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OBSERVATIONS.

The grand jury which has lately completed six week's patient hearing of evidence has adjourned. It has rebuked hasty and undeserved criticism by strict attention to the business for which it was called. From the judge and officers of the court one hears nothing but praise of its wisdom, patience and discriminating judgment. It is hard for an individual or a newspaper to acknowledge having made an egregious mistake but there are times when the error is so palpable it is impossible to avoid it. And this is a case in point.

With the exception of one or two names the republican ticket deserves and will receive the suffrages of a people who have been bamboozled and deceived by candidates of the machine long enough. Not for many years of the political history of Lincoln has so good a ticket been presented to the voters as the one under consideration. If it be elected, even with the dead weight of administration candidates attached to it, the interests of the taxpayers, for the first time in many years, will have due consideration. As for the first ward, all residents there who are trying to bring up a family in sobriety and righteousness, should do what they can to put a saloon keeper out of the city council.

Among the consequences of a war with Spain which would affect Nebraska most sensibly would be the

diversion of national interest away from the Trans-Mississippi exposition. Those who have noted the progress of the exposition buildings towards completion can not help feeling the greatest admiration for the result which differs from the effect at the world's fair only in degree. The buildings and their grouping, with the peristyle and arches recall the vanished dream of '93 in which the group of buildings, esplanades and statues, erected in memory of the discovery of America compels everyone who saw it to long to walk up and down its white walled streets again. The Omaha people have persevered against many discouragements and have accomplished splendid results with a vim that will surely bring its reward unless pestilence or war or panic intervene.

The preparations for the regeneration of the city administration by members of the Hamilton club and others have not been checked, unless the failure of the council to impeach the mayor may be so regarded. No one, however, was much disappointed at the verdict. Considering the composition of the council the minority could not, with consistency have voted otherwise. But the investigation was not without good results if only in the collocation of testimony and witnesses from which and from whom the grand jury was able to vote an indictment. It is hoped by all good citizens that the mayor may be convicted as charged. That there are great technical difficulties in the way of conviction no one, with even a superficial knowledge of law, will deny. In consideration of which fact good republicans should do all in their power to secure an anti-administration council. Mr. Bob Malone has shown that he can be depended upon for a consistent and unyielding opposition to Mayor Graham. The ex-fire chief's private grievances will keep him in line with the anti-administrationists if there were no other reason. On the other hand the election of Mr. Finley strengthens the enemy whom the Hamilton club was organized to fight. It is said that there are no better men in the first ward than the bar-keeper who holds the republican nomination for councilman. On election day, just enough better men will vote against Finley to disprove this assertion.

The disturbance at the university last week was only another demonstration by the professional agitators who still infest that institution that any efforts to enforce law and order will be received by them with shouts

of derision and efforts to incite a revolution against the constituted authorities. There is probably not another college library in the country where silence is not stringently enforced. Librarian Epps' attempt to drive the noisy flirtations out of the library and to reduce the confusion caused by the students' perversion of it into a cloak room is wholly commendable, and THE COURIER wishes him eventual success. The experience of a great many years with the professional agitators in the university teaches that their judgment is poor, their motives treacherous (instigated by something or somebody besides the ostensible cause of disturbance) and their ultimate expulsion essential to the welfare of the university. The harm was done years ago when defiance of the authorities was allowed to go unpunished and the impression was made that the students were the court of last appeal and that the faculty and regents were only the nominal agents of authority. Such a presumption gives the Kearney type of politicians among the student body a position of advantage whenever there is a conflict of opinion between the students and members of the faculty. The noisy demonstrations led by the professional agitators do not accomplish much and those who are acquainted with the situation are able to put the blame, where it belongs, on the shoulders of a very few. Still these disturbances which recur about once or twice a year, injure the reputation of what is admitted to be one of the best schools in this country. But the traditions of one set of sand hill orators are handed down to their successors, and it will require a surprise in the shape of a suspension of the leaders of the mob to discourage the habit of revolution which gentle and conciliatory methods have cultivated to their present strength.

Elsewhere in these columns there is a reference to the unusual interest which men who are not accustomed to playing the game of politics with any particular zeal, are taking in the coming election. It is a fact that men who have never thought it worth while to exert what influence they possess, who have never held any office and who have no desire for political distinction have made up their many minds as one mind to elect a good council, that it may be of sufficient strength to overbalance the mayor's veto and reduce his administrative influence to the minimum. These plain, undecorated citizens hold the balance of power but it is only once in a decade that they see the necessity

of using it. They are too busy buying goods at wholesale and selling them at retail, feeding bunches of cattle and sending them to market by the carload, in storing and shipping grain, preaching sermons, in teaching turbulent youth and in making out abstracts of real estate, to spend much time in making up their minds in the selection of councilmen, members of the school board and the excise board and police judge. They have only been turned aside from the exclusive contemplation of their own affairs by the steady drop in real estate values caused by a constantly increasing tax assessment made necessary by the misapplication of the city's income, by brackish drinking water and evidence that it was kept brackish for private gain, and lastly and least by the late testimony of firemen and policemen regarding the mayor's methods of deciding upon the merits of applicants for city jobs. These usually uncomplaining voters are aroused and the mayor's conduct in dismissing those who testified against him in Giesler's court is exasperating them still further. Even the first ward is expected to give expression to the general indignation by not returning bar-keep Finley to his seat in the council chamber. If the result shows that the regenerating efforts have reached the "foorst" there is indeed cause for jubilation in the church and residence districts.

Some of the critics who are now objecting to the minstrel show given by the girls at the university last week are those who laughed loudest at the Slayton jubilee singers who sang to the audiences gathered at Lincoln park last summer. These singers have a repertoire of coon songs so old that no amateur would dare to try them on anything but a church audience. Yet these professionals' old jokes and old songs were received with the wildest enthusiasm. The Slaytons, when they left Lincoln park, where they had received the adulation levied by heaven born genius from the average handiwork of the Creator, were almost unmanageable. They did not understand why singers of such sweetness and power should be forced to return to a round of performances in little country school-houses and the manager had to let them try themselves on an ordinary opera house before he could convince them of their sphere in life. The critics of the university girls' show evidently have accepted the Slaytons as the standard and because the girls called themselves minstrels instead of jubilee singers this generation has to be warned against them. THE COURIER can assure the