

Maupin's Way of Thinking

Prepared Specially for the Herald, by
Will M. Maupin.

A BIRD FROM FAR BOX BUTTE.
He was a Box Butte turkey, corn fed and plump and young.
The kind of turk whose virtues rare by poets have been sung.
With juicy thighs tied to his breast and wings pinned to his side,
No fairer sight by mortal eyes hath ever been espied.
This plump and juicy Box Butte bird in season came to hand.
And basted well and stuffed with care he loomed up great and grand.
And when we left the dining room with well contented groans
The only thing left of that bird was his well polished bones.
We carved him and we ate him, we laughed with joy and glee;
The way he disappeared that day was pleasant for to see.
We sliced his breast, we carved his thighs, we scraped his royal back;
His gizzard and his heart succumbed to our combined attack.
Cranberry sauce upon his flank, and mince pie in his wake,
And other things to top it off like mother used to make!
We ate him and we thanked the Lord for all His wondrous fruit—
Life, hope and love and royal friends who live in far Box Butte.

I am prepared to say that Box Butte turkeys—corn fed and groomed with care—are equal to the best, no matter where their birthplace nor the length of their pedigree. Also, I am prepared to prove that Alliance contains at least three people who can see, quite a ways into a grindstone.

Once upon a time a Man found a Viper in his path. The reptile was frozen stiff with the cold and was about to yield up its life. Fired with compassion, the Man took the Viper home, laid it beside the cozy fire and warmed it back to life. When the Viper had regained its powers it repaid its benefactor by socking its fangs into his hands. As the Poison got in its deadly work the Man looked at the Viper and exclaimed: "Ingratitude, thy name is Corporation."

Moral: The men who voted the republican party into new lease of power have no kick coming because of the increased freight rates.

A few weeks ago The Commoner reprinted a democratic estimate of President Roosevelt and the Lincoln Journal threw a fit because Mr. Bryan gave space to a disrespectful article about Mr. Roosevelt. The delicious humor of The Journal's attitude will be appreciated by those who understand how strenuously that paper seeks through its exchanges for all the nasty and spiteful things about Mr. Bryan for the purpose of reprinting them.

Mr. Mickey has giggered back on the proposition to make his son private secretary. Awful lot of hungry mouths to feed in the lot that managed your campaign, eh, Mr. Mickey?

Some of these days Nebraska will be jarred from center to circumference, the sky will be overcast, streams will disappear, trees will crash to the ground and the hills will crumble to dust. But be not afraid. It will be caused by the prying loose of a fellow named Babcock from a close connection with the treasury of Nebraska.

If Brother Howard wants to add another handsome Nebraska newspaper to his exchange list let him mark a Columbus Telegram "X" and send it to the Plattsmouth Journal. The Journal is as good as it looks.

With freight rates going up and grain prices coming down a lot of republican farmers are undergoing the first inclination to think that has struck them within the last five years.

A lot of newspaper puns have been made on Uncle Joe Cannon's name but to date we have seen no mention of the fact that he is a cannon used to fire salutes, not to achieve any direct results.

Big ranchmen who are inclined to be disturbed by presidential threats to tear down the fences should calm themselves. Just as the president achieved his highest ferocity in threatening the trusts he had to go home with a boil on his leg. It will be something else before he cuts the fences.

Some people seem to think that prayer is nothing more than demanding that God give them what they want.

Just recall the names of a lot of Christians you know and see if some of them don't lean so heavily on God that their feet never touch the ground.

Some Christians keep the fact so carefully hidden that their neighbors never find it out.

If the railroads and other corporations have not mapped out too much work the legislature ought to transact its business and adjourn within sixty days.

Some day it may dawn upon the railroad managers that it would be cheaper to obey the laws than to spend money to prevent legislation and corrupt courts.

Nearly every day I am asked something about The Commoner, how many people are employed, the size of the pay roll, and a thousand and one other questions. Mr. Charles W. Bryan has recently given an interview that covers all the points of interest, and every statement here made is taken from his interview, is absolutely correct and can be verified by the office books.

On November 15, 1902, the circulation of The Commoner was 140,000.

The Commoner has no printing plant, but it employs an average of forty-three people, and the weekly pay roll for these averages over \$400.

Including the money paid for composition and press work The Commoner pays out more than \$28,000 a year in wages.

It takes 800,000 pounds of paper to issue The Commoner one year. This is upwards of 15,000 pounds a week.

Postage on The Commoner averages \$150 a week.

If all the paper required for a year's supply of The Commoner were loaded in cars it would make a train of twenty-six loads.

A ton of empty mail sacks is used each week to sack the paper.

It takes over 350 pounds of manila paper to wrap a week's issue of The Commoner.

The office force works eight hours a day, and over time is paid for at price and one-half. Legal holidays are observed with no deduction of wages. If forced to work any part of a holiday the employes receive price and one-half. All employes are given a vacation on full pay once a year.

The Nebraska Independent performs the typesetting. The press work is done by the Freie Press, and when the perfecting press starts it prints Commoners at the rate of from 18,000 to 24,000 an hour.

It may not be generally known that only four cities in the United States exceed Lincoln in the output of second-class mail matter. The Commoner with a circulation of 140,000, the Freie Press with a circulation of 125,000 a week, the Nebraska Independent with a circulation of 20,000 a week, the two Woodmen publications with a circulation of upwards of one million each month, the four daily papers with their weekly issues, several fraternal organs, college and church papers, agricultural and live stock papers and trade papers combine to give Lincoln this rank. Millions of pounds of second-class matter originating in Lincoln are handled by the local postoffice every year.

I won't give the family away by telling their name, but the story is good enough without it. We'll call it Smith because that don't sound a bit like it. The Smiths are prominent church workers, and are also prominent in fraternal society circles. A few evenings ago the pastor called on the Smith family, bringing his wife and daughter with him. The daughter plays the piano.

The Smiths have a little girl four years old whose memory is little short of marvelous, and whose talent for mimicry is well developed. The pastor's daughter was persuaded to play a few tunes. Finally she struck up a rollicking air. The little Smith girl immediately mounted a chair and began to shout:

"Honor yo' pa'ners! Balance all! Al'man lef' Gran—"

But at this juncture the mother grabbed the young hopeful and hustled her out of the room.

This same little girl has been taught a prayer which she repeats every night. It winds up thusly: "God bless mamma and papa and take care of them." The other night she ended her prayer in the usual form, then looked up at her mamma and exclaimed:

"What's the use botherin' God about papa; he's big enough to take care of himself?"

The mother knew why, but she didn't waste time explaining.

A lot of Christians who have to have a church bell to notify them of the hour of worship always manage to get to the theater before the curtain goes up.

It no longer takes two to make a bargain. If you don't believe it just try to deal with a trust.

Commissioners' Proceedings.

ALLIANCE, NEB., December 2, 1902. Board of county commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present, Geo. W. Loer, chairman, Geo. W. Duncan and Frank Caha, members, S. M. Smyser, clerk.

It appearing that Lots 9, 10 and 11 in Block 30 in the original town, now city of Alliance, Nebraska, in the years of 1900 and 1901 was city property and in the year 1901 was taxed in the sum of \$4.68 and in the year 1901 was taxed in the sum of \$27.50 and said taxes have been paid under protest, it is ordered that said taxes so paid be refunded.

It appearing that in the year of 1902 Geo. W. Clark was assessed on the same personal property in both Lawn and Wright precincts and was taxed thereon the sum of \$5.46 in Lawn precinct and that in the year of 1901 he was assessed on the same personal property in both Box Butte and Wright precincts and was taxed thereon the sum of \$14.30 in Box Butte precinct and that in each of said years he was liable for taxation only in Wright precinct on said personal property and that the taxes mentioned have been paid under protest, it is ordered that said taxes be refunded to him.

It appearing that B. F. Beitelheim in the year of 1901 was assessed twice on the same personal property and that the tax thereon for which he is not liable amounts to \$11.15 and that the same has been paid under protest, it is ordered by the board that said sum of \$11.15 be refunded to him. Board adjourned until tomorrow at 9 o'clock a. m.

Geo. W. LOER, Chairman.
S. M. SMYSER, Clerk.

ALLIANCE, NEB., December 3, 1902. Board met pursuant to order of adjournment. Present, same officers as on the first day.

Ordered by the board that the balances remaining in the funds hereinafter named be transferred by the county treasurer to the county general fund, to-wit:

Bridge fund	\$709 19
Road fund	248 38
Old well fund	102 25
Advertising fund	169 45
	\$1229 27

It appearing that Emma Keeler was assessed for property not subject to taxation in the year of 1901 and the taxes levied thereon amount to \$1.00 which has been paid under protest, it is ordered that said taxes be refunded.

Balance of this day consumed in examining claims filed against the county.

Board adjourned until tomorrow at 9 a. m.

Geo. W. LOER, Chairman.
S. M. SMYSER, Clerk.

ALLIANCE, NEB., December 4, 1902. Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present, same officers as on the first day.

It appearing that Charles E. Clough in the year of 1899 was assessed with forty-seven head of cattle in both Boyd and Box Butte precincts, which were the same cattle and that said cattle were taxed \$10.40 in Box Butte precinct and were correctly taxed in Boyd precinct, and that said \$10.40 tax has been paid under protest, it is ordered by the board that said taxes be refunded.

Ordered that \$5.00 taxes paid by J. S. Mekiney on property not subject to taxation in Liberty precinct in 1898 to be refunded.

Ordered by the board that the county clerk advertise for bids for lease of the poor farm and care of the paupers and for county physician for the ensuing year in the manner provided by law. (The amount of claims allowed will be published next week.)

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