

CAPITAL CITY COURIER

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TALK OF THE TOWN

The recent deplorable fire at the brick yards has started the inevitable discussion as to the excellence of the work done by the fire department, or the lack thereof, and every man who, while at a safe distance removed from a fire, always esteems himself to be a valiant and sapient warrior against the fire demon, is now talking the loudest. It is always amusing to note the number of idlers standing around every fire who feel themselves qualified to do much better work than the firemen and do much better in bossing the job than the chief. If they could only get a little closer to it without getting their boots muddy or their cheeks scorched. No one has pointed out a single particular in which Chief Malone and his men could have improved upon their work, but the croakers have simply satisfied themselves by raising objections generally. They have pointed to the Newbury administration in the department as a model. It is doing ex-Chief Newbury no injustice to say that the department is just as proficient now as it ever was under his direction. There is no necessity of bringing Mr. Newbury further than this into the controversy. The firemen did as effective work at the Buckstaff fire as it could, under the circumstances, have been possible for anyone to do. That trouble lay, not with the work of the firemen, but with that of others. It lay chiefly in the lack of water pressure, whereby they were enabled to throw only half as many streams as they should have thrown, and then only to a distance of perhaps twenty feet. This was due to the fact that a six-inch main that runs down East street from Ninth to the scene of the fire, attached to the twelve-inch main on Ninth street only by a four-inch pipe. It is easy to see that there could not be much pressure in a six-inch pipe that is fed by a four-inch connection. This situation of affairs had long existed and was known to the water commissioner. Why it was permitted to remain so has not been explained, nor why it is now so permitted to remain, jeopardizing other valuable interests in that vicinity. Meantime the water commissioner who ever permitted such a connection to be put in ought to be awarded a leather medal. Another thing that prevented effective work on the part of the firemen was the fact that the pine drying kilns, wherein the fire started, were as dry as tinder, and were so constructed that it took the men fully ten minutes in which to find the flames and gain access to them. And when they did, the water from the hose wouldn't reach them.

The manufacturers' carnival has proven a success beyond every expectation. The exposition halls have been crowded nightly during the past week and all who have attended have been amused and instructed. The exhibits made by many of Lincoln's manufacturers have been not only tasteful and attractive but of a surprising degree of merit, revealing to unknown people, as they did, the magnitude of home resources and the excellence of home made goods. Hundreds of people learned for the first time what it was possible for them to have done, if they so wished, right here at home, and the publicity thus given local manufacturers and the character of their work and products, cannot fail to be reflected in their patronage in the immediate future. People have been awakened to a realization of the fact that there are worthy enterprises here at home to which they owe their first allegiance and their patronage. Many people saw articles turned out in carnival hall that they never dreamed could be made in Lincoln. Now that the carnival is over and people have been apprised of their home manufacturing resources, a general campaign in favor of home industry may be profitably begun. The committee, and the ladies of the W. C. A., who had charge of all features of the carnival outside of the actual exhibits, are to be commended upon its entire success in accomplishing the work for which it was designed. Meantime manufacturers may begin planning more striking exhibits for the next winter carnival. Hundreds of visitors from Omaha and other adjacent cities availed themselves of the opportunity to see and admire and commend what Lincoln manufacturers can and do produce.

One who loiters around the criminal courts very much sees a great many disgusting practices. One thing that causes him to abate somewhat of his respect for the law and its oracles is to see men arrested for alleged crimes and discharged upon financial considerations. Very frequently men are

dragged into court for theft, beating hotel bills and kindred evils, but upon making satisfactory arrangements with their accusers to compensate them for such financial losses as the wrongful and unlawful acts entail, are liberated and escape punishment. This species of subornation of crime is so very common that one is often led to believe that many of the criminal laws are simply made to enforce the collection of such claims. Another detestable feature is the practice of allowing prisoners who can command the means

are derelict in their duty and therein lies the tale of woe.

Certain members of the council in particular, and the council as a rule, (with the inevitable exceptions) are directing their attention to the importance of taking steps to regulate the planting of poles and the stringing of electric wires along the public streets. If Lincoln may never be expected to grow, and if no improved devices for the establishment of electric wire lines might reasonably be an-



to pay someone a sufficient sum to become bondsman, so that the prisoner may disappear and escape punishment. Another thing one often sees that is nauseating is the open and bare-faced competition among attorneys to secure the cases of criminals. Often it is accompanied by subtle, underhanded scheming that would excite the envy of the criminal himself. Worse than all are the transparent efforts of a court to regulate its decisions to secure personal or political friends. Such efforts are usually transparent, and are therefore only the more disgusting to the disinterested spectator. To the unsuccessful litigant, however, they must be painfully exasperating. It is such little matters as these that are alienating public confidence from the courts, and some judge who inaugurates a vigorous course of honest discipline some day will win the everlasting gratitude of a patient and long-suffering public.

At a meeting of the board of trade some time since it was impossible to secure a quorum for the annual election of officers, and a committee was named to devise a scheme for a new commercial organization to take its place. It was suggested that if the new board were to incorporate as a joint stock company and exact a revenue from members, to be devoted to the erection of a chamber of commerce, from which the organization might hereafter expect some revenue and in which it might take some pride, it might lead members to more faithful, zealous and steadfast work in the purposes of such an organization. With the various plans proposed committed to its keeping, the committee was authorized to call a meeting when it was ready to report. It has not since been heard to "chirp," and it may be presumed to be as dead by this time as the board of trade appears to be. Meantime the real estate exchange has shown enough remaining animation to hold its annual election, but has provided nothing for its new officers to do. If some one could only get up a little sparring match between them it might occasion an awakening of vitality that would make both of them useful, serviceable and perceptible. It would take a close investigator of the remotest fastnesses of infinite space to tell, just at present, where either of them "is at." And this is no disparagement upon the officers either, for both president and secretary have done much to advance the cause, but the members

anticipated, even then it is time to consider that there are many emergencies in which these poles and wires are a menace to public safety. But Lincoln proposes to grow. Many eastern cities have found overhead wires to be an unmitigated nuisance and a source of danger as well of annoyance and inconvenience. In some cities they have been strung so thickly that fire departments are sorely hampered in their work. There are about enough poles and wires already on some of the streets of Lincoln, and it is well to begin limiting the additions thereto. It is doubtful if the measure recently introduced to prevent the erection of any more was introduced in good faith but there are thousands of zealous friends of Lincoln who would like to see it enacted and enforced before the companies that use these poles and wires own and occupy every business street in the city.

Local base ball admirers will regret the loss of Charlie Mosher from among the willing supporters of the game. He was always at the front in the encouragement of the game in Lincoln, and the love he entertained for that branch of field sport is one of the things by which he came honestly. He had been a base ball player himself. Away back in 1875 or 1876 there was a base ball tournament at Peoria, Ill., in which some eight or nine teams from various Illinois towns participated. Among them was the Socials of Chicago. It was a model amateur aggregation and put up good ball. Charlie Mosher was its catcher and its best all-round man. It was during that tournament that he met the lady who soon afterwards became his wife, the daughter of the wealthy Dr. Mansfield of Peoria, and it is little wonder that both of them have ever since been lovers of the national game.

The failure of the Capital National bank did not pass off as lightly in its effects as was anticipated just after the crash came, as is attested by the three or four business failures since that event. One of these was traceable directly to the suspension of that bank. Perhaps the others might have occurred without the aid of a bank failure to arouse a spirit of financial distrust, but it may logically be presumed that it had its effect. Luckily none of them were bad failures, and all will undoubtedly pay out.

New line of picture mouldings at Cowie's, 119 south Twelfth street

LEGISLATIVE DOINGS

Representative Cooley of Cass county apparently having digested THE COURIER'S protests against the hoopskirt, has assumed the towering responsibility of introducing a bill to avert the threatened invasion, the much discussed and dreaded crinoline calamity. The provisions of Mr. Cooley's bill have not yet been made public, but it may be asserted without fear of arousing any severe criticism that it cannot propose any measures too harsh or severe on the crinoline or its wearers to meet approval by the general public. Any bill by anybody for the suppression of the hoopskirt cannot fail to win public sympathy and support.

The legislature did a graceful act in acknowledging to Hon. Grover Cleveland the gratitude of the people of this state for his selection of Hon. J. Sterling Morton of Arbor Lodge as a member of his cabinet. Mr. Morton is a democrat, but that fact did not and should not prevent a representative body of Nebraskans, in which republicans and populists largely predominated, from recognizing his ability and fitness as a man and a statesman, and the honor conferred upon Nebraska in establishing her representation for the first time in the president's cabinet. He may differ just as widely with the republicans on the tariff as he does with the populists on the silver issue, but he is a typical and a pioneer Nebraskan whose voice, though it came from an unofficial source, has had much to do in regulating the destinies of this proud commonwealth. It is a mistake to suppose that there are any democrats who do not appreciate the honor more keenly and enthusiastically than do any of their brethren of any other political faith, and Mr. Morton will carry with him into his work the hearty sympathy and good will of every true Nebraskan.

Two bills are pending looking to the establishment of a much needed system of assessing property at its actual value. It is to be sincerely hoped that the most desirable one shall become a law. It would seem that it ought to be the rankiest foolishness for any member to think of going home until he has used his best endeavors to secure the enactment of such a law. The people of Nebraska have learned that they are impoverishing themselves, ruining their credit and preventing the natural development of the state by the mania for dwarfed assessments that has prevailed so long. They do not need the testimony of eastern bankers to convince them that the state, and the cities of the state, could be much more prosperous if assessed at the full value. In fact such testimony is apt to retard re-

assessments would materially increase the price of bonds of Nebraska cities and enable us to realize much more from the issues necessary in public improvements. Let the good law go into the book and let there be some unflinching method established of punishing severely assessors who disregard its provisions.

It is to be regretted that legislation is not regulated entirely by the needs of the state or the wisdom and justice of measures proposed or suggested. It has grown to be a recognized fact that few measures nowadays become laws unless they are backed by a strong lobby, and if this lobby has money and influence at its command it is the more apt to do effective work. Except now and then a lobby of one or more of the members, few bills which are not backed by a lobby ever reach enactment, and no community or corporate body ever thinks or expects to secure the passage of a measure, no matter how just or necessary, without appointing a committee to use every effective endeavor to get it through. Hence it is that when Lincoln needs a new city charter it is found necessary to appoint an efficient lobby from among the city's representatives to get it through, if possible. Hence it is, also, that bills backed by such influences are so numerous that the local sanitary commission actually declined to enter the list of lobbyists in order to secure needed and just legislation for the straightening of Salt creek and the redemption of state land. So many bills have already been introduced, and so much time has been wasted, that only a small proportion of the bills pending can possibly be considered within the limit of the life of the legislature, or at least within the time for which members will be entitled to draw pay, and there will probably be little done after that time expires. It is to be hoped that some day some party will elect a legislature that will do its work honestly—devoting its time to the work of enacting good laws promptly, and rejecting bad laws just as promptly, without the aid of a corps of paid lobbyists.

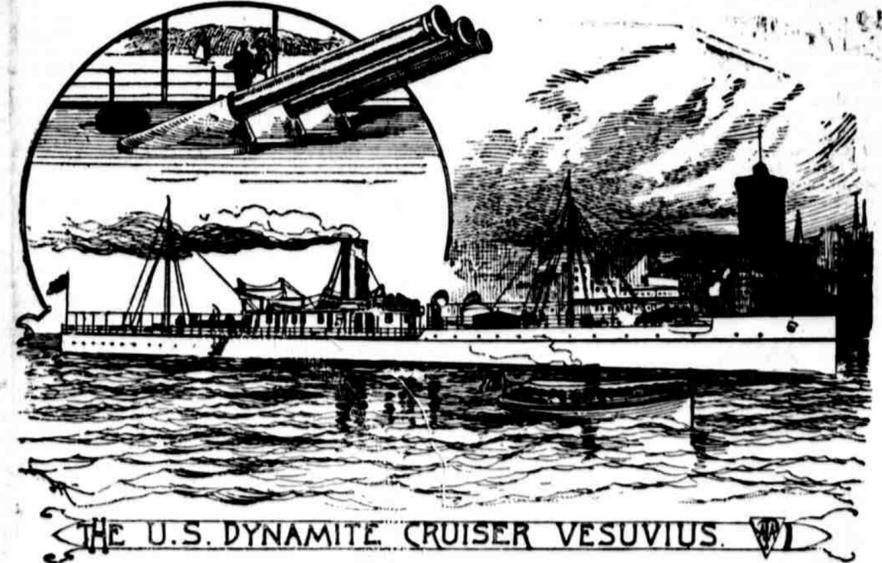
House bill No. 212, introduced by Rep. Lingenfelter, found its way into the committee of the whole Thursday afternoon. The gallery and space about the hall was well filled with those who felt an interest in the question of equal suffrage. The discussion was opened by Rep. Lingenfelter, the author of the bill, who made a first class speech in defense of woman's rights. He was followed by Higgins of Custer, who took care of the constitutional feature of the measure, scoring a point, wherein such an act, if passed, might not agree with the constitutionality of those who were opposed to it. Beal, ind., of Custer, and Shappell, rep., of Pawnee, each expressed their views in cross-road fashion. Rep. Horst of Polk, made an effort in oppo-

woman's rights and received his full share of the applause, while Sultor of Antelope took a gloomy view of the matter and questioned the propriety of his making a wet nurse of himself while wife, mother and sister were exercising the right of the ballot. Rep. Goldsmith took exceptions to the remarks made by Sultor in reference to the drift of certain foreign classes to our country. Mr. Sultor explained in time to give Goldsmith an opportunity to interrupt another member who had obtained the floor and was swinging himself in true Webster style, but Goldsmith finally gave up and took his seat. One prominent lady who was present remarked that "If such argument as has been presented here today is all that there is against us as being entitled to the ballot, heaven knows that the time is coming when we will share with the men all privileges alike."

CAPITAL CULLINGS

If one can judge from expressions heard in down town gatherings of statesmen, the best sugar bounty is a dead duck that will never be resurrected.

Senator Stewart has introduced a bill to prohibit the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine. Few people realize what such a measure means to the public, not only denizens of the cities but the farmers as well. Not one person in a hundred has any idea of the general use attained by oleomargarine. When one goes into the market now to buy genuine butter he finds it a mighty scarce article. Ten to one he will go home with a nice roll of oleomargarine under his arm. "I wish I could get some oleomargarine," remarked a professional man a few days since in an Eleventh street meat market. "I have never tasted any yet, and I have read so much about it." The butcher smiled knowingly as he contemplated the man for a moment ere he remarked: "Now, look here, Judge, you have eaten it. I know you take your noon lunch at the same restaurant as myself and I sell the same oleomargarine that you mix take for butter. All the hotels use it, and nearly everyone of the restaurants." Oleomargarine costs only about two-thirds as much as butter as a rule, and one encounters less of it that is nauseating to the taste or the smell. The would have learned to appreciate oleomargarine and cannot do without it. One well-posted gentleman has directed attention to the fact that the general use of this staple article of diet is responsible in a measure for the present high price of pork, and according to that if it were suppressed by legislation one of the most profitable uses of pork would be gone. This phase of the question appeals to the farmer. The belief that oleomargarine is made of tallow and cream is said by local butchers to be erroneous, as most of it is made from lard and cream. When a legislature has gone so far as to



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posed relief. Western people have a severe distrust of the eastern bankers, and when they see him working for anything, they generally suspect, and too often justly, that if he wants any economy measure adopted in the west it may be accepted as a pretty sure sign that they don't want it. But in this instance the zeal of the eastern bankers may be explained by the knowledge that he has in his vaults a big bunch of Nebraska securities which would be enhanced in value if the actual worth of the state be once represented in its assessment for taxation. One Chicago banking firm, N. W. Harris & Co., has recently written the city officials of Lincoln assuring them that the enforcement of a law to ensure just

ified to the bill upon business principles, but the personal attacks made by members upon him during his remarks about his being a bachelor, brought out an impromptu speech that was a surprise to the house and he very emphatically stated that a man of his make-up at this day and age of the world, found it as much of a trick to escape matrimony as those who had been caught, and that they deserved credit for their courage. After other and more severe questioning, Horst took his seat and turning around with his back to the house he faced the good-looking lobby about him and finding no relief, walked out to the W. C. T. U. booth for refreshments. But Dobson of Filmore made the effort of his life in defense of

that oleomargarine must be plainly marked so that the purchaser may know he is not buying butter, it has gone far enough, as people want oleomargarine and should be permitted to have it.

While the legislature is on the subject of "bucks and jakes," it may be well to give the chicken show a chance. This is about the only associated work in the State that doesn't obtain come financial recognition, and it doesn't require any great amount of argument to show that the industry of chicken raising sometimes needs encouragement, especially while the commonest eggs, many of them being connoisseur shell-worn, are selling at three cents apiece.