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## OBSERVATIONS.

Money getting in itself is not reprehensible, only, when it takes all a man's time and thought, he becomes less and less interesting to other people and less and less use to the world. There is occasionally a boy who is seized with the passion for gold getting and neither the indolence of boyhood nor dreams of distinction, nor pure aspiration nor love are allowed to interfere with his plans for future wealth. He is never really tempted by anything but money. He does not keep faith with anything, least of all his own soul, so, of course, if he marries, he is not loyal to wife or child. They do not exist when balanced against the gold with which he has bought a fine house, subserviency and that which talks laughs, and looks like friends, but would not pass official inspection as genuine. By the time such a boy is fifty the Midas miracle has marked everything and everybody he looks at with a selling price. He does not believe that his eyesight is abnormal, that his heart is a machine and his head something that can think but cannot repent or imagine. Though his is, in reality, a criminal type, his shrewdness keeps him from being caught violating the penal code. Men of such character are frequently found in the penitentiary, but more get away than get put in. The type is curiously well defined. It is to be recognized by a sullen expression and a chain gang walk, by the shape of the low broody head, by the curious gorilla ferocity which the species shows towards defenseless employes or women when opposed or thwarted by them, and by a cunning which is fre-

quently the most important element of their success.

Occasionally a specimen of this degenerate type decides that more money can be made in politics and he begins to curry favor with the people, whom he displaces in true gorilla fashion, by making presents of flour to poor people or by giving a fete to the children of the poor and attending to the publicity of his generosity in the papers. Notwithstanding the fact that the interests of one of these little ones are not safe in such hands those of a state have not infrequently been confided to them.

The legislators who will soon assemble will doubtless take pains to acquaint themselves with the character possessed by the prominent candidates for United States senator. If they find one whom the community distrusts, who has made a trade of politics, who has no interest in higher politics and economics, who has no faith in democracy, who scoffs at the ballot, who is a pessimist in human relations, they will vote for him at the peril of the party whose votes elected them. Senator Allen, regardless of politics, is a distinguished man. He represented the state adequately and honorably without suspicion of double dealing. His republican successor should at least possess the confidence of his neighbors and the community. The legislature should make it a point of honor in casting their representative votes not to elect a man who would be snowed under at a popular election. The legislature has no moral right to elect a man who only represents the degenerate and illiterate, the sordid and commonplace, to represent a state distinguished for intelligence and wholesome men and women, who have enough love for the ideal to be willing to suffer great self denial that their sons and daughters may have a university education.

Among the candidates there are men of culture and character and that peculiar interest in and aptitude for public affairs exhibited by many great Americans who have helped to make this country honorable among nations. The final selection of one of these men would strengthen the republican party and gratify the people at large, who are citizens of the state and Americans before they are partisans.

The objections of Councilmen Webster and Mockett to the reduction of the number of councilmen from 14 to three are not without cogency. The present council, as THE COURIER said last week, has been unusually independent of bosses and loyal to the interests of the people. THE COURIER has freely criticized their too open-handed generosity in spending the income of a bankrupt city. But so long as the weekly sessions are characterized by defiance of the long time party bosses who have dictated the legisla-

tion of other councils there is reason to believe that so long as the Lincoln system lasts the selfish schemes of men like Mr. Thompson will be defeated. So long as the three county commissioners are the model for the proposed revision of the charter, an exhaustive study of their method of work, its complexity or simplicity, and the influences to which they have responded would be instructive. Such an investigation should be made before changing the form of city government to that adopted by the county. It has been urged that the latter is much more economical. An examination of a table showing city and county taxes paid on certain properties in Lincoln and Lancaster county discloses the following:

	City.	County.
1895.....	\$ 334.20	\$ 309.80
1896.....	319.50	332.98
1897.....	374.93	384.82
Total...	\$1,028.63	\$1,027.60

In three years the difference between city and county taxes was one dollar and three cents in favor of the city, and this, in spite of the fact that the expenses of the city are largely in excess of those of the county. Then, there are not three men in the place so immersed in politics, pure and simple, or so responsive to boss influence as the three county commissioners, who, whether it be from the seclusion and privacy in which they perform or fail to perform the functions of their office, have received extravagant praise which investigation fails to justify. The expenses of the county government are largely in excess of what they should be. The commissioners are overpaid and they are niggardly to the city, which pays as much to them as it does into the city treasury. A triune government founded on the model of the county government would probably be the pliant tool of a boss. There is little doubt that the more the citizens reflect upon the servility of the county commissioners to the local bosses, the purely political motives which direct their movements and the approaching temptations to which the governing body of the city will be exposed when the electric light contract is renewed or not renewed, as the case may be, the more they will hesitate before asking the legislature to give Lincoln a charter authorizing a county form of government like that embodied in the three county commissioners. It is not conclusive but it is very discrediting to the "improvement" that the local bosses who have found the county commissioners so easy and the councilmen so difficult are in favor of the three councilmen plan.

This winter the most important act of the legislature will be the election of United States senator. It is of the utmost importance for the good of the state and the republican party that a clean, honest, capable, high minded

representative man should be chosen for this high office.

A few years ago the republican party had a large majority in this state; it began to decrease and dwindle until a fusion governor was first elected and then all the state officials and legislature and a fusion candidate was sent to the United States senate. The vote changed from a large republican majority to a majority for fusion in 1896 of 23,000; in 1897, 13,000.

This change was brought about because the people lost confidence in the republican party and thought it was dishonest and corrupt, because it elected to office dishonest, corrupt and selfish men who betrayed the interests of the party for the purpose of furthering their own corrupt and selfish ends.

This year the republican party elected a majority of the legislature and lost the state ticket by about 2,500.

The republican legislature was elected and the fusion majority of the state ticket reduced by the united efforts of republicans all over the state. This result was brought about largely because the voters were told through the press and from the stump that the party should not be condemned because a few men had been elected to office who afterwards turned out to be dishonest and corrupt and used the party for their own base and selfish purposes; that the party, as a party, was honest, and believed in honest, competent, clean men for office, men who believed a public office was a public trust, and not a private snap to be used for base and selfish purposes.

The voters were told that hereafter none but upright, honest, clean men should be elected to office, and only such men as had the confidence of the party and community in which he lived; that all tricky, selfish, scheming politicians would be relegated to the rear, and that hereafter only men would be elected in whom the people believed, and men that would represent and work for the best interests of the people. The voters believed these statements and by their votes again pledged their confidence in the republican party and its principles, and now in the selection of United States senator let the party keep faith with the people and redeem the pledges made by selecting for the high and noble office of United States senator an honest, able, clean man, in whom the people believe and have confidence. A man who will be an honor and a credit not alone to Nebraska, but the whole republican party and the nation. A man who has had some preparation and has capacity for the discharge of the duties of this high office and who knows what is expected and required of a United States senator.

If such a man is selected, as we believe he will be, it means much for the party in this state and will go a