

#### THE PRIMARY LAW.

Will Maupin's Weekly has stated, and repeats, that seven men out of ten are opposed to the present primary law, and that six out of the seven lack the nerve to say so. This paper favors the primary system in some form, but it is opposed to the present form. Agreed that any old system is better than the old convention system of the days of the railroad pass. Agreed that the primary system in almost any form is preferable to the convention system as formerly conducted, even without the railroad pass. But all will admit that when it comes to voting under the present primary system the average voter is lost in a maze of names.

For a ten dollar bill any man can get his name on the ballot for a state office. It is mighty easy for men with certain selfish interests to serve to tangle the people by filing a lot of names for a certain office, then combining the special interest vote on the preferred candidate. It is impossible for even the most intelligent voter to ascertain the fitness of all the candidates. The ballot on April 19 next will be as long as a roll of wall paper, and contain more than a hundred names. How many voters will be able to choose intelligently?

The cost of the primary is something enormous, but even at that it is worth it compared to the old system. But would it not be possible to make a change for the better without increasing the cost?

Will Maupin's Weekly proposes a state convention for the nomination of candidates for state office, the delegates to be paid by the state, and elected by a convention whose delegates are elected at a primary held in the different precincts. It would not be necessary to have a convention of a thousand delegates. Three hundred delegates would be enough, even for a majority party. Let this convention, instead of doing like the old conventions, select the candidates by Australian ballot, each delegate entering a booth and casting his vote secretly. This would prevent trades and combines. But it would enable these delegates to make intelligent choice of all the candidates offered, and thus make up a ticket that would be representative of the party.

Three hundred delegates at \$5 a day for three days would cost \$4,500. Mileage averaging \$5 per delegate more would make \$5,000. Three conventions would cost \$15,000—and that is far less than the primary costs now.

Proper restrictions would, of course, have to be provided so that a party would have to represent a certain percentage of the voting strength in order to get in under the expense. Such a convention would prevent an awful lot of expense on the part of the candidates. It would be taking the money from one pocket and putting it in the other. It would prevent a multitude of candidates for the purpose of "slipping one over." It would make a ticket more representative of party principle. It would allow a proper geographical distribution of candidates and prevent any one community from getting an undue representation in office.

The direct primary is most effective in those states where the primary is equivalent to an election, as is the case in most of the southern states.

We have a "corrupt practices" act in Nebraska. It is of about as much force and effect as a garden hose would have been in the great Chicago fire. The man with the most money and the most elastic conscience can get a nomination, and now as under the old system the men with the money can come nearest to winning the election. Under the plan proposed by Will Maupin's Weekly it would not be necessary to parade the farce of an affidavit of expenses, for the simple reason that it would not avail a candidate to spend much money. The delegates elected to a state convention would be representative of their party, and they could be depended upon to nominate the best men.

Will Maupin's Weekly is one, at least, not afraid to say that it does not wholly approve of the present primary law. Its intent is all right, but

it does not work out in practice nearly so well as the advocates of the direct primary promised.

#### FOLSOM'S BAKERY.

Twenty years ago the name Folsom appeared in Lincoln in connection with an up to date bakery of the times. After a few months of a small existence the name of Folsom goods began to spread among the residents of the Capital City and its reputation as a sanitary bakeshop was started.

Today the Folsom stands as Lincoln's sanitary bakery and cafe, for a restaurant has been added to the model store. It has a building of its own, with four floors of 50 times 140 feet each, constructed of fireproof brick. In the basement is a complete ice cream factory with the main floor a retail bakery and cafe, the kitchen and shipping rooms being in back of these two. A story above the street is the bake room, two new Durkopp ovens and all modern equipment for the sanitary and easy baking of all the many baker's products of today. Above the baking floor is a large banquet room capable of seating 200 people.

Since the death of the founder of the Folsom company, 12 years ago, the management of the bakery has been under the name of A. T. Seeley, with T. C. McKay in charge of the cafe. Both men are working constantly to keep up their standard set years before by Mr. Folsom, "Sanitary in every way."

#### A NEW INSTITUTION.

February of the year 1912 saw a to the loist of Lincoln's retail firms, new and up to date shoe store added the Byrnes Shoe Company, located at 1307 O street. R. E. Byrnes and William Byrnes are the owners of the new company. R. E. Byrnes brought his family with him from Kansas City to Lincoln and will make the capital city his home in the future. Both of the men at the head of the Byrnes company have had many years' experience in both the wholesale and retail shoe business. They have selected for their selling stock in Lincoln the "Famous Footwear" shoes, consisting of Bostonian shoes for men, Queen Quality shoes for women; and Little Wonder arch form shoes for children. The interior fixtures and furnishings of the new shoe store is of oak finished in verdi antique green, and the carpets and case fixtures to match. J. N. Girard, a well known Lincoln shoe man, has the management of the store in hand.

#### THE WESTOVER IRON WORKS.

"Made in Nebraska" is becoming a familiar sign on the structural steel work of buildings erected in the state. It shows that the Westover Iron and Steel Works of Lincoln is a concern that is getting the business on merit. The growth of this concern is little short of phenomenal. A few years ago it didn't cut much figure in the structural iron and steel business. Now it is commanding the attention of the trade throughout the west. It has grown from a little concern occupying a small building to an immense concern covering almost a city block. A few years ago it employed a half-dozen men. Today it gives employment to a small army. It is helping immensely to swell the total of Nebraska's manufacturing business.

John Westover is a sample of the Nebraska boy who is "making good." He took into the steel business the same vim and energy that he was wont to display on the gridiron, and he is "putting it across" every day, just like he used to do. It is always a pleasure for Will Maupin's Weekly to make note of the success of a Nebraska enterprise—and it gets a lot of pleasure every time it takes a look over the big iron and steel plant mentioned here. It is worthy of Nebraska—and Nebraska is entitled to the best.

Same thing about wool—we've been coddling and petting the wool business for a generation. That may be wise and strictly all right. But the wool output of the United States in 1910 wasn't worth within \$15,000,000 of the value of Nebraska's wheat crop in 1911.

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