10

# Che Debraska Independent

### Lincoln, Rebraska

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#### FIRE PROTECTION.

Mr. B. L. Paine is working for added fire protection, and in a letter recently published he reviews the history of how a few business men went down in their pockets to pay \$600 a year for an imported fire chief, and he also was permissable if smallpox was to be explains partially the very potent fact stamped out of the city. It has been that the fire department is no more stamped out, and now in the name of efficient than it was sefore, except for decency let the city pay its bills and the additions made to the equipment get ready to elect a mayor of more and the water plant.

Mr. Paine favors a volunteer addition to the department, to be paid for by public subscription, and the sug- for the care of people afflicted with gestion is one that should be heeded by the people if they care for addi- case of smallpox was discovered in the tional protection, because until there McMurtry block last February, the is a clean sweep of the city govern- single patient was removed to a house ment there is no chance that there at Lincoln park which the owner now will be any variation of the distribu- claims was forcibly taken possession tion of city funds from the present of and used as a pest house. This plan. It now costs the city of Lincoln house was in a cluster of barns, sta-\$20,000 a year for light, and the light bles, etc., and connected with the race is such a delusion that the best busi- track; it had been rented for a year ness firms have their own lighting and the tenant had part of his goods plants. That this cost, which is al- moved into the house when the city most as great as that of the fire de- health officer and the chief of police partment, is an outrage everybody broke down the fence and took possesknows, but there is no way at pres- sion. Mr. Wolf, the owner, has filed ent to save from one-third to one-half a claim for \$1,500 damages against the of this money and turn it into the fire city and he will find out how far the fund, and hence the husiness men who powers of a mayor extend in confiscatare already taxed to the limit are ing property. asked to go down into their pockets and donate for public use Much of the past trouble over the fire department has been raised by the money at Lincoln park. Of the merits insurance combine when it failed to of the case The Independent knows have a good enough understanding nothing and cares less, but if the tracwith the chief in the adjustment of tion company has been paying rents losses. If there comes another big fire out there in order to make business for in Lincoln, Mr. Paine and his im- its cars, why cannot it afford to make ported chief will hear the same chorus the park a free resort and charge raised of the incompetency of the department, and there will be no more lice and care for the place? If the or no less truth in the cry than there park were made free, thousands would has been. The truth is that Lincoln go there where hundreds go now. It has always had a very competent de- could be made a pleasure resort for pariment, well officered and well man- the whole city. The Union-Commercial aged, and it has the same now, but club might take a hand in this and when a big fire comes and there are in conjunction with the traction comnot enough men in the whole depart- pany arrange for next year. ment to properly man the hose lines, no chief can effectively handle the full equipment. Add to this an unruly mob. led by prominent citizens and even city balled up at present and if the present officers, as occurred at the last big plan of autocratic dictation on the part fire in Lincoln, which drags away lines of the mayor is to be followed there of hose and attempts to carry away will be a merry line of lawsuits to deladders, leaving firemen isolated upon fend in the near future. The policy burning buildings, and the wonder is (or lack of policy) of the mayor since that half the city has not been burned the first case of smallpox broke out in ply. and half the firemen killed. What is needed is more firemen, an him to the people. It has been a penny effective fire police and more water wise and pound foolish performance pressure in the business centre. The from the start. most feasible plan to secure this seems to be Mr. Paine's plan, but the city should not neglect to ask the next legislature for authority to do business in all its departments on a business Dasis. With full notice from this first case that smallpox was in the city, it does not appear that the mayor made any move except to erect a temporary pest house outside of his jurisdiction, which was promptly burned by somebody. When smallpox broke out in the Palmer house the incompetency of the mayor became more pronounced than ever. With a single health officer work commenced to fight smallpox. 'the city physician was apparently afraid of the disease and never did a lick of work in treating the patients or aiding in the suppression of it. The mayor did not trust himself within the danger line, though he is a physician who ought to know enough to protect himself. The smallpox did not stop at the Palmer house, in fact it developed that it had been in several places before the Palmer house epi-

in a tent, the last known infected place had been fumigated and the last quarantine raised.

This sort of thing is beneath the dignity of a city like Lincoln. Two

years ago Nebraska City spent over \$5,000 in a similar emergency, and while that city did ask state aid and have it refused, it paid its bills fairly and honorably. A business mayor and a business council would take up all of these claims, audit them fairly forwarded by them. They frequently forget or and impartially and pay them promptremit a different amount than was left with | ly instead of dodging and quibbling over them. If the mayor and city physician had attended to the busiLess for which they were elected and appointed there would have been no doctor bill to pay-the city physician is paid a salary for just such emergencies and if the mayor excuses him from doing the work and employs another to do it, the bill must be paid and all the noise his honor can now make will not cover his responsibility. If the acting city physician orders medicine, attendance, food or even clothing for his patients, the city is morally and legally bound to pay the bill. This was an emergency where no red tape

business sense.

This city has never had a hospital contagious diseases and when the first

## THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT-

The Shortness of Life,

life, compared with other works of nature. The longest life-bow short it is! And half of it one can hardly call not real existence.

looked so long at starting, had had swiftly and silently melted away.--C.

De la Warr.

A Grotesque Creature. The Maori is not strictly beautiful.

but he is valiant and, let us trust, good. As for his better half, in her native dress, with tattooed lips and chin and long, single eardrop of greenstone and with an appropriate background of tree fern or ti tree scrub, she is savage and not unpleasing. But in town, when her fancy has been permitted to riot among the violent aniline dyes of the drapers' cheap lots and she is dressed to the bent of her barbaric taste, she is a hideosity. Begin at the ground and picture a

pair of large, flat, brown feet and thick ankles appearing beneath a badly cut skirt of some howling design in checks. Above hangs a short and disproportionately full jacket of scarlet, purple, magenta or green velveteen. A neckerchief of yellow, blue or crimson encircles the neck and topping all is a grotesque tattooed face half concealed by the flapping frills of a brilliant pink

Two True Stories. The Piscatorial Prevaricators' association was in session. "I was fishing for cod off the Banks

one day some years ago," said one, "when I dropped my watch overboard. life, being spent in sleep, which is The next year I went fishing at the same place. I caught a whopping big

brought the shortness of life strongly him. It was running steadily, the acbefore me by relating in his sermon tion of the fish's liver having kept it how a saint, in olden days, wishing to wound up. But it was five hours fast. impress on himself the rapidity of life's The only way that I can account for it race, when he came to years of dis- is that the fish crossed the Atlantic, cretion, placed 80 marbles in a glass staid on the other side long enough jar, each marble to represent a year of to get the time over there, and that I human life, taking 80 years as an out- caught him too soon after he got back side limit very far exceeding that. to allow the watch to regulate itself." Then, taking another glass jar, from "I was fishing for trout in Pennsylthe first one he took the number of vania last fall," said another member, marbles representing the years he had "in company with my nephew, who is already passed, and placed them in the an inveterate cigarette smoker. We empty jar, and then year by year ex- landed a ten pounder and allowed him tracted a marble from the other, till, to flounder around in the bottom of the more rapidly than he could have boat while we cast again, because they dreamed, the two jars contained 40 were biting freely. My nephew had marbles each. Then still more swiftly just thrown a lighted cigarette in the did each year seem to speed away, and boat, and in some way this trout got what had so short a time before been it, put it in his gills and smoked it. the full jar became the nearly empty The cigarette seemed to have a soothing effect on him. I brought the trout home, taught him to smoke a pipe, and when we killed him Christmas I served up to my guests something that I believe has never been served up before -self smoked trout. It was great too."

-New York Journal.

Went a Little Too Far. A commercial traveling man landed at Edinburgh, Scotland, one Saturday night, too late to get out of town for Sunday. The next day he found that there was actually no form of amusement in the whole city to assist him in whiling away the day. He went to the proprietor of the hotel to see if he could suggest a way of passing the remainder of the day.

The landlord took pity on the stran- Ch ger and took him to one of the rooms Ch in the house in which a number of CH Scotchmen were playing a game called "nap," which is a sort of modification of "seven up." They were playing for a shilling a point, so that the game was a pretty stiff one. The stranger got in the game and played very cautiously, for he was quite sure that the players, or at least some of them, were cheating. One solemn faced Scot, he was especially sure, he caught cheating a number of times. He began whisling a part of some vagrant tune. The Scot who had been cheating arose from the table and threw down the cards.

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# ILLUSTRATED.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS MAPS.

PAGE	PA	AGE	PAG	13
Asia	French Indo-China 6,	7	Oceania 10, 1	1 .
China, Proper	Hawaii	10	Philippine Islands	
			Siam 6,	7
Dutch East Indies			World	

# ILLUSTRATIONS.

PAG	B	FAGE
Confucian Temple, Forbidden	Manchu Lady and Chinese Wo-	
City, Pekin 1	5 man	15
Drupa Chief, Thibet 1	3 Mendicant Priests, Korea	16
Hong Kong Harbor 1	6	
Jyade Woman's Head Dress 1	3 Mongols From Tsaidam, Thibet,	12
Korean Officer, A Lamasery of	Pekin, Street Scene in	12
South Thibet 1	3 Thibetan With Prayer Mill	13
	Confucian Temple, Forbidden 1   City, Pekin 1   Drupa Chief, Thibet 1   Hong Kong Harbor 1   Jyade Woman's Head Dress 1   Korean Officer, A Lamasery of 1	City, Pekin15manDrupa Chief, Thibet.13Mendicant Priests, KoreaHong Kong Harbor1616Jyade Woman's Head Dress13Mongols From Tsaidam, Thibet,Korean Officer, A Lamasery ofPekin, Street Scene in

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# **Hddress** Che Nebraska Independent, Eincoln, Debraska.

QAILWAY.

BEST LINE TO

of the Plenty in Nebraska.

August 30, 1900.

What always strikes one so forcibly s. I think, the shortness of human

A French preacher I heard once fellow and found my watch inside of

one, till three, two and then only one marble remained, and life, which

sunbonnet

The Lincoln Traction company is up against a lawsuit for the July rent wood's.

enough for concessions to properly po-

### SMALLPOP ACCOUNTS

The city administration seems all Lincoln has not been one to commend

Then commenced a merry time. Bills began to come in. People who had been furnishing food and medicine, people who had cooked for the temporary hospital, people who had been nurses and attendants wanted pay. Then Mayor Winnett, who had issued orders like the war lord of Germany, became economical. He inaugurated a plan of either cutting down or turning down bills. Those who had money due put in claims and-waited. Most

of them are waiting yet.

Dr. Beachley asked the city to pay him ten dollars a day for his services and the mayor (who would have refused the job at five times more) set up an opposition and declared it an outrage. His city council offered the doctor a compromise and the result is lawsuit which will cause much more expense than it would to have paid the claim. Bills for groceries were hung up until such time as the mayor could find time to pass on them, and so far he seems not to have found

No sketch of a Maori lady of respectability is complete without a pipefrequently a heavy silver mounted one -worn in the mouth, the united effect of the pipes, the frilled bonnets and the gorgeous gowns being to bestow upon the worthy dames the appearance of animated Aunt Sallies. - Black-

Not a Question of Ownership. President Eliot of Harvard told this story at a dinner:

"A friend of mine, a college professor, went into a crowded restaurant in New York city for luncheon one hot day last summer. The negro in charge of the big corridor where the hat shelves stood was an intelligent looking fellow, and his bow and smile were not of the obsequious, stupid kind so often affected by colored waiters and doormen in hotels. He took my friend's hat and gave no check for it in return. An hour later, when the professor came out of the dining room, the negro glanced at him in a comprehensive way, turned to the shelves and handed

him his hat. "My friend is a man who prides himself on his powers of observation, and the negro's ability to remember to whom each article of clothing belonged struck him as being something very wonderful.

"'How did you know this was my hat?' he asked. "'I didn't know it, sah,' was the re-

"Then why did you give it to me?" the professor persisted.

#### 'Because you gave it to me, sah.'' -Boston Journal.

### The Countess of Ayr. At a dance in the country a gilded youth from town was complaining that

there was nobody fit to dance with. "Shall I introduce you to that young lady over there?" asked his hostess. "She is the daughter of the Countess of Avr.

Delighted, the young man assented. and, after waltzing with the fair scion of a noble house, ventured to ask after her mother, the Countess of Ayr.

youth, "I was asking after your mother, the Countess of Ayr."

father.

rushed off in search of his hostess and said the girl she had made him dance with was "quite mad; told him the Countess of Ayr was her father." house. "Let me introduce you to him. Mr. So-and-so, Mr. Smith, the county

Muscles of the Mouth.

tinct utterance, but for expression of of a swell below leveled at your box.

"What is the matter?" the other players asked.

"I'm gangin awa'," the Scot answered, glaring at the stranger. "I'll play cards wi' no mon that whustles on the Sabbath."

# Making Caricatures.

The way in which some artists can distort features without making them unrecognizable is certainly very remarkable. Thomas Nast possessed this faculty to an extraordinary degree and he had a very peculiar way of adding new faces to his mental photograph gallery. When a fresh subject would arise in politics, for instance, he would invent some pretext to call upon him at his office or house and hold him in conversation as long as possible, studying his features.

on Colorado scenery address.

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Lincoln, Neb.

When he took his departure he would purposely leave his cane. Once outside Nast would make a hasty pencil sketch on a card and would usually find that his memory was deficient as to some detail. He would then return, ostensibly for the cane, and another look at the victim would enable him to persection, and should be in the hands of fect his sketch. After that he had the everyone who desires to become acquanman forever.

when Joe Keppler was alive he used ted with the methods of farming by ir-rigation. Write S. K. Hooper, G. P. & to make frequent trips to Washington T. A., Denver, Colo. for the purpose of seeing statesmen whom he wanted to draw. He was very clever at catching likenesses and scarcely ever referred to a photograph.

#### A Famous Ducl.

A duel was fought in Texas by Alexander Shott and John S. Nott. Nott was shot and Shott was not. In this case it is better to be Shott than Nott. There was a rumor that Nott was not shot, but Shott avows that he was not, which proves either that the shot Shott shot at Nott was not shot or that Nott was shot notwithstanding.

I may be made to appear on trial that the shot Shott shot shot Nott or, as accidents with firearms are frequent, it may be possible that the shot Shott shot shot Shott himself, when the whole affair would resolve itself into its original element, and Shott would be shot and Nott would be not.

We think, however, that the shot Shott shot shot, not Shott, but Nott. Anyway, it is hard to tell who was shot

#### Mexican Theater Etiquette.

In a Mexican theater women always go bareheaded and the men wear their hats all the time the curtain is closed. During the performance they remove them.

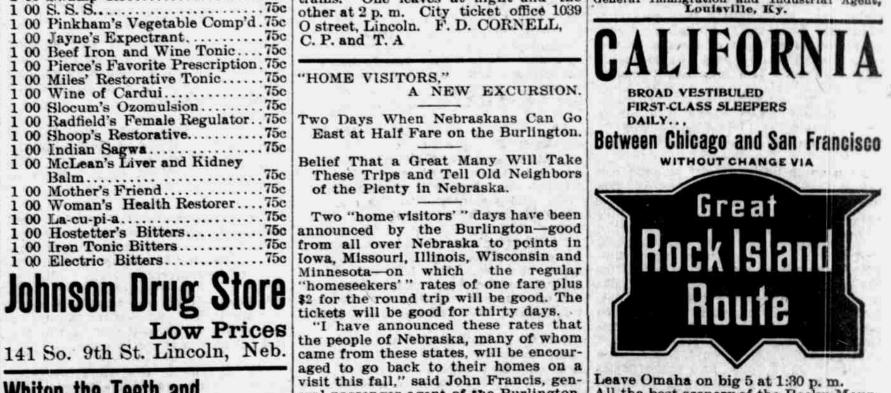
Frequently men rise in their seats and sweep the tiers of boxes with large glasses. It is considered some-Whiten the Teeth and mouth is necessary, not only for dis- thing of an honor to have the glasses



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eral passenger agent of the Burlington, All the best scenery of the Rocky Mounwhen asked to explain the difference tains and the Sierra Nevada by daylight

"My father, you mean," said the girl. "No, no, no," said the bewildered

"Yes," was the reply, "but that's my

Utterly at a loss, the young man

"So he is," answered the lady of the surveyor."-London Chronicle.

An elastic play of the muscles of the

