

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1897.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs  
Telephone 384.

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Subscription Rates—In Advance.

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



OBSERVATIONS.

The difficulty which Prosecuting Attorney Munger had in securing citizens' signatures to the complaint against the gamblers last Saturday is a commentary on the real desire of the public to suppress gambling. It is all very well to blame the county attorney for not prosecuting the gamblers for he is sworn to prosecute lawbreakers, but he can not successfully proceed against felonies without the support of the community. There are hundreds of citizens who saw the gambling at the fair grounds last week. Yet when some of these were asked by Mr. Munger to sign the complaint they refused. A little boldness now and gambling in Lincoln will not pay so well this coming winter. Mr. Munger has shown a willingness to do his duty and he should have the support of all respectable members of the community irrespective of party or previous expression of opinion.

That curious code which binds gamblers together and makes them enemies to law, is strong. Life and struggle has made cowards of men. Sift this community with a sieve which will let all the timid through and it is not for me to say that there would remain one citizen rattling about on top. Even Sheriff Trompen, over six feet high and of heroic

breadth, is deferential in his treatment of gamblers and although he was on the grounds at the time when the games were in full operation and the tents full of customers, of course when he appeared before the counter they ceased to play and all he could see, he says, "was the money and the gambling instruments." He told Gambler Gleason that he thought he would get into trouble if he did not quit gambling and then the sheriff courteously and considerately, finding himself *de trop*, withdrew from the grounds. Such delicacy on the part of the sheriff, although strictly according to the rules governing callers who accidentally intrude on an interview, evidently very satisfactory to the daughter of the house and her beau, is extraordinary, because a sheriff's duties so frequently make politeness impossible. In fact, courtesy to a felon, whether convicted or not, is frequently incompatible with justice to the people who pay the sheriff's salary. If the county ticket is defeated this fall it will be because a few timid republicans who yet admire bravery, especially in those who draw a salary for it, are disgusted with Sheriff Trompen's complacency to gamblers.

The board of directors of the Haydon Art club has made plans to bring a splendid exhibit of pictures to Lincoln this winter, as well as to provide a number of picture talks by brilliant artists and speakers like Lorado Taft, the sculptor, and Mr French, the director of the Chicago Art school. Prof. Barbour is vice president of the club and during President Harwood's absence in Europe will preside at the regular monthly meetings of the board and direct the affairs of the club with that wisdom and energy which he has shown in the conduct of his own affairs. Besides the exhibition and the illustrated lectures the club offers a scholarship which by the payment of five dollars a year entitles the subscriber to weekly instruction throughout the school year and admits to all other privileges of the club except to the picture exhibit, where an entrance fee is necessary in order to pay the expenses of the exhibit which are always large. There are over a hundred members of the Haydon Art club whose desuetude can only be disturbed by an exhibit. An exhibit has made members in good standing out of those who had forgotten the existence of the art club and created a fund which has held them together till the next public evidence of vitality.

It is doubtful if Mayor Graham's

method of farming out the city offices is a wise one, or if the people are well served thereby. When applicants for the office of chief of police, chief of the fire department, engineers, policemen and firemen, secure appointments by an agreement to pay a certain per cent of the salary of the place sold, their fitness for the place is not apt to be considered so much as their ability to pay. Also the incumbent will be obliged to make enough out of the office to reimburse him for the original cost of it. Thus, the people pay their representative, the mayor, an additional salary for making appointments. Would it not be better to pay the mayor such a sum for his services that he can afford to consider an application on its merits. It is a narrow and short-sighted policy which forces a mayor to figure on the value of each appointment in his power and the correct per cent to charge the appointee, who in turn is forced by the cost of living, the size of his family, etc., to take the "per cent" out of the people. It would be higher wisdom to get a more expensive mayor from the choicest human product of the city, a man who in forty or fifty years of life has manifested integrity, purity and high-mindedness and can not be tempted by a few thousand dollars to hazard that reputation.

The champions of the South street well urge that it is poor business policy to abandon a plant on which \$46,000 has been sunk, when for \$500 more the plant can be made to furnish the city with plenty of good fresh water. But when Councilman Mockett says, "there is nothing of value at the South street station, save the large water mains running to it which could not be taken up at comparatively small cost and carted away," the South street councilmen reply to this proposition that this particular pump can not be moved without destroying it. If it be so fine and costly a pump it would seem that with care it might be moved.

The proposition that you can not obtain a continuous flow of fresh water from a salt deposit through which flows an artesian stream which will come to the surface without being forced wherever the ground is punctured, is worthy of the attention of that part of the council which is opposed to the Antelope valley. The rest of the council have been confronted with the lesson and accepted it. It is simple enough when divested of theories and unsubstantiated statements.

The decision of Judge Holmes in the Home of the Friendless case is

gratifying to those who have studied it. Judge Holmes decided that the state had practically agreed to a partnership with the board of managers and that the state can not now deprive the board of their responsibility for, or share in the institution. Several years ago the republican politicians tried to obtain control of the patronage of the Home and failed. In an institution whose object is to care for the old, the new-born, the sick and the destitute, politicians see only an opportunity for increasing their patronage list and just as long as women have no vote their control of such an institution will be disputed. Notwithstanding the fact that women belong on a board of charities, that by nature and training the sick and the unfortunate are her inalienable wards, from the moment that the legislature makes a money grant to a benevolent institution feminine management will not be tolerated. The republicans tried to take the management from the women and failed, the populists have tried and failed in this first step. If justice and right prevail throughout the course of the litigation as it has in the beginning, the woman's board will still control the Home for the Friendless.

Now that ten of the larger firms have shown their confidence in the city and in a new prosperity by large gifts to the Auditorium fund, that building, which will increase by thousands the number of visitors to the city, will probably be begun in October. Since the development of the plans for the building, all sorts of combinations have been proposed, any one of which, if adopted, would make the auditorium less of an auditorium and more of a library or gymnasium as the case may be. The city needs a library in which to house its increasingly valuable collection and sometime in the millenium future, when we have learned how to heat and light and propel cars by electricity the city will take charge of that energy and the dividends which individuals now make out of the city's needs will be turned back into the city's treasure box where they will emerge to pay for parks, gymnasiums, libraries, etc. But just at present we want an auditorium; to combine it with a library would spoil both. The modern library is in itself a complicated structure, not yet the finished product of experiments and the diverse theories of the graduate of the red-and-black ink library schools. To attempt to combine anything so highly complex with an auditorium would, in depriving the auditorium of light, of air, of height and of a sufficient number of exits to insure the safe egress of 5,000 people