

# THE WAGEWORKER

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## CURT CURRENT COMMENT

**T**HERE is every reason to believe that the total vote of Nebraska next Tuesday will be the largest in the state's history---not even excepting the record year of 1908. The peculiar issue this year insures that every vote influenced by appetite and inclination will be gotten to the polls. It remains to be seen whether the "religious" voters get out, or whether they will content themselves, as usual, with singing, praying and "resoluting" right up to election day---and then "laying down." It will have to be admitted by those familiar with the facts that this latter method is the one usually followed by the "religious voters." The interests represented by Mr. Dahlman in this campaign are not much given to praying for success, but when it comes to the hustling and voting they set a shining example. Mr. Dahlman's chances of success are dependent on the activity of the interests that are supporting him---an activity never lacking---and the proneness of the other side to rely on prayer without works. We shall see what we shall see.

**I**T IS fondly to be hoped that another such campaign will not again afflict Nebraska. It has been filled to overflowing with personal abuse; the chief candidates are neither one of that high order of statemanship and business ability that the state should demand of its gubernatorial candidates, and the one overshadowing issue that is responsible for the deplorable condition is one that will not, and in the very nature of things cannot, be settled at this election.

**N**EBRASKA, usually foremost in good works, is tailing far in the rear of her sister states in the matter of publicity work. Nebraska during the past two years has spent less than a thousand dollars in advertising, and that was spent for crop bulletins. Not a penny was expended for colonization work. During the same period Colorado and Kansas have expended vast sums. "It is easier to make a dozen deals in Colorado real estate than it is to make one in Nebraska," said a prominent Omaha real estate man the other day. Asked for the reason he replied: "Colorado is well advertised; Nebraska not at all." Nebraska should wake up.

**A** VOTE for Joseph W. Crabtree for superintendent of public instruction is a vote to make the public school system of Nebraska what it should be. It is also a vote to take the public school system out of the domain of partisan politics. The public school is the college of the workingman's children, and the workingman should be the first to resent any attempt to make it a partisan adjunct. Prof. Crabtree may be depended upon to oppose and prevent the prostitution of the public school system to partisan ends.

**T**HOSE who cast a vote for Silas R. Barton may do so with the satisfaction that they are voting for one of the most capable officials the state of Nebraska has ever had, and one who has been of great service to the people. He has saved the wage earners of the state vast sums of

money by protecting them against fly-by-night insurance companies, has inaugurated business methods that were in the interests of economy, and has proved his efficiency in a thousand ways. It is a pleasure to most men, as it should be to all men, to acknowledge such splendid service as Mr. Barton has rendered, and the best way to acknowledge it is to re-elect him to the position of auditor of public accounts.

**A**LL THOSE who were instrumental in making the Ad Club Carnival such a great success are entitled to praise for their efforts. They provided a lot of clean fun for the public, while at the same time advancing the interests of an organization that will do an immense amount of work in the future in the way of properly advertising Lincoln. One of the finest things about this Ad Club business is the hearty and genuine spirit of good will it is building up between Lincoln and Omaha. Omaha's commercial supremacy is so commanding that it is not at all in danger from any thing Lincoln may accomplish, although the two cities must forever be more or less rivals along certain lines. But they have so much in common and so little to scrap about that the wonder is either of them was so foolish as to be jealous of the other. If the Ad Clubs of the two cities never accomplish anything more than the killing off of the ill feeling that has heretofore existed in greater or less degree, they will have accomplished a big work.

**P**RESIDENT ARMSTRONG of the Gas Company reports a most surprising willingness on the part of gas consumers to sign up agreements releasing the company from rebates in return for dollar gas on December 1. A whole lot of this is due, doubtless, to the frankness of President Armstrong in stating the case to the public and to the public belief that under present management the company is more inclined to lend an ear to demands than formerly. While dollar gas is greatly to be desired it is more desirable to ascertain just how far the municipality may go in the fixing of rates and imposing conditions. This will not be determined until the supreme court hands down its decision, which may be delayed a year or two. The amount of rebates due the average consumer in case the supreme court decides for the city are insignificant in comparison to the other benefits that will accrue. And, after all, "peace with honor" is to be preferred to constant scrapping.

**N**OW if we could only frame up a deal whereby the city could get an adequate car service and at the same time settle all difference it has with the Traction Company how happy we might be. As the matter now stands the car service is abominable, the company is in financial straits and the city and company mixed up in litigation. Would it be possible for President Sharp to frame up and submit a proposition that would bring about some such amicable adjustment of all difficulties as the one President Armstrong of the Gas Company has framed up?

**I**F YOU really believe that Lincoln is full of empty residences, you ought to go out and try to rent for reasonable price a desirable residence of six or eight rooms. There are a number of empty houses of this description that are new and have never been occupied. These have been built for speculative purposes and the rent asked is absurdly high. But such a house that rents for a reasonable sum is snapped up in a hurry. There is an unsatisfied demand for semi-modern cottages of from five to six rooms renting for from \$18 to \$25. A hundred such cottages, if located fairly well, could be rented during the next month, and the owners could pick their tenants.