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## TALK OF THE TOWN

A few months since a young man who has never, even since that time, passed current as a gambler, drifted from an official position into the operation of a gambling house. He didn't make a practice of gambling himself, but simply rented some quiet rooms, furnished them nicely and permitted therein a few business men to play a quiet game of poker, a privilege for which they were quite ready to pay, as the proprietor had been assured immunity from molestation from the authorities, who occasionally bothered the other gambling resorts a little. Finally all at once the rooms were closed and the charmed circle of business men broken. Not only was the circle broken, but the men who had comprised it were broken. Inside of three months the young proprietor, from the percentages paid him by the players, put \$3,400 in the bank, while his patrons struggled along trying to beat each other until all of their money had gone into the proprietor's coffers and every one of them was heavily in debt to him. None of these men were liable to suspicion as gamblers and moved in gilt-edged society with their families. One of them, who was in business on Twelfth street, sold out and left the city soon after the game broke up.

It is amusing to note the great diversity of opinion as to what constitutes gambling. Some contend that being on the result of a game of any sort is not gambling, or on elections, and courts have held that betting on horse-racing is not gambling. All of these is excluded by some from suspicion as gambling; as they latter has been defined to be laying wagers on games purely of chance. In a game of chance it is presumed that the chances are even, so that the better has no such advantage as may accrue from judgment or skill. Under such a definition of gambling, there are certainly a great many election bets that cannot reasonably be considered gambling. For instance an election bet with Capt. Paine could not justly be termed a wager on a chance, for the man who bets on election with Capt. Paine seems to have no chance to lose. Losing is a prerogative upon which the captain always appears to have the dead snitch in his election bets.

There are comparatively few people who realize the profits that accrue to the keepers of gambling houses. No legitimate business can pay such magnificent dividends on such small capital, not even when the saloon is included in the category of legitimate lines of trade. Few even of the patrons of these resorts can place any estimate upon the amounts they net their proprietors. To those who have any very accurate idea of the profit accruing to "the house" in these enterprises, if such they may be termed, it is not strange that the proprietors of these resorts willingly band themselves together and give liberally of their time and money to elect city officials who will not enforce against them too relentlessly the laws designed for the suppression of their business. The general public can hardly estimate with any degree of accuracy the amount of money spent by gamblers in endeavoring to control elections, and even direct legislation.

It is related that four years ago the late John Sheedy headed a movement to have the state law regulating gambling wiped from the statutes. A purse of \$15,000 was easily raised among the gamblers of the state, and with such a fund to top it did not take long to find a member of the legislature, then in session, who would assume the responsibility of introducing the bill. It was cunningly drawn, being entitled simply an act to amend an act, specifying the act to be amended simply by its number, so that anyone who did not take the pains to look the matter up would never entertain the least suspicion that it had any reference whatever to gambling. With the \$15,000 worth of lubricator the ways were soon all greased upon which this measure was to slide through the legislature, when a certain newspaper man, then well known in Lincoln, was given a tip by a lawyer who had accidentally stumbled upon the measure and its design. The newspaper man was not averse to making a few dollars in the easiest way possible and, hunting up Mr. Sheedy, demanded \$2,000 as the price of his silence. Sheedy protested that funds were running short, but offered to make it \$500, of which \$200 was to be cash and the balance to be paid when the law was enacted. The newspaper man demanded the \$2,000, and Sheedy didn't think his

silence worth the price and declined. The next day the newspaper man's paper bristled with a scathing expose of the measure and its design, and its death was instantaneous.

There is often so very little sense or reason in some of the complaints against corporations that when a legitimate cause for complaint arises people do not grasp the full force of it or give it the attention it merits. For an instance of one of the trivial causes of complaint the recent effort of the street railway company to have a portion of an alley vacated is in point. An alley sixteen feet in width runs through the block in which the street railway company's power house and

interesting nature. Not of the ordinary, monotonous order, but of an attractive character; so much so that every one of the 700 students find it a pleasure, rather than a duty, to attend each day's services. The exercises are usually opened with singing accompanied by orchestra music, followed by reading a chapter from the scriptures and a prayer. After this the management and teachers make such announcements as are necessary and then some one of the instructors in a different one each morning gives a little splay talk that also contains good food for thought and enlivens the large audience of students. Short and impromptu talks, generally witty, are made and meetings dismissed. All hands are in excellent mood and they enter upon their several branches

named as the most likely to be found to have been elected are the non-partisan candidates. The returns from the three precincts obtainable indicate that the school bonds have carried, and all ardent friends of the public schools can but hope that the indications are not misleading.

Geo. Woods, the successful candidate for councilman of the sixth ward is probably the youngest man ever honored with an election to a seat in that body. He is ambitious and possesses the qualifications that may secure for him the gratification of his ambition if he is careful in his councilmanic work. The eyes of his admiring friends are friends are upon him, and if he is not

to terminate in a farce, the legislature in joint session last Thursday put a decidedly ugly phase upon the situation by adopting articles of impeachment against all four of them by votes that were almost unanimous. The articles charge these officials with misdemeanors in the administration of affairs in connection with the asylum and penitentiary frauds, concerning which the testimony secured by the legislative committee is both plentiful and damaging. The progress thus far necessitates the suspension of the impeached state officers until they can have a trial before the supreme court. That promises to be the most interesting and important event in the political history of the state, and if successful in fastening upon the accused the charges involve, will make of the present legislative session not only the most important ever thus far held in Nebraska but very likely for generations to come. Thousands of Nebraskans all over the state will earnestly pray that these men may be justly acquitted of the charges preferred, but there are few who will hope to see them acquitted if they are shown to be guilty. It may be said in their favor that they have asked their friends in the legislature to vote for the adoption of the charges preferred, so that a full and free investigation may be had. At least it is said that such has been their desire, and if this be true it certainly indicates that they have little fear of the result of such investigation. The trial of these officials will probably occur within the next ten days, and by that time ex-Auditor Thomas H. Benton will be in position to necessitate his trial also. If this is the farcical proceedings that some people seem to consider it, it is a great dissembler, for upon its face it presents the most serious aspect, you even tragic, of any farce ever enacted.

Twenty-eight trunks, containing costumes consigned to Abby Schoeffel & Grau were seized by Deputy Surveyor Collins in New York, March 25, and were put in charge of the Board of Appraisers. The trunks were brought over on the La Touraine, and were supposed to be the property of a certain Marcel Rahon.

Miss Emily Lytton, the leading lady of J. K. Emmett's "Fritz in Ireland" company which will be seen in New York next week goes to Europe as soon as the successful star closes his season and returns only in time to appear in a new part especially written for her by Sydney Rosenfield in his new play, "Fritz in the West."

A. M. Palmer is booked for Europe April 22. — Steele Mackey refers to his Chicago press agent, F. H. Wakefield, as "the department of publicity." — And still they come. — Stein and Rosch, the Chicago photographers, commenced suit for \$500 against Thomas Q. Scarborough, of the "Isle of Champagne." — There are no "Jonnies" in the Celestial Empire as all the women's parts are played by men. — A fixed star. — The wealthy actors. — Play things. — Theatrical properties.

Thomas W. Keene, who has been resting for a couple of weeks at home on Staten Island after the hearty welcome he received in New York during his two weeks engagement at the Union Square Theatre, continues his tour on Monday. His home on Staten Island, by the way, is an old historic pile, built long before the Revolution, and at one time sheltered Washington. It was originally an inn but Mr. Keene has made it look like a castle.

A new Chinese theatre was opened in New York last Saturday. It is situated in Doyers street near New York's Chinatown. The play produced is called "Look Quok" (Six Kings) and will take about three weeks to finish, in nightly installments of five hours duration. The company is known as the Hu Yu Hen tragedians and singers of which are Lee Quong Day and twenty Mott street merchants are the organizers and Mr. Chu Fong the manager.

THE YOUTH'S CYCLOPEDIA, issued by C. B. Beach & Co. of Chicago, is, educationally considered, the most important publication of recent years. It has been prepared by a corps of teachers and educational writers expressly to meet the needs of the young, and supplies a want which teachers and parents have long and deeply felt.

It is sold by subscription and is having an enormous sale. Any one wanting an agency which offers rare advantages, should consult the advertisement of this work which appears in another column.



Little Gladis Theora with Sol Smith Russell.

car depot are located, and ninety feet of its length lies between these two big buildings. In order to enable it to fit in some new machinery, including some much-needed smoke consumers, the company wanted the city to vacate a strip six feet wide lying between its two buildings, reducing the width of that portion of the alley to ten feet. This proposition was vigorously opposed by an adjoining property owner, and the two councilmen from that ward protested with all vehemence against this trivial concession to the company. But the ordinance passed in spite of their protests, so that the company can proceed with its improvements. In this connection it may be remarked that, in spite of all criticism to the contrary, Lincoln enjoys a splendid system of street railway. Its rolling stock is of the best, its cars are always neat and clean, and its more than fifty miles of tracks in good repair. The employees are as courteous and accommodating as one would meet anywhere. The power available has heretofore been somewhat deficient, but the improvements now being made will almost double the capacity of the power plant and enable the company to run cars oftener over some of the more popular lines.

Lincoln as an educational center has already achieved a national reputation and with such institution as the Western Normal college, the city's reputation will never retrograde. The writer had occasion this week to visit the pretty suburb of Hawthorne, where the college is located, and within a few hours was most agreeably surprised with the activity, progress and enterprise that is daily going on at the college. Through the courtesy of President Cronan, I visited the various class rooms early in the morning and found each department well filled with a most exemplary and intelligent looking lot of students. At half-past nine I attended chapel meeting, and for a half hour the exercises were of a most

of study with a light heart, full of vigor and interest. The chapel, which seats 800 people, is like all the apartments, large and airy, and a most pleasant place for divine worship. The school is in a most flourishing condition, the large number of students seem to live happily and contentedly, with harmony and good fellowship reigning supreme while working for the common interest of all. Messrs Cronan and Kingsley are a great team and have certainly shown their excellent ability as educational managers during the past year, the initial one in this city of the Western Normal College. I would like to write more on this subject today, but the limited space at my disposal will not admit thereof. The facts, I think, should interest themselves more in our home institutions by making occasional trips to them. There are hundreds of students at the Western Normal from points outside the state and some from nearly every state and territory in the union. Why not take an early car one of these fine trainings and go out. They leave every morning at seven o'clock and every half hour thereafter. It's but a twenty-five minutes ride and you'll enjoy it.

Outside of the mayoralty, the excise board and one councilman, the entire republican ticket was elected by a plurality. The prohibition vote that was cast for the straight ticket did not cut near the figure that it had been suspected that it might. The total vote of the city was about 5,800, but many did not vote for mayor. The prohibition vote for mayor was less than 300. Owing to the absence of an effort on the part of election officers to secure the tabulation of returns, the vote on the school board and the school bonds remains almost as much a matter of conjecture as before the election. The indications are that Messrs. Fossler, Ernst and Miller have been elected to membership in the board of education, but Mr. Brock is still in it. The three

dominated by certain baneful influences that will beset his official career he will earn and win greater preference. In order to do this, however, certain influences that are not too far removed from him must be set down upon occasionally when they attempt to assert themselves. And they probably will.

There is no doubt that the result of the recent city election was anything but an agreeable surprise to some of the parties involved, but to the friends of honest government and the enforcement of judicious laws for the regulation of the lawless elements the result was no surprise. It was a vindication of the accuracy of public judgment and confidence in the love entertained by the people for morality. In a city of churches and colleges, such as Lincoln boasts herself to be, it could not be reasonably expected that a campaign headed by representatives of the lowest element could be successful even were its candidate a man against whom not a breath of suspicion could be heard on other grounds. It is to be hoped that mayor Weir and the two new members of the excise board will be able to agree and secure to the people the sort of police government which they have indicated a preference. There is no certainty yet as to the personnel of the new board, but whether Mr. A. D. Burr or Mr. A. E. Hargreaves is the other will not be known until the official canvass of the vote is made by the council. But either of the above gentlemen may be relied upon to enforce the laws in the police department impartially and with that respect for the proprietors that has long been conspicuous, exclusively because of its absence.

In spite of the general suspicion that the impeachment proceedings against Messrs. Hastings, Humphrey, Allen and Hill, the well known and heretofore popular state officials, were likely

## VIEWS OF A STRANGER.

Arriving at the B & M depot I squared my account with the genial baggage master, loaded myself and wordily possessions into one of the Emson cabs and sought a destination only peculiar to the tired, having about the number of ten dollars. I was in quest of a regular family put up at — being slightly known in the world, I located myself at M street between Thirtieth and Eleventh streets, I then saw the city as she is — O street is long, P street is comparatively in sameness. My first call was upon a gentleman connected with the press of Nebraska and popularly known in Lincoln. He told me he had been in the city for a few years and knew more people than I did. My amusement was not particularly amused or stunned at the mild piece of pie of watchfulness, and decided to go out among the business men. With a few intermissions I will go with you through Lincoln's business streets, and her business men? As your time is short will only push you through with a gentle glance. I saw the banker between Eleventh and Twelfth streets (O), he said he was glad to meet any Eastern or Southern men and mildly requested me to leave my weapons of trouble with the good cashier, I did it. The use of a punch often is a necessary function for a scribe. The tinsmiths have the kind in use and it is not out straight from the shoulder either. I saw a tinsmith, I got what I wanted and continued to punch my way through the city. The business men and the ladies of the business denomination in Lincoln are as generous, polite, patronizing and as charming as if it were at the Hub of the Universe. They all believe in using a little of the COURIER'S ink and it is the ink that is not at a discount and is praised by more couriers than one. Oh, yes I saw the postmaster, who I believe was at one time outside of Mr. Harrison's family. He told me that he had become decidedly dejected, not because Mr. Harrison had discontinued to do the business of the old reliable Samuel's Uncle, but because the people demanded that he let a gentleman by the name of Cleveland play with the correspondence of the United States and one or two other towns not worthy of mention. Who this man Cleveland is I do not know. I left my card in all the prominent hostilities in the city to try and catch him, but I have failed up to date to locate him. I wonder if our worthy postmaster would be letting me have a scoop? I got on to the street, found red brick, not in stacks but imbedded in the middle of 75 feet of space wide, how long I do not remember. The railroads have the best service of any city of its size. I had occasion to ship a COURIER to that little suburb of Chicago on Lake Michigan. I think they call it Pab's City, about 85 miles from the town where the show is at. They open up May first. Shoe-gag-o. The kindly gentleman in charge of the B. & M. R. R. told me they would have it there in 18 minutes, more or considerably less. So I let it go by a special refrigerator. Coming from a southern country I had only ten in the habit of changing my linen once a month. I prevaricated and went and did the guilty crime of purchasing a pair of hosiery. Well, say the smile I got from the little boy? By the counter who said will you let me send this to the desk, or change now. I recuperated. I find the city considerably broader than it is long. The advantages offered for educational advancement is simply startling, and the good state of Nebraska is not ranked in the second rank. There, on Wednesday evening that a part of time's tail had been chopped off; another chapter of life's romantic stories had been read; another revolution of the great wheel had been effected; another two years had been swallowed by the insatiate past. We're are we at? The wisest and best men sometimes commit errors, but rectify them as soon as they are recognized. Now, to the ladies of Lincoln: I have seen a few or two of you by the post office and at the millinery stores where they press my vest. You are as a collectively collective class, simply pretty and as near as I can assume the propriety of expression adjust the modeste properly. I did call on Mrs. Upstart the other day and got to reasoning with her on topics of love, pity, scribbling, and other lines of my business. She raged and flew into a whirlwind of expletives. She does not belong to the modern day advertisers. The place where I got my folder is conveniently located in the vicinity of the Landell, but owing to the amount of legislative councilmen, as they are only accommodate such as those who are not elected by the council, I will see you all next week in this column from my new position as a "Man Up a Tree."