

BASE BALL PALAVER

After witnessing two stunning fifteen-inning games in succession, our sporting editor's nerves are too highly wrought up to write intelligently. But two greater exhibitions of the national pastime were never staged than the two Omaha-Lincoln games on the local lot this week. True, we lost both of them, but there's no disgrace in losing such games.

We point with pride to our German pastimer, Herr Marty Berghammer, who cavorts in the short garden. The exhibition staged by Herr Berg during the last few games caused us to chortle with glee and clap our lilywhite hands gladsomely.

Thomas Tuckey, who winged the game for us last Monday won a home right then and there. We claim that Thomas performed proper, and when we witness a better exhibition of flinging we are going to stop the press to herald the fact to the world. It will be a long time ere we stop the press for any such purpose.

Mr. Mullen is doing marvels around the initial sack for us. It was an inspiration when we chucked Mullen over there, for he has shown himself to be the class of the league. Had he been a little better with the bludgeon he would be pastiming for the White Sox this minute—and much as we like to see heavy stick work we are just selfish enough to be glad that Mullen has had another year in the minors—'cause we got him.

After due cogitation we have reached the conclusion that Prexy O'Neill has scouts out looking for impossible material for umpires. That must be it, else why Johnson and Kissane? Johnson has about as much spine as an angleworm, and Kissane's head would bull the billiard ball market for steen years.

Pa Rourke is a wise old head in keeping Jawn Goding on his staff. Jawn is old enough to be a grandpa, all right, but bless his old heart, he's got many a good old ball game still in his system ready on call. Jawn is some favorite in this village, because he is a clean, gingery player.

Bill Shipke is back in the Omaha fold, claiming that his once bum knee is all to the good again.

Manager Despain is correct in the position he takes relative to umpire baiting. Exhibitions of bonehead umpiring that have called forth only mild protests from the Lincoln stands have caused riots in other cities in the loop. Lincoln "fans" give visiting players a better show than those of any city in the league. Impartial applause for good plays is the rule. If the players will get wise to their own interests and quit umpire baiting, we'll guarantee that so far as Lincoln is concerned there will be no assaults on the arbitrators.

We are still touting Flynn to best the Big Smoke on July 4. We base our opinion on the proved proverb that "wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and he who is deceived thereby is not wise."

General regret will be expressed over the retirement of Don Despain from the management of the Antelopes. A series of circumstances that were beyond human control piled up a lot of grief for Mr. Despain, and a sportsman of less sand and tenacity would have given up long ago. But Despain stuck to his guns through conditions that would have taken the heart out of most men. Hard luck with weather conditions, a long illness and what seemed to be a frame-up against him all combined to make the road mighty hard to travel. Despain has been popular because he has gone his limit to make the Antelopes a winning combination, because he has stood for clean sport, because he has been as cheerful a loser as most men are winners, and because he has made a game fight against odds. There is one thing sure, and that is that while Lincoln fans will stand behind the new management loyally, they will always hold Don Despain in high esteem for what he has done to advance the interests of the national pastime. May good luck attend him in whatever he may undertake.

AS TO CONSERVATION AND OTHER THINGS.

Editor Will Maupin's Weekly: It adds to the comforts of life to read your valuable paper. It makes one more generous and open-minded. It prolongs his existence by doubling his joys and making him feel more friendly toward—everybody.

But why be so anxious about those interests that are so well able to take care of themselves? Is it really your opinion that the railroads have been harshly dealt with, so that they will build no more mileage? Was it wrong to shut down on discriminations and rebates, to abolish the free pass, to reduce the passenger fare to two cents, to make a cut on commodity freight rates? Haven't they been doing pretty well during the years since 1907?

Did the direct primary—the special abomination of Will Maupin's Weekly—put them entirely out of politics? Well, not quite. It will be remembered that they defeated Commissioner Williams for re-election, that they nominated and elected Cowgill, that they nominated Harman but failed to elect him and have renominated him. It may not be known to Editor Maupin that he would today be the democratic nominee for Railway Commissioner but for the activity of the railroads in Harman's behalf.

Ask anyone in Plattsmouth, for instance, what happened in the railroad shops. You will be told that although the primary held until 9 o'clock the men at the shops were given a good share of the afternoon, without loss of pay, to go and vote, and they were asked to vote for Harman.

And do you know that the local distance tariffs are the same now as they were thirty-five or more years ago? And that they are from fifty to one hundred and fifty per cent higher than the same sort of rates in Iowa? No tears need be wept over the abuses suffered by the railroads.

Then, again, why worry the patience of your soul for fear the water power possibilities of the state should not all become the private snap of a group of promoters? One of the great things done by the Roosevelt administration was to save to the public the vast potential resources of our water powers, mines and timber, and in doing so stirred the people from their lethargy to their duty in conserving these natural resources. Why is it not equally the duty of Nebraska to remember her present duty and future need by saving an interest in these great properties to the people who own them? There is no such rush. Better slow and sure rather than swift and

wasteful. The state will be remiss if it does not retain the ownership of these water powers. It could well afford to lease on liberal and favorable terms, the right to use for a term of years. But further than that it would be a great mistake to go.

Talking about insurance, why would it not be a good thing to require that the interest of the policy holder should be non-forfeitable? To say to the insurance companies, as most states do, you may not get rich from lapses—you must give the insured a show for his white alley.

Kenesaw 6-3-12.

I. D. EVANS.

THAT "FOOL RESOLUTION."

Lincoln, Neb., May 27.—To the Editor of Will Maupin's Weekly: My attention has been called to the above characterization of a resolution recently passed without dissent by the Central Labor Union, asking the city council to reconsider its attitude in regard to allowing the city and corporations in competition with it to mix up their wires and poles. I would appreciate the opportunity to say a word. I am of the opinion that I understand this matter much better than you do and believe that the Central body acted with wisdom and commendable public spirit. In condemning this action of your fellows, you have fallen into the same error that our councilmen did; you have presumed to pass upon a matter that is out of your line, and which you do not understand. The problem is one of engineering purely. In the last analysis the problem is to keep the city in the best possible position to do as it pleases. If the people,—the majority, desire that the city engage in commercial lighting and power supply, they will need every right they now enjoy, and every loyal official and every intelligent citizen will look with commendable suspicion upon any one who seeks to throw away any rights or advantages that we now possess. Such a course can only be characterized as treasonable or idiotic.

Fraternally,

WILLIAM WESTERFIELD.

We are compelled to admit a great administration for Mr. Westerfield's cocksureness. Just why he should assume that he knows more about this particular matter than we know, or that he knows more about it than the city council, is of no concern to us. Mr. Westerfield says he knows more about it than we do because it is an engineering problem, and he is an engineer—a stationary engineer. That may enable him to know more than we, or the councilmen, about this matter. But it is not a question of engineering—it is a question of horse sense. It is a question whether we continue to build a forest of poles along our streets, or whether we minimize the pole nuisance. If the city is going into the lighting business, and we hope it is, the question will settle itself if the city does business as it should do it. In that event there will be only municipal wires on the poles. Why? Because there will be nothing for privately owned wires to do. The city is throwing away none of its rights or advantages. On the contrary it is adding to its advantages by beautifying the streets, removing unsightly poles and getting into a position to make the public service corporations pay some attention to beautification. If Mr. Westerfield wants to look upon those who differ from him as "traitors" or "idiots," that is his privilege. We know many men of that stamp. But they are not the men who are building municipalities and commonwealths. Mr. Westerfield will excuse us if we fail to recognize his claims to superior engineering ability.

NEAR THE DEPOTS.

The Western hotel, located at 731 O St., is a medium priced hotel and affords the traveling public all they desire. This house is conducted on the American plan at the reasonable rate of \$1.25 per day. Mr. Roche, the proprietor, has been in the hotel business for many years and his long experience in this business is satisfactory evidence that he knows how to care for guests. Rates are made for those who desire them. You are solicited to stop at the Western hotel the next time you go to Lincoln. Modern and in the shopping district.

PROF. STOUT'S SUGGESTION.

It was good and sound advice that Prof. O. V. P. Stout, the state university engineering expert, gave to Nebraska in his address before the Nebraska editors on the subject of the utilization of water power.

Two things are desired. One is that the water power be developed as soon as possible, so that it may be utilized for the benefit and upbuilding of Nebraska. The other is that the right of the state and its people be protected from exploitation after the power is developed.

Prof. Stout proposed that both ends be attained by leasing the power for a period of years, at a nominal rental, to companies willing and ready to construct and operate water power plants. As for rates, they should be under the control of the public service commission of the state. The rental exacted should be nominal, inasmuch as, if large, it would be added to the charge for power, and what the state desires is the development of cheap power, over which it shall have control and ultimate ownership, rather than to tax that power to produce public revenues.

A lease, instead of a franchise, would mean that the state

retained ownership of the power and could reclaim it at the expiration of the period. A nominal rental would leave it possible to sell power at a low rate, which is the first desideratum—and still earn a fair profit for the company. Development by private enterprise would mean that construction and management would be in the hands of the most skilled engineers, and would relieve the state of the burden of grappling with the problem itself, after having spent years in so amending the constitution, enacting new laws and levying taxes so as to make development possible.—Omaha World-Herald.

A MATTER WORTH CONSIDERING.

This newspaper is not immediately concerned with the outcome of what is commonly known as the Herpolsheimer suit against the Lincoln Traction Co. That is, not more so than any other citizen. Mr. Herpolsheimer is merely trying to build up his own business and protect his own personal interests—for which he may not be blamable. But the fact remains that if Mr. Herpolsheimer's contention is sustained it means that in future there can not be any re-routing of cars, and changes in the present system, and change in the running time—any improvement in the street railway service of the city. If his contention is sustained, goodbye any hope of ever getting a line down Sixteenth street from M to O; goodbye any hope of ever getting any improved service by extending lines and making the necessary changes in routing so as to serve the most people. It simply means that any property holder can step in and put a stop to any proposed improvement that contemplates the re-routing of cars over new lines or extensions.

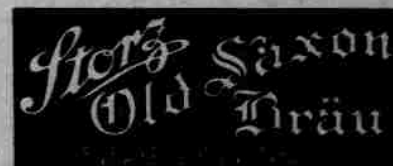
As before stated, Will Maupin's Weekly is not directly interested in Mr. Herpolsheimer's contention. It doesn't care a rap whether one or a hundred cars pass the corner of Twelfth and N every twenty-four hours. But it is concerned in the betterment of street railway service and it entertains a fear that if Mr. Herpolsheimer's contention is sustained Lincoln will be a long time getting the needed betterments.

Republican National Committeeman-elect Robert Beecher Howell, of Nebraska, seems to have been caught shoving a stack in behind a four-flush—whatever that may mean.

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