

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1900.



REGISTERED 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.

Colonel Stotzenburg and the Regiment.

The most important element of Colonel Stotzenburg's greatness and success was his ability to make a regiment out of companies enlisted from Lincoln, Omaha, York, Hastings, Broken Bow, Geneva, and other little towns in Nebraska. In accordance with the national custom of contiguous towns or cities of the same size, these little towns hate and are jealous of each other. No better example of the unifying power of a leader can be found than the regiment that Colonel Stotzenburg made out of these uncongenial elements. From the time the regiment left Lincoln until Colonel Stotzenburg was made Colonel, L Company from Omaha was apart and outside of the regiment. It was maneuvering to secure special privileges and in several instances it was temporarily successful. Colonel Stotzenburg realized that the pride of locality, the sort of fraternity exclusiveness and aristocracy that L company exhibited should be destroyed. As soon as he had the power, the Colonel put L company to work putting it on exactly the same basis as the other companies. For this the Colonel was assassinated by the men who were weeded out of the regiment and who returned while the Nebraska legislature was in session to make a plaint of ill treatment instead of a confession of incurable incompetency. But the very satisfactory result in the Philippines was the unification of the regiment and the rapid development of as brave and perfectly drilled a body of men as ever fought together. The Omaha men when

they were once disciplined made good fighters and capable, faithful officers. The realization that the regiment was a whole, composed of fighting parts whose devotion to the First was complete, whose *esprit du corps* had finally and completely destroyed any petty allegiance to Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, York, or Grand Island, partly recompensed the Colonel for any personal affronts he was made to suffer from the legislature. The quality of leadership, which gave every man in the regiment implicit confidence in him when he ordered a charge in the face of an entrenched foe was Colonel Stotzenburg's birthright. Without it the regiment would have remained as it was first composed—companies of men from Lincoln from Omaha from here and there over the state.

A Fire Chief.

Unless Lincoln is to be destroyed by fire, it must have a fire chief whose recommendations the council will consider with respect, who can command the respect, obedience and emulation of every fireman and who will drill them till they are letter perfect in the specific duties of a fireman engaged in putting out a fire. The present force are undrilled men who are clumsy and excited when a fire breaks out. In last week's fire, the rawness and lack of drill was apparent to any one who has seen a thoroughly organized fire department at work. It is not so essential that the fire chief's wagon should be painted a brilliant red, white and gilt as that the firemen should learn how to handle and work the ladders and water tower, that each man should learn his post and his duties when the fire alarm sounds and afterwards, when the swinging, swaying fire engine and hose carts have arrived at the fire. Firemen of the Lincoln department might grumble if the mayor should place a man from outside the state at the head of the department. But the right man would make good firemen out of the stalwart fellows who now spend too large a portion of their leisure time painting the chief's wagon and lounging about the different stations. A thoroughly competent, experienced fire chief possessing the quality of leadership would organize the Lincoln fire department as Colonel Stotzenburg organized the First. His success would disarm envy and the very men who threatened the mayor with political disfavor would take increased pride in him for this crowning evidence of his discriminating judgment.

The Fire Chief's Salary.

The loss to the city of the taxes on property destroyed by fire would more than pay a competent chief's salary. Since the present chief's administration the city has been afflicted with larger and more disastrous fires than in any other one period. Chief Wied-

man is an industrious, honest, economical man, but he is entirely lacking in the qualities of leadership, an essential qualification of one who must command in emergencies. The climax of a fire chief's responsibility is that always unexpected exigency—a fire. As in the case of a great general whose troops are well drilled and accustomed to instant obedience, the individual peculiarities of each fire will be comprehended by the chief, and his commands will reflect his comprehension and mastery of these incidents.

Mayor Winnett's action is hampered by a lack of funds and the partially bankrupt condition of the city makes a remedy difficult. But at every fire the need of a controlling and comprehending chief is more and more apparent. It is spendthrift folly to jeopardize the safety of the city, besides being constantly threatened with a rise in insurance rates, for the sake of keeping in office a well-meaning but incompetent man.

It is urged that the fire department should be commended for preventing the burning of the frame parsonage north of the Methodist church last Friday night. But this feat indicates that the same time and effort expended on the stone church would have kept it from burning. The distance between the North building and the church and between the church and the frame parsonage is the same and the church being constructed of stone it was easier to prevent the latter igniting from the adjacent burning building. On the church it would only have been necessary to keep the roof, eaves, and window frames wet. The old pine house, every inch of which is inflammable, was soaked with water and thus preserved from fire though only a few feet away from the burning church. Long after the flames were in complete control of the North building on the west of the church the firemen were pouring water into the front of the building. In large fires it is as necessary to know when to abandon a position as it is to direct new hose streams. It is a matter of retreating from an impossible position to take a stronger one in time to hold the new position. The North building had surrendered to the fire long before the firemen were allowed to turn the streams upon the church and then the enemy was inside and the water had very little effect.

The Fire Department.

With Councilman Woodward as the chairman of the council committee of the fire department the cause of its present disorganization is partly explained. Mr. Woodward's recommendations to the council in regard to the fire department are ineffectual and have not the credit of being inspired by a single motive—the needs of the department. When he advocates, week after week, a cistern in a locality where it is not needed, the

conclusion is inevitable that Mr. Woodward wishes to have a cistern dug there to give work to men who have votes, or to gain popularity with the people of that section. He is one of those unfortunates who cannot keep things separate. It has become impossible for him to consider the good of the fire department by itself and without regard to the political effect his recommendations may have upon himself. This mixture of motive has retroacted upon Mr. Woodward to his own loss. His influence in the council is trifling on account of the suspicion that he is trying to accomplish by means of the fire department something for which it was not created, viz., the popularization and exaltation of Mr. Woodward. Such a suspicion may not be altogether well founded, but there is little doubt that it has undermined his standing with the other councilmen and with his fellow citizens.

Councilman Woodward's Resolutions

At the council meeting on Monday night Mr. Woodward moved that the chief and chairman of the fire committee (Mr. Woodward is the chairman) be instructed to put on ten extra firemen at \$1.50 for each twenty-four hours. Mr. Woodward said that the men ought not to be kept in the fire stations but in the street fair districts. On being questioned as to what their duties should be and how, in case of an alarm they would know the location of a fire without going to the station, he was not able to answer. The chief did not approve of firemen being stationed on the streets and when Chief of Police Hoagland stated that he had placed extra police men in the street fair district with instructions to guard against fires, the motion was lost. Then the unabashed Woodward moved that the city engineer be instructed to advertise for bids to put in a cistern on Eleventh street, between O and P streets, with a capacity of 2,500 barrels, and that the cistern be connected "up" with the city water main, and with the down spout leading from the Richard's block so as to conduct the rain water off of this block to the said cistern. President Webster said that the resolution was impracticable and to settle the question it was left to the city engineer.

Mr. Woodward moved that the fire chief be instructed to remove the fire engine from engine house No. 2, to engine house No. 1, and replace it at No. 2, with a ladder truck. This matter was opposed by many members. Councilman Malone said he did not care to discuss such a question, as that was the fire chief's business. Mr. Mockett moved a point of order, as the city employed a fire chief to look after placing the apparatus. Mr. Woodward withdrew the resolution.

These recommendations are not referred to here for fear that they may become operative but for the purpose of considering their futility and of ar-