



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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.

SARAH V. HARRIS, Editor  
DORA BACHELLER, Business Manager

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

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



OBSERVATIONS.

The reason why the mayor and part of the council have opposed the A street well and good water, developed on Monday night at the city council meeting. Mr. Thompson wants the control of the city water himself. Therefore it was not good policy to let satisfactory water into the mains. The householders must be deluged with poisonous and corroding water until in desperation, and for hunger of good water, they will sell their communal birthright to the man who, more than any one else, is responsible for the election of such a man as the present mayor, for the prominence of Bud Lindsey in city politics, and for most of the scandals which are giving the city of Lincoln the reputation of those cities of old which God had to burn up. It were better for the city of Lincoln to pay twice what it is paying now, for salt water, than to turn it over to Mr. Thompson. Everyone who knows anything about city politics is aware that through the patronage of the Gas and Electric company Mr. Thompson wields an influence with the council and mayor far greater than considerations based on the best interests of the city at large. If the council sells the water franchise to a private company they do so at the expense of their political future, even if their individual finances be im-

WATER COMMISSIONER BYER'S REPORT.

In Mr. Byer's report of the water department, published in the Journal of September 21, I find that the coal bill for the South street station for four years was \$27,333.42. For the same period at the Rice well the coal cost \$19,049.93, or \$8,283.49 less than at the South street well. By the same report it appears that the cost of repairs at the South street station for four years was \$3,665.31. At the Rice well it was \$2,079.64, or \$1,585.67 less for repairs at the Rice station than at the South street station. Notwithstanding the smaller consumption of coal at the Rice well the latter is the larger plant. According, then, to Water Commissioner Byer's report, the South station in the last four years has cost the city for coal and repairs \$9,869.16 more than the Rice station.

proved by the grant. The small extortions which the Electric Light and Gas company has practiced on the citizens for years would be duplicated in the Thompson Water company and the citizens would be without recourse. The mayor has by one excuse and another kept the salt water from the South and F street wells pouring into the city mains, evidently with this one purpose in view. In the Antelope valley there is a deep vein of water, as cold as a mountain spring and as pure. The A street well has tapped this vein. That it is abundant the test showed, with all the pumping the water in the well did not fall a fraction of an inch. The COURIER said then and it repeats it now, the better the water in the A street well, and the more abundant, the less chance of its being allowed to enter the city mains. The action of the council in this matter is anxiously awaited by the people of Lincoln. Every last voter, outside of those interested in the gas company, is opposed to handing over this remnant of communal functions to the friend of Mosher, Mayor Graham and Bud Lindsey.

In Mr. Byer's report of the water department, published in the Journal of September 21, I find that the coal bill for the South street station for four years was \$27,333.42. For the same period at the Rice well the coal cost \$19,049.93, or \$8,283.49 less than at the South street well. By the same report it appears that the cost of repairs at the South street station for four years was \$3,665.31. At the Rice well it was \$2,079.64, or \$1,585.67 less for repairs at the Rice station than at the South street station. Notwithstanding the smaller consumption of coal at the Rice well, the latter is the larger plant. According, then, to Water Commissioner Byer's report, the South street station in the last

four years has cost the city for coal and repairs \$9,869.16 more than the Rice station. The extra repairs are fully accounted for by the effect of salt water on iron pipes. Every householder knows by the sums he pays for plumbing every year, how the salt water destroys, zinc, iron and steel. Considering the corroding character of the chemicals the South street water holds in solution the bill for repairs is moderate. But the reason for the \$8,283.40 excess of coal at the South street station is unexplained. There are some very curious relations between the water stations and the coal dealers of the city. For instance, last winter after the coal contracts were awarded, a rival dealer blustered a good deal and suddenly subsided. Now THE COURIER does not question his right to subside—every American citizen is born with that right and the mayor and part of the city council fervently wish that THE COURIER would exercise it, but that is another story. In passing, it is a coincidence that soon after the coal dealer in question decided to keep still, Mr. Thompson consented that he be nominated for a small office, which he now enjoys. As soon as the A street well test began the grateful coal dealer wrote an open letter to the mayor, claiming that the test of the A street well had dried up the water in his own well about a mile away. When it is remembered that underground water flows a mile a year and that the coal dealer's property is about a mile from the A street well, the absurdity of the claim is apparent. If the coal dealers of the place have combined with the chief conspirator to prevent the council from connecting the A street well with the mains, it is just as well for the citizens to know it. A company of women under the name of the City Improvement association, has improved the looks of the city very much. Would it

not be a good plan for a number of citizens to come together and appoint a committee to look into the water question. The council knows by experience that the salt valley yields salt water. They know that the salt water is costing the city thousands of dollars in pipe, pump and engine repair, yet they refuse for first one reason and then another to abandon the saline deposit. Citizens of all colors and parties—republicans, democrats, demo-populists, silver republicans, gold democrats and populists want the salt water shut off from the mains and the majority think the city should retain control of the water works even if the council has never shown itself equal to the task of providing good and cheap water for the city. One man will not last forever. The evil days will come when the grass hopper is a burden, but a municipality does not grow old. If it does not forge chains which nor youth nor strength can break, it will develop and the communal sense will deepen in time until the mayor and city council will be a dignified body of the best business men.

Although THE COURIER has not received the program of the meeting next week at Beatrice of the Nebraska Federation of Women's clubs, it accepts the assurance of those who have assisted to prepare it that it is of unusual interest to women. One session will be given up to the discussion of topics interesting to mothers. On that day Mrs. Maria Cowen of York, will review the mothers' National Congress which met last February in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Heller of Omaha, will discuss Mothers and Kindergartens; Mrs. A. W. Field of this city, will discuss Mothers and Schools, and Mrs. A. C. Ricketts, also of this city, will discuss the subject of "The Responsibility of Mothers." This session has been in charge of Mrs. Ricketts who has arranged and prepared it under the foregoing heads. After the principal speakers have presented their thoughts to the federation, the discussion will be thrown open to all those who wish to speak concerning the best way to raise up a child. It is hoped that the women from all over the state will take part in the discussion. All delegates will be entertained. Visitors from other clubs can be entertained at the hotels at reduced rates. The breezy, bright women who will speak at this meeting will stimulate every woman who hears them to increased and more sustained effort in the coming season. Mrs. Maurice Deutsch (born Schwab), as the president of the Woman's club of Beatrice, will deliver the address of welcome.