



The failure of the state board to relocate the state fair at Lincoln for the next five years is of course a great disappointment to the business men of this city. There is also a great disappointment in store for the state board. It will come to them when they have tried to conduct a successful fair at Omaha for a year or two. But is the fair such an advantage to a place as people have been led to suppose? The wholesalers in almost every line claim that fair week is an actual detriment to their business. People come in from the country towns, not for business, but for a good time and the wholesalers must call in their traveling men to entertain customers here during the week; salaries go on, expenses increase and there are fewer sales made that week than almost any week of the year. Retailers talk in about the same way, the increase in business during fair week is not enough to make up for the extra expense and trouble. About the only people who make money out of it are the street railway, hotels and saloons, and now the saloon men claim that they do not have so much of a bonanza during fair week as people claim. On the whole the fair was a good thing for the town, perhaps worth as much as it has cost us; but its loss is not such an unmitigated calamity as some of our people seem to imagine.

The most important recent failure is that of the Lincoln Street Railway company; while it was not entirely a surprise to most Lincoln people, it was hardly expected even by the officers of the company themselves that it would come quite so soon. The company had an agreement and contract with parties in the east to furnish funds to pay the interest on bonds and floating indebtedness for three years, but the hard times and poor prospects for next year discouraged them and they threw up the sponge. Of course there was nothing left but a receivership for the company. The loss will mostly fall on eastern security holders. It is understood that local creditors and banks have been secured so that there will be very little loss here. The railway company will undoubtedly be re-organized upon a better basis, the "water" squeezed out of its stock and then it will be a paying investment again.

During the week there have been two other failures. The Alcazar shoe company, a small store on east O street, and that of Bohanan Bros. The latter was not entirely unexpected by those in a position to know and hence it did not produce much comment. The Bohanan Bros. have the sympathy of a large circle of acquaintances as they are old settlers and have made a hard struggle to tide over the hard times.

Why does not some statesman in the present legislature present a law for taxing inheritances? Such a law would meet with the approval of almost all classes of citizens, is easy to assess and collect and would produce an increasing amount of revenue as our state grows older and richer.

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In Maryland they have a law taxing all collateral inheritance of \$500 or over at the rate of 2½ per cent. They also, practically, tax direct inheritances by taking 10 per cent. of all commissions allowed administrators and executors. New York and Pennsylvania tax collateral inheritances 5 per cent.

The law in New York allows the treasurer or comptroller a certain percentage of all the inheritance tax collected, thus making it an object for him to collect the full amount due the state. This accounts for the lively manner in which the New York tax collector has been following the executors of the Gould estate and insisting on the payment of over \$1,000,000 tax instead of about half that amount which the heirs offer to pay. A perfect tax of this kind should be an increasing progression, exempting small estates and the percentage increasing with the size of the estate left.

Some very radical measures have been proposed in Illinois. A committee of the Illinois Bar Association proposed to limit absolutely the amount any one child could inherit to \$500,000 and any one else from a single estate \$100,000.

The sentiment that the state has a better and more righteous claim upon the property of a man, who has made his fortune out of it and enjoyed its protection, than distant relatives is growing all over our country and is evidenced by the statutes of many states. Even the most radical laws on the subject are very liberal with the direct heirs and nearest relatives of the deceased. They simply take a small portion from the small estates and a larger portion from the great ones as the just due of the community for protection given the individual and they hold that the neighbors and associates of the dead man, those who have in a large measure directly or indirectly helped him to amass his wealth are more justly entitled to it when he is through with it than are distant relatives who have in no way assisted in its accumulation.

A law framed somewhat after the New York law would not only be a popular measure in this state but would be a just one, which would yield considerable revenue from the start and would, at the same time, not be a burden upon anyone. Let some of our legislators study up the subject and draw a bill and introduce it at this session. A debate upon the subject would at least do no harm and the adoption of such a law would put Nebraska in line with the most advanced states in the matter of tax reform.

BLASTED HOPES.

"Still thinking of becoming an actress?"

"No. In the last play I witnessed there was a girl who put her hat on straight without the aid of a mirror. I am sure I could never learn to do that in a thousand years."

OFFICE TERMS.



"Striking a Balance."