

# THE COURIER

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## GUARDIANS OF LINCOLN'S PEACE

Efficiency of Its Police Officers, Buttressed by the High Grade  
of Public Morality, Gives the City the  
Distinction of Maintaining the Smallest Department in the World

Lincoln is the most orderly municipality in the world. In no city of its size are there so few arrests, so few infractions of the law, such a meagre police force and so low a rate of expense for police protection.

For the year 1901, each man, woman and child in Lincoln paid barely twenty-nine cents for police protection. Thirteen officers guarded the interests of 45,000 people at a total expenditure of \$13,035. During the year 1,579 people were apprehended for all sorts of offenses.

Intoxication caused the most trouble. Five hundred and twelve persons were brought in for this offense alone. Vagrancy was next on the list with 323 devotees. The larceny company numbered 101. Ninety-four people were charged with assault and battery, fifty disturbed the peace and eleven were accused of a tendency to enter the domiciles of citizens without first formally agitating the doorbell.

All other offenders, big and little, great and small, aggregated 486. Numbered in this throng were nineteen students, the grand crop for the year culled from a horde of scholars numbering fully 5,000.

Police headquarters in the city lack considerable of being ideal. There is a woman's cell well equipped with comfortable beds. Cells for men are dark compartments with rude bunks upon which the unfortunate are compelled to recline. One large room, marked off from all the rest, contains a stove and is technically called the "bull pen." In this the offenders of the fairly "decent" are herded together.

A new patrol wagon has recently been purchased by the department. The vehicle was built in the city by a local firm and is supposed to be the very

latest in the line of a "hurry" wagon. Rides of any length in this piece of property can be secured for the nominal sum of \$1.

P. James Cosgrave was chosen police judge at the last city election. He has established several precedents during his term. Lawyers are not accepted as sureties for clients who have to furnish bail. Old offenders run up against a cumulative sentence system that piles it on a little harder for each offense.

Henry V. Hoagland has been chief of police for four years. He has had a long and varied experience in dealing with the criminal classes. He is a close and ardent student of criminology, believing that there is some good in everyone and that all except the natural born criminals can be reformed and made useful members of society. In the discharge of his duty he has made many friends and stands as a glittering example of what a conscientious chief of a police force may do to benefit and help the unfortunate of the community.

Detective James Malone is chief of the Sherlock Holmes department. He has been connected with the police force for almost twenty years. In his head he carries an accurate picture of nearly every rogue that has visited the city in times past. Strange wrongdoers he aligns at the station and encourages them in conversation on ethical problems. He is assisted by Detective Franklin, who is the master of the bloodhounds when they are started on the trail of culprits.

William T. B. Ireland is night captain of the police force. He arrived in the city in 1887 and, with the exception of three or four years spent with the street railway company, has been identified with the police department. He

is considered a prompt and efficient desk man with a comprehensive grasp of his duties.

Job Hathaway presides at the desk as day sergeant. The daylight men, generally two patrolmen, are shifted from time to time in order to relieve the officers who are on duty nights. Officer Green is the senior with respect to continuous service. Other patrolmen are Officers Harr, Reynolds, Joergers, Grady, O'Kane and David. Elmer Sides is patrol driver and Mrs. Rachel Hyde is just completing her sixth term as police matron.

Two sessions of police court are held each day. Cases in which the testimony is complete are heard between 9 and 10 o'clock in the morning. When night officers are required to be present the matters relating to the personal liberty of the prisoners are generally attended to and the cases come up at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Burglars just released from the penitentiary are a constant source of annoyance to the Lincoln police and especial care is taken to discourage their stay in the city. A housebreaker, usually a coward when cornered, will sometimes take life in the twinkling of an eye. When convicts are released, the chief of the local police force usually arranges an interview and can generally tell whether or not the man intends to lead a better life. Should he be truly penitent he is helped on his way and, if he has friends in the city, work is secured for him.

But the men who come out of prison, sullen and vindictive, are not allowed to remain at liberty in Lincoln. Their descriptions are given to the officers and they are arrested on sight. As a general rule they flit to some other city

upon short notice and give no more trouble.

This policy, deprecated by cheap sentimentalists and amateur criminologists, is really necessary in Lincoln. The police force is meager; the opportunities for crime abundant. Should the penitentiary be allowed to disgorge its convicts into the city, there would soon be formed coteries of dangerous criminals, troublesome to the authorities and inimical to the peace and safety of the citizens.

The diminutive police force in Lincoln has been the cause of much joking in various quarters. But there is an effective organization and co-operation among the men and their work compares most favorably with Omaha or other large cities, where the equipment costs a small fortune.

During recent years there has been no crime of large dimensions that the Lincoln police have not ferreted out the perpetrators and brought them to justice. Few cities of Lincoln's population can boast of such a record although they maintain two officers of the law where only one is salaried in Lincoln.

A regular crusade has been inaugurated against the hoboes. Specimens of this class are arrested on sight. They are either allowed to make a spring for the green fields of the open country or do time at the stone pile. As a usual thing they sprint.

Each patrolman of the Lincoln police force must cover an extensive beat and keep tab on the goings and comings of the people who need watching in his particular neighborhood. This means work and hustling. The fact that crime is so effectually stamped out is a testimonial to the efficiency and industry of the policemen.

And Lincoln is the only city in the world where one patrolman looks after 5,000 people with so little trouble and so few arrests.



THE LINCOLN POLICE FORCE.