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OBSERVATIONS.

The appointment of W. S. Summers as United States district attorney is a strong one. Mr. Summers is an eloquent speaker and a clear thinker. His recognition strengthens the republican party in this state and opens the way for a career which there is every reason to believe will be a very brilliant one.

The navy has become disgusted with young Hobson and I believe a large part of the country has. A naval officer who was present at Guantanamo during August and September says that Hobson was actually placed for a short time under suspension by his senior officer for his officiousness in connection with the repairs on the Maria Theresa. Scores of officers were clamoring to perform the pyrotechnic errand that Hobson was sent on, yet for some reason Commander Miller of the Merimac was superceded by Hobson, who is now making so unsoldierly and unprofessional exhibition of himself that the newspapermen which have conceded and advertised his heroism are forced to acknowledge that he is insisting a trifle too much upon a triumphal progress.

The extracts printed on another page are only a few of the comments cut from the country papers on the senatorial situation. I know of only one paper in the state that is urging Mr. Thompson as a candidate for senator. Most of the editors regard his ambition as an impertinence to the republican party and its accomplishment as a very serious blow to the party for which he has never done

anything. THE COURIER has from week to week printed the facts in regard to Mr. Thompson's true relations to the party and his designs upon it. That these articles have not been without effect upon the country press, the excerpts printed herewith will show. Most of the editors of the Nebraska country press are unacquainted with Mr. Thompson, though all of the leaders of the party are well known to them. Therefore they have obviously accepted the testimony of a publisher whose acquaintance with Mr. Thompson is sufficiently thorough to warrant an analysis of his record, character and commercial and political methods.

The chicken ordinance introduced by Councilman Mockett to the Lincoln city council provided that the owner of a flower bed or kitchen garden, who found chickens scratching up his seeds and plants was at liberty to catch and impound them and exact a fine from the chicken owner before releasing them. The council passed the ordinance and the mayor vetoed it, saying that it would work an injustice to poor people. The veto is in favor of some poor people against others. Those who love flowers and fresh vegetables and are willing to prepare the earth and plant seeds and weed and water are deprived of their harvest by a man who takes the unwarranted liberty of pasturing his chickens on his neighbors door yard. The husbandman has rights which the poultry man is bound to respect, but never does. The ordinance, instead of creating neighborhood quarrels would have gone far toward settling and preventing them. Small plantations, the work and the pride of the day laborer in other men's vineyards, are destroyed by the hundreds every summer by witless hens, whose owners are smoking black pipes in selfish unconcern of the destruction of their neighbors' labor.

The chicken ranchman has no more right to pasture his flocks on some other man's agricultural triumphs, than he has to send his children to eat at a strangers' table. It is impossible to keep the hen at home unless she be enclosed in a high fence, which is said to be bad for her health, or unless she have a herder, which is unamerican. The sheep is the smallest animal herded in this country and it is well enough to let it go at that. Europe has goose, turkey and swine herders, but American youngsters have larger and more money making occupations.

Birds have less intelligence than four-footed animals and of all birds the hen is the most aggravatingly stupid. Ruses which would merely amuse a donkey and make a crocodile weep succeed with the hen, who is not susceptible to the intuitions which keep an adult trout from swallowing a hook without investigation, and trout have had much more limited educational opportunities than poul-

try. The amount of damage that a criminally stupid hen can accomplish in a halfhour's scratching and crowding of her fat body into the teeming earth is only fully realized by him who has risen with the sun and spaded and raked and planted a plot of ground, and who has thereafter weeded and watered and watched it early and late and counted the buds on tomato and pea vines only to have it all looted by hen devils belonging to a neighbor. The ordinance only granted the right of husbandry to the small landowners in the unfenced portion of Lincoln, and the veto rescinded it because the mayor thought it worked a hardship to the lazy poor who have been in the habit of pasturing their coveys on their neighbors' kitchen gardens.

The Chicago people have made violent threats to the aldermen who should dare to vote for Yerkes' fifty-five year ordinance, but no one suspects the threats were idle. There is an opposition of unusual strength in Chicago, which has been developed by the labor unions (and reinforced by the university settlements and sociological classes and professors), to institutions which make money by occupying a street. The people are coming into their own with remarkable rapidity in Chicago. It is only a little while that they have realized that the streets were theirs and that no council or legislature could sell them for a consideration which went into the councilmen's or legislators' pockets. The streets are the city's and the right of way thereon must be paid for. Mr. Yerkes says that the publishers of several Chicago newspapers made overtures to him to support his franchise for a certain percent of what it was worth to him. He refused to divide and they combined against him. But the newspapers have very little to do with it. They could not excite the people's wrath to such an extent if there were no basis for the suspicion that the councilmen were selling the people's property as if it were their own. The indignation grew, not from what the newspapers said, though they started it, but from the pertinacity with which the councilmen stuck to their original intention of granting the franchise. The Chicago city council is nothing if not politic and the mass meetings seemed not to effect them in the least. Therefore the people concluded the bribe must have been large enough to offset the political suicide of every man who voted for the ordinance. Then, and not till then, the people threatened personal violence and the politicians knew the great common people were not making idle threats, and just as sure as there were lamp posts they would be utilized as in the days of the French revolution and the ordinance was superceded by another.

We have progressed so far in the ideas of holding property in severalty that the old English and early Ameri-

can habits of thought and practice of holding forest and pasture in common had begun to disappear. The present revival of communal sentiment is a consequence of trade unionism and the large place given to the study of economics in all the most modern colleges. In Chicago communal education is progressing perhaps more rapidly than in any other American city. It is the most American of the large cities and is freer from tradition and habits. It is there that anarchy and absolutism will probably be throttled and a new system inaugurated. This popular demonstration of the distrust of the people for the oligarchy which changes its personelle but never its methods or character, is an evidence of the truth of what has been said concerning the growth of communal ownership in Chicago.

The city has outgrown the districts into which it was devided in the early days. This advice of the charter revision committee will therefore meet with approval and probable acceptance. The proposition to limit the number of councilmen to five elected at large contains dangerous possibilities which it is well to consider. Under the present system two councilmen are elected from each ward and it has been claimed that they are more interested in the ward than in the whole city, but it is not disputed that the composition of the council is fairly representative of the city. It is natural for a man to be more interested in his own ward and in his own neighborhood than in remote parts of the city in which he has no property and only a philanthropic interest. The fourteen members of the present council hold each other in check. If money is spent in one ward the other six watch an opportunity to secure a corresponding outlay in theirs. The first and the second have the same number of representatives as the fourth and fifth. As an agent for the transaction of business the council is slow, and the city has frequently to wait a long while for the accomplishment of a reform, but the council is democratic and very near the people. It is not composed of a few men from one part of the city but of fourteen men from seven parts. Residents of the first ward might find it impossible to convince five councilmen from the fourth that their district needs as good water and as complete lighting as the district around the capital. So long as all men are selfish it is much safer for wards containing the poorer residents to be represented by councilmen who reside in them.

It is difficult to tell from a table of city and county taxes printed in one of the city papers what it proves. The tables, one of city and one of county taxes, are copied from the county treasurer's books, but they do not prove anything because the compiler has failed to indicate the identity of