

CURT COMMENT OF THE TIMES

A Paris dispatch to the World-Herald conveys the interesting information that Theodore Nairs of Newport, Neb., is over in Egypt looking for dead and mummified queens. He wants to dig 'em up and relieve 'em of their jewelry. Of course, if Nairs is looking for dead queens, Egypt may be the place to find them. If he were searching for real live queens he wouldn't have to leave Nebraska. Right here in our own beloved state we have the queenliest lot of queens, and the most of them, to be found anywhere in all the wide world. Not a "dead one" in the whole lot. And there is no need to search for them, either. They may be seen any day, by scores and hundreds and thousands. Mr. Nair can fool away his time on the "dead ones" if he so desires, but a lot of us who think we have far better taste and judgment on the queen question are going to remain in Nebraska and continue to meet up with the live ones.

The excise board of Lincoln seems to have overplayed the hand of the "tight lid-ers" when it raided the German Family club. The resultant commotion promises to make the "committee of fifty" work overtime this coming spring to keep the lid from blowing off.

An evening paper this week tells the story of a man who died at the county poor farm. Nothing unusual about that, however. The unusual thing is that the old man feared that he would be buried in the Potter's field and begged piteously to be buried by the side of his wife, who had preceded him to the other shore. The evening paper comments favorably upon the fact that a number of people belonging to the same church that the old man held his membership in hustled around and raised enough money to gratify the old man's last wish. That was all right, of course, as far as it went. But it strikes Will Maupin's Weekly that it should have been much better and more in keeping with the Christ spirit, if those brethren in the Lord had hustled a bit earlier and kept their brother from the necessity of ending his days in the poor house.

If any considerable number of people in Nebraska want to vote on the subject of capital removal, for heaven's sake let us have a vote on it. Certainly Lincoln is not afraid, providing the rules of the game are fair. But the legislators who want to vote on removal and refuse to allow Lincoln to compete belong to that class of "sports" who want the cards marked their way and permission to play them under the table.

The manufacturing industries of Nebraska are growing at a gratifying rate. Agricultural Nebraska will have to hustle if it remains ahead of industrial Nebraska. From 1900 to 1910, the population of Nebraska increased 18 per cent; the number of wage earners in manufacturing establishments increased a fraction over 21 per cent. The agricultural population showed a decrease during the ten years; the industrial population showed a handsome increase. The value added to raw material by process of manufacture increased 52 per cent—vastly more than the increase in farm products. Industry expanded in five years more than twice as much as the population did in ten years. The contention of the wage earners that they should be given more consideration by the lawmakers is clearly well founded.

A million steers and cows are killed and skinned in Nebraska every year. Every hide

is shipped east of the Allegheny mountains to be tanned into leather. Then the leather is shipped back to Nebraska in large quantities and manufactured into shoes, harness, saddles, trunks, valises, etc. Massachusetts and Connecticut get the profit that comes from tanning, Massachusetts and Connecticut workmen get the wages, and the railroads get the haul two ways. And we can tan hides in Nebraska just as well as they can anywhere else in the world. Why are we not doing it, thus employing men right here at home who will contribute to the upbuilding of the state?

The Columbus Telegram offers a suggestion for the reformation of our revenue laws. Briefly it is this: "First, the employment of a state tax ferret, whose duty it will be to dig down underneath the returns which wealthy criminals make to the assessor. Second, the employment of a special detective by each county board, the detective to work under the direction of the county attorney, and then secure grand jury indictments against every man who has sworn to a lie when listing his property for taxation." The chief trouble with the proposed reform is that it would merely aggravate the evil. Our entire system of tax gathering is asinine, archaic, antedeluvian, and little short of criminal in that it breeds criminals. Will Maupin's Weekly offers as a substitute the following: "Remove all taxes on real estate improvements; tax the land according to its value for use and occupancy, and then confiscate for the use and benefit of the state all personal property over a certain amount that may be found to be unlisted for taxation by the owner. As long as we continue to put a fine on thrift and enterprise and a premium on each of them, we may expect a constantly enlarging crop of liars.

When Governor Aldrich asserted that the Third ward of Omaha cast three times more votes at the last election than it had male inhabitants, according to the 1910 census, he seems to have been laboring under a mistaken notion that the record of arrests in the Third ward was the government's census figures. The facts are exactly opposite. The figures of the 1910 census are not available as to wards and precincts as yet, but the 1900 census shows that the Third ward of Omaha had three times as many male inhabitants two years old and over as it cast votes last election day. Instead of casting more votes in proportion than other subdivisions of the state, it really cast fewer votes in proportion to the actual number of inhabitants. If the governor's proof of election frauds in Omaha are based on no better evidence than that he has cited, we greatly fear that he will be unable to induce the legislature to give him authority to appoint judges and clerks of election in cities of the metropolitan class.

It is said that the president of France receives more salary per month than the president of the United States receives per year. Well, aren't some presidents worth more than others?

A lot of blue-visaged statisticians are busily engaged in trying to convince us that the world is fronted by starvation owing to the fact that our production per acre is decreasing, while the population is increasing. It is to laugh, of course. These statisticians point out that we consume every year every grain we raise, and millions of people cry piteously for more. We do nothing of the

kind. We waste about half of what we raise, and we haven't yet solved the problem of getting what we do raise to people who need it. Nebraska is amply able to support a population of ten or twelve millions, and then some produce left over to sell to people in poorer but better advertised states.

The Albion News very pettently asks why all this hue and cry about making the postoffice department self-sustaining. "Why," asks the News, "is it necessary, or so desirable, that the one department of our government that comes most directly into the daily lives of all the people should be the only one to pay its own way? How about the deficit in the war and navy departments, or even the agricultural department? These all call for countless millions of dollars, and are of value to the people only indirectly. The postoffice facilities and efficiency affect every man, woman and child in a direct manner every day of the year. Why should not the revenues of the government be expended for the greatest good to the greatest number?"

In 1890, when it was certain that a vote was to be taken on prohibition in the fall, Omaha prepared for a stuffed ballot box by making a stuffed census count. This year the census was neglected, while the ballot box was stuffed to the limit. Result: Three times as many votes in the Third ward as there were inhabitants. Also a disagreeably pointed message from Governor Aldrich.—Lincoln Journal.

Of course Governor Aldrich never said that the Third ward of Omaha cast three times as many votes as it has inhabitants. And of course the ballot box was not "stuffed" in Omaha. No one knows this better than the Lincoln Journal. The Third ward of Omaha had 11,682 inhabitants in 1900, and has more now. It cast just 1,897 votes, or 377 less than the registration. The ward had a male population of 6,067 in 1900, and has more now. Instead of casting three times as many votes as it had male inhabitants, the ward cast less than 31 per cent. The Third ward of Omaha is unsavory enough in all conscience, but that is no reason why more slime should be thrown over it. And just about now the city of Lincoln is in no position to have one of its leading newspapers forever casting reflections upon other cities and towns in Nebraska whose internal affairs are not conducted to its entire satisfaction.

We are now fully advised through automobile literature that the 1912 models will be reads for inspection in a couple of weeks. Gee, if we could collect a lot of 1912 subscribers we might be able to catch up on some of our 1910 business—also 1909, 1908, 1907, and other year business.

Everybody whose opinion counts for anything agrees that the dairy department of the State School of Agriculture is a fine thing. And why wouldn't a poultry section be equally fine? Don't overlook the fact that the egg and poultry product of Nebraska is quite a bit larger than the butter and cheese product, measured in dollars and cents.

A great many people will wonder why it has been decided to erect the Lincoln statue on the west side of the state house, facing J street, instead of on the north side facing Fifteenth street. Few people come from the west on J, while thousands come from the north on Fifteenth. More people come from