

OBSERVATIONS.

[Continued from page 2]

The defeat of only one member of the Lancaster county republican ticket last Tuesday is worthy of study. The republican candidate for register of deeds is a young man of unusual energy, determination, industry, good nature and good fellowship. He is ambitious and has considerable political acumen. THE COURIER has no hesitation in saying that Mr. Woods' name was scratched partly on account of the friends he has made. Members of all parties are thoroughly disgusted with the present city administration and Mr. Woods is supposed to be a supporter and friend of Mayor Graham, Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Thompson, and that helped to turn the scale against him. It is difficult to become a member of this group and retain the confidence of the plain every day people who do not pay much attention to politics except in the month immediately preceding election day, and who usually vote the republican or democratic ticket because they are accustomed to. They do not generally scrutinize the qualifications and the record of the rival candidates. But this time the charges of corruption which Mayor Graham has not denied, the record of Mr. Lindsey, who as a saloon keeper was arrested seven times in three months, charged with breaking the laws regulating the selling of liquor, and the discoveries of Water Inspector McArthur that Mr. D. E. Thompson paid no water rent, although the city water was not turned off from the Brace block, reacted upon Mr. Woods though it cannot be said that he is responsible for Mayor Graham's selling appointments and his complacency to gamblers and saloon keepers, for the occupations which Mr. Lindsey has followed since his residence in Lincoln, or for Mr. Thompson's ruse in cutting down the expenses of the Brace block. But the people perceived a connection, and as none of these men were asking for an office, Mr. Woods was rebuked as an object lesson to them. On the other hand, Mr. Woods is responsible for his advocacy of the Salt Creek basin as the location for the city wells. Some months ago THE COURIER predicted that any candidate who had made a record in the council as an opponent to the Antelope Valley water system would find it hard to convince salted voters that opposition was not based on private interest or influence in contra distinction to considerations of public welfare. The result has shown that my estimate of the exasperated state of the public mind concerning the water supply and those who were responsible for the quality of it, was correct.

Most cities instead of discouraging the use of water are building public baths and increasing the quantity. If everybody is required to pay for the city water according to the rates adopted by the department some years ago there will be no deficit. Only twenty cities in this country use meters. We might as well live in the Dry Tortugas as to be at the mercy of a system which measures out the water at so much a gallon. We want air and water without limit and without measure and it is unsanitary to put a premium on the careful use of water. The people of Lincoln do not want meters. They want the department administered according to business principles. Mayor Graham proposes to increase the rate and thus pay for the meters in a year. That same money spent in pumps and electrical machinery will give better satisfaction. The substitution of the meter system for the one in operation will increase the number of objections to Lincoln as a city of residence. And it will bear hardest up-

on those citizens of moderate means who have proverbially the largest families. With a meter the Saturday night baths of a day laborer's family often might have to be omitted. It goes against the grain to pay for water by the gallon with four fifths more of water than of land, the miserable dwellers on this round globe were not meant to be scrimped with those exasperating machines invented by some one who hated humanity, to measure the water they drink, bathe their children with and sprinkle their lawns.

A city council exists for the purpose of meeting emergencies which the law does not provide for as well as for administrative purposes. It has been found that the law does not quite enable the officials to interfere with the slot machines which are in session summer and winter and are educating infant gamblers who will in time make Lincoln a rich field for the fraternity which belongs to the class, birds of prey. The council should frame an ordinance strong and specific enough to destroy these kindergarten gambling machines. They are corrupting the youth. They are more pernicious than the adult games of chance which run behind locked and watched doors. Habitués of these places are more or less vicious. These players know they are gambling, but the children are fascinated by the machines as by a wonderful new game which rewards a winner with the unknown riches of a dollar at a time. The appetite is acquired before time and experience has toughened the moral fibre of the victims. The city fathers ought to respond to the cry of the women all over this town to suppress the slot machines.

Now, while there is a majority of decent men in the council the city should be redistricted. The ward boundaries should be changed so that the members from the first, second, third and seventh wards representing one third of the voting population of Lincoln, will not control as they do now, by being able to outvote members of the fourth, fifth and sixth, who represent two-thirds of the voting population. In other words, the small wards should be enlarged by adding to them some of the territory of the respectable wards. As it is now the saloon wards have the power to tax the respectable wards, although the former contain only one third of the population and that third does not own more than one sixth of the property and perhaps not more than one tenth. Such a disproportion between numerical strength and representative power is analogous to the rotten borough abuse in England which was corrected several years ago. Representation was based on area rather than on the amount of population in that area. So that there were instances of boroughs containing only a farmer or two, sending a representative to parliament and per contra densely populated areas like Sheffield being without a representative. The wards in Lincoln were districted more than twenty years ago, and in those years changes have taken place which in the east would require a hundred years to accomplish. These changes have shifted the population so that the present boundaries work the injustice referred to in the foregoing.

"Nemo," the correspondent whose communications occupy the first page of the Omaha *Excelsior* is a gentleman who resides in New York. He supplies editorials to the *Excelsior* for ten cents a column. Nemo's essays on love, marriage, death, housekeeping, etc., never offend or disturb the most refined ladies. As a soporific I know of nothing so effectual.

Allegretti Chocolates

AT

Rector's Pharmacy.

FUNKE OPERA HOUSE

F. C. ZEHRUNG, Mgr.
Corner O and Twelfth streets

Tuesday evening, Nov. 9.

Surpassing all competitors!
The representative comedian

JOE FLYNN

in

"M'GINTY THE SPORT."

Declared to be the funniest farce of them all.

The best comedians, the cleverest dancers, the newest specialties, the prettiest girls. Everything new, bright and glittering.

Prices \$1, 75c, 50c, 25c. Seats on sale Monday 10 a m.

F. A. KORSMEYER PLUMBING AND HEATING CO.

Contractors for

PUMPS, IRON PIPE,
SEWER AND
CULVERT PIPE.

Wholesalers of

PLUMBING,
STEAM AND
HOT WATER HEATING.

125 SO. 11TH. ST., LINCOLN, NEB.

J. W. MITCHELL.

Wholesale and Retail

WALL PAPER.

1338 O street and 143 so 12th st
Telephone 237.

SIGN PAINTING AND DECORATING.

Palace of Fashion

125 So. 12th st., Lincoln.

FINE MILLINERY

Mrs. R. E. Lloyd.