

SATURDAY MORNING COURIER

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TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE "POOR" DESERVING?

For a month or more, and up to a few days ago, the World Herald in Omaha pursued a policy that put a premium on begging, and invited mendicancy.

The World Herald's much heralded and greatly sensational relief bureau was not a good thing. It dispensed a kind of indiscriminate, halter-skelter charity, that is most demoralizing in its tendency. Probably three-fourths of the people who clamored for relief at the bureau were utterly undeserving. Many deserving cases were not reached.

Had the bureau been kept open a month longer Omaha would have been overrun with so-called paupers.

As a matter of fact there ought not to be any pauperism in Omaha or Lincoln, even in these dull times. Through sickness or accident poverty and suffering are often entailed, and there will always be cases of this kind to be relieved.

But the great part of the clamor of the "sufferers" are deserving of scant sympathy.

If the able bodied men who are so eagerly soliciting contributions would display half as much energy in looking for work they would find it—and with it the means of livelihood.

The number of unemployed in Lincoln is not large, and even in the dull old time there is enough work to be done in a city of Lincoln's size to furnish some occupation and compensation for all that are willing to work, and are not particular as to the kind of labor they perform.

Only a week or two ago a gentleman approached the company of idlers always to be found on Tenth and O streets, and tried in vain to get someone of these gentlemen of leisure to distribute a handful of circulars for seventy-five cents. Nobody wanted the money.

All this week the sidewalks have been covered with snow. Fifty men could have found profitable employment for nearly the entire week shoveling snow from the walks in front of private residences. Did any of the unemployed try this? Not so far as we are able to learn.

One family in this city under our immediate observation, has drawn on the charity fund all winter, when its head has had money of his own in the bank.

Another family, not in very serious straits either, worked the coal scheme so effectively that one firm received in one day no less than four orders from different persons for a ton of coal each to be delivered at the residence of these enterprising people.

Such instances as these, and there are many of them, go far toward representing the sympathy one naturally feels for the poor and unfortunate.

To one deserving case there are ten that are fraudulent.

That there should be any actual poverty or idleness in this country is almost paradoxical. With millions of acres of fertile land waiting to be tilled, with farmers unable to obtain necessary help, while the productive power of the earth has scarcely begun to be utilized, it is unreasonable that the cry of no work and poverty should be heard in the land. There is work and competence for millions on the untilled American acres; but men turn their backs on opportunity and hasten to the centers of population, where finding no demand for labor, they cry aloud for relief.

MUST WE BE A REPUBLICAN.

About this time two years ago there was much talk in republican circles throughout the state about the importance of concentrating efforts on the legislative ticket, to the end that a republican legislature might be elected, and a republican sent to the United States senate.

The state central committee did make an attempt to secure the election of a republican legislature; but there was not sufficient co-operation, and the legislature was non-descript. It elected a non-descript United States senator, to the disgrace of the state.

Now there is to be another United States senator elected at the coming session, and with one of the seats already held by an alien, it is a matter of serious importance to the credit and wel-

fare of the state that a reputable republican be selected for the other senatorship. And republicans cannot begin too early to prepare to put through a straight republican legislative ticket in every county in the state.

The successor to Senator Manderson must be a republican.

A COMPROMISE APPOINTMENT.

Mr. J. H. Harley is an estimable gentleman, and a level headed, practical, successful, business man. He will make an excellent postmaster, and THE COURIER congratulates both Mr. Harley and the people of the city of Lincoln on the appointment.

It has come to pass that the selection of a postmaster is essentially a question of politics, and it is, therefore, meet and proper to consider the political aspects of Mr. Harley's appointment.

A consideration of the facts involved does not make it apparent that Congressman Bryan has strengthened himself, or that his party, at the present time somewhat conspicuously fruitful of factional strife, is in any better condition than it was before the appointment was made.

Mr. Harley's appointment is called a compromise appointment. Like many so called compromises it is more of an irritant than an allayer of feeling and soreness.

Mr. Bryan has repeatedly asserted that he would stand by Major Calhoun until the very end, that he would, as the expression goes, "die with him." And Major Calhoun and his friends expected him to keep his word. Mr. Bryan did not do as he promised. When he was informed that Calhoun could not be appointed he does not die with his man; but immediately bobs up serenely with a new candidate to recommend. Major Calhoun and his friends, who had so much to expect of Congressman Bryan, certainly have no reason to be enthusiastically grateful for the appointment of Mr. Harley.

There was nothing in the appointment, or the manner in which it was made, to cause any joyful manifestation on the part of Mr. Huff or Mr. Whitmore, or Mr. Oppenheimer or any of the other candidates. These gentlemen can see nothing that looks like a compromise in the appointment of Mr. Harley.

And then again there is the cry that has already been heard in the land, from the democratic side of the fence, that under the new regime a genuine, old time, dyed-in-the-wool democrat has no show, that the plums drop into the palms of the mugwumps, or men whose democracy is of comparatively recent origin.

There are a good many democrats in Lancaster county, men who were democrats long before they were old enough to vote, who have legged and pulled and hauled for the sake of the party, in season and out of season, carrying the banner always, and ever whooping it up for the party, who are far from the state of sublime happiness as they contemplate the spectacle of a democratic administration deliberately bestowing one of the very choicest gifts within its power on a man who does not have to look very far back to see his own conversion to the democracy, a new comer, as it were. No, the old liners are not tickled to death over Mr. Harley's appointment.

In fact, from a political standpoint, we are unable to see what element of the party is pleased. There are no sore places covered up, no breaches filled, no strife stilled; and if Mr. Bryan has strengthened his cause in any way we are unable to see it.

But, of course, the city of Lincoln has nothing to do with factional differences of any party. Only it is interesting to observe these things.

Mr. Harley is all right. He is a lucky man, and he is to be congratulated.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

THE COURIER is glad to see there is a movement in this city that indicates that the people of Lincoln have finally discovered that there is such a thing as a city government, and that all things therewith connected are not as they should be.

It's a good sign when citizens begin to look into the acts of city officials, and discuss among themselves the various questions of public importance before the municipality.

If there is inefficiency in any of the bodies clothed with power in this city, or in any of the important offices, or if the public money is being expended needlessly or uselessly, it is the fault of the people.

Every year the newspapers, even those whose partisanship is strongest, urge the political parties and the people to name as candidates for public office men who are something more than two by four politicians; but talk and sentiment of this kind are usually about as effective as barking at the moon.

When the nominating conventions come around the citizens, the men who protest and write letters to the newspapers between times, stay at home, not because they can't get into the conventions, but because they do not make the effort; and the small bore politicians have everything their own way.

We believe, however, that there is a stronger feeling in favor of municipal reform just now than there has been for years. Certainly there was never greater occasion for a movement of this sort. Private business affairs have, during the

past year been readjusted on all sides. Business depression has made curtailment necessary, and economy has been practiced everywhere. But the men who have been managing city affairs have made no change in their manner of doing business. Money is being voted away and taxes are being increased just the same. The time has come when there is an urgent necessity for prompt and effective action. But what will be done? Will the feeling which has been aroused crystallize into definite action? Will the protest be anything more than a protest? Will the demand for better government and lower taxes be kept up, reinforced by active work, until the end sought for has been reached, or will it gradually lose its strength, and in a few months cease to exist?

The city council is the most important branch of the city government. Seven councilmen are to be elected this spring. Will this sentiment that is now so palpable have any effect on this election? These are questions that THE COURIER would like to see answered.

The republican party has it in its power to perform a valuable public service and at the same time add greatly to its credit by making proper recognition of the existing public sentiment by nominating for the council men who may be depended upon to be true to themselves and the people, and who would manage the affairs of the city in the same careful, economical manner that they manage their own business—competent, honest men.

Will the party do this? If not, why not?

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

That western energy is solely confined to the building up of material things, to traffic in dirt and hogs and corn and brick and mortar, to the amassing of dollars; that it is impossible to accomplish in this atmosphere of new earth and active commerce the finer things that appeal to the mind rather than to the pocket-book, are most strongly refuted by the wonderful development of the University of Nebraska which this week celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The university, only twenty-five years old, has achieved an eminence in the educational world that must be particularly gratifying to the people of this state. It has grown with the business interests of the community, and its success is quite as marked as the success which has followed any business venture, or commercial enterprise.

Established on a broad, liberal basis, it has developed along liberal lines, and more especially within the past two or three years, since Professor Canfield has had the executive management of the institution, it has expanded and grown in a manner truly remarkable. Chancellor Canfield is an extraordinary man.

He is an enthusiast without being a crank. He is a man of great ambition, and his ambition follows many different lines; yet he is able to concentrate his ability and strength, to a very considerable degree, in one channel, the upbuilding of the university. He is a scholar and at the same time has practical ideas on business subjects—a very unusual combination. With a careful regard for the proper development of the purely academic interests of the institution, he has grasped the business affairs of his great charge, and has pushed ahead and elevated the university in all its phases, at the same time.

There is something of a personal triumph in the record of advancement in the University of Nebraska which was this week so forcibly borne home to every citizen of Lincoln, and we but voice the sentiment of the people when we congratulate the chancellor on the success which has crowned his work.

Nebraska is going to be known abroad for something else besides its corn and hogs; it is going to be known as the seat of a great university, and for its progressive spirit in education, its intellectual activity, both of which may be attributed in a large measure, to the influence of the University of Nebraska.

WELL, HARDLY.

Is Cleveland a success? This is a question that is asked in Donahoe's Magazine, and several thousand words are wasted in the reply. It can be answered in a very few words. Cleveland is the biggest failure in the white house since the days of Johnson. Ushered in to office with brighter prospects and under more favorable auspices than have ever been the fortune of any president in fifty years, he has been a blight and a blunderer. He has seen prosperity give place to distress, when he could have prevented the change. He has faltered and delayed and fooled and quib-

bled while the nation was in the throes of despair. He has had nothing to offer to relieve the suffering, and he holds out no hope for the future. He has pursued a policy of infamy toward Hawaii, and he has proved himself to be incompetent and disloyal to American interests. He is a failure, a stupendous failure, and it will be a good thing for the country when he steps down and out. His one redeeming quality is that he is not the crank on the money question that so many members of his party are. Had he been, the nation that even now is bankrupt, would be in a much more hopeless condition than it now is.

MR. ANNIN, the Journal's Washington correspondent, who doesn't believe in the McKinley boom, ought to have been at Columbus, O., Tuesday. By the way, the coming president delivered a rather spirited speech Tuesday night. Governor McKinley finds many anomalies in the present condition of affairs. "While congress is engaged in reducing the revenues, Cleveland's administration, of the same political faith as congress, is increasing the revenues by what it calls 'temporary loans,'" said McKinley. "Congress is professedly reducing the taxation to relieve the people of burdens, and Cleveland is adding to their burdens by fastening upon them a bonded debt of \$50,000,000." The governor continued: "Every variety of property has sunk in value since the party of tariff reform entered upon its possession of the government. Every manufacturing plant, every stock and bond, from the government to a municipal bond, has felt the depreciating influence of free trade. The people want a change and they want it bad. They want it sooner than they ever dreamed they would want it; they are tired of this tariff-tinkering, bond-issuing, debt-increasing, treasury-depleting, business-paralyzing, wage-reducing, queen-restoring administration. They disapprove of every part of this program and they would not stand it twenty-four hours if they had an opportunity to cancel the agency between themselves and the gentlemen in charge of the government. It is a case of landlord with a bad tenant whose lease has some time yet to run, with no provision for forfeiture."

It is said to be a fact, and we are convinced on this point, that the snow has not to this day been shoveled off the sidewalk in front of the residences of some of the men who take an hour's course in physical exercise at the Y. M. C. A. building daily. If a bell had been tied around the neck of every able bodied citizen who left the snow on his sidewalk undisturbed this week, there would have been such a jangling that the racket would have been heard from Oklahoma to Wyoming. But there would not have been half enough bells to go around.

The recent discussion of the city's finances has made it clearly apparent that the one subject of supreme importance before the people of Lincoln is economy in municipal expenditures and a reduction of taxation. And this matter should not be lost sight of when it comes to nominating and electing councilmen this spring. We want councilmen who will keep down the city's expenses.

We are forced to admire the nerve of the men in New York who have endeavored to preach free trade to the thousands of unemployed operatives. Soon we shall hear of some one attempting to harangue the hungry multitude on the pleasures of fasting.

It is in accordance with the eternal fitness of things that Congressman Wilson, author of the Wilson bill, should, after having made a very large portion of the public ill, be himself taken sick.

SOME republicans who were never able to break into office through their own party have been kindly cared for by this administration.

THERE is a happy day coming when the daily newspapers will devote more space to news and less to coupons.

"Royal Ruby" Port Wine. If you are reduced in vitality or strength by illness or any other cause, we recommend the use of this Old Port Wine, the very blood of the grape. A grand tonic for nursing mothers, and those reduced by wasting disease. It creates strength; improves the appetite; nature's own remedy—much preferable to drugs; guaranteed absolutely pure and over five years of age. Young wine ordinarily sold is not fit to use. Inset on having this standard brand, it costs no more. \$1 in quart bottles, pinta 50 cts. Royal Wine Co. For sale by J. H. HARLEY, 11th and O Sts.

MUSIC IN HER.

On the open piano the cat ran the scale as she gaily kept time with the wag of her tail. The sound brought the mistress with haste to the room, and the cat left the keys on the end of a broom. On the railroad they tied her tight down to the track, but the train cut the rope and the kitty came back. Now out on the housetop she plays as she

sings, for her system is padded with violin strings.

Cats are tough, and they'll stand a whole lot of bad usage. Boys with any life in them give clothing dard usage.

We make boys clothing up tough; sew 'em double with silk thread, and guarantee them to stand rough treatment. They're in style too. Children's department second floor.

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