

# TALKING OF MEN AND THINGS

Second Assistant Postmaster General Stewart, testifying before the congressional committee investigating the post-office department, admitted that faithful and efficient postal clerks had been summarily dismissed because they dared to exercise their constitutional rights and joined an organization of postal clerks. In other words the postal clerks were discharged for joining a union. The object of the organization was similar to that of all trades unions—to secure better working conditions, to be able to assist one another, to prevent unjust discrimination and to safeguard their lives and limbs. The postmaster general issued the order forbidding the clerks to organize. With equal right he could have issued an order forbidding them to join the church of their choice or the fraternal society of their choice. The constitution of the United States declares that the right to petition congress for the redress of grievances shall never be denied. The post-office authorities have denied the employes of that department the right to so petition. It is high time that congress take a few haughty postoffice officials by the slack of their official trousers and throw them over the office transoms. There is altogether too much czarism and too little efficiency about the "P. O. D." It is high time that political manipulators be amputated from place and power and the department put upon a business basis.

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has issued a call for \$5,000,000 for the defense of John J. McNamara. There can be but one reason for the raising of such an immense sum for that purpose—furnishing an object lesson of the solid front of organized labor. No such sum is needed for the actual defense of McNamara. Under no circumstances must organized labor be put in the attitude of trying to secure acquittal by the use of money. It will be sufficient to provide McNamara with the best legal talent that money can secure, and defray the expenses incident to his trial. This will be afforded McNamara, never fear. He will not be allowed to become a sacrifice to prejudice and hate. He may not get a square deal in Los Angeles, but the courts of that district are not courts of final resort. His comrades will stand by him until he is either proved guilty beyond a peradventure, or acquitted. If guilty he will be repudiated by union men everywhere, and he should be. If innocent his fellows will see that he has every opportunity to prove it.

The new excise board of Lincoln has started off well by retaining the services of Mrs. Dora Doyle as police matron. Mrs. Doyle's experiences and her knack for that sort of work make her services

doubly valuable to the municipality. Her reappointment makes Lincoln indebted to the new board.

The appointment of Ernest Hunger to be chief of police was a surprise to many. That he will render the city faithful and efficient service is beyond question. Although without experience as a member of the police force, he is not unacquainted with that class of work, having been a constable and game warden for many years. He will maintain the discipline so well established by Chief Malone, and may be trusted to inaugurate some reforms that come only with the injection of new blood into such a department.

Mayor Armstrong would do a graceful act, and at the same time render a service to the city, by appointing ex-Councilman Mike Bauer to the councilmanic position made vacant by the resignation of Councilman Hardy. Mr. Bauer's acquaintance with municipal affairs makes him a valuable man to the city.

When the work of remodelling the Mayer Bros. store front is completed Lincoln will have something just a bit ahead of anything of the kind in this section of the country, and equal to anything in store fronts anywhere. A detailed description of this improvement would be entirely too technical, therefore the lovers of the artistic are advised to view it in person. It will repay a long look.

E-Chief of Police Malone is justly entitled to great credit for the work he accomplished while at the head of Lincoln's police force. At no time during the past ten years has the force been adequate. Owing to internal dissensions and political manipulation it was lacking in discipline when Malone was made acting chief. He immediately set to work to enforce discipline and it was not long until Lincoln had a police force that looked like a police force, small as it was. Think of a city of 45,000 people with seven patrolmen! But Chief Malone managed to spread it out and get from it better service than forces many times its size are giving cities of Lincoln's size. He won all the compliments that have been paid him for his services as chief, and he retires with the consciousness of having performed his duty well and faithfully.

Ex-Mayor Love takes with him into private life the consciousness of having given Lincoln a clean administration. He was unfortunate in that he was compelled to undertake the task of meeting almost impossible situations. On the one side was an element that demanded that he try to do what no man has ever yet come anywhere near accomplishing, and on the other side was an element that damned him because he tried to do his

best in that direction. A man of advanced ideas along municipal lines, for he was a close student, he made the mistake of trying to get too far in advance of public sentiment and experience. In other words, it is the opinion of Will Maupin's Weekly that Mayor Love was impractical in many ways. Yet there is no gainsaying the fact that because of his advanced ideas of municipal government Lincoln is better educated today than it was two years ago, and more likely to move forward along reform lines advocated by the retiring mayor. It is Mr. Love's misfortune, if he thinks of continuing to take an active interest in political affairs, that he lacks about all of the elements of the successful politician. Apart from practical politics this may, after all, be a compliment to the ex-mayor. As a representative of the city on public occasions Mayor Love was a credit to the municipality, and as chief executive he gave Lincoln the unselfish service of a man who honestly and sincerely tried at all times to do that which he thought was best for the city and its people.

A lot of snobbish papers are slobbering over Queen Alexandria of Great Britain because she has announced that hobble skirts and harem skirts will be taboo at the coronation. That sort of rot gives us a feeling of lassitude in the lumbar region. What did people expect of her? Did they imagine that she would announce that fleshtights and chiffon clothes and Sappho attire would be on regale at the coronation? Queen Alexandria impresses us as being a woman of average intelligence who may be trusted to carry herself properly. But the mere fact that she is a queen does not make her a bit better than a million or two American women who are equally queens, with a somewhat smaller kingdom over which to reign. As the consort of the head of an imperial government she is entitled to recognition and due deference; as a woman she is no better than a million and more other women right here in this republic and not entitled to a bit more reverence than the good wife of any workingman who is a devoted mother to her children and a helpmate to her husband. This Democratic newspaper—and we use the big "D" in Democratic,—is woefully tired of this "first lady of the land" tommyrot. We want it distinctly understood that the "first lady of the land" does not preside at White House functions, nor does the "first lady of the state" preside over the executive mansion at Fifteenth and H. Splendid women they are, to be sure. But the "first lady of the land," who is also "first lady of the state of Nebraska," presides over a modest little cottage at Thirty-third and Q, and puts in something less than twenty-four hours a day taking care of a big bunch of healthy, frolicsome, hungry kid-