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OBSERVATIONS.

Dr. Winnett can do little when elected mayor of Lincoln in enforcing the laws regulating saloons without the concurrence of the excise board. Nobody who knows the element which nominated Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Barth on Monday can have the slightest hope that there will be any change in saloon rule in this town if these two men are elected. Mr. Harpham and Mr. Brown had the controlling votes while the excise board was in session, but when the session was over Mayor Graham was the executive and issued his own orders to the chief of police. For this reason the Lindell hotel saloon has been suffered to run at forbidden hours and in prejudice to the rights of other men in the same business who conformed to the law. Dr. Winnett is a man of law and order and it is questionable if he will take advantage of his executive position to circumvent the wishes of the excise board when he is outvoted. THE COURIER has believed that the next administration would be a strong one in enforcing the laws we have, but if either the fusionist or republican excise nominees are elected, it is not easy to see how this is to be accomplished. The members of the excise board preside over the destinies of the saloons. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Harpham have done what they could for decency and in enforcing the wise provisions of the saloon law. On Monday carriages brought load after load of Bohemians and negroes and ignorant, only partially Americanized foreigners from the bottoms to the polling places and it is their vote that

is going to run the police and allow the saloons to go as they please the next two years unless the citizens forget politics and select two men who have no affiliations with the saloon element and no obligations towards it, nominate them and elect them. There are enough independent, untrammelled, intelligent men to do it, if they will only make the resolve and take the time. The meeting in Billingsley and Greene's office, which made the plans to get out the vote from the first ward, succeeded as I have related or as any observer might have seen.

There is every reason to believe that excisemen elected in this way will occasionally be reminded of the assistance which nominated them at the primaries and the influence will not be exerted towards a more stringent regulation of the saloons which sell liquor to minors and keep open on Sundays and after hours at night. Dr. Winnett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Harpham could have been appealed to by the better element which might have nominated them had it not remained away from the polls on Monday, when Mr. Billingsley's plans were so successfully carried out. Such an occasion emphasizes what has been said about the prohibitionists. If they would help in attaining a practical reform by means accepted by the majority as expedient, if not ideal, the most flagrant of the abuses due to the presence of the saloon in the city and in politics might be corrected. But they flock by themselves and are of no particular significance except to those who are trying to do the best they can with the means at hand.

Mr. H. W. Brown has lived in this city for many years and is from a human standpoint an incorruptible and impeccable man. He sent no carriages out to gather up votes for him because of a fine feeling which Messrs. Billingsley and Green might misunderstand, that it was a form of bribery. I know, from personal experience, that it was not parsimony, for as I said before, Mr. Brown has lived in this city for twenty years and more and his charity to the poor and contributions to everything for the good of the public are known to many, though this is the first time his benevolence has been mentioned in a newspaper. As an exciseman with adequate support from the executive Mr. Brown would have made an ideal member of the excise board upon which, more than upon any part of the city government, depends the treatment of the mortal disease which afflicts the body politic. In spite of the exertions made by Messrs. Bartlett and Barth they received the nomination by only fifteen more votes than Messrs. Brown and Harpham.

...
An Audubon society organized for the preservation of birds is being formed here. The intention of the founders is not only to prevent the

wholesale slaughter of insectivorous and singing birds for decorative purposes, but to encourage bird study and acquaintance. The most welcome of all the characteristics of spring is the return of the birds from the southern resorts. That morning when the first robin of the season pipes his clear note in at your window will soon be here. Of the whole miracle his part is the most wonderful and heaven-directed. What if he selected to stay in the south among the sweet scents and warm air and easy foraging? He never does but takes his sure flight to Nebraska long before he can be sure of anything like a climatic welcome. He does not come because he cannot endure the heat, because we can for a shorter time make him as hot as Alabama or Mississippi could, but he comes because he is part of a plan to defeat the attacks of insects and to cheer and entertain the ingrates who do not appreciate his attempt to cultivate our musical tastes nor his usefulness in preserving the crops and trees.

As a spectacle Nebraska lacks variety. The streams are muddy, the trees are scanty and the prairie rolls away in unbroken billows on all sides. Lincoln is bounded on the north, south, east and west by prairie. Drive in what direction you may, there is nothing to distinguish the landscape from that which lies on the opposite side of the city except the several university buildings. Yet the prospect is not unpleasing because of the brilliant air and the pure reds and yellows and purples of the profuse scentless flowers and the quantities of meadow larks, thrushes, quail, robins, blue birds and swallows. The country is thus redeemed by color and pulsing songs from a monotony which has sent many a Nebraska farmer's wife in the treeless period into the insane asylum.

Yet notwithstanding their beneficent mission the slaughter of the birds for the milliners have diminished the flocks perceptibly, and there are many formerly common species, cursed with stylish tails and wings, that have become very rare.

The pledges which the Audubon society issues prohibit the wearing of any feathers, wings or tails which are not from domestic or game birds, or from the ostrich. Reports of the work accomplished by these societies are very gratifying and indicate that we are not altogether unconscious of our mercies.

...
Dr. Wharton's sermon on the greed of money and the insatiable appetite of many who have heaped together a larger pile than the average man is able seems to have penetrated the subconsciousness of his congregation. The man with money controls the living of so many others that his aggressions upon human rights are not often successfully resisted. The investigation into the beef furnished the army shows that some of the packers deliberately sold meat that

they knew was innutritious to the nation in time of war, when thousands of young men had offered their lives to their country. The overreaching spirit of sharp bargaining which tempts a millionaire to make money by such means when he has more already than he can use is an American characteristic, known abroad as "Yankee Smartness." And there is nothing which is such an overwhelming disgrace to us. But the fear of the rich restrains reprisals and hesitation to injure a great American industry keeps many an essentially honest man silent. But when ministers reprove their congregations for over-timidty it is a good sign for a new century.

...
The charge that the Lindell hotel saloon does not close at the hour when other saloons are closed seems to be true. Mayor Graham's orders to Chief Hoagland to allow this saloon to sell liquor after other saloons had closed up for the night, in opposition to the wishes of the excise board, has incensed other liquor dealers who claim that they are ready to obey the law but object to such discrimination against them in favor of a hotel whose saloon is no better or any more respectable than theirs. Under such a system it is not surprising that the saloon men laugh at the law and watch with some bitterness the stream of silver pouring into the hotel keeper's till, after the closing of their own places, in conformity to the law, has made the Lindell hotel saloon, which remains open late at night in direct violation of the law, a monopoly.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Harpham are said to have refused to allow an exclusive privilege to this saloon during the session of the legislature, yet the mayor, who is the third member of the excise board, has not interfered when the saloon was found to be open after hours.

...
The W. C. T. U. has done a noble work and so have the prohibitionists. Without them the balance might be disturbed and the moderate drinkers, the steady drinkers, and the confirmed drunkards, all abetted by the saloon keepers, would lower the increasing average of temperance and sobriety. But the prohibitionists form a minority of the population and so long as this is supposed to be a democracy the majority will have to be consulted. E. S. Martin in Harper's Weekly suggests that "the W. C. T. U. should not look upon its critics as enemies who want to see it fail. Many of its critics are friends whose bark is largely due to an interest in its welfare. What would really use the W. C. T. U. up quickest, would be to have things entirely its own way. If it could come into power like a political party, pass all the laws it wanted, enforce all the laws it passed, and regulate everybody's habits according to the views of its members, we should see what we