

CURT COMMENT

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The old state house in Jefferson City is a mass of ruins, and the state records for more than a century have been destroyed. The loss of the state house is not such as to be sadly deplored, for it was really a disgrace to the great state of Missouri. The loss of the records can never be made good. The penitentiary fire department, made up almost wholly of convicts, performed gallant service, and Governor Hadley has announced that he will unconditionally pardon several of the convict firemen who risked their lives repeatedly to save the state's invaluable records.

The Nebraska legislature continues to waste valuable time discussing the Colton resolution opposing the proposed Canadian reciprocity treaty. Representative Colton opposes the proposed treaty on the ground that the abrogation of the tariff on Canadian grain would injuriously affect the price of Nebraska grown grain. We still insist that the wool tariff will not make wool grow on the back of a hydraulic ram, but we have given up trying to prove it to devotees of the tariff, such as Representative Colton seems to be.

There seems to be something about M. S. Poulson that grates on the nerves of many advocates of county option, and all of county option's opponents. It is pretty generally conceded that Mr. Poulson lacks tact, and there are those of his peculiar faith who also assert that he lacks other things. But for the life of it Will Maupin's Weekly can not see anything in the Poulson letter received by Representative Grossman from Mr. Poulson to arouse the ire of the gentleman from Douglas. It contained no charge of any kind, merely stating that as the recipient had doubtless been favored with argument from the brewers' standpoint it was only fair that the argument of the county optionists be submitted. Representative Grossman must have been feeling a bit grouchy, else he wouldn't have become so incensed over what appears to have been a very frank letter containing no charges of improper motives or insinuations against Mr. Grossman's honor. It must have been that peculiar Poulson temperament that reflected itself in the letter.

Representative Grossman asserts that he has never been approached by a brewer or brewer's agent, has never approached one, and has received no requests from brewers. No one who knows Representative Grossman will doubt his word, yet everybody acquainted with politics knows that Representative Grossman stands for what the brewers want, else he never could have been elected from Douglas county. Will Maupin's Weekly is not of those who discredit Representative Grossman for his views on the liquor question. Some of these days it will, perhaps, dawn upon a lot of temperance advocates that not every man who advocates license is a "brewery tool" and an "advance agent of hell."

The defeat of county option in the senate was a foregone conclusion. Only those who love to build on a foundation of false hopes ever expected Senator Bartling to vote for county option. His constituents do not want it and he does not want it. There you are. It is very easy for a man who does not want to abide by his party platform to find what to him seems a sufficient excuse for disregarding it. Senator Bartling found it—and if he is representing his senatorial district

and not the state at large, we are inclined to think his excuse is a good one.

As has been stated in these columns before, Will Maupin's Weekly never did warm up to the county option question as a political issue. And especially not at the time it was injected into the recent state campaign. It could serve no other purpose than to befog the issues, and its result was to defeat Shallenberger and the entire democratic ticket. Personally the editor of this paper does not care a hang whether county option prevails or not. But he does not believe it is properly a political issue. When he so believes it will be when he believes that the time has come for political parties to take cognizance of whether sprinkling or immersion is the proper mode of baptism. When that time comes he will line up on the side of the immersionists.

This newspaper opposed the re-election of Senator Burkett, and for what appeared to be good and sufficient reasons. But at the same time it desires to give Senator Burkett full credit for securing the bit of legislation that should be sufficient to give him a high place in the regard of all wage earners. We refer to his boiler inspection law, which has passed both branches of congress and now goes to President Taft for his signature. The law, when it becomes operative, will forbid any common carrier to use any locomotive engine propelled by steam power in moving interstate or foreign traffic unless the boiler of said locomotive has been pronounced safe by competent government inspectors. That law should forever be known as the "Burkett law" in honor of the gentleman who secured its enactment after a long and bitter fight against well entrenched opposition. A similar law should be upon the statutes of every state.

The senate committee of the whole has passed the Skiles bill practically as it was introduced by Senator Skiles. This is the initiative and referendum bill drawn by the direct legislation league. The bill as drawn should pass the senate now, and without further debate or opposition. The gentlemen who are trying to kill the initiative and referendum while pretending friendship for it should awaken to a realization of the fact that they are deceiving nobody.

The Sunday baseball bill got by the senate safely, which meets with the approbation of a vast majority of Nebraskans. It is merely local option, and certainly the advocates of county option cannot object to that. Now that San Francisco has practically been decided upon as the place for holding the Panama canal exposition, we may expect a lot of people to begin bombarding congress with petitions to make no provision for a government exhibit unless the exposition management agrees to keep the gates closed on Sunday—the only day that thousands of honest, hard working men and women have opportunity to enjoy such educational advantages. In the opinion of Will Maupin's Weekly there must be something radically wrong with the man whose religion impels him to close art galleries and exhibitions and great music halls on Sunday.

"Social night" at the Lincoln Ad club was postponed from February 7 to February 14 in order to add something out of the ordinary to a program already excellent—the presence of President Dobbs of the Associated Advertising Clubs of America. Mr. Dobbs is the man who made Coco Cola famous and he is sure to have something to say that will be worth hearing. The Ad club banquet will be held at the Lindell

hotel next Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock, and everybody interested in boosting is invited to attend. Tickets \$1. And everybody should be boosters and attend the banquet.

President "Tip" O'Neill of the Western league stopped off for a five-minute sojourn at the Pock Island depot last Saturday. In the absence of President Despain of the Antelopes, Secretary Barrows gave him the right hand of fellowship and delivered Ed Young's message of "Welcome to Our City." President O'Neill was feeling especially good over the result of the battle for Sunday ball in Kansas and said it insured the laboring man of our sister state two years more of the kind of rest on Sunday which started the red blood going, so he could put in his best licks the following week. He hoped that the legislature of Nebraska would not forget the man who labored six days in the week and give him a chance to see something which he otherwise would have to pass up.

As spring approaches the kids are getting out their last year's gloves and hunting up that old ball that Jack Thomas knocked over the fence and can be seen out in the alleys and byways warming up for what will soon be upon us. Already the buzzing of the bug which stings so savagely is heard on every hand and before we know it the voice of the umpire will be heard announcing that charming combination of two words so dear to every bug and bugess in the land, "Play ball."

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