

PLAIN TRUTH ON LOCAL TOPICS

This week the editor of The Courier has been frequently admonished that his temerity in venturing to voice the sentiment of the people with respect to Judge Dundy would be followed by a retaliation on Judge Dundy's part that would not be pleasant for the editor, to say the least. It is a fact that when last week's Courier reached Omaha and Judge Dundy's court not much time was lost in instructing the grand jury to look into the matter of Thos. H. Benton's qualifications as a juror. Meanwhile the Outcalt case has been dragging along and Mr. Benton has been in his place as a juror.

The handling of the Outcalt case is on a par with the manner in which Mosher was tried. The strikingly weak prosecution by United States Attorney Ben Baker, the court's delay and finally the ridiculous sentence of Mosher to five years' imprisonment, are familiar to the people of this state. It was not surprising, after Mosher's experience, that Outcalt's trial should have been delayed to a date almost three years subsequent to the wrecking of the Capital National bank. It was not surprising that T. H. Benton, an intimate associate and protégé of Mosher, and a full fledged member of the Mosher-Outcalt ring, should be chosen to sit on the Outcalt jury and permitted by Judge Dundy to do so. Neither will it be surprising to the people of Nebraska to learn that Outcalt is acquitted. It will be surprising if he is not acquitted.

It is idle to contend that Mr. Benton was qualified to act as a juror in the Outcalt case. It is idle to contend that knowledge of Benton's past relations with Mosher and Outcalt had not reached the federal court. It is also idle to contend that Judge Dundy could not have prevented Benton from serving as a juror, had he so desired.

Years ago the city of New York was almost entirely controlled by one man. One man dictated all political appointments, distributed all municipal patronage, shared in all deals. That man was Bill Tweed and his end was bad.

In some respects the influence of Tweed in New York was not any greater, proportionately, than the influence of one man, who is easily named, in the city of Lincoln. This man of influence in Lincoln dictates political appointments, has much to say in the distribution of patronage, and is generally a potential figure in the municipal life. Backed by immense business interests involving vast wealth, the active representative of several large and powerful corporations, this man is feared and his word is to a great many, law. His business interests are, to a considerable extent, involved in politics; and, consequently, he takes the keenest interest in all phases of political activity. So much money and so many men are at his command that office holders and the men who work politics jump to do his bidding. His displeasure has brought defeat to many an aspiring candidate. Hence his favor is sought. One cannot enter any considerable department of business or political activity in this city and county without coming in contact with this man and his influence.

The man's name is D. E. Thompson, and his influence is mighty, and up to the present time has generally prevailed.

Said a well known politician the other day: "I have known something about Mr. Thompson's influence; but I was astonished recently to learn the extent of its ramifications. I was interested in an applicant for an important political

position, and tried in every way to obtain strength for him. I started out in many directions, but invariably I brought up in Mr. Thompson's office in the Brace block. I sought to obtain support from county officers, but was referred to Mr. Thompson. I went to the city hall, and was referred to Mr. Thompson. An errand to the state house had a somewhat similar result. And in business I found that I ran up against Mr. Thompson at every turn."

The above may be trifle exaggerated but it conveys the idea.

There is a movement on foot in this city to secure relief from the excessive charges by Mr. Thompson's company for electric lights on the city's streets. It was necessary in one part of the proceedings to give a small bond, two or three hundred dollars. An earnest effort was made to secure a bondsman, but incredible as it may seem, it was impossible to find anyone willing to risk Mr. Thompson's displeasure. The Journal, one of Mr. Thompson's chief allies, had threatened that any business man taking part in the movement would be made to feel the vengeance of Mr. Thompson and his colleagues or co-conspirators, and the threat answered its purpose.

It is a bad thing for any community to be ridden by any one man as Lincoln is ridden by Mr. Thompson, especially when such desperate measures are used to entrench the powers of the octopus, as is the case in the present instance.

The effort to bring about a reduction in the heavy expense saddled onto the city by the electric light company has not been abandoned, and it is to be hoped that something may yet come of it.

The outcome of the Hill case is a foregone conclusion. There was some money left over from the state appropriation, and this second trial will use it up. A great many questions are involved in the case, and it is hardly profitable to enter into a discussion of them now. The lawyers have already exhausted themselves and the people in an endeavor to explain the case. The chances are about ninety-nine to one that the state will be defeated.

It has been a subject of comment that so many of the jurors drawn on the panel in the Hill case were bankers, or rather, owners of bank stock. One would be justified in concluding from the examination of jurors in this case that 75 per cent of the male population of Nebraska own bank stock. It is hardly possible that 75 per cent of the male population of Nebraska is so unfortunate.

The bondsmen have tried to shift the responsibility from themselves to Mr. Hill.

The city administration, when it allowed itself to be brought into juxtaposition with Jesse Moore, as a possible appointee to the office of chief of police, approached the danger line. The people have stood a good deal, but it is doubtful if they could have been reconciled to Mr. Moore's appointment. There are some things about Mr. Graham's administration that are not altogether lovely, and there is a strong undercurrent of disapproval that only needs some one flagrant act to transform it into active protest.

Strangely as it may seem it was D. E. Thompson, who prevented the appointment of Jesse Moore. Mr. Thompson was aware that in his capacity of boss he would be held responsible for Moore and he was not willing to accept the responsibility. He gave it out that Moore should not be appointed and that ap-

parently settled it.

It is understood that a change is to be made, however. The Courier learns on good authority that Mr. Melick's discharge has been made out and signed by two members of the excise board. The document will be produced and Chief Melick's head will drop at the proper time. At least such is the present understanding. Gran Ensign is now slated as Melick's successor.

The moral sentiment in Lincoln seems to be decreasing in business as in politics. In a number of recent failures it is charged the stock was covered up with chattel mortgages and the creditors left without security. This week papers were filed in a suit of the American Exchange National bank against J. W. Winger. It would appear from the petition that this suit grows out of the sale of the J. W. Winger stock of dry goods to the Fitzgerald Dry Goods Co. The bank alleges that Mr. Winger after borrowing quite a large sum of money in order to take stock from H. R. Krug, quietly sold out to the Fitzgerald company and put the money in his pocket, leaving the bank out in the cold. The store building which Mr. Winger pretended to own for the purpose of increasing his credit appears now to be in the name of James W. Winger, a minor son. It also appears that Mr. Winger put a second mortgage upon his property in order to cover up whatever value there might be in it above the first mortgage. These transfers the bank alleges to be fraudulent, and it is endeavoring to have them set aside in order that Mr. Winger's property may be used to pay his honest debts. These are trying times for business men, but what are we to expect when those who stand highest in the church and in society will resort to such methods? It shows that hard times affect men's morals as well as their pocket-books.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF CHATTEL MORTGAGE BY SALE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY.

Whereas, on the 14th day of November, 1895, C. H. Rohman & Company executed and delivered to Lederer & Strauss a certain chattel mortgage and which mortgage was on the 15th day of November, 1895, duly filed of record in the county clerk's office of Lancaster county, Nebraska, to secure the payment of a promissory note executed at Lincoln, Nebraska, on the 15th day of July, 1893, for the sum of \$2,500, due in one year after date, payable to the order of W. C. Stark, with seven per cent interest per annum from date and signed by C. H. Rohman & Company and duly indorsed by said W. C. Stark to one Nelson C. Brock, and by Nelson C. Brock indorsed, sold and delivered to Lederer & Strauss, who are now the owners and holders of said note, and default having been made in the payment of the same and there being now due and owing on said note from said C. H. Rohman & Company to said Lederer & Strauss the sum of \$2,500, together with interest thereon at seven per cent per annum from July 15, 1895, and by said chattel mortgage the said C. H. Rohman & Company thereby conveyed to Lederer & Strauss all of the goods, groceries, wares and merchandise, office furniture, fixtures and personal property now in and upon the east half and side of the store room and basement lately occupied by said C. H. Rohman & Company at No. 1032 O street, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, together with one sorrel horse, age about eight years; one dun mare, age ten years; one set harness; one delivery wagon, all kept in barn at No. 1435 L street, in said city of Lincoln; also one-half of all books of accounts as shown by the firm books; all of which property we will offer at public sale at the hour of eleven o'clock a. m. at the store room aforesaid on the 5th day of December, 1895.

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