



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1899.



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.

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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 gas company, in reducing the price of fuel gas to consumers, said that the price was lowered on account of the larger consumption. When the price of illuminating gas is made lower, consumption of the product will probably increase proportionately, so that the receipts at the gas office will not fall off. If the fuel gas were of a cheaper and inferior quality to the illuminating gas and it were conducted to the consumer through different mains, the gas company might claim that they could not afford to sell illuminating gas as cheaply as fuel gas. But the gas arrives on the premises of the consumer in the same main. That which is used for fuel escapes through a pipe attached to a gas stove and the rest is drawn off at need from the various faucets located in the house. The kitchen gas and the parlor gas are identical except in the gas company's bill, in which the former is charged to the consumer at \$1.50 a thousand, with a discount of 10 per cent if paid before the sixth of the month, and the latter is charged to the consumer at the rate of \$2.00 per thousand feet with a discount of 10 per cent if the bill is paid before the sixth. Inasmuch as the only difference consists in the use to which the consumer puts the gas after it leaves the company's mains and does not inhere in the gas itself, and it depends upon chance alone, whether a bubble be used in the roasting of a turkey or the illumination of a boudoir, Councilman Mockett's conclusion is sound that a discrimination in price which is not based either

on quality, or the cost of production is unwarrantable. When a merchant sells an article to a customer, it is, or should be, a matter of indifference to the merchant to what use the buyer puts the article he has bought. The reduction in the price of fuel gas was made necessary in order to compete with the lower prices of coal. Unless the cost of the two fuels were partially equalized it was, of course, impossible for gas to compete with coal as a fuel. On the other hand illuminating gas had no competitor, except electricity, which is controlled by the same company. Under these circumstances it was determined to sell the same commodity for two prices. If the meter showed that the gas, after it left the company's mains and passed into the control of the consumer, was used by him to cook with, he could have it for a dollar and a half a thousand feet, but if he used it to read Shakspeare by, it sets the company back two dollars a thousand feet and the bill is made out accordingly. That the company has been anxious to sell all the gas possible at the cheaper rate is shown by the extensive advertising of fuel gas which it has done in the last year or two. That the rate for illuminating gas is too large is shown by the large number of firms which have put in plants of their own and made money by it. Herpolsheimer & Co. for instance put in their own plant and the nightly illuminations, which cost the firm \$300 a month, now cost it less than \$70. Private householders can not do this. From the nature of the case they are without protection unless the municipality can protect them from extortion.

General Eagan's intemperate language before the commission of investigation should receive a severe rebuke. The coarseness of his remarks before a commission of the United States government, appointed by the president himself, has shocked the country more than any accident of the campaign in Cuba. The one was due to the mobilization of an army and the appointment of untried officials. The other was the deliberate, written evidence of corruption of the military beaureau in Washington. General Miles' military career has been brilliant and no accusation of dishonesty has ever been made against him. He won his honors in the civil war and is not a graduate of West Point. For this reason his rapid rise in the army has created an unusual amount of jealousy. He himself is conceited and perhaps a trifle overconfident, but he is every inch a soldier and an honorable man. As the commander-in-chief of the army of the United States he is entitled to a consideration which he has not received from Secretary Alger. In consenting to listen to the abominable tirade which General Eagan delivered, the commission discredited itself in the eyes of the American people and revealed

evidences of a cabal against General Miles. Considering Secretary Alger's partiality for the inefficient Shafter and what we owe General Miles for turning Shafter's defeat into victory the American people will not be indifferent if General Eagan is allowed to go unpunished. General Miles is a soldier before he is a politician. He has made charges against the beef supplied which very likely he cannot prove. There are some things which are very difficult to prove and this charge of embalmed beef is one. But in the whole course of his life General Miles has acquired a reputation for truthfulness which cannot be overlooked in settling this matter. There is evidence that some of the meat was treated to a process which dried the juices and made it most unpalatable. The term "embalmed" is unfortunate both from its connection and because the meat appears to have been soaked in a salty solution which it was thought would keep it from spoiling. But General Miles, exasperated by the snubs which he himself received from the department at Washington and genuinely grieved over what he considered the unnecessary sufferings of the soldiers, called the meat which they could not eat "embalmed." His selection of an adjective brought down upon his good and gray, if withal somewhat self-willed and conceited head, the wrath of the packers of pork and beef, Armour and Cudahy and Morris and Swift. The immense slaughter houses these men operate employ thousands of men and their products are shipped all over the world. Other nations are inclined to follow Germany in her discrimination against American pork and the testimony of so prominent an American as General Miles in the case of Europe and Asia against America, materially, but unjustly, strengthens the plaintiff's case. Therefore the unanimous and indignant protest of the packers. The immediate effect of their righteous enough protest is apparent in the testimony of General Eagan. His protest is all right but his language is inexcusable and has hurt the beaureau of which he is such a depraved representative more than any of the charges brought against it.

It pleases Walt Mason of Beatrice to be merry over the personal appearance of the Nebraska women who are humbly, and more or less successfully, trying to earn their living by newspaper work. The profession is one which has been largely monopolized by men, and men have established the style of writing, and to a great degree the style of dress for members of the profession. The impartial critic must confess that most any one this side of a tramp in appearance, or a university journalist in ability, can pass the examination in this state. The standard is so low, in fact, that it is somewhat inconsistent of so modest a contribu-

tion to the aesthetic treasure of the world as Walt Mason, to criticize the few women whose earnings are not sufficient to enable them to keep their half of journalism, dressed in handsome gowns. Of course criticism is not dependant upon the possession of those virtues or that absolute beauty which most critics base their derogations upon. Yet in the case under discussion Mr. Mason is an important element of the profession, the looks of which he says the newspaper women of Nebraska are a disgrace to. In common with many hundreds the publisher of THE COURIER enjoys Mr. Mason's Hot Tamales. They are a relish to the evening's reading of no small importance and this acknowledgement of their savor is one which should have been made long ago. As the spirit is more than matter it is of little consequence that Mr. Mason's personal appearance is rather depressing. That blythe spirit which has cheered thousands of gloomy men and women and renewed their courage, inhabits an unworthy dwelling. Nevertheless what is denied to six feet of brawn, this little man can do and not half try, so the balance is struck and everybody gets what pleases him most after all. The life long sentences we homely people work out do not seem to increase our sympathy for our fellow convicts. We insist, whatever the natal obstacles in the way, that women shall be fair and men shall be strong and tall. If they are not, we grudge them that part of our horizon they occupy, and make sport of them to get them out of the way of more satisfactory scenery. And thus, the world in thousands of years may get better looking.

The early settlers of this country thought that the functionaries of a town or city were elected or designated for the purpose of performing some function or service to the citizens. The mayor looked after the business of the town and selected worthy men as firemen or police or wardens of various kinds. Nowadays one of the most important functions of policemen and firemen is as ornaments in civic parades. Policemen in particular are selected on account of their size and appearance. They may be brutal, they may be drunkards, they may have vicious histories, but whatever they are, they must be six feet tall and an ornament to the boulevard or avenue they are supposed to protect. In places where the fire service is of any real protection the regime is that of the civil service and promotions are made strictly on merit. But in many western cities the firemen are selected because they are willing to present the mayor with fifty dollars and they are retained in the services for reasons equally unconnected with their fitness for the place. In Kansas City it is proposed to send the fire chief and twenty or thirty men to Paris when the exposition opens. What service