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POPULATION OF LINCOLN, 65,000.
THE soldiers' home at Grand Island has 130 inmates, five officers and fifteen employees. Six inmates were admitted during April and one discharged.

THE labor organizations asked the city council to have the whistle at the pumping station blown at five in the afternoon, and it has been so ordered.

At a meeting held in M. L. Trester's lumber office in east Lincoln a fund of \$500 was raised to push the prohibition campaign. A wigwam will be erected.

THE state committee of the Union Labor party held a meeting at Opelt's hotel Tuesday and decided to call a convention for June 25 to nominate a state ticket.

A CITY ordinance provides that all building of three stories or over shall have fire escapes. Chief Newberry reports, however, that but few buildings are properly equipped.

DURING April twenty-four convicts were received at the penitentiary, seventeen were discharged and three had their sentences commuted. The total remaining May 1 was 374.

THE new shoe manufacturing company have elected the following officers: President, H. C. Millard; vice president, A. C. Ziemer; secretary, J. Frank Barr; treasurer, Frank L. Sheldon.

THE Elkhorn announces the early building of a stub line to Hot Springs, S. D., and the extension of the main line from Whitewood to Deadwood. The latter will necessitate a tunnel 1800 feet long.

On Wednesday there were received at the port of Lincoln 832 gallons of Rhine wine for a local dealer. See the advantage of being a port of entry. Formerly these importations came through St. Louis and one knew nothing about them.

A MOVE was under way a short time ago for the establishment of a government pension office in Lincoln, but it has run up against a wall. The secretary of the interior and the commissioner of pensions say it is against the policy of the administration to establish more agencies, and that settles it for the time.

THE board of agriculture are up and doing for the next state fair. The directors were in town Wednesday arranging for improvements. They decided to increase the dimensions of the agricultural hall by an addition of 140 feet. A fine art hall seventy feet in diameter, octagonal form, will be built, and also a new chicken house for the poultry exhibit, and an addition will be added to the office.

THE Lancaster County Veteran association will hold its first meeting Monday in this city. A business meeting is called for ten o'clock at the hall of Farragut post. At two o'clock a campfire will begin at Cushman Park. The following speeches are announced: Rev. O. E. Baser, prayer; Hon. R. B. Graham, welcome and opening address; Gen. T. S. Clarkson, the Grand Army; Hon. J. B. Strode, the ladies of the W. R. C.; Mrs. Mollie B. Cook, response; Hon. S. L. Wilson, the Sons of Veterans; Prof. L. E. Hicks, the soldier from 1861 to 1865; Hon. Wm. Leese, the soldier as a civil officer; Hon. J. C. McBride, the soldier in peace, war and politics; Gov. John M. Thayer, the battle of Fort Donaldson; Hon. L. W. Billingsley, the soldier as a private citizen; Hon. H. C. Russell, pension legislation; Hon. C. H. Gere, the press and the soldier; Hon. C. M. Baker, the battle of Champion Hill.

In response to the recent resolution General A. W. Greely, chief signal officer, has sent to the senate a report as to temperature and rain fall in the agricultural sections of Nebraska. The report is very lengthy and is inclined to do great credit to Nebraska. It is accompanied by five appendices and twelve charts. In the preliminary to the report General Greely says, after speaking in high terms of the soil of the state, that the absence of high mountain ranges and the lack of forests make such physical conditions as insure for the state a homogeneous climate, the variations of temperature, rainfall and other meteorological elements depending more upon latitude and elevation than upon physical configurations. "Fortunately the general configuration of the United States is such that despite the small amount of aqueous vapor in the air, which condition facilitates rapid radiation in winter and a high degree of insulation in summer," says General Greely, "yet Nebraska finds itself favored with climatic characteristics remarkably constant considering its remoteness from the ocean. Statistics show that a much larger area of Nebraska than was previously supposed enjoys climatic conditions favorable to the production of staple crops, and also that certain sections possess the climatic requirements which would seem to fulfill the conditions considered most favorable for the successful culture of special crops such as sugar beets, etc. The report shows that the rain fall is accidental rather than periodical and comes from the Gulf of Mexico, and that the annual rain fall of the state is about twenty-four inches.

BEAUTIFUL SONG BIRDS.

ONE OF THEM IS NOW ENTRANCING PARISIAN MUSIC LOVERS.
The Others Were Once, Like Her, Popular Favorites—They Enjoyed Their Day of Triumph, and Then Vanished from Public View.
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MME. MELBA.
The Athenians of old cried constantly for "something new," and the desire that obtained so strongly for freshness and variety 3,000 years ago is still a living and persistent element of the human mind. Nowhere is this disposition so sharply brought out as in connection with the operatic stage. For a time audiences applaud a diva, absorb her with floral offerings and elevate her to the pinnacle of popular favor. Then they transfer their allegiance to some fresher face and fairer presence, although the singer they abandon may be in the prime of her artistic powers. Even Patti hears the murmur of the approaching farewell. Paris has crowned another her successor, and contemporary criticism in the United States assails the queen of song with most uncomplimentary remarks.



ANGIOLINA BOSIO.
The new star upon whose renditions of half a dozen characters Paris has set the seal of high approval is from a far country. Mme. Melba is her stage name, and she has many claims to distinction. She is unquestionably a great artist. She is Australia's first native singer; she has scored a brilliant success, and she is young, beautiful and intelligent.
Nellie Mitchell—her first name—was born in Melbourne, Australia, May 19, 1865—a date sufficiently recent to be named without ungallantry. She early developed a rare capacity for music, but Papa Mitchell was not pleased, as one would have expected; he was unkind enough to say that a musical career for a woman is "usually associated with some uncertainties of tempo."



FANNY HENSEL.
He, therefore, favored her earliest attachment, and she became Mrs. Armstrong quite young. At 21 she was a widow with one child, so she went to London and thence to Paris, and after two years devoted to study and to perfecting herself in the French language she made her debut in "Rigoletto" at Brussels.
It was a triumph. She subsequently appeared in "Traviata," "Faust," "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet," her first appearance in Paris being as Ophelia in "Hamlet." Her greatest success there, however, has been as Marguerite in "Faust." She assumed the theatrical title of Mme. Melba as a compliment to her native Melbourne. Parisian critics say that most of the debutantes of late years have been from America and consider the arrival of one from Australia as marking an epoch. Mme. Melba is large in person, a brunette, "with most expressive and caressing black eyes," and her person is as beautiful as her voice is sweet.
"With such a flattering introduction to the public at the age of 25," says an enthusiastic admirer in Le Monde Illustré, "much may be expected of the Australian star."
But will this promise be fulfilled? Will Mme. Melba be able to wield the scepter as reigning queen of song for any length of time? Where one remains her loyal knight will not a dozen be found sooner or later to demand that she abdicate in favor of some more recent favorite? If, like Angiolina Bosio, her life is short she may die a queen; otherwise the chances are against her.
"Bosio! Who is or was Bosio?" queries the reader. She is about forgotten now, but a little more than thirty years ago the musical world grieved over her demise and declared that her successor could never be

found. To be sure, it had five years previously said the same thing of Sontag, but that, of course, didn't count. Her voice was a pure silvery soprano, and with it she held audiences enraptured at nearly all the capitals of the civilized world. The verdict of New York was also the verdict of Paris and London, and at St. Petersburg, where she died, she occupied the position of premiere cantatrice, to which she had been nominated by the czar himself. She passed away at the age of 35, having tasted all the sweet of triumph and none of the bitter of disappointment.

Another woman to whom death came while she was yet young, successful and beloved was Fanny Hensel. She never felt the intoxicating thrill of a stage triumph, for her life current flowed between kindred but more peaceful banks than those of the singer. She was the sister of Mendelssohn, the composer of many of the "Lieder ohne Worte" usually attributed to him, and the wife of William Hensel, the distinguished painter. Her father, a wealthy banker of Berlin, objected to the world at large knowing that his daughter was a "musical blue bird." She overcame his scruples, received honors almost equal to those accorded her brother Felix, and then gently faded away, retaining, even to the last, the delicate beauty for which she was celebrated throughout the Prussian capital.

It was different with Sontag. When she retired from the stage in 1838, at the early age of 23, after becoming the wife of Count Rossi, mankind looked upon her titled hus-



HENRIETTA SONTAG.
band as a public enemy. Twenty years afterward necessity compelled her to return to the footlights. She had to struggle almost like a novice for recognition, but at last she compelled applause and won her old time laurels. Victory came too late, however, for exhausted by her efforts she fell an easy victim to the cholera and expired at the city of Mexico in the summer of 1854. After her death the world that gave her when alive but tardy need of praise mourned and honored her, and recalled the fact that the fair faced Henrietta Sontag, with her large blue eyes and wealth of light auburn hair, had been not only a great singer, but a beautiful woman.

Thirty-five years ago the critics said of Frezzolini, as they say of Melba today, that she was the future empress of opera. One of her admirers descended on her "statally elegance" and asserted that she was "the ideal of a beautiful great lady of the olden time." Her elevation was but for the moment. Today who knows where she was born, where she died or any other facts in her history, save that for one brief moment she fascinated the fickle throng, smiled, loved and disappeared? Did she support



E. FREZZOLINI.
herself afterward by making buttonholes, or did she marry a lord? Who can tell? In a lesser degree the story of Frezzolini is the story of Therese Malten. Never heard of out of Dresden until 1881, she secured her chief artistic triumph at Bayreuth in the summer of 1883. "Parsifal" was the opera, and her part was that of Kundry, first the sorceress, then the repentant woman, who finally sinks at the altar in peaceful death on the unveiling of the Holy Grail. She, too, like Mme. Melba, was to wrest the crown from Patti. But she didn't, and of late the trumpet of fame has blown abroad no great and signal triumph with which her name is connected.
What is the conclusion to be drawn? Possibly the trite one that there is an end to all things—to beauty, to renown, to supremacy, to favor. And then the question arises for the singer, is she more fortunate



THERESE MALTEN.
if she cultivates good looks and great achievement, or if she dies ere the check has lost its roses, the eye its luster and the voice its charm?
"To be or not to be" is older than Shakespeare—it is old as the world.

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