

THE COURIER
Published Every Saturday

Entered in the Postoffice at Lincoln as second class matter.

OFFICE, 900-910 P STREET
TELEPHONE: Business Office, 214
Editorial Rooms, 90

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Per annum, in advance, \$1.00
Single Copy,05

Sound Men . . .
Only are Wanted

Good eyes, good ears, good lungs, good heart, good bones and good sinews are the requisites of a good railroad man. And the better head he has in the bargain the better position he is able to hold. All the men in the service, to the very humblest, are required to know a trifle about reading and writing. Certain it is that a good many know no more than a trifle. With respect to the physical examination many are turned down for bodily imperfections, while the color test weeds out about four per cent, according to the estimate of Dr. Joseph Scroggs, the company medical examiner.

The color test appears to be the most difficult obstacle to surmount. A liberal part of humanity is bereft of a keen color sense, the result mainly of lack of training. It is a very essential thing in railroading. In fact it is one of tremendous importance. Color is the wireless conveyance of intelligence in railroad life, and the man who cannot distinguish between colors may find himself crushed under the responsibility for some bloody catastrophe. It is not much over ten years ago that the railroads began to examine their men and behold there was disclosed the fact that color blindness was woefully prevalent.

It is the Holmgren color test that sifts out the men afflicted with color blindness. They are applicants who want to be either trainmen, yardmen, enginemen or station men. None of the others are obliged to submit to it. The system is embodied in a neat little pile of yarn. Once balls of colored yarn were used but this system has been supplanted. Little skeins are now used, each one being numbered. Laid out on a table three colors, generally red, green and pink are sorted out by themselves. From the rest of the pile the candidate is asked to select the various shades of each of the three colors. The greatest confusions result over the blues and the greens, almost all the men who fall selecting blues as some shade of green. Many confusions occur also over the variations of red. When the candidates get through with the yarn and all its multitude of colors they have yet a letter test. At a distance of twenty feet they are required to read letters of different sizes, first with one eye and then with the other. By their promptness and accuracy are they judged. The colors they have grouped are known by their numbers and not by name and by these the faculty of the men examined is reported to the medical department for approval or rejection. Likewise is the letter test reported.

Lungs and heart reveal their secrets to the proper agencies, the stethoscope and the remainder of the physique must also be proved sound. By an acrometer the sensitiveness of the ears, each in turn, are measured. It is a little ticking instrument. Standing off some distance the doctor manipulates it and at each tick the hearer, if he hears it, will signify with a nod. If no nod comes the doctor will step a little nearer.

It takes a very solid organization of nerves and muscles to pass the physical examination required of a railway employe. It is more rigid than that of lodge organizations. It was not so severe in years past but the companies

have come to realize that the safety of the public lies in strong, hearty men. They must keep in that condition, too. If they are prone to take their grog they will not last long in the employ of the company. Even if seen coming from a saloon and the matter is reported to the officials the man will lose his place. He might have entered the saloon for nothing more nor less than a cigar, but that cuts no figure with the railroad company. He went in and that is enough. No telling how soon he will be tempted to drink. And then what would happen to the train if the man in some vital position were drunk? Inebriation is not condoned anywhere on the road.

In the course of every two or three years enginemen are re-examined. Orders for one are expected now most any time. These men, of all in the employ of the road, must not deteriorate. If something happens to their eyes that blurs or dims the light ahead it is likely to mean disaster to the passengers in the rear and a tremendous amount of cost to the company. It wants to know when its engineers suffer a lapse of vision or hearing. Other men in the service are not put to the test as often. If they encounter an accident they are examined before being returned to work and sometimes they fail to pass. Otherwise they work perhaps until old age comes and even some switchmen are seen with spectacles. A time comes, however, when they must take a back seat for younger blood. Some roads pension their old men, but the Burlington does not. One time this was agitated and some of the officials seemed to approve of it, but with the idea of devoting all energy to the perfection of the relief department the innovation was indefinitely postponed. This relief provides a sum of \$1,700 for men who have lost a leg, for instance. The rules say it is optional with the men to take this or a minor position for the remainder of their days. But the understanding prevails that the Burlington, while retaining its maimed now employed, it does not really want any more. It appears that cripples are coming to learn by polite information, of course, that they are not desirable timber and they take their allowance and go. The company wants young bodies, complete, robust and temperate.

Wanted:
a Board of Pardons

Thorny and devious are the ways of governors and those who rule in high places. Fierce are the torments, few indeed the pleasures.

In Nebraska nothing is quite so excruciating as the continual petitioning for pardons. Appeals for executive clemency make the existence of a tender hearted governor bereft of joy.

There is only one thing that will compare with it. That is the initial apportionment of the offices immediately after the new executive takes his chair. But a few months and this is all over. The pardoning nightmare remains aye and forever.

Petitions and communications are always present and there is scarcely a day but that some comes to the office of Governor Savage to pour forth some plea for mercy and it is the same old story.

Perhaps the most ancient method of securing or attempting to secure a pardon is for some feminine member of the household to set out for the capital and, arriving there, make pleas for mercy fabled in Sunday school literature from time immemorial. When the prison gates do not promptly spring back, letting the prisoner free, there is chagrin and disappointment.

But pardon seekers never let up. The pleading and petitioning go on continually. It is a true test of loyalty to the imprisoned or condemned one, but it is decidedly wearing on the governor who has to listen to it all over and over again, when he should be doing something else.

Every argument can be anticipated

Farmers & Merchants Bank
15th and O Streets,
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.
GEO. W. MONTGOMERY, Pres. L. P. FUNKHOUSER, Cashier.
Capital Paid in, \$50,000 00
Accounts of Individuals, Firms, Corporations, Banks, and Bankers Solicited. Correspondence invited. FOREIGN EXCHANGE and LETTERS OF CREDIT on all the principal cities of Europe. Interest paid on time deposits.
COME IN AND GET A HOME SAVINGS BANK

Lincoln Transfer Co. . . . If you Want First Class Service Call on Us . . .
WE DO WE SELL WE CARRY
Piano and Furniture Moving all grades of Coal a fine line of Carriages & Buggies
OFFICE, TENTH AND Q STS. PHONE 178.

Ganoung's Pharmacy 1400 O Street . . . Open all Night
Lowney's and Allegretti's Chocolates
HOT SODAS IN SEASON

Ping-Pong . . .
or Table Tennis
THE LATEST PARLOR GAME
Sets 50c, \$1.10, \$2.25, \$3.00, \$3.75 and \$4.50
THE LINCOLN BOOK STORE, 1126 O STREET.

PURE ICE.. OUR ARTIFICIAL ICE IS
Absolutely Pure
Telephone Orders to 225
LINCOLN ICE CO., 1040 O St.

by the worried executive. Newly discovered evidence proves the innocence of the prisoner. In other words, the governor is asked to set aside the conclusions of the jury on the testimony of a parent or a friend. Of course this is asking a great deal. Reformation, dire poverty of family or dependent ones and malicious foes who prosecute without provocation are other excuses. Sick prisoners have been pardoned and afterwards miraculously restored to health, although they went through the prison gates to die. And so on ad infinitum.

Wives and sweethearts journey to Lincoln to see the governor in person, after wasting valuable postage stamps in incoherent written appeals. In the office they weep copiously, much to the keen distress of the governor. As a man he cannot help feeling extremely sorry, while as a governor his official oath demands that he remain extremely firm.

Preachers and amateur philanthropists project themselves into cases without a thorough examination of the facts. Sometimes the prisoners they want released are really a menace to the safety of the public. Yet the pardon or parole must come, else the governor is portrayed as a man devoid of feeling.

In the season when executions are expected the life of the executive is one hideous dream. On one hand is the verdict of the courts. On the other is a vast and discordant clamor raised by the friends and enemies of the condemned one. Of late Governor Savage has been enduring a siege over the Rhea proposition, while the campaign which led to the late pardon of Bartley was one of the most tedious in the history of the state.

This will probably be changed some bright day. Already there is a decided drift in public sentiment towards a board of pardons composed of three or five state officers. This body would of course hold formal sessions and the strain and worry of the pardon business would be shifted from the shoulders of the executive.

New Lincoln JOHN S. CAIN
Proprietor
130 S. Tenth Street **Bowling Alleys**
Everything New and Strictly First Class
Ladies Especially Invited

Troyer & Gingery
UNDERTAKERS

SADDLES
HARNESS OR
HORSE COLLARS
With this Brand on are the Best Made

H.B. BRAND

ASK YOUR DEALER TO SHOW THEM
BEFORE YOU BUY.
MANUFACTURED BY
HARPHAM BROS. CO.
LINCOLN, NEB.

FITS STOPPED FREE
Permanently Cured by
DR. KLINE'S GREAT NERVE RESTORER
No Fits after first day's use.
50c TRIAL BOTTLE FREE
to fit patients who pay postage only on delivery.
Permanent Cure, with temporary relief, for all Nervous Disorders, Epilepsy, St. Vitus' Dance, Debility, Exhaustion, etc.
DR. J. H. KLINE, M.D., 831 Arch Street, Philadelphia. Founded 1872.