practicing a vicious system which had not happened to disappoint his predecessors of the treasury.

THE COURIER does not contend that Mr. Bartley should not be punished. He took his chances and he has accepted the consequences like a brave man. But twenty years for the collapse of a system is too much to give to anyone but its inventor.

"Inasmuch," a story of the west, each of the twelve chapters contributed by a separate author, is a composite story of a western home missionary and his wife. Mrs. Helen Doane Perry, the president of the Woman's Home Missionary Union of Nebraska, says in the short preface that "The work had no plot or outline. Twelve ladies wrote it, each one receiving the M. S. and adding a chapter before it left her hands. The twelfth united the converging threads of the story and it was sent to the publisher. The authors are Emma N. Beebe, Harriet S. Caswell, Harriet A. Cheever, Ida D. Fleming, Harriet H. Heller, Etta S. Hendee, Elia W. Peattie, Margaret E. Sangster, Amelia H. C. Somers, Harriet C. S. Towne, Frances D. Twombly and Annie E. C. Williams.

Although the chapters are not signed those contributed by writers with whose character we are somewhat familiar may be guessed, and herein lies a charm of the book. It is so easy to be mistaken. I am acquainted with the work of Mrs. Peattie of Chicago and Mrs. Heller of Omaha. The former may have written chapter eleven and the latter, chapter three. To the friends of each of the twelve contributors the puzzle of identification will be an interesting exercise. The story as a whole, is a whole. It is only on examination that the articulations are apparent. Every one interested in the cause of home missions or willing to help the society which has helped so many frontier clergymen through years of drought

and grasshoppers should buy a copy of this little book. The price is trifling only twenty five cents. It is printed on heavy paper with rough edges. The type is large and the style of the edition is most attractive.

Two years ago George Woods evinced a desire to represent this county in the legislature. It is said that parties who had had to deal with him as a member of the city council concluded that it would not do to permit him to be nominated and thereupon for the purpose of encompassing his defeat E. J. Burkett was made a candidate from the fifth ward for the house. He was nominated, elected, and served as a member but exhibited no trait which marked him as a man of ability. It is but fair, however, to say that he served those who made him a candidate faithfully and well. In the path which they marked for him he walked with propriety, docility and decorum. As a reward for his subserviency he is now supported by the same interests in his congressional aspirations. Early this year an investigation of municipal affairs and municipal officers was instituted; articles of impeachment were filed; a trial upon the articles was held; the grand jury returned an indictment against the mayor who is now out of jail because he was able to find a friend who would go his bail. There were three men who were particularly active in their opposition to the reform then inaugurated and to a considerable extent supported by the Hamilton club. Those men were Bud Lindsey, Joe Burns and E. J. Burkett. As compensation for his services in behalf of the mayor Lindsey entered into an active campaign for Burkett and voted the first ward solid for him in the county convention. To Lindsey, Burkett owes the privilege accorded to him of naming the delegation to the district convention which meets the third of next month. As a reward for his services Burns was nominated for the legislature. Lindsey heads the delegation to the state convention and will appear as its chairman. The republican party ought not to make Mr. Burkett its nominee for congressman. He is too small for the position. While he is upwards of thirty years of age he lacks the ability, the maturity, the judgment ordinarily possessed by men who have just arrived at their majority. The First Congressional district of Nebraska should be represented by a man of ability who will honor the position. That man is not E. J. Burkett.

When a candidate is supported by men who have been always ready to