

# THE COURIER

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## OBSERVATIONS.

One result of the test at the A street well, according to the official report is as follows: "Pumping 346,000 gallons a day the water in the well was not lowered a perceptible fraction of an inch." The well in question is 186 feet deep. The wells in the neighborhood which have gone dry are only thirty feet deep. Tapping a 186 foot vein can have had no influence upon shallower veins. The wells which the owners say have gone dry are supplied by surface water. The subterranean stream of the A street well is fed from an unknown lake or river reservoir, but, *it is fresh and with less lime in it than that of any other city well.* According to the daily reports of the Rice well the water was not lowered there during the pumping test of the A street well. Furthermore the stream of the A street well flows from the south east. The Rice street vein flows from the north-east. A chemical analysis of the water of the two wells will disprove their identity. Yet the mayor refuses to allow this pure stream of living water to be connected with the city mains and instead proposes a site, at the intersection of the Burlington and Rock Island tracks, which in relation to the city is as bad as the F street location. During the testing

of the A street well the daily papers frequently expressed Mayor Graham's fears that the flow at the A street well would affect the Rice well and finally he was obliged to veto the plan to connect the A street well with the city mains, because, in case of fire the supply of water would be diminished to a dangerous degree. Now Mayor Graham's attention is respectfully called to this summarized statement of the result of the test: Daily capacity from six inch pipe—364,000 gallons, water in pipe stationary at both wells during test, depth of F street well 186 feet; vein, which supplies it flows from south east; Rice street vein from north east. These facts can be verified by any citizen who cares to investigate the reports of the test and the simultaneous reports of the Rice street well. If it be possible for the mayor to free himself from other influences long enough to examine these daily reports and to come to a conclusion based on the merits and necessities of the water question, the citizens of Lincoln will appreciate his disinterested and patriotic research. Those who aver that the Salt creek valley is the only vicinity from which to get a supply of water are not diggers of wells, they are not chemists who can detect substances fatal to human beings in the water we drink, but they are politicians who hazard a city's health to gain the good will and powerful and efficient aid of a ring which has disgraced the name of the republican party in Nebraska. There are good men and true in the council who appreciate the situation and are trying to give the people fresh water in spite of the mayor's veto. To these men the people are looking for pure water and THE COURIER believes that in spite of many things they will finally succeed in turning the subterranean streams of the Antelope Valley into the city mains and shutting off the saline and impure supply from the west.

Nothing so salutary could happen to the republican party of this city and county as its utter and overwhelming defeat, a defeat so discouraging that those who have made a living by working the machine will admit such agriculture impossible for years to come and leave for some place where ward politicians of the contemporary Bud Lindsey type are still in demand. This would leave the party in charge of party leaders who are republicans from principle and experience, whose integrity and devotion have never been questioned and under whose leadership republican conventions would nominate again as they have in the past, representative men instead of men with

criminal tendencies, as candidates for the suffrage of the people at large. Any party, holding the balance of power long enough will attract unscrupulous and selfish manipulators who will sell nominations to the highest bidder and nothing but the entire loss of prestige will rid the party of their most embarrassing and discrediting company.

The people have taken up the auditorium scheme as though they were not just on this side of hard times. With debts paid, with vast cribs building for the biggest crop ever harvested in any state and with the preparations for a great exposition which will bring thousands into the state to whom Nebraska has hitherto been but an untranslatable word, the people are ready to take hold of any project which will build up the city. THE COURIER believes that it will be most unwise, as well as unnecessary to vote bonds for this purpose. That expedient has already put the city, not hopelessly, but discouragingly, in debt. The money can be raised by private subscription and posterity has already been sufficiently burdened by us. Let us give the young generations a fighting chance. It will surely be a fighting chance. Competition and the rapidly multiplying complexities of living, will sharpen the features and try the muscles of the ablest of those who are to come. It is easy to vote bonds, it is hard to pay them. We can give the babies a chance and stand up for Lincoln at the same time. The energy of the committee which is in charge of the money getting has been tested. Mr. W. A. Green is persistent and untiring in the accomplishment of his designs. He can communicate his enthusiasm and faith and set other people to work nearly as hard as himself and THE COURIER predicts that he will organize effort to such a degree that the voting of bonds will be unnecessary.

While on this subject and before any plans for the auditorium have been presented it is timely to remind the directors how many large audience rooms have been useless because of their bad acoustics. There is one building in this country, and so far as I know, the only one in the world, in which the acoustics are so perfect that a pin dropped at one end into a hat, may be heard at the other end, 251 feet away. Every one is familiar with the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, which is capable of accommodating 10,000 people in perfect comfort and safety. It is only an immense wooden dome supported on 46 columns of sandstone which form the wall. Between them are so many doors and windows that the 10,000 people can

get outside in less than five minutes. A gallery, seating about a third as many people as on the first floor, occupies three sides of the nearly square room, (it is 250 feet by 251 feet and 65 feet high). It is light, the ventilation is good and speechmaking is as easy as talking. Yet it has not been imitated. Only Mr. Bryan, of the many men who spoke in the Chicago wigwam, was clearly audible to everybody, and the *timbre* of his voice would carry it over the most obstinate and opposing waves of sound. The Minneapolis and St. Louis national convention halls of most recent time, were not much better than the wigwam. The band played or patriots waved their inspired limbs, the people only knew they spoke because their lips and arms were seen to be in motion. Now although the Mormons have not set an example to the rest of the world which can be followed in all respects, they have built the only good meeting house in the world. It combines simplicity, cheapness, safety, comfort, with adaptability to the use it was built to serve. Why its noble and scientific lines have not been imitated it is not given to my ignorance to know. It is an ideal room for the members of a representative government to express themselves in, yet the idea is allowed to remain in the sole possession of a theocracy. Would it not be well to build a tabernacle in monogamous Lincoln to democracy on the same lines as the polyandrous temple of the Mormons.

The protests of numerous citizens against granting the street sign ordinance, will, it is hoped, prevent such disfigurement of the streets. The occasional theatre bill boards which fill up a vacant lot or cover the walls of a building half destroyed by fire, are in the present stage of poster art, pleasing bits of color and composition. They are changed every week and are of interest to everybody. But the commodities which would be advertised on the street signs would not possess the same attractions. Grasse nor Muchet, nor even our own Bradley can not make attractive, false teeth, the chiropodists honest but repulsive profession nor the many useful but ugly trades necessary to supply a people's wants. To place a rival's sign in front of a merchant's place of business who refuses to advertise with the street sign company, is a favorite trick of getting business. The three men who have asked the exclusive use of the street corners for twenty years ask a franchise that city councils have granted to water, street car and gas companies in the past without reflection that they give away that which is in no man's power to bestow.

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