

CURT COMMENT OF THE TIMES

Not every man who favors license and regulation is a tool of the brewery combine," and not every prohibitionist is a saint, an exemplary citizen or a total abstainer. Some fanatics to the contrary notwithstanding, there are many men who honestly believe that the policy of license and regulation is preferable to prohibition and unrestricted "bootlegging." And not every man who votes the "dry" ticket does so because he wants to drive the liquor traffic out of the city. The "dry" policy has been fairly profitable to some men who have not been compelled to take out liquor licenses.

This excise question is a matter of individual opinion. It should be considered wholly apart from the personality of candidates. Whether Lincoln shall be "wet" or "dry" for the ensuing twelve months is for the people, not the city officials, to decide. We elect men to perform the business duties of the city, and to carry out the policy that the people decide upon. "Wet or "dry", Lincoln will grow and prosper, but the conduct of her municipal affairs will depend upon the ability and honesty of her officials, not upon their opinions upon the "wet" or "dry" propositions. Let us keep these facts in mind. Also, let us keep good natured and sweet.

All this talk about impending trouble with Japan as a reason for our military activity on the Mexican border is the merest bushwa. There is about as much chance of Japan precipitating war with the United States by violating the Monroe doctrine as there is of the sheep killing the butcher. The Jews financed the war with Russia because the Jews saw a chance to profit while humiliating the most deadly enemy of their race. They wouldn't advance a dollar on Japanese loan finance a war with the republic that has been the best friend of the oppressed and persecuted races of the earth. Japan's interest bearing debt is now larger than the interest bearing debt of the United States. She doesn't raise as much foodstuffs in a year as Kansas and Nebraska. She has less than half the population of the United States. And her leaders are wise enough to know that even if she did make war on the United States, she would not be allowed to win, for every Anglo-Saxon nation in the world would array themselves against her. Does any sane man imagine that the white race would submit to a yellow race winning in a war with the United States. That military activity on the Mexican border simply means that American soldiers are there to be used to protect the interests of the American exploiters of cheap peon Mexican labor and perpetuate the rule of the cruelest, most inhuman ruler now exercising authority over a civilized people.

Colonel Roosevelt has just assisted in dedicating the big government irrigation dam named in his honor. Big as that dam is, it isn't nearly so large as some the colonel has used as qualifying adjectives when he called "liars" the men who dared to question his official conduct.

Frankly, Will Maupin's Weekly believes that Fred Kind's platform upon which he is asking for a nomination for member of the excise board, entitles him to that nomination. His views accord to the letter with the views held by this newspaper. Mr. Kind believes with Will Maupin's Weekly

that the excise question should be settled wholly apart from the personality of candidates, and that candidates should be selected because of their fitness for the office to which they aspire. And Mr. Kind's fitness is evident to the thousands who have had opportunity to deal with him in a business way.

The Lancaster county schoolm'am who was arrested on the charge of cruelly whipping one of her boy pupils was discharged. For which we are duly thankful. The average schoolm'am of today is incapable of administering too hard a whipping upon the average schoolboy who needs a whipping. And while Will Maupin's Weekly does not by any means advocate the indiscriminate use of the rod in school, it does advocate its use when necessary. The editor of this newspaper has a lively recollection of some almighty hard whalings he got in school when he was a lusty youngster holding the opinion that he was about the biggest thing in breeches. And he recalls some of them that had a very beneficial effect in not only reducing the swelling in his caput but in directing his mind along practical lines. Without attempting to recall all of these whalings the editor, after some consideration, admits that he never got a lick amiss, unless a few occasional ones that didn't hit. He also feels able to point out quite a few lusty young lads in the Lincoln schools who would be vastly benefitted by being soundly farruped. The knowledge that a teacher has the ability to administer a sound thrashing when needed, and possesses the authority to administer it, usually has a very beneficial effect.

The esteemed Journal announces that the Scandinavian Republican club announced itself favorable to the "wet" policy. The fact that the Scandinavian Republican Club did nothing of the kind seems to have been overlooked by the Journal. As usual, the average "dry" advocate is of the opinion that all who do not agree with him in toto are "hell hounds" and "tools of Satan." The Scandinavian Republican Club endorsed the Business Men's Association ticket, and made no reference whatever to the excise policy. And may not a man with good conscience vote for Mr. Armstrong and a "dry" policy?

A Lincoln newspaper whose editor-in-chief is a stockholder in the Traction company and whose business manager is a director of the same street railway company, has discovered a "budding sentiment in favor of municipal ownership of the gas company." Wonderful discovery! It beats that of Dr. Cook by many a mile. Now let it discover a "budding sentiment in favor of municipal ownership of the street railway" and its will go down in history alongside Columbus and Americus Vespucci. But bless your soul the demand for municipal ownership of municipal utilities is far beyond the budding stage.

The Associated Press dispatches announce that President Taft and John D.

Rockefeller were guests at the same hotel in Augusta, Ga., but did not meet save when they saw each other and each gaily waved his hand. We are disappointed. We had thought that when they came close together they would heave a few brickbats and then clinch.

Your average legislator is always scared to death lest the appropriation record give the opposition a chance to holler "extravagance." Will Maupin's Weekly believes the time has come when parsimony, practiced under the guise of economy, should be relegated to the rear. Economy is all right, and necessary, but a great state like Nebraska should not practice it to the extent of depriving the unfortunate wards of the state of proper housing, food and clothing. This is no longer a "grasshopper" state, although it is plugging along under a "grasshopper" constitution and attempting to do a modern business under "grasshopper" methods.

Nebraska's public institutions are scattered in thirteen towns in widely separated portions of the state. Seven state officers are supposed to look after them, in addition to attending to multifarious office duties. They must supervise all building operations, purchase all supplies, audit and pay all bills, oversee matters of discipline, etc. As a result of this antiquated and bunglesome method the state pays more and gets less for its money than any private business concern. The state officers rush into a board meeting over one matter, hurry it through and rush off to another meeting. The result is just what might be expected. Up-to-date business methods in handling the state's business would enable the state to get far better service for considerably less money. Some of these days a legislature will take the plunge and make appropriations and enact laws that will enable the state to get upon a business basis. That legislature will be the most cordially hated of any that ever assembled, but for a few years only. When the results of its wisdom become apparent the grateful taxpayers will begin erecting monuments to the men it once execrated.

Recently an insurance company with headquarters in Lincoln failed. Immediately we heard that the "dry" policy of Lincoln was responsible in a measure for the failure. The other day an insurance company in Omaha failed. To what shall we attribute its failure? My, but we do have a time trying to make a moral issue responsible for financial conditions.

The initiative and referendum bill pleases nobody in particular. It is not what the real friends of the initiative and referendum want, and it yields more than the opponents desire yielded. But it is far better than nothing from the friendly viewpoint, and not so bad as it might have been from the view point of the opposition. It is a step forward.

If Will Maupin's Weekly may venture a prediction it is that Senator Owen of Oklahoma is going to make Senator Bailey of Texas look like a two-spot before the extra session is ended. Owen is a big, broad-minded man, in touch with modern thought and conditions. Bailey, while a man of brains and ability, is narrowminded, peevish, opinionated and under the control of special interests. The one stands for pop-

Remember April 21st
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Base Ball Season