



A. R. TALBOT.

Prominent in lodge and church circles of Lincoln is A. R. Talbot, twice state senator from Lancaster county—once in 1896 and 1898. He was born in Warren county, Ill., and came to Lincoln in 1884. He was graduated from Hadding college, at Abington, Ill., at the age of twenty-two, and two years later he received a degree from Union college of law in Chicago. In that school he was a classmate of W. J. Bryan and for twelve years he was his law partner in Lincoln. For eight years he was chairman of the republican city central committee. During the last presidential campaign he was compelled to take issue with the party on the question of Philippine expansion. He allied himself with Bryan democracy. He is one of the attorneys of the Missouri Pacific railroad and is a director and influential member of the Modern Woodmen order, serving in an official capacity continuously since 1890. Mr. Talbot is in line for the head consulship, the highest position in the Modern Woodmen jurisdiction, when the present incumbent, W. A. Northcutt, retires.

Why Women Don't Vote at School Elections

Why is it that women slight their privilege of voting at school elections? Is it evidence that they do not care for full suffrage or is it that their dignity has been offended by the offer of so small a part in the powers of citizenship?

Or is it something else? A few suffrage women have something to say about it.

"Give the women as much suffrage as the men and they would vote as much," was the opinion of Miss Laura A. Gregg of woman suffrage fame in Nebraska. "If school elections were divorced from city elections no more men would vote for the school board than do women now. If women were allowed the ballot on political matters also many more would be observed about the polls on election day. As it is the school board is seldom an issue." She proceeded to tell of such an issue in Omaha many months ago. It was when the board was accused of selling out to a book concern of Chicago and a detective of that city succeeded in making the revelation. "When it came time to vote on this the women fairly swarmed from their homes to take part in the voting. And the opponents of woman suffrage who opposed it because they thought the women would not vote now opposed it because they did. It was the women who defeated their candidates."

She told of a time in her former home in Kansas when the whole city ticket had been renominated, without an exception. The officers had performed their duty satisfactorily and there was no complaint. Because of that the vote was so small that the candidates refused at first to qualify. It was their view that if the people did not appreciate their actions heartily enough to get out and vote for them the second time it was not worth while to serve them longer. It shows how the men, too, can stay away from the polls. The city would have been without officers if it had not been for the influential friends of the men who were re-elected.

"It is mainly a matter of issue," said Miss Gregg.

She told that in Colorado when anything of moment is to be decided the

women vote in as full force as the men and sometimes in greater number. "There are often elections when it is as hard to get the men out as it has ever been women," she says, "even where the women have only school board suffrage. It took \$50,000 to get out the male vote in just one ward in New York during one contest. At the same time the national woman suffrage association expended \$10,000 in propagandism. Note that it takes much money to interest men in their civic duties sometimes. It always takes the women some time to become interested in their political rights but once they have felt their power they do not shirk any more than the men. As a matter of fact both sexes are too often lamentably lax in the performance of their civic duties."

"A good many women are not convinced that half a loaf or rather a crust is better than none," said Mrs. H. H. Wilson. "They think that the privilege to vote merely on the school board is a poor sop thrown to them by the men and they rather resent it. These women think that if voting is at all worth their while they should be allowed to have full suffrage and being denied that they will have none of it. I believe in voting as much as we can and in hoping and working for more. Other women take no interest in the question at all. They are apparently in the majority but it is hardly to be expected otherwise. Would you be interested in athletics in a day if you had spent your entire life indoors? From infancy innumerable intangible influences have worked to impress the girl that politics is of no concern to her. She has grown up with a subconscious understanding that the home alone is to be her sphere. But when she undertakes the higher education and comes to study political economy and sociology she broadens and begins to think of community interests. It is she who begins to agitate the suffrage question and yearns for a part in it, which she thinks by rights she is entitled to. For it she is working and she strives to interest her sisters. The result is to be seen in the annually increased vote of women at school elections. I have not seen the records for it but from my observations I am sure they are voting more and more numerously. But even when they do not vote they still have a strong, wholesome influence. For instance, the women were primarily responsible for the annex to the Cap-

itol school. For years the smaller pupils were compelled to assemble in the basement rooms that grew more and more offensive. The mothers began a crusade for a new structure. They assailed the board members in season and out of season; they worked early and late. Finally they succeeded, out of sheer persistence, and the building stands as a testimonial of their efforts. Don't you think officers would act more quickly and readily if they knew women had a vote apiece? Women are studying conditions more and more deeply. They realize that for the world to have the best of men they must be the best of mothers and they are rightfully concerned in the political affairs of their sons. The voting of women is a matter of education and growth."

"I know they don't go out much," said Mrs. Phillbrick, "and that's what retards the cause of full woman suffrage. What the women need is political education. Still I have no doubt there was a time when the men were as slow to take advantage of the power at the polls as women are now. Every once in a while now on election day the candidates have the hardest kind of work to get the men out. The women lose a point here I think. Most men have shown a willingness to give the women the ballot if they showed that they really wanted it. Now here they could go out in force to school elections if they would and show the men that they do want to vote. That would be one of the best of influences for the cause. Because they don't do it the men think they are not really anxious to vote and there the question stands. Then too, many women are too closely bound to society doings. In our ward I have noticed that when we tried to get out the women vote it was almost absolutely necessary to go from house to house with carriages. Even then a great many of them refused to move. They might be baking or washing or housecleaning or be hard at work on some other domestic duty. Or they might feel that they were not dressed up quite well enough to be seen about

the polls by men and other women. And they would refuse. I think if they had full power to vote on all questions they would take more interest in their responsibility. In states where they are as much in power as the men they vote as much. Education is the thing. When women learn that they can be good housekeepers and good home makers and vote as well as the men they will not hang back. It's a slow process but it is a sure one."

"The needful thing to bring out the women voters is an issue," declared Mrs. David Bates, mother-in-law of A. L. Bixby, and recently a voter in Colorado. "I have noticed that not only in Colorado but in Nebraska and Minnesota. When everything is running smoothly and the dominant party has been careful in the selection of candidates the women are inclined to think it is of no use for them to bestir themselves and they stay at home. When we lived in Fullerton a number of years ago the principal of the schools acquired a reputation as a scamp. His case was of a character particularly aggravating to the women and they took an enthusiastic interest in the election. It was not difficult to get them to the polls. They wanted to set going the machinery that would put him out of office and they succeeded. Give them an issue and they will vote nearly if not fully as numerously as the men. In Fort Logan, Colorado, where we lived many years, the soldiers' wives took a prominent part in the elections. They were a numerous outfit and generally ignorant. Having little else to do they ran for office. Nearly all those who were not soldiers' wives worked tooth and nail against them. Let women enter the race for membership on the school board and I believe nobody could complain of a lack of interest in the election. This would afford an interesting divergence of opinion. It would be an issue. In Lincoln the republicans are dominant. The women feel that anybody they nominate will be elected and so what's the use of their voting? An-



W. E. SHARP.

W. E. Sharp, whose likeness appears above, is a new citizen of Lincoln, coming here from Aurora about a year ago and opening the field office of the Royal Highlanders, of which company he is the president.

Mr. Sharp has the distinction of being the youngest president of any insurance society in the United States. He was one of the originators of the "scaled certificate plan," used by the Highlanders and since adopted by many of the largest and strongest fraternal societies. He is connected with several companies in an official capacity, but devotes his time to the Royal Highlanders, which, under his management, now covers ten states, has over twenty millions of dollars of insurance in force, and a reserve fund of a quarter of a million dollars, making this company the strongest fraternal society, membership measured by reserve, in the United States.

Mr. Sharp comes to Lincoln to make this city his home. He owns property on D street and is now completing plans for a new residence. He is the half owner of the imposing Fraternity building just being completed at Thirteenth and N streets, where his office will soon be located. He is just such a progressive, wide awake business man as Lincoln denizens are glad to welcome to the city.