

## SLOCUMB'S SAY.

The Father of the Liquor Law  
Corralled by a "Bee"  
Reporter,

And Induced to Say Something  
Interesting Concerning the  
Statute.

What He Thinks of Col. Watson B.  
Smith's Murder!

Hon. C. B. Slocumb, of Fairbury, the father and father of the so-called Slocumb liquor law, was found at the Metropolitan hotel yesterday, where he is staying while in attendance upon United States court. Mr. Slocumb is looking quite hearty and very kindly gave the questioner some opinions and statements concerning the present and future outlook for the statute which bears his name.

After a few unimportant questions he was asked, "What is the present condition of affairs throughout the state, from your standpoint, regarding the success of the law?"

"Well," said Mr. Slocumb, "that is a pretty broad question to answer. Still, briefly, I think that the success of the enforcement of the law is assured. The better class of liquor men throughout the state are desirous of complying with its regulations, and in many places they are doing so."

"How is it in Omaha?"

"Well, I think that here the better class of liquor men are anxious and willing to obey the law. But, you have here this trouble, as you well know, to contend with and that is, that a large number of the saloon-keepers have no capital or property and depend entirely on their daily profits for a livelihood. These men know that they are shut out by the provisions of the statute and consequently are bitter against its enforcement."

What is your opinion of the wisdom of the action of the city council?"

"The city council have taken as many steps, perhaps, as they could consistently. They probably look at this thing from the equity side of it, and I think there is some justice in this, myself. Many of the cities throughout the state have offered the men, who took out licenses previous to the revision by the supreme court upon the constitutionality of the law, deduct the amount thus paid from the \$1,000 demanded under the present statute. The majority of decisions in other states are to the effect that parties procuring licenses do so subject to whatever future legislation may be enacted. Still there are some decisions contrary to this, which contend that the holder of a license should be exempt from new legislation until his license expires. I think, however, that the supreme court of this state will invariably follow the first ruling. Certainly the men who renewed old licenses after the present law became in force, have no excuse, for they were *wilfully* defying the statutes of the state."

"Which do you consider best, the gradual or immediate enforcement of the law?"

In most radical changes gradual adoption secures the best results. I am therefore satisfied with the seemingly slow enforcement of this law. The object of the statute is in nowise prohibition, because I do not believe that possible. It is to put the liquor business entirely into the hands of the more respectable dealers, if that be possible, and to close up the "dives" which infest Omaha and many other smaller places.

"It has been claimed, Mr. Slocumb, that Judge Maxwell and others in judicial station in the state were really the framers of this statute which bears your name. What is there in this rumor?"

"Absolutely nothing. I was chairman of the committee to which in 1879 an imperfect license bill was referred. The committee framed the present law substantially, and reported it as a substitute. In the house some amendments were made and the bill passed. As you know, it died in the senate, through filibustering. Last year I introduced the same bill, in almost the exact form in which it passed the previous house. It became a law, and under the circumstances, I don't see how the supreme court could have taken any other action than it did. No one, except the members of the committee, had anything to do with the framing of the bill."

## COLONEL SMITH'S MURDER.

"I suppose you were deeply shocked by the death of Colonel Smith."

"I was, indeed. I had known of threats being made against him, as they were also made against me, but I did not consider them of any import."

## "Then you think it a murder?"

"I most certainly do. The theory of accident won't hold water. He was foully and dexterously assassinated."

"How far do you consider the liquor men responsible for the murder?"

"I don't consider the liquor men as a whole at all responsible for it. In fact, I am hopeful that investigation of the case will develop some other reason for the crime than that attributed to the liquor excitement. I hold that Col. Smith, in actively insisting on the enforcement of the law, was carrying out the part of a good citizen. But I hesitate to say that he died a martyr to the cause, for the reason that I do not think the better and larger element of liquor dealers would have given even tacit consent to the commission of such a crime. As I said before, I am hopeful that further investigation may discover another motive for the assassination. At the same time, however, I am very anxious that the real criminals be discovered and punished summarily."

"What do you think of the future of the liquor statute?"

"I think it will be enforced next year as generally and completely as any license law can be enforced. The next legislature will not repeal or cripple it, in my opinion, but will rather strengthen it."

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some of its weak points and provide further for its enforcement."

"Will you be a candidate for re-election?"

"No, sir. I am not a third-termer. I opposed the re-nomination of Grant on that ground, and intend to be as consistent in my humble personal actions as I would wish others to be."

Wishing Mr. Slocumb a good day and a pleasant trip home, the reporter withdrew.

## NEIGHBOR AND RIVAL MILLIONAIRES

New York Sun.

By the way, your folks should know something about the Webster Wagner affair. I think a recital of the thing would give New Yorkers a better idea of what the railroad ring in the senate really is than they have now. This Wagner I used to know when he was a station agent at Palatine bridge, thirty odd years ago. He was a steady-going, slow, Mohawk valley Dutchman, of whom none expected anything. Well, out of his seemingly dull brain sprang the idea of berths in a car. He invented a sleeper, and, unlike the ran of inventors, made millions out of his invention. He got the political fever, and bought an election to the assembly a ten years ago from Montgomery county, then an old batch stronghold of Democracy. Next year he got a senate nomination and was elected. He has sat in the senate ever since. All the while he has been accumulating millions, has built a magnificent palace of a house, puts beer on tap for his tenants, and plays the feudal baron as Sir William Johnson did in that neighborhood a century and over ago. He has one trouble; John H. Starin, up in Fulton, the next county, also has his millions and a medieval temperament, and he wants to play feudal baron too. Now, there isn't room for two barons in the same district. A rivalry has been growing up between these two billion lords for years. People have been watching it, and waiting with cotton-tails for the explosion. It looked a month ago as if the time for it had about arrived. Starin is a stalwart, and Wagner is a half-breed. Starin thinks that if Wagner had gone in for him in 1879 he could have been nominated at Saratoga instead of Cornell. Well, this year Starin gave the wink to the democrats that if they would name a good man for senator against Wagner he would see to it that he was elected. The democrats went and put up a lawyer named Bullard in Saratoga county, knowing that he would decline. He did decline. Then they proposed to let the thing go off as default. But Starin stirred some of them up to nominating his neighbor, Edward Wemple, of Fulton, one of the finest men in the district. A committee was appointed. Wemple, if he would accept, and he said, "Yes." Then they called the district convention together. The convention decided—o a majority did not nominate any one and broke up in a row. Dr. L. M. Arnold, of Amsterdam was subsequently nominated as a stamp democrat and will get some votes—not many. The whole transaction revealed this: Webster Wagner has so debauched that district that it is the rottenest borough in the United States. He has a mortgage on the souls of about one-half the voters of the district. He is not only able to get six consecutive nominations for the senate from his own party, with all the decent republican papers in the state crying out against it, but he is able to control the democratic organization, too, and prevent its nominating a man, even when that man's election was pledged by outsiders. New Yorkers think Astor's district is rotten. Tell 'em about Wagner's.

## THE LARGEST PRISON IN EUROPE.

The house of detention which has just been opened in Berlin, and to which all the prisoners, male and female, who are awaiting trial have been removed, is the largest prison in Europe. There are six different buildings, the men's prison being four stories high, with 732 single cells, several large rooms, holding in all 195 prisoners, 40 rooms for the warden, and sleeping accommodations for 118 other employees. Each of the cells has a window ten feet high, and an arched roof; the furniture, consisting of a bed and a stool fixed to the wall, and a washing apparatus. There are also an electric bell, a cupboard, a closet and a gas-burner placed above a small table. The prisoners can, if they please, read or write all night long. On the ground floor are twenty-six cells for prisoners accused of murder, or known to belong to the criminal class, and in these are placed beds. There are half a dozen cells underground for prisoners who are guilty of breach of discipline, and in the infirmary ring there are nine rooms for prisoners of good position in society, which are furnished with some approach to luxury. There are also two or three suites of apartments reserved for persons who are awaiting trial for political offenses, and who are to be allowed to furnish them for their own taste. The kitchen, baths, and heating apparatus are all on the area floor, and the interior of the building, which is of iron, is so constructed as to form a large hall in the center, which reaches up to the roof. There is a telephone between the prison and the Assize Court, so that prisoners can be sent there without having to wait. The prison for women contains seventy single cells and fifteen large dormitories, there being accommodation for 220 women altogether. The dormitories are partitioned off, so that each occupant can be placed under lock and key for the night, and there are three or four large work-rooms in which prisoners will be employed in the daytime, under the surveillance of female wardens. As in the men's prison, there is a spacious exercise-ground and separate chapel.

## WORTHY OF PRAISE.

As a rule we do not recommend patient medicines, but when we know of one that is really a public benefactor, and does positively cure, then we consider it our duty to impart that information to all. Electric bitters are truly a most valuable medicine, and will surely cure Biliousness, Fever and Ague, Stomach, Liver and Kidney complaints, even where all others remedies fail. We know whereof we speak, and can freely recommend to all.—Ex. Sold at 50 cents a bottle. Ish & McMahon. (4)

## POLK COUNTY'S POLITICS

Substantial Evidence of Prosperity Everywhere Visible.

The Court House and School House—Politics and Premiums.

Correspondence of THE BEE.

Oscoda, Neb., November 20.—

Sometimes there is not space enough in the brief limits of a correspondent's article to tell of the good things in and around a live town, and then again we find half a column of great sufficiency, but if I were to paint the dark side I could, in some cases, write a small volume. However, it is not my province to hold up deformities or unveil the skeletons that I find, but to cover them with the mantle of charity. Sometimes when fraud or stupidity in high places threatens loss or ruin to the people, then the correspondent may write the whole truth.

With this for a preface I am ready to sketch Oscoda briefly, for my limits are contracted. A magnificent building is now being erected over the ashes of Oscoda's court house, and the last estate of the Polk county capitol will be far better than the first. A school house is also towering skyward that will greatly add to the architectural appearance of this little city. Both of these buildings are of brick, with stone trimmings, and they are now up to the second story, and the school house is nearly finished. The court house is worth a dozen of our Douglas county seat of justice, and the school building will outmatch the North Omaha school. Oscoda is noted for politicians with some brains and a wonderful ability for keeping on top no matter how many try to put them down.

The majority of these politicians don't love THE BEE with that ardent love which characterizes the new made husband, but it is to be hoped that, nevertheless, the paper will survive its circulation through the Oscoda postoffice daily and weekly will discount the ring organs by a large majority.

## POLITICS.

Here is a mixup of religion, whisky, U. P., almanac, republican, greenback with a little democacy setting to the bottom.

Religion, as near as I can ascertain, was the principal issue over which the contestants fought in the late struggle in which two independent candidates captured the offices for which they ran.

Polk county is square, anti-monopoly,

and some day she will demonstrate that fact to the satisfaction of every schemer in this army of schemers.

## THE TOWN.

is clear, neat and picturesque. It is

growing and no doubt it will in time get rid of its junks and develop into a little city second to none in Central Nebraska.

## ODDS AND ENDS.

The grocery store of L. A. Baltzer was the place where I got nearly half of the subscription cash I received in Oscoda, hence I have reason to think that Mr. Baltzer and his friends are solid on the anti-monopoly goose.

Mr. Kyle, a thoroughly live gentleman and learned in the law, assisted me in my work at Oscoda and did the best man could do, and if Oscoda has not two or three columns it is no fault of his.

An excellent hotel, the Woods House, has recently been taken by Mr. W. P. Ellis.

See ad raising column for business directory.

## RANGE.

Wayne MacVough's Future.

Philadelphia Record.

Attorney General MacVeagh arrived in this city yesterday, with the avowed purpose of remaining here, and not assuming his place as a member of the cabinet again. He has requested President Arthur to accept his resignation, but the chief executive is not satisfied that everything is all right concerning the star route cases; hence he does not propose to allow Mr. MacVeagh to leave the administration in a predicament. It is stated by those who are on the inside that so far Mr. MacVeagh has not been able to secure testimony sufficient to warrant the belief that he could obtain a conviction of Brady, Dorsey and the rest of the Star Route people. The President, knowing this, proposes that after Mr. MacVeagh has prepared a case of his own he shall either have what benefit there is to accrue to him from it or else shall take all the blame of its failure. This is the present condition of affairs. The Attorney General is anxious to return to this city, the Stalwart air about Washington not being so agreeable to him as was the atmosphere during the Garfield reign; but he will be able to do this and at the same time do justice to himself and avoid the accusation of deserting the President in a serious question with him.

There is some talk of Mr. MacVeagh being the nominee of the independent republicans next year for governor.

As yet the boom has only started.

It is found that he has serious opposition in the ranks of the independents, because of what may be termed his "sea-sawing" qualities. He is closer to the Camerons than it is good for an independent to be, and this fact has had the effect of making the Kickers look about them in the hope of naming either Senator Lee or Senator Stewar, with the idea of forcing one of them upon the regular convention as its nominee. As far as it appears now, Mr. MacVeagh will return to the practice of the law in a short time, with no direct political preference awaiting him in the near future.

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