



THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1897



RECEIVED IN THE POST OFFICE AT LINCOLN
AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

SARAH M. HARRIS, Editor.

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$ 2 00
Six months.....	1 00
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

OBSERVATIONS.

It is enough to make even a legislator smile to read the "protest" of the ticket scalpers and their patrons against the bill which proposes to suppress their "business."

"We, the undersigned, earnestly protest against the passage of the Sherman bill to abolish ticket brokerage. It is detrimental to the best interests of commercial men and the public at large and would tend to perpetuate railroad pools and combinations."

Ticket brokerage is against the best interests of commercial men and the public at large, though the committee for the "undersigned" who drew up the protest did not mean to say so. The passage of the bill to abolish ticket scalping would be detrimental to the practice of forgery, theft, lying, false representation, and other contemptible forms of fraud in which ticket scalpers and many of their patrons have to indulge in order to defraud the railways out of a part or the whole of their pay for transportation. Buying and selling passes and tickets made out in other people's names constitutes the vast bulk of the ticket scalper's business and it cannot exist without fraud and dishonesty. It is a sneaking trade, carried on in undertones, with mutual suspicion of sellers and buyers, its constant object being to "beat the road." The seller fears that he may be dealing with a "spotter," or that the customer may return and demand his money back because the scheme did not work; the buyer is worried throughout his journey by fear that his scalped ticket may be refused, and he very often suffers the humiliation of being detected as a fraud and compelled to give up his purchased transportation and pay his fare over or walk. The whole spirit of the scalping business is deception; its whole

object is to defraud. How can legislators who believe in honesty and right in the conduct of business hesitate an instant to suppress this nefarious and corrupting traffic?

The one ground on which ticket scalpers base their impudent claims for public patronage, that their customers can get transportation at lower rates than people who buy honest tickets, is of itself proof of the unlawfulness of their business. The fundamental principle of the interstate commerce act is the prevention of discrimination and the establishment of equality of charges for equality of service. The scalper's whole effort is to evade this law, and he ought to be suppressed and punished as a determined lawbreaker. As long as ticket scalping exists the interstate commerce law will be defied.

The Call was not careful to verify the information it received in regard to the Lamaster family at 2245 South Ninth street. The father of the family has been in jail for stealing and the county attorney has almost decided to let him out in order that he may support his family, who have been visited by Mr. Hebard and Mrs. McCormick repeatedly. At their request the county commissioners have supplied them with food and fuel. The five children have been ill with the grip and one died, from the effects of the disease, not from hunger. The Call intimates that Mr. Hebard is in the habit of going to the "penitentiary on Sunday with a sanctimonious face and talking salvation to over 300 convicts who sit and grin at his efforts to lead them into the straight and narrow path." It is Elder Howe who visits the prison. Mr. Hebard is busy investigating cases and directing them to the proper sources of relief. It is just as well to "keep things separate," Mr. Austin. Howe is the name of the man who disburses charity and exhortation irresponsibly and alternately.

The proposition for Nebraska to send aid to Chicago is an insult to the new rich city. The papers have taken up the cause of a few hundred professional mendicants, too lazy and too haughty to work in the wood-yards or other poverty-teething workshops in Chicago, and the newspapers are wholly responsible for the false impression that Chicago is unable to care for her poor. No city in the country has a better organized charity system, unless it be Baltimore. There, as here, it is the constant effort of the charity organization society to help the unfortunate to help themselves, to exercise the muscles of hereditary and professional beggars at wood-yards, to implant a seed of self respect which will eventually lift them or their descendants out of the "submerged fifth." The beggars rebel at this heroic treatment; they say they will starve first. The society says, "All right, starve!" But the flabby spine which the beggars inherit from some lazy old vertebrate keeps

them even from starving with consistency and decision. The beggar drops into the first editorial office he comes to and pours his woe into the ears of a sickly, sentimental, unscientific chump of an editor who never investigated a cause of misery in his life. He prints the beggar's story. Why should it not be a good one? The beggar has not done anything in all his life but practice "touching" stories. The charity organization societies which are really in the way of curing pauperism are called all the red tape names the gifted young man in the revolving chair can think of, and the dirty, vicious tramp is encouraged in his parasitic life. It is in Lincoln as it is in Chicago. It is all very well to stand up for Nebraska and to advertise it, and Nebraska is worthy of all praise and fealty, but let us not insult Chicago or the magnificent state of Illinois with a carload of victuals. We have troubles enough of our own, and the head-piece which Nebraska condescendingly selected to ponder on affairs of state for the next two years is not able to enlarge the field of thought without danger to itself. It is doubtful what would become of the corn if it were sent to Chicago, for by all the instincts of self respect the city would refuse it, and the unmitigated, incorrigible bums would not get a sight of it.

Every legislature goes through some form of buncombe during the first few days. It nearly always occurs at a period not far from the eighth day of the session. The house or senate has generally been dallying with some trifling matter for an hour or two, perhaps discussing as they always do in the same old way, the same old question of stamps and newspaper-wrappers. Then an indignant member arises, on whose mind rests the burden of the value of time, and in loud and warning tones, counts up and tells the number of hours that have been wasted in the discussion and what it has cost the people of the state. And then he warns them that the foolishness must cease or they will hear the roar of an outraged public who will no longer be trifled with, and that they must immediately get down to business and do something for the people.

All of this talk is arrant nonsense. If the legislature were to spend three hours every day for the first ten days discussing the acoustic properties of the senate chamber, it wouldn't cost the state an additional dollar, nor would the state lose a cent. There is practically nothing that either house can do until the routine of organization is accomplished and a quantity of bills well under way. It is all the same in cost whether they are in session thirty minutes or six hours, whether they remain still or discuss the Cuban question indefinitely.

The first three weeks of a session seems to be almost wasted. To get a number of bills through the grind so that either house can begin consideration takes about that period of time. If

it were possible to begin the consideration of bills at once, a much larger amount of business could be accomplished. The advantage would depend on whether the doing of a large amount of legislative business is considered desirable or not.

If all the bills that failed for any reason to be disposed of at one session should go over, and be ready for immediate consideration at the next, many good bills that died because of never being reached, would thus live over and be ready for attention. Quite a percentage of successful bills at present are fought through not on their merits, but because they have a successful champion. But if all bills not passed or defeated should live over there would be something for the next session to take hold of without delay. Thus every bill would, some time, be considered and stand or fall on its merits.

Such a plan would be economy. The printed bills would be on hand without additional cost of printing. As it is at present nearly all those bills are introduced over again at each session and have to be printed at a great cost. Many often wonder why the number of bills introduced grows larger at each session. It is because the old ones are introduced in addition to all the new ones specially prepared. Members must be heard from. Their constituents must be made to think they are doing something. So they ransack the old files of former sessions, copy off the bills and introduce them. This has the appearance of business. Sometimes several members introduce the same bill. Sometimes bills are introduced that have been defeated one or more times. Some members have even been known to introduce bills that have been passed and been laws for years.

Bills living over from one session to the next would have the advantage of careful study during the two years by prospective members of the legislature as well as the public generally. Some kind of a commission could examine and report at the beginning of sessions on the change and effect of each bill. In fact, there would be a certain advantage if all important bills were introduced in one session and passed upon in the next. Certainly not so many crude and ill-considered laws would pass the legislature. But, of course, such a thing is almost a fairy tale. It cannot be done and our legislatures must go on in the same "happy go lucky" way as heretofore.

It is not easy to keep from stopping over in regard to Rudyard Kipling's story "Captain's Courageous," now running in "McClure's." To get a briny, stinging slap of water right in the face fifteen hundred miles from the sea, demands some kind of a tribute to the man who brings the ocean thus far. From the barrack room to the jungle, from men to animals, from four footed animals to the literary and artistic set in London,