

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF CHEERN

Printed primarily for people who look upon life cheerfully and hopefully. Also for people who ought to do so. The promoter of all good things and good people, of which first Nebraska is chief and of which second Nebraskans are—mostly. DOLLAR A YEAR

# WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE MEDICINE

But a broken spirit drieth the bones. That's what the Good Book says, and we'll bank on it, sure. WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY works to make cheerful the hearts of its readers, and thus do medical duty. Fifty-two consecutive weekly doses for a dollar. GUARANTEED

VOLUME 8

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, NOVEMBER 10, 1911

NUMBER 33

## CURRENT COMMENT

It is only natural that the agitation over the traction situation should result in a demand for municipal ownership. All things being equal Will Maupin's Weekly is an advocate of municipal ownership of public utilities, but under existing conditions in Lincoln this newspaper would be inclined to oppose municipalization of the street rail way system. In the first place there is nothing about the present condition of city management to enthrone anybody in the direction of municipal ownership. There is now no possible way to fix responsibility for mismanagement. There is now no guarantee that we would have officials capable of handling so vexed a problem as the traction problem. Under a commission form, where responsibility could be fixed, and where we could be sure of securing competent men to manage the system, it would be possible to secure results. But to undertake municipal management of the traction system under existing conditions would be the sheerest folly.

A very large section of Lincoln has had a sample of inefficient municipal mismanagement of a public utility during the past year. We have been wont to boast of our municipal water plant, but when a real test came during the hot and dry weeks of the past summer, it failed us, and today we realize that we are up against a very serious condition. We can readily imagine what would happen to a private corporation managing a public utility if it gave the people such abominable service as our water department gave large sections of the city during the summer months. Yet in the face of this showing there are those who are now insistently declaring that the solution of our traction problem is municipalization of the system.

"Either municipal ownership or socialism!" shrieks one advocate of municipal ownership. Well, there might even be worse things than socialism. It is quite evident that socialism couldn't be any worse than some things we have under the present system.

Well, Maine is to remain dry after all. Not that we care a continental whether Maine is wet or dry. On the whole we are rather glad it is to remain prohibition. In this way we will always have ready to hand ample proof, first that prohibition is a success; second, that prohibition is a failure. It will depend upon the bias of the man arguing. And isn't prohibition the ideal condition after all? Those who want prohibition have it, and those who want liquor can get it without any particular trouble. The only thing about the

Maine result that makes us rejoice is that at last it has been definitely settled.

The police in Chicago are raiding bridge whist parties and actually breaking up private poker parties wherein society women are the participants. Of course this is all wrong. It is perfectly proper for men to gamble on exchange, or for society women to frivo away their time playing bridge for high stakes, but awfully wrong to engage in gambling games under other conditions. There are those who will play bridge for high stakes who would throw fits of indignation if charged with gambling. This is a mighty funny old world, with a lot of funny people in it.

Of course Governor Aldrich was mistaken if he really did say at Holdrege, or anywhere else, that he made an appointment to office at the request of Mr. Bryan. In the particular case said to have been mentioned by the governor, it is doubtful if Mr. Bryan knew the young lady in question save as a member of the Commoner clerical force. That the young lady did have the endorsement of men acknowledged to be pretty close to Mr. Bryan politically is not to be denied, and that she was worthy of the endorsements is equally true. But Mr. Bryan has made it a rigid rule not to endorse any applicants for office, and this newspaper has evidence at first hand that under no circumstances will he deviate therefrom.

Trades unions are not opposed to trade schools, provided, of course, the trade schools are schools in fact, not in name only. But the trades unions are opposed to any system which turns out half-baked mechanics who will displace skilled workers because they will work long hours for low wages. That the unions favor trade schools is evidenced by the fact that several of the trades organizations have established schools of their own wherein young men are taught not only the rudiments of the trade, but the whole trade, and turned out skilled mechanics competent to work anywhere. But the so-called trade schools in conjunction with our public school system today are merely recruiting grounds for strike breakers, "scabs" and incompetents. It is no wonder the organized workers oppose them.

Nor should the public be deceived by the claim that the unions are limiting apprentices, thus preventing American boys from learning trades. The only limit the unions put upon the number

of apprentices is designed to benefit the apprentices, not to deter boys from learning trades. The fact of the matter is, and statistics will bear out the statement, the employers are not using as many apprentices as the union rules permit. The unions throw restrictions around the number of apprentices that may be employed, the purpose being to make it possible to give each apprentice ample opportunity to become a skilled mechanic, not to limit the supply of workers. The oft-repeated statement that the unions are trying to prevent the making of mechanics is a barefaced lie, floated by men who have a selfish purpose to serve. It is time the unions were making the truth known.

If we had the authority we certainly would take the members of the Sparta, Wis., board of education out behind the woodshed and spank some common-sense into them. The aforesaid board has prohibited basket-ball among the girls of the high school on the grounds that it is not conducive to good morals. We presume the board objects because the team members wear bloomer skirts and actually dare to show a bit of leg below the knee. Shocking! Isn't it awful, Mabel, to think of a young girl 15 or 16 years old wearing a costume that shows a bit of stocking between the hem of the skirt and the top of the shoe! It is just such congenital idiots as seem to make up the Sparta board of education that often make us wonder if the world isn't growing backwards in mentality. We'll wager a cookie that not one of that board would object to seeing Sparta girls lace themselves into tight corsets until their eyes—the girls' eyes, we mean—bulged out like hip-pockets in a prohibition community, or object to the wearing of "peek-a-boo" waists that exhibited more anatomy than bloomer suits could exhibit if only half as long as necessary. Somebody should, in all kindness to suffering humanity, swat that Sparta outfit over the head with a pillow and thus beat some sense into its collective head.

Douglas is a funny county. Last year the republicans elected only one man on their county ticket. This year the democrats elect only one man on their county ticket. And now the republicans are handing back to the democrats the merry quips and jibes the democrats so freely handed to the republicans just one short year ago.

Tuesday's election was full of surprises—outside of Nebraska. New Mexico elects a democratic governor, which nobody expected. New Jersey elects a republican legislature, which nobody expected. Maryland goes republican and Kentucky goes democratic. New York puts her legislature back into republican hands, which is neither unexpected or displeasing to lovers of cleaner politics. Republican politics in the Empire state is not as white as snow by a great deal but it is at least a gray alongside the blackness of Tammany. Massachusetts elected a democratic governor. One Kansas district elects a democrat to congress for the first time in its history. As a whole the election is comforting to the democrats, not altogether displeasing to progressive republicans, and displeasing only to the gangsters of both parties everywhere.

It is declared now that the big trusts sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to Canada to defeat reciprocity. The trusts must go!

## MEN AND MATTERS

The election of Dan V. Stephens to congress from the Third district was not a surprise. In the first place the district is democratic, and in the second place it was unthinkable that the people of the district would neglect an opportunity to secure the services of such a man. We mean no disparagement to Col. Elliott, the defeated republican candidate. But there are few men in the west so thoroughly acquainted with western problems, western aspirations and western ideals, and at the same time so well equipped to solve those problems and achieve the ideals, as Dan Stephens. He will wield an influence in Washington circles that will be of benefit to his district his state and the entire west.

We rejoice to learn that despite every effort to encompass his defeat, Judge Lee Estelle of Omaha is re-elected to the district bench. We rejoice because of a warm personal friendship for Judge Estelle, and because we believe him to be in every respect a capable, upright and just judge. There would be more respect exhibited towards courts and judges were all of our judges as close to the common people as Lee Estelle.

Nebraska has lost an exceptional citizen in the death of Frank D. Reed of Shelton, who for twenty-five years edited the Shelton Clipper and for an equal length of time made it an earnest and consistent booster for Nebraska

county. Few Nebraska editors have served longer in the editorial harness, and few if any wielded a wider measure of influence for good in the community. Always optimistic, always cheerful, always fair and above-board, Frank Reed was a lovable character, a man among men. The editor of Will Maupin's Weekly remembers with pride a friendship extending over almost a quarter of a century—a friendship whose memory will always be a cherished possession.

When Speaker Clark declared that 90 per cent of the people of this republic favored annexation of Canada he spoke the simple truth, and Canadians know it. Why, then, all this fuss over the speaker's statement? It is characteristic of us to desire the annexation of any territory whose people want to become one with us—and we have been guilty of enforced annexation. But the Canadians are opposed to annexation, and for very good reason. Although laying ourselves open to the charge of being unpatriotic, we insist that Canadians have a more representative form of government than we have, that their government is more responsive to the people, that their courts execute jus-

tice more rapidly and with a more even hand, that her banking system is better and that her management of the trust question puts us to shame. Why, then, should Canadians not be opposed to annexation?

The defeat of John E. Miller for regent of the university was not unexpected. Having in mind the proneness of the voters to neglect their best opportunities, we predicted Mr. Miller's defeat from the beginning, basing the prediction upon the fact that he was the best man mentioned for the position. A successful business man, deeply interested in the university, a lover of young men and women seeking higher and better things, and an enthusiast along all lines calculated to benefit the whole people, Mr. Miller would have given the people splendid and efficient service upon the board of regents. He did not make any effort to be elected. Such men seldom do—and that is one reason why they should be elected when they do accept a nomination.

The socialists are claiming great gains throughout the country, basing the claims upon the fact that they elected several mayors in various states. While there is no disputing the assertion that the socialist vote is growing, it is foolish to claim that all these mayors were elected because they are socialists. The truth is a lot of independent republican and democratic voters repudiated their tickets and voted for socialist candidates as a protest. It was done right here in Lincoln. One of the good features about the socialist party is that it acts so well as a balance wheel for old party machinery.

Of course the office of state superintendent should be removed from politics. But are we ready to concede that the state superintendent should be appointed by the governor? Would that help matters any, to have a man appointed to the office of state superintendent because he happened to have rendered good party service? That's what it would amount to.

Grief over the death of Rev. Father Murphy will not be confined to Catholic circles. Father Murphy was such an upstanding man, so deeply interested in all good works, whether secular or religious, that he made staunch friends in all walks of life. He appealed to men because of the uprightness of his life, and because he daily exemplified the fact that he did not believe the fact that he was a priest made him any less a man.

## REAL CLOTHES VALUE

That explains why men who want real clothes value combined with style and appearance, come here to buy. We sell the kind of clothing that gives satisfaction from all viewpoints.

The Home of GOOD CLOTHES

# FARQUHAR

1325 O STREET



## UNCLE SAM SAYS GEO. W. VOSS CO.

### SELLS THE BEST COAL IN LINCOLN

1528 O Sr.

Auto 1393 and 1883 Bell A628