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PROHIBITION. The New Republic and Patriot is the official organ of the prohibitionists of Nebraska, and it is published at Lincoln. In the issue of June 27th, 1901, there is an editorial, very personal, to the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE, and to so much of that article as demands notice, this replies.

The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE has long held, and frequently proclaimed, that the state of Nebraska, in common with other states of the American republic, has and exercises the right of regulating the sale of intoxicating drinks in the interests of good order within the state and that the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of such drinks within the state is contrary to the fundamental principles of social and moral conduct, and, if enacted, will be neutralized by the constitution of the United States, which permits the introduction to every state of foreign liquors, imported from abroad and controls also every form of inter-state commerce.

Answering further: It is true that the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE did say to a committee of ministers who called on him sometime ago, that the Slocum law, if properly administered, would do more for temperance than prohibition, and that he would contribute to make the test.

Being credibly informed that some zealous advocates of prohibition had furnished money to certain drinking men with which on Sunday to buy beer, liquor or wine with the intention of subsequently giving evidence against the person selling the same, the editor of

THE CONSERVATIVE believed that there was danger of blood-shed and riot. This belief was based upon what seemed to be very reasonable and credible statements as to how the "spotters"—as the hired drinkers and violators of the Sunday law whom the fervid temperance men had furnished money were called—would be treated by some men equally fervid in favor of non-temperance. To avoid possible riot, possible blood-shed, and much trouble in a peaceful community, mediation was attempted. And the mediator is not ashamed of his motives, nor of the results; nor afraid to "stand up" and face the "burning question," and declare that he is not a prohibitionist nor a believer in the efficacy of prohibition. Let laws already on the statute books of the state be enforced everywhere within the limits of the state, and temperance men will have accomplished much more good than they can ever bring about by the agitation of prohibition or the formation of law and order leagues, which hire and pay men for inducing other men to break the law by selling drinks on Sunday.

OBLIGATIONS. Parents who are constantly finding fault with their sons and daughters because of their non-recognition of their filial duties, are generally themselves to blame. Every man and woman holding the office of parent ought to realize the fact that the children are drafted into this world, that they come into the battle of life not as volunteers, but as conscripts. The fathers and mothers of the land are responsible for the existence of the children, and the obligation is largely upon the parents to so develop, physically and mentally, those children as to make them good citizens. Under our modern school system, the duties of parenthood are very much lessened apparently by the attempt of the state to act as parent-general for all families. Thus the common-school system, together with the purchase of the textbooks for pupils, has in a manner, released the fathers and mothers of the country from a natural duty and obligation.

The common-school system of the United States ought to be amended so that only those should be schooled at the public expense whose parents will declare under oath that they are unable

to pay for the education of their offspring. There is too little co-operation between parents and teachers. The latter are paid out of the general fund, and the former are unconscious of having any responsibility either towards paying, or co-operating with the latter. That which costs nothing in this world is not esteemed. Education has been made so cheap that there is nothing cheaper to be found than the cheap common-school system of the country. It needs revision.

ENSMALLED. The sixty-six-foot-in-width roads of Nebraska ought to be ensmalled. Thirty-three feet across is enough for any common road, and enough for any board of county commissioners to look after and levy taxes for. The next legislature of the state should narrow the highways. The selling to adjacent owners on each side of the road of a sixteen and a half feet strip will reduce the highway to thirty-three feet. It will give to each farm of a quarter section, one acre more of tillable land. It will reduce the weed-growing area of Nebraska by one-half. It will make out of the money received by each county for lands so sold, a permanent road fund of gigantic proportions. Thus, it will reduce taxes in each county.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION. The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE has recently received a very interesting communication from Mr. Pierre Chouteau, of St. Louis, relative to the possible exhibit of historical data and relics which the state of Nebraska may make at St. Louis in 1903. In THE CONSERVATIVE at some future time we shall be pleased to give a definite statement as to what Nebraska is expected to do historically on that occasion. Meantime, every resident of the Louisiana Purchase ought to take pride and satisfaction in faithfully endeavoring to make the best possible exhibit at St. Louis when that great exposition opens. The Hon. David R. Francis, president of that association, is a man of infinite resources, and vast energies. There is no other man in the United States who can bring to bear stronger and better directed efforts in behalf of this worthy enterprise.