



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1901.

**THE COURIER,**

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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Editor

**Subscription Rates.**

Per annum..... \$1 50  
Six months..... 1 00  
Rebate of fifty cents on cash payments.  
Single copies..... 05

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untary communications unless accompanied by  
return postage.

Communications, to receive attention, must  
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merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for  
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**OBSERVATIONS.****"A Study in Crime."**

Mr. Joseph M. Deuel in Town Topics has collated a comparative study and tables compiled from the police reports of one hundred of the large cities of the United States so scattered as to cover all sections of the country. Mr. Deuel's object is to show the moral tone and condition of one hundred cities in comparison with each other. Actual arrests made during a period of twelve months, mostly for 1899 or for a year ending in 1900 were the data used and as the basis of computation is identical the comparison is fair and just. It is gratifying to know that Lincoln has a high average of good behavior, even if the thoroughfares and public buildings are very dirty. Mr. Deuel's averages are computed on a basis per one thousand of population. According to the census in 1900 Lincoln had 40,169 inhabitants. Crimes such as larceny, burglary, arson, frauds, perjury, forgery, felonious assaults etc. Mr. Deuel classifies as *mala in se* because these crimes involve moral turpitude, as to which police vigilance and zeal are fairly constant everywhere and influence and pulls play an inconsequential part until after arrest. In 1900 then, the proportion of *mala in se* arrests to 1000 population in Lincoln was only 2.69 as compared with 9.43 in Mobile Alabama, 7.67 in Little Rock Arkansas, 7.57 in Spokane Washington, 7.41 in Omaha, 5.57 in Denver Colorado, 6.08 in Peoria Ills., 24.81 in Fort Wayne Indiana, 4.11 in Davenport Iowa, 6.87 in Topeka Kansas. "Savannah leads all other cities in serious crimes, Lexington in assaults, Atlanta in disorderly conduct and in volume, Spokane in intoxication, disorderly houses and vagrancy,

Covington Kentucky in gambling, Manchester N. H. in excise Lincoln Nebr. is the most economical in police expenditure, and has the largest numerical ratio between police and population; the cost per capita for police protection is only thirty eight cents, and there are 2,678 inhabitants for each member of the police force." The excessive gambling rate for Covington is explained by Chief Pugh thus: "We have, during the year from one to four pool-rooms operating daily, and the name of the party operating each is placed upon the docket every morning and a plea of guilty accepted and a fine of \$12 each entered and paid." The revenue from four pool-rooms a year is therefore \$17,120, half of which is given to the city library fund. A plan like that operated by Covington in dealing with pool-rooms is in vogue in Maine, and in western prohibition states, in the treatment of saloons. Portland Maine has 30.89 and Bangor 40.96 drunkards in each one thousand of population. Lincoln has 11.92. Boston and Spokane Wash. each has more drunkards to population than New York city has of all crimes on the catalog.

"One striking result of the tabulation disproves the general belief that a higher ratio in seriousness and volume of crime is a concomitant of very large centres of population."

This report taken in connection with the discoveries and revelations of Josiah Flynt in regard to the collusion of the New York and Chicago chiefs of police with the habitual criminals located in those two cities, establishes the integrity and good faith of the police department of this city. The credit and honor of ridding the city of "grafters" is shared by Police Judge Comstock and by chief of police Hoagland, who fulfil their respective and complimentary duties to the full intent and purpose of the laws made to repress and punish crime and drive criminals away.

"In spite of last year," (1900) says Mr. Flynt in February McClure's, the consensus of opinion among the grafters, with whom I talked was that Chicago is the best stopping place for tramps and thieves in the United States." A sort of a king among the grafters said to Flynt that he liked Chicago because it was "honest." "The City Hall gang went into office on the promise that the town was to be open, an' they've kept it open. Course they've got to put up a little bluff when the reformers get after 'em, but I know, an' the push knows that Chi," (grafters' slang for Chicago) "is goin to be 'right' for the likes of you an' me as long's the push is in power." \* \* \* I know exactly how far I can go an' what I can do in Chi, and that's the reason I feel so at home. It's the same way with the gun (thief). Course he's got to cough up to the coppers ev'ry now an' then, but that's fair enough. You can't get somethin' for nothin' anywhere. If the copper does me a fa-

vor, I got to do him one aint I? The City Hall people want their graft just as much as I do, an' they aint lyin' about it. A town ought to be either open or shut, an' the gang ought to say which it's to be. We know what Chi is, an' that's why we hold'er down."

Mr. Flynt's testimony is exact and every committee of investigation into the police administration of the cities informed against corroborates it. He says that the surest evidence that a city administration is hostile to the grafters and determined to enforce the laws against them is their desertion of a town. That Lincoln is deserted of professional grafters is shown by the testimony quoted, taken from the report of a New-York statistician, totally disinterested in Lincoln except as to getting a report from the city which should add to the number of cities examined and make his data more exhaustive.

Mayor Winnett was elected by the order-loving people of Lincoln with the understanding that he was to enforce the laws and shut up the town. He has kept faith with his constituency. He appointed chief of police Hoagland with this understanding. Some of the policemen are not above reproach, but the citizens have confidence that the excise board will discipline them and get rid of those who offend against the law and a strict interpretation of a policeman's duty. Mayor Winnett has no favorite saloon-keepers. Those who pay their licenses and obey saloon restrictions are protected against irresponsible saloon-keepers who pay no attention to the restrictions against closing time, selling to minors etc. The mayor's strict and exact interpretation of his duty according to the laws of the state and the city charter deserves the commendation of all lovers of law and order. His services to the city are carefully and faithfully rendered. If such services are not almost unanimously recognized by the 4000 republican voters of Lincoln what does it profit a man to deny himself and serve, except for the secret and final commendation of his own conscience? When the day of the primaries is at hand every republican voter who loves his town and knows the difference between a demagogue and a man will deposit a vote for Mayor Winnett who is about to conclude the first term of a notable administration.

**His Friends.**

Mr. Woodward who is asking the nomination for mayor has not a council record that can be of any assistance to him. His anxiety to be mayor leads him to make foolish promises and derogatory friends. Those who seem to be most interested in his nomination now are ex-policeman M. F. Williams, detective Pound, ex constable Bentley, A. C. Langdon, O. M. Routzahn, Pat O'Shee, Bud Gritter, Captain Murfin and pawnbroker Adler. Langdon and

Routzahn were city detectives in the Graham administration when these gambling houses ran without molestation: Saunders and Webb, cor. 10th and P streets. Louis Holdburg over the Abbey saloon, So. 11th St. George Bradeen, cor. 9th and P streets. Rhody McNamara North 10th St. between O and P. Langdon and Routzahn were frequently found in these places, placidly watching the gambling. Gleason and McNamara were sent to the penitentiary for gambling.

The blessings of an orderly town are not appreciated until another administration has set it wide open. Mr. Woodward can only succeed in his ambition through the apathy of republican voters, with whom Mayor Winnett has so established a reputation, that they do not take into account the votes which an incessant candidate can occasionally control.

**The Normal School.**

The Peru Normal school is an old institution. It has furnished hundreds of good teachers to the state. To move it from Peru, where it has been the educational center for so long would have been a ruthless act. Lincoln does not need any more educational institutions and there were many disinterested citizens of Lincoln who rejoiced, when the bill for the establishment of a normal school here was defeated. The defeat of Mr. Thompson's senatorial ambitions, largely through the influence of his townsmen, may have deadened the interest of the Lancaster delegation, in Lancaster appropriations, but "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good" and Peru is the gainer. The normal school is Peru's only distinction and dignity. Lincoln's crown is jeweled with the State university, Wesleyan university and Union college, jewels which are (contrary to the nature of gems) constantly increasing in size and lustre.

**Our Manners.**

It is a thankless and barren task to call attention to the misdemeanors and vices of our own townspeople, but the need cries out.

Citizens of Nebraska are not likely to acquire a reputation for culture, exclusiveness and conceit for some time. If there were more and deeper reasons for self respect there are a number who would be willing to run the risk of a reputation of self-righteousness.

In Nebraska the amenities of life are trampled upon now with the same disregard as in the early sixties. There is only a change in the outward appearance of the men and boys. The youth in the university are vainer, they wear high white collars and no longer stuff their trousers into their boots. But they chew tobacco and spit on the floors of the class-rooms so that the girls who chance to occupy the same seats, an hour later, must