

RANDOM NOTES

(Continued from First Page.)

If anybody supposed that Walt Mason has "written himself out," his contribution to last Sunday's *Journal*, most effectually quelled that idea. Walt still thinks thoughts, and his thoughts slide down from his brain and on to paper with an ease and effectiveness beautiful to contemplate. The price of the *Journal* is 5 cents; but Mr. Mason's tribute to C. W. Mosher last Sunday was alone worth a good 16 to 1 quarter.

Of course it is any man's privilege to pick up his hat and leave when he doesn't like what's going on in meeting; but it must seem to impartial observers that Mr. Eldridge, of the *News*, is carrying the business to extremes when he refuses to serve on a republican committee because Messrs. C. H. Gere, H. D. Hathaway and Sam D. Cox, whom he accuses of fighting the typographical union, are on the same committee. Will Mr. Eldridge refuse to breathe because Messrs. Gere, Hathaway and Cox inhale portions of the same atmosphere?

The following is an extract from the telegraphic report of the proceedings of the Methodist National Missionary conference, held at Minneapolis, which appeared in nearly every important daily paper in the country Sunday morning:

On the call of Nebraska Dr. Huntington, of Lincoln, read statistics showing that there were many ministers in the conference whose salaries were less than \$200 a year. Nebraska, he said, was being filled up with starved-out New Englanders who had been stranded by the financial depression. A hundred thousand of such from the regions east of the Mississippi had come into the state in the past year, and the prices of products of the ground were going from bad to worse. It had taken twenty acres of wheat to put \$35 into a farmer's wallet. In one case that he knew of an honest Methodist farmer took 100 bushels of wheat to the elevator. It was the production of twenty acres of land. All he got for it was \$31. With this he paid his taxes and half of his grocery bill and went home without dinner because there was not a nickel left in his pocket. These and similar stories produced a profound impression, but all the same the appropriations were scaled 10 to 15 per cent on last year's grants.

Now, the Rev. Mr. Huntington may be and doubtless is a very good man; but he is foolish and he talks too much. He could not expect to gain anything by his exaggerated account of isolated cases of deprivation and suffering in this state, and the report shows that he did not. He placed the state before the people of the country in a false light, and his talking is likely to result in injury to the state. Having in mind the Van Wycks and the Burrowses and the Allens and the Huntingtons THE COURIER would say: "Save Nebraska from Nebraskans!"

For several years past the *Call* has been receiving the afternoon report of the Associated Press, through a special arrangement with William Henry Smith, until recently manager of that news association. Within a week, however, the *Call* has been admitted to full membership, holding a regular franchise in the association, and it is now receiving the same day report that goes to the *Bee* and other metropolitan papers. The *Journal* is a full member of the United Press, receiving both the day and night report of that association, so that the *Journal* and *Call* between them control the day reports of the principal news agencies.

There are some young men in this country who aspire to be general secretary of a local Y. M. C. A. who are admirably fitted for a position behind the ribbon counter of a second-class dry goods store; but who are of no earthly use in the position of manager of a Young Men's Christian association. Lincoln has had an experience with inefficient, inane secretaries, and that the association lagged has not been at all surprising. But the new board of local directors lately discovered a young man in Denver who is going to cause a general turning up of things in this city, and who is going to make the Young Men's Christian association measure up to the highest Y. M. C. A. standard.

John K. Doane is a young man with manhood, force and a tendency to get there. He came to this city October 20, and he brought all of his good qualities with him, and he has been using them every day since he got here in an endeavor to pull the association out of the slough of despond and place it up on the high bank of hope. And the young man has succeeded to a degree most encouraging to the friends of the association.

Since the 1st of January and up to the time Mr. Doane fastened himself at the helm there were two additions to the membership of the association. Since October 20 there have been over 40 new members admitted.

Mr. Doane found a lot of jagged ends sticking up in every direction. He smoothed things down from the start,

and installed order and system where confusion had held undisputed sway, with very business-like rapidity.

In the department of physical instruction there were ten or twelve persons enjoying the privileges, and the appliances were in a wretched condition. Things were straightened up, and now there are upwards of seventy people in regular attendance. B. F. Rohrer is the physical instructor, and Miss Anna Barr has charge of the ladies' classes, which meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 12 a. m. Boys' classes are held from 4 to 5 p. m. Tuesday and Thursday, and Saturday from 10 to 12 a. m. Business men's classes are held daily from 5 to 6 p. m., and there is a general class every evening from 8 to 9 o'clock.

Professor F. W. Taylor has been induced to take the management of the Current Topic club, which will occupy an important place in the scheme of rejuvenation. This club will hold its first meeting November 20, and will meet every two weeks thereafter in the association parlors. Professor Taylor has a choice collection of wheels in his head, and he will use his entire assortment of mental machinery for the proper development of the Current Topic club. The club will deal with live issues in a live way, and it will be a live club.

And music. A glee club of eight voices has been organized. The members are: R. A. Williams, J. A. Perkins, H. R. Ricketts, L. A. Bumstead, F. E. Reagan, Charles Jones, W. H. Tuttle and R. A. Clapp. The class meets every Monday. There is also an association orchestra of thirteen pieces. Professor H. J. W. Seamark will have a male chorus under his charge, which will meet weekly. The chorus will be open to all members.

Mr. W. E. Hardy has consented to engineer a class in social economy, which will hold its first meeting November 27, and will alternate thereafter with the Current Topic club.

Mr. E. C. Hardy will conduct a Chautauqua circle, commencing November 21. There will also be common law lectures, lectures on chemistry, physiology, etc., and numerous entertainments during the winter. All of which proves that the association is now very much alive.

A philosopher says: "There are three things which a good woman ought to resemble in one particular, but not in another. Thus, she ought to be like the snail, which always keeps in the house, but she should not copy its example in putting all she possesses on her back. She should resemble the echo, which never speaks unless spoken to, but she ought not, like the echo, always try to have the last word. Lastly, she ought to be true and correct as the town clock, but she ought not, like the clock, to make noise enough to be heard all over the town."

The prospect of the early establishment of a brand-new daily newspaper in Omaha, and the current incidental gossip concerning the same, have tended to direct attention to the two papers that now occupy the metropolitan field.

There is, in many ways, a marked difference between the *Bee* and the *World-Herald*. The former has a definite editorial policy, which is the uplifting and glorification of its editor, Mr. Rosewater. The *World-Herald* hasn't any policy at all. There is an old copper 2-cent piece in the *World-Herald* office, and every morning Mr. Hitchcock throws the coin up into the air. If it comes down head up, he directs the chief editorial writer to write a democratic leader. If it's tails, like Squire O'Grady, who on certain occasions always called for broiled bones, Mr. Hitchcock calls for a red-hot, anti-capitalist, semi-anarchist, populist screamer. Some times the coin disappears in a crack or drops into the mousetrap, and then the editors write about the future of American doddle drums, or the peculiar whiteness of new laid snow, or some such diverting subject.

Another difference is that the *Bee* is making money and the *World-Herald* is losing money. If the current reports concerning the latter are true, it is only a question of time when Mr. Hitchcock will be compelled to part with his 2-cent piece, and then the editorial page of his paper will be even more of a curiosity than it is now. It is said that the *Bee* at the close of last year, after paying all expenses, including interest on the *Bee* building mortgage, which by the way, is at the low rate of 5 per cent, had a net profit left over of \$52,000. On the other hand it is reported that Mr. Hitchcock who started in with an ambition to be a newspaper man and a capital of something like \$750,000, has spent all of his money that he can get at, and is yet far short of his ambition. It comes from an authentic source that Mr. Hitchcock has mortgaged his property till he can't mortgage it any more, and that the money has all gone into the yawning chasm in the business office of the *World-Herald*, which, with Oliver Twistian persistence, is ever demanding "more."

The principal obstacle in the way of the *World-Herald's* success has been

its lack of editorial stability. Mr. Hitchcock is naturally a republican, and if the *Bee* had been a democratic paper his paper would have been republican in politics. As it is it has been nothing, and with some of the ablest newspaper men in the state on its staff, it has signally failed to command that respect necessary to the success of a metropolitan newspaper. Rosewater's methods are not along angelic lines; but they are all right from the business standpoint. His paper has always had an aggressive policy; it is always fighting for or against something, and it has weight.

A new republican paper in Omaha may possibly materially weaken Rosewater so far as his influence in the republican party is concerned; but it will hardly succeed in "knocking out" the *Bee* as a newspaper.

Most people move along in ruts and they are so deep down that they cannot see over the sides. Those persons whose rut never brings them to the city library have no idea of the work and scope of this most useful institution, and are unaware of the good it is doing in a quiet way. They are, consequently unaware of the excellent field for the benevolent and philanthropic and public spirited that exists here.

There are 5,000 people who regularly patronize the city library. During the month of October over 5,000 books were circulated among patrons and nearly 1,000 reference books were examined in the library. There are in the neighborhood of 10,000 volumes in the library, and the institution is run in a most efficient manner by Miss Dennis and three assistants.

The city, with characteristic municipal generosity, contributes the measly sum of \$800 per year for the purchase of books, and as there is no other source of income, the annual addition to the cloth and leather covered packages of thought is not sufficiently large to throw any particularly favorable light on Lincoln's enterprise in the direction of the development of things intellectual.

There is no desire in any quarter to bring any of Lincoln's wealthy citizens to an untimely end; but it is a pity that some of them who are going to die soon could not be induced to agree to make a bequest to the city library, which according to the admittedly unorthodox standard of THE COURIER would be much better than dispatching a lot of money to a far off and woolier country than ours for the benefit of a lot of heathen who do not know the difference between a ham sandwich and the book of common prayer. Money is bequeathed to every conceivable object and sent away to all sorts of impossible places; but somehow the people who have money to give away and who have made up their mind to die, never think of the city library that is doing more good to the youth of the city than nine tenths of the so-called charitable and benevolent institutions that are so generously supported. If there is any one institution in Lincoln doing a more important work than that of the city library it has escaped THE COURIER'S notice, and it has to struggle along on \$800 a year. In a city the size of Lincoln the public library should spend from \$2,500 to \$5,000 a year for new books.

When the good people of this city get time it is to be hoped that the public library will come in for its proper share of favorable consideration.

The *Call* occasionally recognizes an absurd spectacle when it sees it, as is manifest from the following: "Another of those remarkable antics with which from time to time the excise board is wont to amuse the public, was cut by it yesterday in the finding that the charges against Officer Kucera of doing electioneering work while on duty were not proven. If the excise board wanted Kucera to work for Fred Miller, or if it did not want him to do it and he did it of his own accord, it was nothing very serious. If the excise board did not want to discipline Kucera it was foolish to allow itself to be drawn into it by the newspapers or anybody else. But after it had undertaken it and he declared that he made the distribution of Miller's tickets a business, that he took some out with him in the morning when he went out on his beat and gave them to anybody who appeared to want them all day long, then the board is making a very amusing spectacle of itself to declare that the charges were not sustained. In fact it looks very much as if Kucera's suspension was simply to give him a few days for uninterrupted electioneering work. The only other explanation is that the board felt that when Kucera went on the stand and swore that he was distributing tickets, there was no further proof necessary to show that he was not." Comment by THE COURIER is unnecessary.

The fall of the year is a trying season for elderly people. The many cheerless, dark, dismal days act depressingly, not to say injuriously, on both old and young. Now is the time to re-enforce the vital energies with Ayer's Sarsaparilla—the best of all blood medicines.

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