

## CURRENT COMMENT

Mr. Bryan's real friends are not the gentlemen who are talking about "stampeding" the Baltimore convention or endeavoring to work up "Bryan sentiment" before that convention meets. His real friends are those who have taken him at his word and are striving to unite the party and nominate a progressive democrat behind whom Mr. Bryan and all the democratic workers can work with a good conscience and a good will.

If Mr. McKelvie, republican candidate for lieutenant governor, did say at St. Joseph that he is an independent in politics and only affiliates with the republicans "because he has to be with some party," it is to Mr. McKelvie's credit. It is not this utterance that will militate against Mr. McKelvie's election. He will have to overcome the handicap of youth. We may be mistaken, and somewhat old-fashioned, but we hold that the lieutenant governorship is a position demanding experience in legislative work, knowledge of men and political methods and organizing ability of rare quality. We opine that men old enough to be Mr. McKelvie's grandfather, and who are yet comparatively young men, will hesitate to put themselves under the guidance of a lieutenant governor who hasn't been voting more than five or six years.

The consolidated telephone company may be able to prove that an increased rate is warranted. Doubtless business houses that have heretofore been compelled to pay \$8 a month for two phones will be glad to pay \$5 for one phone giving the same service. But there are about 12,000 households who will have to be convinced that an increase of 25 per cent is warranted in their case. But phone users should be open to conviction, and if the company can produce the argument to show that the increase is warranted, then the increase should be granted. But the number of Missourians per thousand of population is increasing.

Mr. Roosevelt characterizes as a "Tom fool notion" the proposal to limit the presidential tenure to one term of six years. But Mr. Roosevelt is quite liable to characterize as "foolish" any proposed reform that he either does not propose or appropriate to himself. Common sense dictates the change. Under the present system a president spends his first term building up machine to re-elect himself, and if re-elected spends the second term rectifying the mistakes of the first term. A six year term in which a president has nothing to do but make good will be a welcome relief from present conditions—and, we might add, dangers. We wish Mr. Roosevelt would advocate a few "Tom fool" things like that, rather than so many other kinds of fool things.

The supreme court of the United States has upheld the validity of the Nebraska liability law. That liability law covers only men engaged in the operation of steam and electric trains and cars, therefore is not broad enough in its scope. But it is an entering wedge. The commission now drafting a general liability law may be depended upon to do its work well and fairly. Nebraska ought to be getting in line with the progressive states that are showing a disposition to give human life and limb as much consideration as goods and dollars.

Omaha has sold her water bonds, but she hasn't yet secured possession of the water works. She is paying \$875 a day interest on the bonds, however. The city is ready to turn over the money, but by technicalities and worse the owners of the plant are staving off turning the plant over, and it may be another two years before the matter is settled. Omaha might hasten matters by changing the order of things, building an entirely new water plant, and let the old company do a stunt of whistling.

The first proposition to elect United States senators by direct vote of the people appeared in congress in 1826. On May 15, 1912, congress submitted the proposition as an amendment to the constitution. It has taken a long time, but the people have finally won over the opposition of their own representatives. There is a good deal of a joke about this "representative government" system of ours.

Will Maupin's Weekly is vastly pleased to know that so many live Nebraska cities with active commercial clubs are organizing publicity bureaus. Cities like Fairbury, Beatrice, Superior, Hastings, Holdrege, McCook, Sidney, Kearney, Grand Island, Fremont, Norfolk and a score of others have many attractions to offer the home-seeker and investor. To make these attractions properly known is to secure home builders and investors. A live commercial club, aided by a live publicity department, is of immense advantage to any city. It has taken a long time to stir Nebraska up on this matter of publicity, but the leaven is working beautifully now. When the state gets into the game with a publicity department that is well officered and supplied with adequate means, we may expect to put a stop to men leaving Nebraska for other and less favored places, and also to end this thing of thousands passing Nebraska by to locate in the northwest.

Doubtless you have heard of the man who became dissatisfied with his home and offered it for sale through an agent. The agent published a description of the property in the papers next morning, and when the owner read it he hastened to the agent and shouted: "Take it off the list! I didn't know it was such a fine property, and I'm going to keep it myself." The trouble with too many Nebraskans is that they do not know what a wonderful state they live in.

A few days ago a representative of Will Maupin's Weekly was talking to a friend, and the subject of opportunities in Nebraska came up. The representative mentioned Cheyenne county and immediately his friend said: "Why, Cheyenne county don't amount to anything; there's no good land there." Then the records were appealed to, and this is the result: What Cheyenne county has done she can do again, and in 1909 she produced 315,000 bushels of corn, 464,000 bushels of wheat, 361,000 bushels of oats, 28,000 bushels of barley, 123,000 bushels of rye, 13,000 tons of hay, 99,000 bushels of potatoes, 46,000 bushels of speltz, 4,000 tons of alfalfa and 2,500 tons of sorghum. The value of her agricultural crops in that year amounted to \$1,195,000. In that same year Cheyenne county shipped to market 9,300 head of cattle, 1,400 head of hogs and 900 head of horses and mules. She also shipped to market 4,200 pounds of dressed poultry, 10,200 pounds of live poultry, 11,000 pounds of

dressed meats, 84,000 dozen eggs, 33,000 pounds of butter and 20,000 gallons of cream. Her spring wheat averaged 28 bushels and her winter wheat 22 bushels per acre. Her oats averaged 54 bushels, her barley 39 bushels, her rye 37 bushels and her alfalfa 6 tons per acre. There are thousands of acres of Cheyenne county land untilled that are just as fertile as the acres that bore these splendid crops. And Will Maupin's Weekly contends that a county with a record like that has got something worth while to offer the home-seeker and investor. The man who undertakes to speak slightly of Nebraska, or any part of her, in the presence of this newspaper, is going to be confronted with some startling facts.

The Burlington has a line running from Greeley Center to Burwell. If that line were extended from Burwell to a connection with the Billings line at Thedford, it would open up a good section of country, passing through Loup and Blaine counties. Loup, without a mile of railroad within her borders, produced \$511,000 worth of agricultural products in 1910. Blaine, with a few miles of railroad in the extreme southwestern part of the county, produced in the same year \$460,000 worth. These two counties contain a lot of fertile land that is unoccupied because the markets are too distant. Railroad facilities would open up these fertile lands to cultivation, making homes for settlers, adding to the taxable wealth of the state, and providing business for the railroads. About sixty miles of road building would make the connection and open up approximately a thousand square miles of good territory.

We commend to the Commercial Clubs of Omaha and Lincoln the policy of the Kansas City Commercial Club. Instead of sending out a few bills announcing the hour of arrival for "booster" trains, the Kansas City Commercial Club took liberal space in the newspapers of the towns to be visited. Instead of announcing the arrival only by the ringing of bells and the tooting of whistles, the Kansas City club shouted the news from between the column rules of the local papers. When it comes to boosting for the city and the state, commercial clubs should not overlook the fact that the best medium for the aforesaid boosting are now cowbells and steam sirens, but the modest though tireless country newspapers that keep right on boosting when commercial organizations are asleep, whistles without steam and cowbells as silent as the stores that refuse to advertise because "everybody knows us, anyhow."

This newspaper claims another vindication. When the government statisticians were dolefully predicting that Nebraska's wheat crop was frightfully damaged, and local pessimists were as blue as bag of indigo, Will Maupin's Weekly was insisting that the wheat was in fine condition and that Nebraska was going to produce a bumper crop. We so insisted because we know a few things about the recuperative ability of Nebraska soil. We so insisted because we are right here on the ground and know more about local conditions than any be-spectacled statistician figuring away in a musty office in Washington. We so insisted because we know Nebraska farmers, Nebraska climate, Nebraska soil and Nebraska possibilities. And we claim a vindication now because all of the prognosticators of disaster and purveyors of pessimistic planks have admitted to be true every claim we have been making. We will now stop the press long enough to allow our admiring friends to crowd about us and compliment us upon our knowledge and foresight.

The Chancellor, Omaha, in expressing its regrets over the defeat of Mr. Metcalfe for the democratic nomination for governor, should not go to the extreme of misstating facts concerning Mr. Metcalfe's successful opponent. Its statement that "Mr. Moorehead took no position upon any of these vital questions" is unfounded and unfair. The best evidence of the Chancellor's misstatement is the statement issued by Mr. Moorehead during the primary campaign. It is true that Mr. Moorehead did not deem it necessary to go into infinite detail, but it is true that he took a position in favor of revenue reform, reform in the management of state's institutions and reform in insurance legislation. But, after all, is not the record of a man's service as a public official and his record as a citizen, about as good a declaration of principles as the average printed declaration of an aspiring candidate? Measured by this standard Will Maupin's Weekly asserts that Mr. Moorehead has taken a very pronounced stand upon the vital questions mentioned by the esteemed Chancellor.

### "FIZZLE WATER."

The traffic in carbonated waters is becoming immense. More and more men and women are taking to the libations that are free from tomorrow's headache, and exercise a good influence on the health and disposition of the drinker. C. L. Elwick, manufacturer of carbonated drinks, 225 South Eleventh street, is building up a splendid business by catering to those who want the best in that line, coupled with the assurance that they are being supplied with something absolutely pure. Mr. Elwick is catering to a high class trade, and the fame of his products is rapidly extending. Not only has he a large business in supplying Lincoln, but he is shipping immense quantities of his goods all over the state. He is employing a number of people, paying good wages and working them under sanitary and mutually satisfactory conditions. This concern is one of the flourishing manufacturing institutions of Lincoln and is deserving of the patronage of people who want the best of goods and also desire to build up home enterprises. If it comes from Elwick's it is the best to be had, and always conforms to the most rigid demands of the pure food laws.

### FREMONT LANDS THE NEXT.

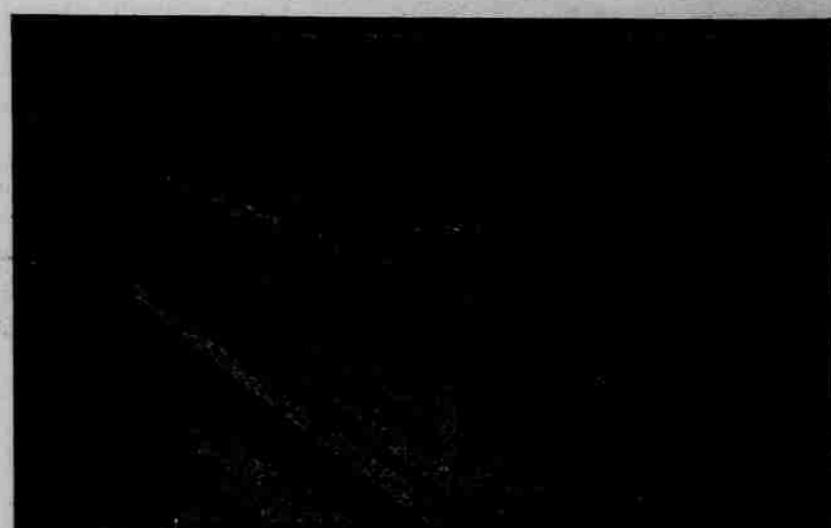
George Wolz, who is some politician and mayor, believe us, went from Fremont to Hastings and pulled off the 1913 convention of the Nebraska Federation of Commercial Clubs. George asked for it smiled, worked the glad hand racket and landed. Mayor Wolz is the republican candidate for state senator from Dodge county, with no opponent on the democratic ticket. We don't know how he does it, but that's his way. And when Senator Wolz gets to senatoring we know somebody who is going to be behind the Nebraska Publicity Bureau bill and shoving to beat the band.

### LAUGH NOW, FLETCHER.

Will Maupin, editor of Ditto's Weekly published in Lincoln, was a candidate for the democratic nomination of railway commissioner, and he was among the number who did not connect with a life boat when the primary ticket Gigantic went down into the awful abyss of the ballot box. The last issue of his paper devoted much space to a write-up of Lincoln hospitals, no doubt for the benefit of other

democrats on the ticket who reached shore and will need succor after the November election as badly as they need suckers now.—Beaver City Times-Tribune.

### THE MAKING OF BROOMS.



A broom, so necessary in the conduct of every well regulated household or business, is a little thing in itself, but in the aggregate the broom industry is one of the largest in the world. And that Lincoln is the headquarters of the largest broom making concern in the world may be a fact of interest to Nebraskans. The Lee Broom Co.'s factory at Twenty-first and Y streets, Lincoln, is only one of the several plants operated by this company, but it is one of the largest and gives employment to a small army of people. Its effect upon the the volume of business transacted in Lincoln is noticeable in the bank clearings. The immensity of this concern is evidenced by the fact that when, two years ago, the broom crop of this country was practically a failure, the Lee Broom Co. sent its agents to Hungary and acquired almost the entire crop of that country, shipping it to Iowa and Nebraska and there making it up into the finished product. There are but few civilized or semi-civilized countries on the globe where Lee brooms are unknown and unused. This company takes the bulk of the broom corn product of this country, shipping it here by the trainload. Every twelve months the Lee Broom Co.'s plants will ship in an average of from 275 to 300 ears of raw broom corn, convert it into finished brooms and then ship the brooms all over the world. This means that the name of Lincoln is carried around the world. The huge plant at Twenty-first and Y streets is a model of its kind. Equipped with the latest machinery, with immense storage facilities, light and sanitary work rooms, excellent shipping facilities, and with a constantly increasing force of workers, it is rapidly becoming one of the great manufacturing plants of the west. The yearly output is something tremendous, to be measured in trainloads instead of in car lots.

### AMERICAN ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO.

The American Accident Insurance Co. of Lincoln, Nebraska, has superior claims upon Nebraska people. It is a home institution; it is conducted upon a high plane of efficiency by men who are our neighbors. It brings large sums of money to Nebraska, all of which is invested in Nebraska, thus aiding in the development of the state. It offers as secure protection as any foreign company can, pays legitimate losses promptly, and assists in bearing the burdens of state government. This rapidly growing company is appealing on the ground of merit. Will Maupin's Weekly supplements this appeal with another—the wisdom of keeping Nebraska money at home, thus building up our own institutions instead of those a thousand miles away, employing our neighbors and friends, who are thus enabled to build their homes among us, patronize our local business institutions and help us to bear the burdens of taxation. For reasons based on common sense and enlightened selfishness, Nebraskans ought to be building up big insurance companies here at home instead of building them up a thousand miles away and sending good Nebraska money abroad, never to return.



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