

WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

A Weekly Journal of Cheerful Comment whose mission it is to reflect sunshine and pilot people around and behind the dark clouds. It believes in the Ultimate Good and strives for it. Until it runs out of Good Words to say about men and women it will say no Harsh Words—and there is so much of Good to be said that Will Maupin's Weekly expects to be Very Busy on the Good End of the job for many years to come. May we have your company along the way?

BOOSTING NEBRASKA ALWAYS

That is one of the best things we do—and the pleasantest. Just say "Nebraska" to us and you've got us going. Nebraska is inspiration for song and symphony, for oratory and optimism. Will you join our Grand Chorus of Nebraska Boosters, instructed and conducted by Will Maupin's Weekly? Initiation fee and one year's dues, One Dollar—the more dollars we get the better we sing.

THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR SINGING LESSONS

MEN AND MATTERS

The niggardly methods pursued by Nebraska in remunerating her public servants has again been emphasized. James W. Crabtree, elected state superintendent, is soon to leave to accept a position as principal of one of the Wisconsin normal schools. Mr. Crabtree's salary in the new position is practically double that of Nebraska's state superintendent of public instruction. We ask a man to manage the entire educational interests of the great state of Nebraska, and pay him \$2,000 a year. At the same time Lincoln and Omaha pay their city superintendents from \$500 to \$1,000 a year more, and a dozen or more other Nebraska cities pay their superintendents as much as the state pays the state superintendent.

Again, Nebraska pays her governor \$2,500 a year, then gets around the constitution by a subterfuge that would be distinctly dishonest if practiced by an individual. By furnishing an "executive mansion" and making a small appropriation for maintenance, the state manages to pay the governor about \$3,500 a year. And there are a dozen managers of departments in Nebraska retail department stores who get that much or more.

And again, Nebraska asks a man to assume the fearful responsibility of handling and investing millions of dollars of state funds every year, and for this responsible work pays him \$2,500 a year. A score of bank cashiers with far less responsibility and work receive more than that.

"Si" Barton is not worrying because he was not invited to the Hastings banquet in President Taft's honor, while his opponent for the republican congressional nomination in the Fifth, W. A. Prince, was. The Fifth is a hotbed of insurgency; the Taft banquet

was managed by stand-patters; Barton was not invited and Prince was. If you fail to understand why Barton is not kicking over his failure to receive an invitation you are indeed dense.

J. A. Andrews of Holdrege is thinking of shying his easter into the Fifth district congressional race. The chief claim upon recognition possessed by J. A. Andrews is that he is a brother of the Mr. Andrews who was cured of what ailed him by liberal and repeated doses of Peruna. The Peruna-cured statesman has often thought of getting into the race himself, but every time he looked the field over he concluded that a United States treasury job in hand was worth a whole basketful of congressional nominations in the bush. It remains to be seen whether Brother J. A. will dare to rush in where Brother W. D. has feared to tread.

J. R. A. Black of Hastings is also considering the matter of getting out and making a try for the place now occupied by George W. Norris. We recall Black as the gentleman who once tried to secure the nomination for governor and failed. Also as the man who arose at the Taft banquet in Hastings to speak and seemingly labored under the impression that he was slated for the main address of the evening. Mr. Black, despite his often mistaken judgment, is a man of parts. If faithful party service is to be rewarded then Col. Black is entitled to about anything he wants at the hands of the republican organization.

The State Journal seeks to convey the idea that Tom Hall is much better qualified than Clarence Harman for the job of railway commissioner. Failing to offer anything more than its mere statement as proof it would be well for the voter to seek further light. Mr. Hall is a lawyer and possessing some means which enables him to be independent of any lack of returns upon whatever legal ability he possesses. Mr. Harman is a traveling salesman whose ability is evidenced by the fact that he is so successful and so

dependable that he has been with the same house for many years and has covered the same territory year after year. He, too, has some means. But may it not be possible that his wider acquaintance with Nebraskans, and his personal experiences as a traveling man covering a large territory, better fit him for the position than the acquaintance and experience of Mr. Hall?

The state railway commission says that 7 per cent is a fair return for the Traction Co. to make on its actual physical valuation. Judge Munger says that 5.2 per cent is enough for the Gas Co. to make on a physical valuation fixed by himself. The city says the Gas Co. should also pay an occupation tax of 3 per cent on its earnings, thus reducing its returns to 4.5 per cent. Judge Munger says that dollar gas is all right, and certain of the city fathers seek to make capital of the fact that the Gas Co. refuses to pay it and ask the courts for relief. If the Gas Co. pays on \$1.20 gas, and the supreme court decides for dollar gas, where will the Gas Co. be? And if the court declares that 5.2 per cent is sufficient return on actual investment, what will the railway commission do about its decision that 7 per cent is a fair return for the Traction Co.?

Honestly now, if you were in the business of serving the public with a commodity and the public would insist that you sell that commodity for a dollar and at the same time soak you with an occupation tax based on \$1.20 would you pay it without a murmur? And talking about watered stocks—remember how the automatic telephone company was floated? Sold bonds at 90 cents on the dollar, and gave one dollar of stock with every dollar of bonds sold. That is, for 90 cents the investor got a dollar bond and a dollar stock certificate. The bonds bear 6 per cent interest, and the stock pays dividends, about 8 per cent according to current reports. There you have a 14 per cent return on the investment. But to date we

haven't heard anybody howling like coyotes about the water in the automatic telephone stocks, nor its big returns on the investment, nor about a decrease in rates. If we remember rightly as the automatic telephone stock increased in value the rate per phone went up.

Will Maupin's Weekly isn't worrying about the status of the dollar gas ordinance. It believes, and hopes, that the supreme court will sustain Judge Munger. It believes that in time the Gas Co. will have to come across on that big bond and refund the excess it has been charging above the rate fixed by ordinance. But at the same time this little newspaper wants to be fair, and it frankly admits that it doesn't blame the Gas Co. a bit for fighting the case to the last ditch, nor for opposing the payment of that occupation tax. We'd fight under similar circumstances. So would you. So, why blame the Doherty people for doing the very thing you'd do?

Judge Munger decided that the physical valuation—the valuation upon which it might earn dividends—of the Gas Co. is \$566,073.59. This does not take into account the electric lighting part. Upon that valuation he said 5.2 per cent was a "fair return." Would you consider it a fair return on your money invested in a property constantly depreciating and demanding renewal, subject to the whim of favor-seeking politicians and the target for abuse? Ask yourself the question and then answer it honestly. We couldn't. We'd rather invest it in real estate mortgages bearing 6 per cent, involving no risk, and permitting us to tell the favor-seeking politicians to go plum to Hades. We believe the Gas Co. plant is worth more than the amount fixed by Judge Munger. We believe it is entitled to better than a 5.2 per cent return on the actual investment. And we believe that dollar gas would enable it to earn more than it can earn under present conditions at \$1.20. But we are perfectly willing to let the courts decide the matter. That's what we dig up taxes for—to pay for the courts.

JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN.

A just judge is gone. John Marshall Harlan was the type of jurist who made the supreme bench of the United States dreaded by great malefactors and respected by the people. He was fearless and resolute. He dared to stand alone. When all his colleagues of the greatest tribunal on earth disagreed with him he still had the absolute courage of his convictions, even to the point of criticizing their conclusions harshly and publicly.

No man respected the supreme court more than John M. Harlan. It was the abiding passion of his life, and his fondest hope, unhappily disappointed, was to serve as its chief before death should come to claim him. Yet with all his devoted regard for the exalted body of which he was so illustrious a member he condemned its reasoning and its verdicts, at times, more savagely and mercilessly than most any other man of his time.

He was a man of deep convictions and perhaps it might be added of intense prejudices. He was honest to the uttermost with himself, his duties and the world. The people loved and trusted him and "heard him gladly." In this latter regard it will be difficult indeed to find his successor.

President Taft has already been called on to appoint four members of the supreme court—Justices Hughes, Vandevanter, Lurton and Lamar. He will now soon name a fifth member, which will make a majority of the tribunal.

When we consider how gravely important are the duties which the supreme court has to perform, how vitally its decisions bear on the present and the future of the republic, and consider also that one president has, during a single term of office, been privileged to name a clear majority of its members, the tremendous power of the presidential office becomes more clearly apparent. Indeed it is probable than by and through his appointments to the supreme court President Taft will influence the industrial, social and political history of the country of the country long years after his vetoes and his defeated treaties have been forgotten.—Omaha World-