

WHAT WILL THE NEW YEAR BRING TO LINCOLN?

What does the year 1911 hold in store for Lincoln? Does it hold much of good and little of evil, or does the evil promise to be equal to or greater than the good?

These are questions that many of us would like to have answered now, but all of us will have to wait until the year progresses. But many of us know, at any rate, what we would like to see the coming year bring to Lincoln. And here are some of them:

A commission form of government, based upon approved and well-tried lines, free from the petty ideas of visionaries who yearn to perpetuate their names in history as authors of something new in the way of municipal government. A commission of five men, each having charge of a specified department of city affairs, and each one directly responsible for the conduct of his department. And an early demise for the unsatisfactory and uncalled-for scheme of a one man government assisted by fourteen little councilmen-at-large to keep petty politics boiling all the time.

This is one of the best things that the new year could bring bring to Lincoln, but there are others: For instance, let the new year bring a cessation of the spirit of reprisal that moves men to fight progress because, perchance, the men advocating a progressive measure opposed some pet scheme of the men attempting reprisal. Let us have a cessation of bickering and fault-finding; of snarling and backbiting. Let us have a short session of relief from the activities of the Utopian dreamers who, having inherited their little fortunes from hard-working or fortunate fathers, now forget that there are a lot of us who find it necessary to hustle like merryhell for a bare livelihood. We love things beautiful, and far be it from us to deprecate the artistic. But please let some of us be our own judges of art for a little bit. Just now there are several thousands of us who can see more beauty in a baked potato and a slab of crisp-fried bacon than we can in uniform sidewalks, and Lincoln statues and ornamental lighting poles. We would like to see the new year gently put to sleep a lot of people who seem unable to realize that there are strenuous times, for the men who have to hustle like all get out and then make \$12 a week support a family of six or seven. If such will gently ooze away and give us a chance to catch up on our eats, we'll feel more like listening to them with patience when next they come around.

We hope the new year will bring to a lot of well-meaning people a realization of the fact that it is impossible to make a perpetual twenty-four-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, Sunday school out of a city of 45,000 people. Some of us like to go to church when we want to go, but there are a lot of us who are just independent enough to believe we have a right to decide for ourselves how we shall spend our rest day, and we are just a bit tired of having some would-be dictators and self constituted censors of conduct settling the matter for us without our consent. We promise that if the church services are made more interesting than the park concerts or the ball games, we'll be at the church services. We do not care to see the saloons brought back to Lincoln in 1911, but neither do we care to have some people carrying this thing of curtailment of personal lib-

erty too blamed far. Having deprived the common workingman of his glass of beer, while the club man with money can get his any old hour of the day, it is now proposed to go after the cigaret, which means that in time the Puritans will get after my beloved pipe or your favorite cigar or brand of chewing tobacco. Most of us want to be good, but a lot of us do not want to be goody-goodies, and we do not want things to become so all-fired good in Lincoln that all days will be fast days because, perforce, there'll be nothing for us to do to earn a living, therefore nothing for us to eat.

We want 1911 to bring some things that will provide innocent amusement to take the place of some things not so all-fired innocent as they might be. We would like to see free moving pictures once or twice a week in every school house. The pictures at the moving picture houses of Lincoln are all right, but there are a lot of parents who should get wise to the fact that there is a mighty lot of nasty carryings-on in the semi-darkness of those same houses. Parents who are allowing their young daughters to visit these picture houses after night, without accompanying them, are storing up a few barrels of shame for themselves and the daughters in the very near future. Let 1911 bring us the municipal picture show supervised by public school teachers.

And by all means let 1911 bring a settlement of the vexed traction problem. It has been a source of annoyance too long. It is hurting business, preventing the development of new property and creating animosities that will hinder the progress of the city for years to come. The citizens demand what they think is fair; the Traction Co. says it wants only what is fair and just. In heaven's name let us get busy and quickly ascertain what is fair as between the city and the company, and then settle it once for all. If we cannot do it that way, then let's buy the blooming works and run 'em until we either make a success of it or go bankrupt in the attempt. Anything to end the present turmoil!

Then, too, let 1911 bring to Lincoln a park system worthy of this good city. Let it bring a recognition of the needs of the workers who are making Lincoln, and provide them with recreation grounds, and music, and amusements. Let it bring an end to the years of disgrace brought about by the shameful neglect to provide parks and boulevards.

Let the new year bring peace and harmony, and an end to strife and discord.

Let it usher in a year of hearty co-operation in all efforts to make Lincoln a bigger, better, more beautiful city—a city where the wage earners will have a show for their white alleys, where the capitalist may be assured of a reasonable return upon his investment, where the drone is shunned by all good men, where business men are not hampered by dreamers of strange dreams, and where morality is of the heart and not by the fear of the law.

What will 1911 bring to Lincoln? God alone knows, but as He will not reveal the future to us, let us all hope for the best, pray for the best and work for the best.

CURT COMMENT ON TOPICS OF COMMON INTEREST

The Omaha World-Herald has pulled off some splendid works during its existence, as for instance its Cuban Relief Train, its relief headquarters during the awful winter of 1894-95, its special train to return the First Nebraska from San Francisco and others. But not one of these came so close to the hearts of us all as the one it is just now bringing to a finish—its "Good Fellows" club. It made itself a clearing house and called on all "Good Fellows" to come across and agree each to make some poor little child happy on Christmas. Not by sending in money or gifts, but by agreeing, each one of them, to go right out and make a personal call on some designated child of the poor and carry to that child visible messages of Christmas cheer. As a result of the World-Herald's efforts this year several hundred poor kiddies will experience their first real Christmas. This will make several hundred children happy, and at the same time will prove to a lot of "Good Fellows" that there's a bushel of fun in making the children happy.

Tom Pratt will find a majority of the citizens behind him in his attack upon the proposed city charter. Mr. Pratt understands the temper of Lincoln voters as well as any other man in the city, and when he says that the proposed charter is an abortion and will not be tolerated, the framers thereof should pause and take notice. The time to spike that scheme is right now, and Mr. Pratt will find that the people will willingly hand him the spike and the hammer.

Dollar gas will, after all, have to await the decision of the supreme court of the United States. That may come next year, or the year after, or sometime around 1920. The supreme court is so slow that it couldn't get through an attack of the seven-year itch

short of fourteen years, and its activity makes "Old Hundred" sound like a quickstep. No one with any regard for his reputation as a prophet would predict what the decision will be when it is handed down, but there is little hazard in predicting that it will be another five-to-four decision.

We wish a few careless and misguided parents would venture forth from their warm firesides any of these fine winter evenings and trail their innocent little daughters who are supposed to be spending the evenings with some neighbor girls. The result would be the opening of some almighty blind parental eyes. Every evening sees a lot of short-skirted girls who are scarcely dry behind the ears, "catching on" to adolescent youths with pimply faces and cigarette-scented breaths, and prancing down street, or spooning in the dark recesses of the high school grounds. Many a girl who ought to be at home in bed, and who is supposed to be at the home of a neighbor, is down town learning lessons that will make it easy to take the fatal step a few months from now. And when the fatal step is taken some father and mother will wonder how it happened. It will not "happen." It will be the natural result of parental blindness, careless and criminal neglect of parental authority.

We know a few fathers of young daughters who ought to arm themselves with water-elm clubs and chassez down O street some evening, prepared to knock the everlasting stuffing out of young fellows who think it smart to "mash" little school girls. And after using the water-elm club they ought to march their silly and wayward daughters home and wallop them so hard with a stiff-soled