

# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1901.

**THE COURIER,**

ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO  
Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

SARAH B. HARRIS, : : : EDITOR

**Subscription Rates.**

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

THE COURIER will not be responsible for voluntary communications unless accompanied by return postage. Communications to receive attention, must be signed by the full name of the writer, not merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for publication if advisable.

**OBSERVATIONS.**

**Trusts.**

One of the reasons why the public objects to the sale of the Burlington railroad to the owners of the Great Northern, is that it so largely increases the power of one corporation. The public is a jealous divinity. Power in and of itself is not objectionable. But when power is related to our intimate concerns, if it be too overwhelming, it excites apprehension and finally hatred. Trusts decrease the price of any product by economizing effort and eliminating competition. Yet the trust is a boggy not for what it has done, but because it has so much power and the public is afraid it will exercise this power. The immutable laws of commerce and trade will prevent the new railroad company from increasing freight rates. There are other considerations based on fear of retaliatory legislation equally as effective in keeping down prices.

In a small community every man is inclined to be jealous of his neighbor. In a large community combinations are jealous of each other. In the strife between Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan and Mr. E. H. Harriman thousands of people are personally interested. But it is a foregone certainty that the results will be in the interests of commerce, and the success of this or that man will not affect the country at large.

**Municipal Bargains.**

The city should be able to buy labor in the open market in competition with private employers. If firemen working for the gas works receive, for eleven hours work per day \$45.00 a month, the city should not be obliged to pay fifty-five dollars a month to

firemen working eight hours a day. A fireman at the gas-works shovels sixteen tons of coal a day. A fireman in the city water-works shovels about a ton and a half a day. Let the two firemen represent energy, and the city is paying more than twelve times more for its energy than the private corporation pays for it. Now the city is composed of people, most of whom, the very large proportion of whom work harder than the fireman who shovels a ton and a half of coal a day and they receive less for it. Corporations and individuals go into the labor market to purchase labor, and they pay and expect to pay the price current. The new salary ordinance raises the price of unskilled labor, not because the same labor cannot be bought for the customary price, but because it is the way of politics and politicians. Forty-five dollars a month to a fireman who shovels a ton and a half of coal a day is at the rate of a dollar a ton. It is proposed to pay him more than a dollar a ton for shoveling in the coal.

The city is just bearing a share in the spring housecleaning by repairing cross walks. The street commissioner is connecting broad stone or asphalt walks by two narrow boards on which two pedestrians can, by exercising care, continue to walk abreast. The street commissioner or the city ordinance prescribes the width of sidewalk. If a private householder in the best part of the city should lay a walk in front of his property, consisting of two narrow planks, the street commissioner would immediately pay him a shocked visit or else send a shocked emissary to represent his indignation. Yet if broad walks are to be connected by narrow ones, all might as conveniently be narrow, for couples meeting, one must drop behind and the result is that conversation is broken. Remonstrances with the city authorities elicit the information that such abominable cross walks are all that the city can afford. Yet the councilmen are not satisfied that a dollar a ton for putting in coal is enough.

The salary raising ordinance which Mr. Pentzer introduced last Monday night raises the salaries of employes performing clerical work beyond the rate paid by other employers of that labor. The price of a commodity may not represent the value or worth of it, but that is too fine a point for the city to settle. It is the business of the council to see that the laborers, merchants, and very modestly remunerated professional men who pay the taxes of this city do not pay a fancy, arbitrary price for services rendered the city. Just an ordinary fireman capable of moving a ton and a half of coal a day will satisfy the Lincoln taxpayers one tenth of whom cannot sell their labor at so high a rate.

Municipal ownership of public utilities is susceptible of glittering demonstration, but practically it is rendered impracticable by this ten-

dency of politicians to sacrifice the public to individuals who want their salaries raised above the current rate. If Lincoln were to put in a lighting plant, the council would consider the wages to be paid the firemen, engineers, etc., not on the basis of the price of current labor, but by some mysterious, hypothetical reasoning of their own would establish a scale twenty or twenty-five per-cent higher than the local price. Mr. Pentzer's ordinance is arbitrary and illogical. The two men, who more than any other employers of the city, (always excepting the Mayor) have saved the city large sums of money, and whose services can not be easily duplicated are the city attorney and his deputy, Mr. Flaherty. Yet both of these men are ignored in the new ordinance, which should be defeated. All the men now serving the city were glad to be elected. They knew the present salary schedule and there is not a book-keeper or clerk or fireman or treasurer among them who has shown his capacity to earn more than the city is paying him.

The eccentric conduct of the present council has caused more than one groaning taxpayer to sigh for the days when O. W. Webster's shrewd financial wisdom inspired the deliberations of the council and when Schroeder's insight was of constant service.

**"Gran-Dad."**

Last week Governor Savage commuted the sentence of an old man seventy-one years old, sentenced to the penitentiary for twenty years. Cuyler Schultz was known to the other convicts and to the officers as "Gran-Dad." He was a trusty. Faithful, good-natured, humble-minded, the old man has expiated his crime. He was poor and a vicious neighbor set fire to his haystack, the only crop of a lean year. The neighbor imprisoned his stock, taunted him with poverty, swore at him, reviled him, and the old man who was shot in the head during the civil war, shot his neighbor. Beloved by every other member of his community, the poor old soldier had yet to suffer for taking life. His release has been earnestly desired for years by every one familiar with his character and the circumstances of his crime.

**Reconstructed.**

The elimination of the southern negro from politics means the breaking up of the solid south. The negro question was the only subject that kept the south solid and on the currency question, expansion, on the Isthmian canal question, on all vital and broad national issues the southern people are with the administration. President McKinley's speech at New Orleans, and its loud acclaim proved that. Not that a republican presidential candidate can yet receive the votes of southerners. The south is still in bondage to a name, and the

people will vote for a democrat all of whose opinions they disapprove rather than for a republican with whose policy they are in complete accord. With the darkey boggy out of the question, however, a democratic candidate utterly objectionable to the south cannot again be foisted upon it. The south has been hampered and restricted, since the war, by fear and hatred of negro domination. The removal of this fear by the temporary disfranchisement of the negro is the very best possible fortune that could happen to him. The southern white man has placed a reward for learning before the southern negro which not one of the youths of the race will ignore. In twenty years an illiterate darkey will be hard to find, while the mountains will still be inhabited by whites who cannot write nor read. That is the point of time when white supremacy in the south will really be in danger.

**A Church Trust.**

In the process of changing from a worm that crawls to winged color, the soul of the worm which is the same in worm and butterfly doubtless revolts against revolution and the loss of so much good fuzzy covering and so many feet. But when the revolution is accomplished the worm finds that it does not take him a half hour to get over a yard of space, that instead of crawling on the earth, by a flutter or two he is out of the heart of the rose and deep in a honeysuckle blossom thousands of worm-miles away.

The old way could not have lasted for many more centuries. Competition produces so much friction that it wears out machinery and dissipates energy. Competition is friction. The world's business is being reorganized. Not Pierpont Morgan, not James Hill, not Rockefeller nor Schwab, not any one man is accomplishing the change. A universal impulse of reorganization has seized upon the men of the world. They do not know why they are making these enormous machines and organizing opposing forces into one magnificent engine, ball bearing, that after a while an ordinary engineer can attend to. Doubtless Mr. Hill or Mr. Carnegie think their ideas original. Such men have receptive minds. The spirit of the age communicates impulses directly to them. Fifty years ago, they would not have been successful in the same attempts. They illustrate the times. They are in themselves America, modern emblems of the unification of man's interests and of the development of the tribal, the family, the brotherly idea.

The Reverend William Manss' plan to unite the denominations now only divided by unessential, human, artificial distinctions into one magnificent engine of conversion and salvation is but another expression of the spirit of combination. There are half a hundred or more struggling