

being on the department, Mr. Sommer has demonstrated that he is qualified in every way to fill the position.

UNION DEPOT

A plan has been formulated and considerable work has been done in developing it to bring about the construction of a union depot in the city of Lincoln. The members of the council and a number of the substantial business men of the city have endorsed the plan as prepared by the mayor, and the plan is now in process of development. It consists of two forms of petitions, which are in reality the securing of a referendum vote directing in what manner to proceed to secure a union station. One form of petition requests the removal of the Rock Island road to the west side of the city to bring it into a union station if possible; but states that if it is not possible to secure a union station the petitioners request that the Rock Island road be given an opportunity to pass through Lincoln west of Ninth street on condition that it remove its present tracks between A and R streets; that it turn over its right of way in such territory to the city of Lincoln to be used exclusively for park purposes. This petition is being circulated by the Avocation club of Lincoln and upwards of 3,000 signers have already been secured. The other form of petition is being signed by the business men of the city, who are receivers and shippers of freight. They urge the importance and the necessity to the city of Lincoln of a union station and pledge their support to the railroads that are willing to co-operate in building a union station that all railroads entering Lincoln can use on an equality. This petition is being signed by quite a number of the largest retail merchants in the city, and is being circulated by Mr. Robert L. Newman, who is a representative of the Traveling Men's organization. I believe that the signing of these two forms of petitions respectively by a majority of the citizens and business men of the city and the proper presentation to the railroad officials will secure the much needed union station for the city of Lincoln.

PUBLIC-COMFORT STATION

Provision was made in the city budget of 1916-17 for a public comfort station. After investigation of the plans and progress made in other cities for public comfort stations and making a survey of Lincoln and consulting numerous students of city problems, location was selected for the construction of a public comfort station in the center of Thirteenth street. The south line of the comfort station being 14 feet north of the north side of O street where it crosses Thirteenth street. Plans for construction and an estimate of cost of the public comfort station were approved by the council and the city engineer instructed to construct the public comfort station under the supervision of the mayor. The work on the station was commenced a short time ago and after the excavation had been made in the center of the street thirty-four feet long, fourteen feet wide, and ten feet deep, and the material, including plumbing, etc., had been arranged for, the city was restrained by the court on a complaint from property owners from continuing the construction, and the case is still pending before the court. But it will soon be dissolved and the work on the public comfort station, it is hoped and believed, will be rushed to completion.

In submitting the above summary of work done, it is only fair to add that all ordinances, resolutions, appropriations and plans requiring the approval of the council have been adopted in almost every instance with the unanimous approval of the council, working in complete harmony for the progress and development of the city.

CHAS. W. BRYAN,

Mayor.

The above report was submitted by Mayor Bryan to and officially approved by the Lincoln city council April 30th, 1917.

THE MAYOR'S EXIT

After two years of excellent service as chief executive of the city, Mayor Bryan steps down and out. Two reasons actuated him in declining to serve another two years. One was that his private business was so urgent that he could not afford the sacrifice entailed by his public duties. The other was that in John E. Miller the

voters had a chance to draft a willing and competent man, one with the same forward look and with the zeal to accomplish what he sets out to do. (Mr. Bryan went into office seriously handicapped by the effect of the criticism that had been vainly used to defeat him, that he was a hard man to get along with. The moment, therefore, that he sought, as mayor, to secure this or that reform in some department of the city, he naturally met with the opposition of the heads thereof and for a time trouble reigned. But his good nature, his manifest desire to serve the public interest and his refusal to accept defeat when he believed he was right triumphed, and he was able to accomplish a great many things that have already been listed and which are distinctively for the benefit of the city. Particularly is this true of his development of the parks. He has laid the foundations for a splendid system that will be worth many thousands of dollars to the Lincoln of the future. Mr. Bryan is a progressive in thought who finds it not impossible to be progressive in action, and much of the irritation that has followed him through his administration has been due to the fact that he did not hesitate to step on the toes of privilege and conservatism, and where he erred it was because of the irrefragable enthusiasm for his tasks that spurred him on.—Lincoln (Neb.) Daily News.

RETIRING MESSAGE

The retiring message by Mayor Charles W. Bryan to the city council contains a number of sound commendations. It is clear that the commissioner in charge of the water and electric light plant has more than his share of the labor and responsibility of the city government. To put the parks in charge of the mayor, in addition to giving him the police department, would be unfair in the present circumstances if it were not for the possibility of securing the services of an unpaid active park board to perform virtually all of the work. The recommendation that the police be placed in the hands of the mayor is simply the cream of the city's experience during the last four years. The mayor can not be a real executive officer under the present system unless the principal law executing arm of the city is in some way put under his control. (The message of the retiring mayor will go a long way toward completing the verdict of the community upon the service given by Mayor Bryan during the past two years. He is one of the few mayors the city has ever had who could see what the municipal government ought to be and had the courage to carry out his ideals so far as he could with the machinery at his disposal. The record of things accomplished under somewhat adverse circumstances is impressive enough to hide the blunders. Mr. Bryan deserves something more than the perfunctory thanks of the city upon his retirement from office.—Nebraska State Journal.)

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Lincoln, Neb. May 9, 1917.

Hon. Chas. W. Bryan,
Lincoln, Neb.

Dear Sir:

As you have now retired from the city commission, I want as a private citizen to thank you for your great services to the city of Lincoln. They were not appreciated, but that is the history of all men when they donate their time to the public. Your work accomplished upon Antelope Park between O and J streets is a monument to your foresight, taste and energy, without which it would never have been accomplished.

Again thanking you.

COL. F. M. WOODS.

When campaigns are in progress, the brewers and distillers employ as one argument against prohibition that it deprives the farmer of a profitable market for his field crops. Now that it is proposed to close the liquor factories so that the food supply of the nation may be conserved, the brewers and distillers say they use such a small part of the production that their continued operation would have no effect on the supply. But this is not the first time the liquor-makers have been caught in the pincers of fact.

BRYAN DESCRIBES PEOPLE AS SOLE ARBITERS OF RIGHT

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, May 11.]

The passing years are kind to the oratory of William J. Bryan. The bald spot behind his massive brow has extended to the narrowing of the fringe of thinning locks, but the flow of his phrases last night at Dreamland, where he lectured for the Young Men's Christian Association, won the same applause that it won in the nineteenth century.

Bryan spoke of the work of the Y. M. C. A. in war. He delivered his message of support to the President by accelerated production and conservation of the food supply, and then he embarked on the placid waters of his larger subject, which was the three relationships of humanity—man's relation to government, society and to God.

The ideal of government he defined to be "the right of the people to what they want," explaining that the arbiter of what is right for the people to want can be none other than the people themselves.

He said that the popular idea that the United States was just now becoming a world power is an error and asserted that this country has exercised the greatest of world influences from its beginning.

Man's relation to society he defined in terms of service, and said that those who had won the rewards of millions had been too busy collecting to render service, while those who have given the greatest service have been too busy to think of collecting the money reward.

The theological portion of Bryan's address was characterized by homely illustration. He said he was fond of radishes, but that he did not understand how the "colors of the sunset sky had been wrapped about the succulent white flesh of the juicy radish." Therefore, he criticized those who refused to accept God until they could understand the infinite.

SAN QUENTIN "BOYS" ADDRESSED

San Quentin, May 10.—Bringing a message of cheer and good will and holding out the hope of just reward for honest effort, William Jennings Bryan, former secretary of state, spoke for an hour to the 2400-odd prisoners this morning. Bryan was given a noisy ovation when ushered into the dining-room by Warden James A. Johnston and State Prison Directors Charles Sonntag and Henry Eickoff. As Bryan mounted the platform the band played "America" and every prisoner arose and remained standing until the last note.

Bryan was introduced to the prisoners by Warden Johnston in these few words: "It is not only for his greatness that we admire him, but for his goodness that we love him."

"Too little time and importance," said Bryan, "is attached to the making of man and far too much time and effort are given to making the creations of man for man's comfort and convenience. Man is divided into three distinct classes—physical, mental and moral. Physical development should not be neglected. Greater still is the development of the mind, but of supreme importance is the development of the soul."

Throughout his speech Bryan referred to the prisoners as "you boys." His speech was interlarded with gems of dry wit which were keenly appreciated by the prisoners.

Three members of the Nebraska senate voted against the passage of the prohibition bill before that body. They were all democrats. Sixteen other members, all but two of them democrats, devoted their energies for the better part of the session to defeating the effort to secure an effective law. These figures are quoted from the record to prove that Mr. Bryan was justified, when he made his campaign last fall in Nebraska, in charging that the democratic leaders had tied the party to the corpse of the liquor traffic.

Judging by the tremendous number of persons who have been stepping to the front for the purpose of informing the rest of us specifically just how we can best demonstrate our patriotism and how we can best win the war, the man who, during the civil war, "knew more than old Grant" left a mighty large family of descendants.