

WILL MAUPIN'S WEEKLY

State Historical Society

VOLUME 9

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, MAY 3, 1912

NUMBER 7

MEN AND MATTERS

I seize this occasion to thank the 8,000 democrats of Nebraska who strove to give me the nomination for railway commissioner. Also to thank the newspaper profession for the more than kindly words they published in my behalf. I am almighty proud of the showing I made under the circumstances. I got into the race late, did not have any money to make a whirlwind campaign, and had to content myself with just telling why I wanted the position, trusting to luck and friends. In view of the fact that I was the last of the seven democrats to file for the nomination, spent far less than any of them, and then came out next to the high man, Mr. Harman, I surely feel good all over. Of course I would have felt better had I come out first, but I have no regrets to express and only thanks to offer to my friends. I do not know what it is to feel "sore" or to whine. The voters of Nebraska will be afforded a choice between two almighty good men when they come to vote for railway commissioner next fall. They might have had a chance to vote for a still better one if I had not been defeated, but I am too modest to assert that as a positive fact. I want the friends who voted for me to vote for my successful competitor, Clarence E. Harman, as I am going to do with a right good will. There will be another railway commissioner to nominate in 1914, and I am doing some tall thinking. In the meanwhile let's all of us continue to boost for Nebraska.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

We know who is Nebraska's most famous citizen. We know who Nebraska's wealthiest man is. But we have not yet definitely located Nebraska's best citizen. Whoever he is he is working faithfully, rearing a family in the fear of the Lord and educating them properly, aiding those less fortunate than himself, contributing to the social, moral and industrial development of his community, telling his friends in other states what a great commonwealth Nebraska is, making two bushels of grain grow where only one grew before, to say nothing of growing more hay and cattle and hogs. He is pretty numerous and we'd like to know him, individually and collectively.

When the Nebraska Federation of Commercial Clubs meets at Hastings next week it should give attention to the matter of the proposed semi-centennial of Nebraska's admission to statehood. This semi-centennial proposition, originally advocated by Will Maupin's Weekly, has met with instant favor. No one should be quicker to seize an opportunity to advertise Nebraska than the live member of a live commercial club. And we have something like 20 live commercial club organizations in Nebraska, made up of live business men. They should be eager to take up this great advertising proposition and help lay the foundation for the holding of a great exposition celebrating Nebraska's fiftieth anniversary. Some may say that the anniversary is five years away, and that is true. But five years is not too long to spend in preparing for the kind of a semi-centennial exposition Nebraska should hold.

We are just a little bit weary of this thing of talking about business being dull in a presidential year. There is no reason why it should be so, and it would not be so if people quit thinking and saying so. True crops were a bit short last year, but the prices were so good that the shortage in production was made good. The prospects for a good crop season were never brighter at this time of year. And there is every reason now why business should be good and the chronic whiner relegated to the rear with a swift kick on the basement of his trousers.

Of course the "corrupt practices act" is considerable of a joke, and people no longer take it at all seriously. The intent of the law is all right, of course, but it isn't working out save in one respect. It has put a stop to the use of money in illegitimate ways, such as vote buying and ward working. We are of the opinion that Judge Hamer was correct in his assumption that the law does not mean that a man shall limit his expenses in the matter of freely writing and publishing, something guaranteed to every citizen by the constitution.

The scientific sharps who devoted their attention to discovering a method of extracting sunshine from cucumbers had nothing on our anti-saloon league friends who endeavored to defeat the amendment providing that cities of 5,000 or more inhabitants could frame their own charters. The amendment was endorsed by an overwhelming vote, despite the efforts of the anti-saloon league to defeat it. But because it received a few hundred less votes than the other four amendments these gentlemen are expressing great satisfaction. We rejoice to know that there are men so easily satisfied, however much we regret that these same gentlemen resorted to unfair tactics and downright misrepresentation in order to defeat that particular amendment.

There are those who advocate an ordinance restricting the height of public buildings. We are not interested in that phase of building construction, but we would strenuously advocate the adoption of an ordinance restricting the "lowness" of business buildings erected within specified limits. There should be some method devised of putting a stop to the erection of little one-story shacks on east O

street. They may serve a selfish purpose, all right, but they certainly are doing an injury to the city.

Illness, and other causes, have contributed to the result that makes this issue somewhat lacking both in size and contents. It is pretty hard for a man to be a booster when he is laid up with a cold, and has a lot of worry on his mind about other things. Unlike Mark Tapley, we can not be happy when we are feeling miserable, and it was then that Mark came out strong. It works with the reverse English on us. But what is lacking this week we hope to more than make up for next week.

The Kilkenney fight between Roosevelt and Taft seems certain to result in both of them being ignored by the Chicago convention and a "dark horse" nominated. Roosevelt has furnished enough campaign ammunition to shoot Taft full of holes, and Taft has exposed enough of Roosevelt's predisposition in favor of "big business" to make the Roosevelt candidacy inadvisable. Roosevelt might sweep the west, as so often claimed, but a full sweeping of the western states wouldn't help much with a couple of big states, New York and Ohio, for instance going against him. We run big on territory west of the Missouri river, but we are yet a bit shy on electoral votes.

Politics make strange bedfellows—and it also presents some funny situations sometimes. For instance, Morehead, alleged to be the candidate of the "wets"—an allegation notoriously untrue—carried the prohibition county of York, while Metcalfe added the "wet" county of Saline to his string. Under all the circumstances surrounding that good-natured but strenuous contest, we claim that this is about the queerest thing that has happened in Nebraska politics in a generation.

It all depends whether buying newspaper space in a primary contest is the surest way of landing a nomination. It depends on what you put into the space—and the way you put it. The men who certified to spending the most money for political advertising were not all of them successful. And some who spent practically nothing were. People read the advertising columns these days, and they have learned to distinguish between the advertisement that rings true and the one that rings false. Some men couldn't land a nomination if they spent ten thousand dollars; others could win by expending twenty-five or fifty dollars. You will have to convince the people that what you say about yourself in a political advertisement is true. That's the secret of successful advertising.

The late spring may have had a bad effect on general business, but at that it has its compensations. It was just the kind of weather the wheat needed. Now that spring has opened up in earnest you can have a whole lot of un standing out in the open and watching the wheat grow. With the greatly increased acreage and the generally excellent stand, Nebraska is going to raise her greatest wheat crop this year. You can put this down as an official prediction.

THE NEBRASKA SANATORIUM.

On one of the commanding sites overlooking the beautiful Antelope valley and the city of Lincoln, stands the Nebraska Sanatorium. This well-known institution is located in College View, the seat of the great Advent college, and one of the prettiest little cities in Nebraska. Far enough from the city of Lincoln to be separated from all its noise and excitement, yet close enough to avail itself of all the conveniences of a metropolis, the Nebraska Sanatorium has an ideal location. Two electric lines connecting College View and Lincoln pass near the Sanatorium's doors. The beautiful five-story hospital building is surrounded by a stretch of lawn and cultivated fields that make it the center of a veritable garden, at once a delight to the eye and restful in its pastoral beauty. The Sanatorium possesses all the modern equipment of the most up-to-date hospital and health resort, is thoroughly modern in every respect, and possesses a staff of physicians, surgeons and nurses whose reputations extend into the surrounding states. The Sanatorium idea is based on the principle that to obtain health one need not search for hidden things, but that by surrounding the patient with those conditions that will bring into operation the natural curative forces. In other words, the principle is to put the patient into touch with the real forces of nature, to remove anxiety, to bring about a restful state of mind and put the patient into that physical and mental condition that will enable him to respond readily to treatment. No curative measures are excluded save to make way for something demonstrably better. The home life is emphasized to the full, and the home-like atmosphere of the Sanatorium is one of its chief features. Every effort is made to make the institution's guests feel at home. It is the effort of the management to maintain the spirit of Christian charity. It is not conducted to any one's private advantage, but is owned and controlled by the Seventh Day Adventists. Its rates are so based as to make the institution self-sustaining, not with a view to profits. The board of managers is made up of Christian men whose sole purpose is to aid suffering humanity, and the same spirit animates the medical staff. The board of managers is as follows: Orville Rockwell, J. W. Christman, A. T. Robinson, O. H. Hahn, E. T. Russell, Lars Neilsen, Frederick Griggs. Mr. Neilsen is business manager. The medical staff is as follows: Orville Rockwell, M. D.; O. H. Hahn, M. D.; Amy R. Humphrey, M. D.; Hannah Larson, matron. Any one interested in securing fuller details of the treatment offered by the Nebraska Sanatorium should address the business manager, Lars Neilsen, College View, Nebr.

CURRENT COMMENT

While men are talking about what ought to be done to locate men upon the uncultivated lands of Nebraska, "Bill" O'Brien of Atkinson goes ahead and does it. We printed the story of O'Brien's enterprise a few weeks ago, and it was the story of one of the biggest enterprises ever put on foot in this state, too. And all without blaring of bugles or press agenting. Forty or fifty families are now cultivating the fertile soil of Holt county who, but for O'Brien, would be crowding the labor market in the city. They are looking upon life joyfully, and they are adding to the sum total of production. O'Brien sold them the land on easy terms, built their cottages and barns and sheds, provided the implements and the live stock, built them a church and school house, and is overseeing their industries. These families will live well, and in time they will own their own little farms. And O'Brien is going to profit handsomely through his enterprise, both financially and in the satisfaction of having helped others while benefitting himself. Will Maupin's Weekly wishes Nebraska had a lot more "Bill" O'Briens. The state could use them to mighty good advantage in place of some men who are forever standing up for Nebraska without ever doing anything else.

The esteemed State Journal is vastly exercised lest men who never were able to earn \$100 a month in their lives will secure \$2,000 a year jobs as commissioners when Lincoln goes under the new plan of municipal government. It is of the belief that we ought to elect an unpaid commission and let it select experts who will receive big salaries. We haven't noticed the State Journal Co. pursuing that policy in the management of its own business, yet it seems to secure the services of satisfactory employees. If that sort of government is good for the city, why not for the state and the nation? And if the city elects men who are not capable of earning the salary, that will be the city's fault. The people are entitled to no better government or service than it will get for itself. And the fact that a man may not be able to earn \$100 a month in his present avocation is not necessarily a sign that he can not render \$2,000 worth of service to the city in a year.

We are just a little weary of all this criticism of Sheriff Hyers and his conduct during the recent man hunt. It's mighty easy to sit around a radiator and tell how Hyers should have acted under the circumstances. Everybody regrets the killing of young Blunt, but better that than the killing of perhaps a dozen more. And who would advocate letting a mad dog run loose in a crowded street rather than take chances of injuring somebody in an effort to shoot it? We insist that Sheriff Hyers performed his duty like a man, and if in the resultant excitement he said or did something that in cooler moments he would have avoided, there is ample excuse.

Regardless of how the "cat hops" in the election this fall, Lancaster county will be represented in the legislature by strong men. The make-up of both tickets is splendid material. When the voters go to the polls they will have little trouble in selecting good men from the legislative list, and whether the successful ones be republicans or democrats the interests of the county and the state will be in safe hands.

An esteemed exchange of the republican persuasion, printed in Fairbury, asserts that "Will Maupin's Weekly is backing Bryan to win the nomination at Baltimore and that the editor of Will Maupin's Weekly is associate editor of Bryan's Commoner." Then the esteemed exchange pretends to see in this a subtle scheme. The trouble with the esteemed exchange's statement is that it contains two falsehoods. First, the editor of Will Maupin's Weekly is not backing Bryan to win, or even advocating his nomination. Second, the editor of Will Maupin's Weekly is not associate editor of Bryan's Commoner. Barring these two inaccuracies the statement of the Fairbury paper is all right.

We are hearing a lot these days about the church and the trade union getting together, and of what the church wants to do for the workers. Suppose we get down to brass tacks and start off with something tangible. The warm weather is upon us, and the ice men will soon be working long hours and seven days a week. They are entitled to one day's rest a week, and the fact that they do not get it is due to the thoughtlessness and selfishness of a community that pretends to be unusually religious. There is no more reason for Sunday delivery of ice than there is for Sunday banks, or Sunday barber shops, or Sunday groceries. If the ice consumers who really want to be humane and give a big bunch of hard working men a chance for their white alley, will buy enough ice Saturday to last over Sunday, they will do away with Sunday labor in that one industry. We opine that the Beatrice Creamery Co. would be quick to agree to special delivery on Sunday in case of sickness or other urgent need. But suppose we give the icemen and those tired horses a day off a week, without loss of pay. We say "without loss of pay" because we are confident that the Beatrice Creamery Co. notoriously just and generous with its employees, would not pinch the pay envelopes.