

reception by the money lenders would be a good illustration of the financial standing of the two places. It is very doubtful therefore that, considering the disproportion between the debt and the assessed valuation of Lincoln if money can be borrowed in New York for 4 per cent.

EDITOR COURIER:

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the controversy over the sewer before the council. Last September an appropriation of about \$2,000 was made to put in a storm water sewer from Twenty-seventh and Vine street west two blocks to the draw which runs thence northwest to the Missouri Pacific railway, and a further appropriation of about \$1,000 was made to extend the N street sewer by an open channel straight west to the new channel of Salt creek. Mayor Graham vetoed Loth and they were passed over his veto, Webster and Schroeder alone voting to sustain the mayor's veto. The water has made a regular channel from the end of the N street sewer to the old channel of Salt creek and from there has unrestricted flow to Salt creek's new channel, so there is no pressing need for the N street extension.

When Twenty-seventh street was graded and paved the engineers undertook to make the grade so that all water south of R street would turn west on R street to the Antelope. This did not do the work very well and the people complained and the sixth and seventh ward councilmen said if a large storm water sewer was put in at Twenty-seventh and R with proper catch basins that it would carry off all the water east and south that comes in at that point, but no sooner was this completed than a new cry was raised by the Seventh ward councilmen that we must have a storm water sewer at Twenty-seventh and Vine street. Now to fully understand this we must remember that when that portion of Twenty-seventh street was paved the grade north of Vine on Twenty-seventh was raised and a low place or dip was made clear across Twenty-seventh street so as to turn the water west on Vine street to the draw two blocks west that drained this territory before Twenty-seventh street was paved. The people of that part still complained of the water at this point and wanted something done. Hence their councilman succeeded last year in getting the appropriation mentioned before. Now they want the sewer built clear through to the Antelope at a cost of \$1,800 more than was appropriated for that purpose and to get this money they propose to use money that was appropriated for other purposes, which is in plain violation of the charter. That the people suffer some inconvenience at these points I do not doubt and so do they all over the city at a time of a very heavy rainfall, but until the property owners in this district bring their lots up to grade they ought not to expect the city to impoverish itself for their especial benefit.

O. W. WEBSTER.

May 10, 1898.

[Note by Editor.]—The first appropriation was secured by the councilmen from the second and seventh wards by promises on their part to vote for their colleagues' measures if in itself it was never a popular or necessary measure. As for the councilmen who are trying to secure this appropriation, one of them has admitted that the eventual cost can not be less than from fifteen to eighteen thousand dollars but that the city will be forced to complete it when once begun. Mr. Mockett's disregard for the amount the people are taxed to pay for his schemes can be understood when the amount which he turns into the common treasury is considered. For 1897 Mr. J. H. Mockett, Jr.

paid \$13.45, itemized as follows: \$9.80 for lot I, Lawrence's addition; personal tax, \$1.65; poll tax, \$2.00.

In spite of all the efforts of the children and women and a few men the streets of Lincoln are still disfigured by papers and fruit rinds, not to speak of the disgusting corners which the loafers make almost impassable. The policemen who have apparently nothing to do but be, might be instructed to enforce the ordinance against throwing papers and rubbish into the streets. It is not an infrequent sight to see a well dressed man walking along the street engaged in tearing a piece of paper into bits and scattering them with one careless sweep of his arm over the sidewalk to add to the untidiness. Then the bill posters, whose business it is to tear the old posters off when they stick new ones on leave the old ones on the ground to be collected at some future time "when the wagon comes around." Before that time arrives the wind has scattered half the load into the street. An examination of the rubbish in the street discloses the fact that most of it is theatrical paper, with paste on one side and black and red pictures and letters on the other. It is the street commissioner's duty to see that the bill posters conform to the city ordinance but the piles of paper near the bill boards show that he does not do it. Then the Italian fruit vendors who have stalls on many corners of the city leave banana stalks and decayed fruit at the end of the stalls and their customers drop banana peels and peanut shells in the vicinity until they become most offensive to the eye and the nose. Possibly the street commissioner has duties which prevent an examination of the constant breaking of the ordinances passed for the purpose of restraining the selfish and disorderly from dumping rubbish into the streets but a little examination by him into the causes of disorder might greatly improve the aspect of the city. The ladies of the City Improvement association are doing what they can for neatness but their efforts will be ineffectual unless the officers who are paid to enforce the ordinances of the city do their duty.

Another violation of the city ordinances is in pasting and tacking signs on to the telegraph and telephone poles. Some time ago the city paid a man to remove all advertisements from the poles but for the last week there have been men employed in covering the poles as far as they can reach with advertisements of soaps and medicines.

The city has broad streets and hand, some blocks and residences and about three hundred days in the year the sun covers our dwelling place with a glory we are apt to forget. All this is more apt to be overlooked because our feet stumble and slip in things which belong in the rubbish heap.

All good people hope that the Omaha men who are reckless enough to oppose the establishment of a saloon in the heart of a residence district heretofore free from such places may be successful. The place, opposite the exposition gates, selected for the location of the saloon is where the crowds going and coming will meet. To subject the women and children who visit the show to the sights and smells and sounds of a saloon, surrounded and filled with the customary low types of humanity found in such places is on the part of President Wattles and Secretary John A. Wakefield, who, in the name of the exposition corporation have applied for the license. The temperance organizations of the state have taken the matter up and the

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first invaluable ten minutes. But there is little hope of his doing this. A fire chief is a good deal like an Indian chief. He has been "big injun" for so long that he has no suspicions whatever of any imperfections. However Malone is probably the best chief we have ever had.

'98 MODELS.

'Tis now the time of the chainless wheel,
 And the wireless telegraph
 Of smokeless powder and horseless cabs,
 Of the stockingless foot and calf;
 Of bloodless dukes, penniless dukes,
 Of childless kings and earls;
 And now as ever while lovers love
 'Tis the time of heartless girls.

—The Cynic.

Mazie—The West Point soldier boys are true to the instincts of their profession, aren't they?
 Daisy—How's that?
 Mazie—They're all just killing!

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directors may be induced to see that it is bad business policy to outrage the feelings of so many people. The temperance cranks more than any other sect are accustomed to self denial for the sake of the cause and if word went out among the prohibitionists that the trans-Mississippi show was under the influence of saloonkeepers they would stay away. It is the plain, good people whose patronage makes the fortunes of a show. There are a few rich but they do not count. It is the millions of the middle class, among whom there are many prohibitionists whose boycott against the exposition would be seriously felt. It is hoped that if the moral considerations have no weight with the directors the dangers of sharing in the antagonism against the liquor traffic which for nearly half a century has been increasing, may induce them to withdraw their request for a license.

Mr. Malone has the making of a good fire chief. If he would follow the example of the best doctors who occasionally leave their practice for the purpose of entering a city hospital and learning the new methods of treating old diseases as well as the names of the latest diseases, and work for three months in the Chicago or New York fire department, he might learn what no other Lincoln chief has ever known, that is to find the heart of a fire and direct the water on that spot in the