

BRIEF BITS.

Little Items of News Plucked As They Flitted By.

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H. C. Peate is in Detroit, representing the local lodge of Loyal Order of Moose.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Thompson were guests of relatives in Omaha the first of the week.

The Maupin-Shoop printery is turning out the state fair programs and premium list this year.

Mrs. Will Maupin and children have returned from a visit to Mrs. Maupin's parents in North Bend.

Mrs. Will Bustard is visiting with relatives in Washington, and will probably remain during the winter.

Once more we are promised that the ornamental street lights will be turned on before the fair opens. It's the same promise that was made just one year ago.

To date there has been no signs of retrenchment in railroad circles in Lincoln. Shop hours at Havelock remain the same, with no hint of a decrease in the near future.

Omaha's last street car leaves Sixteenth and Farnam at 1:40 a. m. In Lincoln we have an all night service. It might be well to remember this while making comparisons.

Several Lincoln printermen were in Omaha Monday evening and were properly initiated into the mysteries of the Ak-Sar-Ben. It was "Ben Franklin" night at the Den.

Mrs. Charles Righter was in Omaha Monday. Her little nephew, Master Frederick Righter, who has been visiting her during the summer, has returned to his home in Chicago.

Lincoln Typographical Union will meet next Sunday afternoon, and it is expected that Delegate Bostrom will be on hand to tell a few things about the San Francisco convention.

The Bankers Life Co. has moved into its magnificent new building on Fourteenth and N, and now enjoys the distinction of being the best housed life insurance company west of the Mississippi river.

Col. James Dawson is the prohibition nominee for sheriff. He was accorded the honor by reason of having two votes cast for him by prohibitionists. He is offering huge rewards for the conviction of the guilty parties.

Mrs. Jess Mickel of Harvard, who has many friends in Lincoln, is preparing to move to Florida, where Mr. Mickel has purchased an orange grove. Mr. Mickel is still in Mexico City, but his contract soon expires and he expects then to take it easy among the yellow fruit.

Mayor A. H. Armstrong was called to Chicago on Friday of last week by the serious illness of Mrs. Armstrong, who has been an invalid for a long time. Mrs. Armstrong was seeking health at a Minnesota resort and when taken seriously ill was hurriedly removed to Chicago. A report received Thursday was to the effect that she was considerably better, although not yet out of danger.

The postoffice employes enjoyed a picnic Tuesday. The postoffice was closed during the afternoon in order to give every employe an opportunity to enjoy the fun. Of course there were a few confirmed grouches who

hollered because the office was closed, but only a few. The rest of us were mighty glad to see the clerks get a chance to have a good time.

Sample of business acumen on the part of Lincoln's city council: A couple or three years ago the grade on O street east of Thirty-third was fixed and property owners on the north side of the street laid their walks according to the city engineer's stakes. Now the city is footing the bills for lowering the sidewalks twelve feet to conform to a new grade, the expense including a cement block retaining wall eight feet high.

THOUGHTS FOR UNIONISTS.

Do you prefer union to non-union conditions? Shun the sweatshops if you do and buy only union made goods.

Have you the label of the United Hatters of North America in your hat? If not your headgear is out of harmony with your union professions.

What would become of the working men and women of the United States if the labor unions were destroyed? They would be wholly at the mercy of oppressive and soulless employers, for one thing.

How about you, Mr. Union Man? When you patronize a meat market do you look for and see that the shop card of the Meat Cutters' union is displayed in the market in which you make your purchases? If not, why not?

WORKERS OF JAPAN.

Wealth of the Nation Built on Blood of Women Toilers.

A recent official report shows that women are responsible for building up Japanese industries. This report shows that Japanese women's labor as an industrial factor is very great, as their influence is keenly felt in almost every industry.

Commencing with the production of raw silk, which occupies over 50 per cent of Japan's total export trade, female labor largely enters into the manufacture of habutae, cotton yarn and other staples of export.

The extensive employment of female labor may be due to its comparatively low price, but in many instances work can be done better and more effectively by women than by men.

The percentage of women engaged in the industries of Japan is stated to be as follows as compared with men: Men employed, 34 per cent; women employed, 66 per cent, showing that there are nearly twice as many women as men employed. There are usually fixed hours (twelve) as to the time for daily employment.

In spinning raw silk, floss silk, cotton refining, weaving, knitting and braid manufacture there were employed a total of 373,284 persons in 1908. Of these only 43,264 were males; the rest, 330,020, were females.

The highest wages received by these women were 14 cents (28 sen) a day. Girls under fourteen years received as low as 4 cents (8 sen) a day.

This accounts for the fact that Japan's export trade has increased from \$70,000,000 in 1891 to \$450,000,000 in 1910.

What clearer evidence is needed than this that the wealth of every nation is built up from the blood and tears of its toilers, especially of its toiling women!—Minnesota Union Advocate.

FOND OF ELECTIONS.

In Switzerland They Select Even Gravediggers by Ballot.

According to Professor F. F. Roget of Geneva, the Swiss have the greatest political intelligence in the world today.

"Every citizen of a canton is a Swiss citizen," says Professor Roget. "One must become a member of some local commune to become naturalized and in order to do so must be accepted by the local communal council.

"Every male Swiss citizen is an elector from the age of twenty, there being no property qualification. Every Swiss is a soldier and every soldier an elector. The federal elector may vote wherever he may happen to be, guarantees being taken that he votes only once.

"The cantons are the political units, and no elector may exercise political rights in more than one canton. On moving from one locality to another the Swiss must wait three months before he may exercise the franchise in his new neighborhood."

Professor Roget declares that "every collective authority in Switzerland is elected.

"The foreigner," he states, "is often surprised to see in a Swiss newspaper on a Monday the results of all kinds of elections on the Sunday. If he had gone into a polling booth on the Sunday he would have found in this corner a clerk at a desk, at which the elector would vote for the local schoolmaster.

"In another corner would be a desk at which he would vote for the local judge, in another part of the same room he would vote for the local gravedigger, and so on through a whole series of officials, all of whom are popularly elected.

"The result of this training is that the political intelligence of the Swiss is extremely developed, and that he thoroughly understands what he is voting about at home in his native country, and that when he goes abroad he finds it very easy to understand and to take part in any political movements among which he may find himself."—Exchange.

A Sinecure.

General Horatio C. King, on one occasion narrating some war memories, said:

"We suffered many hardships on both sides, but the poor, brave Confederates suffered most. I remember a grizzled old colored man who at the outbreak of the Spanish war applied for a place as an army cook.

"What experience have you had?" the old fellow was asked.

"I was cook, sah, fo' a Confederate regiment in sixty-fo'," he answered—"that is, sah, I had the position of cook, but, to tell the truth, I didn't work at it."

"Why not?"

"There wasn't nothin' to cook, sah."

Doctors in Russia.

Dr. Ralph Thompson, in Medical Europe, states that "in Russia nobody ever asks a physician the amount of his bill. It is universally understood that a gentleman pays his doctor a fair sum—such a sum as he can afford to pay within the limits of his income and his sense of generosity. The Russian mind cannot conceive how a man engaged in the holy pursuit of saving life and alleviating suffering can put a price on his services." After this it is not surprising to learn from the same authority that Russia is the only European country of importance where the medical profession is not overcrowded.

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