

TALKING OF MEN AND THINGS

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the platform upon which Fred Kind is making his race for the republican nomination for the excise board. In the opinion of Will Maupin's Weekly, Mr. Kind has hit upon the only rational solution of the several questions now before the people. He insists that the excise question shall be decided wholly upon its merits, regardless of the personal opinions of the candidates for the several offices. He pledges himself to abide by the decision of the majority of the voters—if they decide to continue the present policy he will enforce it to the best of his ability. If they decide to change he will abide by the plan to license only twenty-five saloons and impose a license of \$2,000 a year. We commend Mr. Kind's candidacy to the thoughtful voters of Lincoln. His platform is a good one, and what he says he will do, that he may be counted upon to do.

If the present excise board wants to "tote fair" it will submit the question of "wet or dry" without any complications whatsoever. Let it be put plainly and squarely: "Shall we continue the present policy, or shall we license twenty-five saloons at \$2,000 a year each?" Let the issue be squarely drawn.

Will Maupin's Weekly is committed to the candidacy of Mr. Armstrong for mayor because it believes his business experience, his ability and his acquaintance with men peculiarly fit him for the office. But the supporters of Mr. Armstrong's candidacy have their work cut out for them. It will have to be frankly admitted that the chances are against his being nominated. The reasons are plain to those who study the situation. Mayor Love will receive the solid support of the "drys," republicans as well as democrats. A number of "wet" democrats will want to vote for some friends on the democratic ticket, which they can not do if they vote for Mr. Armstrong, hence they will vote the democratic primary ticket. This means a divided "wet" vote as against a solid "dry" vote. Again, there are a few superficial thinkers, or those who never think at all, who will oppose Mr. Armstrong because of his connection with the gas company. This connection will cut no figure with those who know Mr. Armstrong, or who are aware of just what that connection is.

Mr. Malone is going to be "knifed" in the house of his political comrades, the democrats. In other words, the scheme is to nominate him as the democratic candidate, then bolt him at the election. The scheme is being worked up by "dry" democrats. Other schemes are afoot, every one of them calculated to intensify the unfortunate situation Lincoln finds herself in on account of this nasty whisky fight.

Which ever way it goes this spring, in heaven's name can't we agree to abide by the result for at least two years? No one who knows even a little bit about the local situation will deny that this constant wrangle is knocking the everlasting day-lights out of Lincoln. The side that loses will "knock," and keep it up, thus giving Lincoln a black eye the year around.

Will Maupin's Weekly was among those who deprecated Mr. Bryan's efforts to inject county option into the last state campaign, and the result foretold by its editor have come to pass—the almost hopeless division of the democratic party on a question

that has no place in politics. But Will Maupin's Weekly has to laugh every time it hears some radically "wet" democrat declare that Mr. Bryan's action last campaign "killed Bryan." Mr. Bryan has survived more political killings than any man that ever lived, and today he is about the liveliest corpse in the political arena. In about twelve or fifteen months a lot of democrats who have been dancing above what they deem his political grave will be eating right out of the Bryan hand.

The Bryan banquet in Lincoln on March 18 promises to be about the biggest banquet of the kind ever pulled off. Some of the biggest democrats of the nation will be here to eulogize to his face the man who refuses to remain politically dead. Among them will be Senator Owen of Oklahoma, the gentleman who so incensed the unspeakable Bailey that he picked up his dollrags and started home to Texas. A lot of democrats who will attend that banquet will be almighty sorry that Bailey was not allowed to get all the way home to remain forever and a day.

The Business Men's Association is working overtime, and it now has a complete organization. Walt Dawson has charge of the campaign, and Walt is some organizer and manager, thank you. H. K. Burkett is president of the executive committee. The vice presidents are Robert Joyce, F. C. Phillips, H. J. Amen and T. P. Harrison. The members of the finance committee are G. W. Holmes, Lew Marshall, Herbert E. Gooch. The committee is now out with the referendum petition, and it is expected that requisite 2,000 signatures will have been secured before the end of the week.

The bill proposing to compel insurance companies in Nebraska to deposit their securities with the auditor of public accounts may be all right, but it does not look good to Will Maupin's Weekly. As matters now stand each company retains control of its securities, which are subject to inspection by the insurance auditor. The bill proposes to put all these securities in the hands of one man, thus intensifying the risk. The state does not purpose guaranteeing that the securities will not be stolen or lost through speculation, and speculation with \$20,000,000 worth of negotiable securities would be almighty easy. It simply means that instead of lessening the danger of the securities being lost or frittered away, they are to be put in even graver danger. The state has no suitable safety deposit vault. It would be impossible to furnish a bond big enough to safeguard \$20,000,000 worth of securities, and the state will not be responsible for them in any way, although it is proposed to give them into the state's keeping. No opposition will be made to the passage of the bill if the state will guarantee that they will suffer no loss or depreciation through its actions.

Senator Owen defended the Arizona constitution with such effect that it was endorsed by a majority of the democratic senators over the protest of Bailey of Texas. That is what made Bailey so peevisish that he tendered his resignation. He saw in the vote his own downfall as the reputed leader of the democratic side. Bailey never saw the day when he was entitled to be ranked alongside of Owen for ability, honesty of purpose and fidelity to democratic principles.

Collier's Weekly continues to pour the hot shot into Fakir Post of Battle Creek, but the daily papers pay no attention to a subject that should be near and dear to them—their own character for honesty and integrity. Post declared in substance that his big advertising contracts made him the subject of blackmail. Or, in other words, he accused Collier's of trying to blackmail him. The issue was squarely drawn—and Collier's accepted the challenge. Post was adjudged guilty of libel and fined \$50,000. Did the daily papers make extended notice of the verdict? Not much—but they did grab at the page and half-page ads that Post flung at them like a master flings bones to his dogs. The Battle Creek faker has managed to keep the news of that verdict out of the daily press—save two or three socialist dailies. The labor papers published by private individuals have given the facts all possible publicity, but the organs of the national and international unions have been suspiciously silent. It was one of the biggest pieces of news in a decade, but big newspapers are now edited in the counting rooms, and Fakir Post spends a million a year with the daily newspapers. It is easy to see why the daily papers didn't tell the story. There's a reason. There's that \$50,000 verdict, too.

A thousand retail merchants have petitioned the legislature to enact the McKelvie publicity bill into law. Commercial clubs, organizations of business men in various lines, real estate men, and men of all walks of life interested in the development of Nebraska want the bill enacted into law. There never was a bill introduced in the legislature that was backed by such a strong and unanimous demand. The legislator who votes against that measure votes against the best interests of Nebraska.

County option is as dead as a doornail, at least for a few months. But it is not a bit more thoroughly deceased than capital removal. The capital movers may not know it, however, and keep right on wasting time and money.

Senators Brown and Selleck voted against the best interests of 500 skilled mechanics of their own county and in the interests of a half dozen exploiters of cheap girl and woman labor in other counties when they voted against the bill to put the label of the allied printing trades on all printed matter for the state.

Oklahoma City is having the same bitter experience now that many another over-boomed city has endured. Omaha had her turn at it about twenty years ago; Lincoln had it a year or two later, and Kearney had it bad about the same time. For the past five or six years Oklahoma City has been the wonder of the commercial and industrial world. But she overplayed the game a bit, and is now somewhat in the dumps. But she will recover more rapidly than most cities for she has a wonderfully productive country round about—fertile soil, coal, gas and iron. Just as soon as Oklahoma City can cast up her accounts and square away again she will resume the old gait, and next time she will have better wind and staying power.

Manager Garman of the Acme Amusement Company cinched his reputation as a snappy after-dinner talker at Tuesday's meeting of the Ad Club. We do not agree with him on the virtues of advertising on