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OBSERVATIONS.

Whether the Michigan man who shot his insane wife in order that she might suffer no more and then himself because his act was murder, was justified by circumstances cannot be debated without a knowledge of the circumstances which only the man himself fully comprehended. There is no doubt that most insane people suffer the tortures of nightmare. Their wild, agonized eyes and the tense muscles of the face preclude any supposition of happiness or of oblivion. Mr. Murray loved his wife or he would not have been willing to take his own life in order that he might waken her from the nightmare that made living a horror. While the world contains wicked ones who would take another's life for gain or revenge or lust, it is unwise to make any exception to the law that man's life shall not be taken by man, but what one is there among us who would not choose death rather than insanity and a mad house? Who would not rather be wakened from a bad dream by the hand of a friend than to wrestle until morning with an impalpable horror? A conservative man discussing the Michigan man's act said that he interfered with God's plan. But it may have been His plan to deliver the mad woman who was suffering from hereditary insanity into the hands of a tender, brave lover, who gave his own life to free her from the body of death.

The mine owners of Virden doubtless had a right abstractly to bring in outside help to take the place of the striking miners, but their judgment is not commended by even those radi-

cally opposed to trades unions. This course which infuriates a mob of suspicious men out of a job, has been tried before with unsatisfactory results to operators and operatives. It is said that the black men who were fired upon were ignorant of the danger they were being led into by the determined mine owners. The situation is a repetition for the one thousandth time of the climax of improperly adjusted relations between employer and employed. Of the former class, mine owners are especially unwilling to admit that the laborer has any rights of parity with his employer. The principle that the United States civil service accepts, viz; the right of an employe to his job so long as he performs his duty efficiently is rejected by the mine owner. He holds the mine as much his property as the coat he wears, and if the miners, whose tiny houses cluster about the shaft of the mine are not satisfied with their remuneration or the conditions of their work, they can leave. That they cannot leave or stop work without starving is a consequence that he repudiates any responsibility for. Ten or fifteen years ago the striking miners would have received no sympathy and Governor Tanner would have been condemned for refusing the aid of the militia to the mine owners, by the public. If a vote were taken today the miners could count upon the sympathy of at least half the newspaper readers, though the shooting would be overwhelmingly condemned. To such a degree has the education of society by trades unions progressed that the upper layer has begun to acknowledge its reciprocal relations with all other layers. The mistress can make a bargain with a domestic without admiring her own condescension and employers of men are signing their names to a magna charta which eliminates caprice from their relations and recognizes the rights of the laborer to his job over any imported hands.

The Lincoln street car company is composed of energetic business men who are attempting to repair and relay the road bed. The rails that they have put down on P street are those used in all modern street car construction. The rail is six inches deep. The top of it is on a level with the pavement and the bricks which fit very closely to the inside of the rail. The old rail is not a strap rail but a light horse car rail unfitted for the heavy motor cars which have superseded the horse cars. Councilmen require expert knowledge of municipal sanitation, water and engineering. Many of the members of the present council by dint of conscientious attention to their duties have learned much of which the ordinary citizen is ignorant. An inspection of the new track on P street will convince them that it is smoother, just as easy to drive across, that it is much stronger than the

old rail, and, in consequence, the new paving will not need to be torn up by the section hands of the street car company for constant repairs.

It is not credible that the company wishes to put down a rail expressly constructed to take off buggy wheels. Such a rail would involve it in law suits and create an ill feeling which would react upon its receipts. Yet from a letter in one of the daily papers signed by Mr. England it appears that is what the company is fiendishly contemplating. Mr. England belongs to a firm of lawyers employed by Mr. D. E. Thompson, whose monopoly of electric energy has made him suspect all other dealers in that commodity. But neither this community nor the council can be convinced that the street car company has any designs upon the vehicles of the citizens of Lincoln. The company will put the track and rolling stock into good condition so that it may reach its maximum earning capacity. The board of directors are neither philanthropists nor fiends in human form, but business men in business for the same reason that keeps the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker in white aprons.

The effect of the New York state democracy's omission of the silver question from their platform is an important indication that Mr. Bryan will have to fight for the nomination if he gets it in the next democratic nominating convention. His popularity is not what it was before he enlisted in this unfortunate war. He lost friends and believers by enlisting. There is little doubt that he would have lost prestige if he had not enlisted, but among those who know Mr. Bryan well there is no one who can, with sincerity, assail his patriotism. He loves his country almost as fervidly as he believes in himself and his career. We suppose when war was announced, he reasoned that if he did not enlist he might be accused of cowardice or an unpatriotic love of ease. He might have relied upon his career and real character to disprove the former and upon his exertions in the last campaign to refute the latter. He is a brilliant orator and a politician, and might have been a successful actor. He is kindly and accustomed to say please when he asks a favor. Army discipline enjoins silence on the part of an officer as well as a private and destroys the cordial entente that it is a candidate's second nature to cultivate between himself and the multitude. Yet Mr. Bryan accepted a commission and by so doing subjected his motives to suspicion. He assumed a position for which he was fitted neither by temperament nor training and then and there lost the confidence of several millions of people. Family men without previous military training were not enlisting. The volunteers were composed of college boys and young, unattached men, who recognized that the call was ad-

ressed to them rather than to their fathers. There is no question but that Mr. Bryan has done his best and has striven to make his men comfortable. Just as unquestionably an ordinary officer with training and experience, a taciturn, routine graduate of West Point, would have been more efficient as colonel of the Third Nebraska than the brilliant Mr. Bryan.

Last week the Journal published a communication from the pen of ex-Mayor Hardy touching delinquent taxes and municipal retrenchment. In the course of an extended comment on the ex-mayor's reflections the editor of the Journal said: "It is the easiest thing in the world to growl, but when it comes to saving one-half our expenses, plans and specifications will be useful. Perhaps the ex-mayor can furnish the same."

Of what use are plans and specifications for reducing municipal expenses? Last April such plans and specifications were presented to the municipal legislature in the form of an ordinance reducing salaries. Of fourteen members of the city council ten were republicans and it was within the power of the republican majority to reduce expenses had it possessed the inclination to do so. Had the council shown any disposition to economize other plans and specifications would have been presented and if adopted would have reduced taxation and reflected honor upon the party in power. What was the result?

The ordinance provided for reducing the salary of the mayor from \$1,000 to \$600 per year. A republican, Mr. Mockett, moved to amend the ordinance by raising the salary to \$1,000; only three republicans voted against that amendment and it carried. The ordinance provided for reducing the salary of the city clerk from \$1,200 to \$900 per year. A republican, Mr. Spear, moved to amend the ordinance by raising the salary to \$1,200; only one republican voted against that amendment and it carried. The ordinance provided for reducing the salary of the deputy city clerk from \$900 to \$600 per year. A republican, Mr. Stewart, moved to amend the ordinance by raising the salary to \$900; only two republicans voted against that amendment and it carried. The ordinance provided for reducing the salary of the deputy city treasurer from \$1,200 to \$900 per year. A republican, Mr. Woodward, moved to amend the ordinance by raising the salary to \$1,000; one republican voted against the amendment and it carried. The ordinance provided for reducing the salary of the assistant city treasurer from \$900 to \$720 per year. A republican, Mr. Spears, moved to amend the ordinance by raising the salary to \$900; only one republican voted against that amendment and it carried. The ordinance provided for reducing the salary of the city engineer from \$1,200