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## OBSERVATIONS.

### The Reception to the First.

The meeting at the Funke opera house last week to celebrate in song and speech the home-coming of the First Nebraska and to awaken enthusiasm, accomplished its purpose. There have been criticisms from populists and anti expansionists that the meeting was not non partizan. The criticism may be deserved. It is difficult to repress the cheers which every mention of the First Nebraska causes because there are very good people in the state who think the boys have no business over there. It is difficult to cheer the boys and repress approval for the administration who sent them there to put down rebellion; being difficult neither the speakers nor the audience accomplished it. For a lot of people gathered together for the purpose of expressing their approval or disapproval of men and their conduct are quite likely to be purely human and express themselves by cheers or hisses as the case may be.

When the multitude is gathered together it expresses itself with primitive frankness. Even the most self respecting and intelligent crowd of people has some of the characteristics of a mob, it is moved by elementary emotions and expresses them vociferously. Orators who speak to a multitude assembled for such a celebration cannot be blamed for expressing the thought which each member of his audience is thinking, or for not ignoring the topic which has brought them together. Orators are men and men are human. If Mr. Whedon,

Mayor Winnett, Mr. Lambertson, Mr. Manderson, and General Vifquain had not kindled the patriotism and the gratitude for soldiers who have offered their lives to the government and who have performed deeds of valor and self sacrifice which a world acknowledges, the skillful orator Mr. William J. Bryan, who listened to them, must have disapproved of their failure to appreciate the opportunities of an unusually happy situation.

It was impossible to praise the boys for their bravery and devotion without seeming to approve of the country they were fighting for and the kind of government their suppression of the revolt will establish in Luzon.

Thus there were those who thought the meeting was political. Quite the contrary it was on account of the lack of subtlety and consideration for feelings which a crowd invariably exhibits.

### Corn Prospects.

The report of the agricultural department for July gives Nebraska credit for 8,240,000 acres of corn under cultivation and growing with a rapidity and vigor not heretofore reached. The government statistician who compiles these reports, reckons that the yield of 1899 will be 282,000,000 bushels. His reckoning is, of course, based on the acreage under cultivation, the stage of growth it has reached, and the absence of meteorological indications of drought. The yield of Kansas is guessed by the same secretive official to be 300,000,000 bushels. The yield of the whole country is a little more than four times the sum of Kansas and Nebraska. With the upward tendency of prices there is every indication that this tremendous crop will bring more money into the state than it possessed in the boomiest of boom times.

### Liquid Air.

According to the latest improved process for making liquid air by Mr. Oscar P. Ostergren, a Swedish engineer resident in New York, it can be produced for from five to six cents a gallon and "one gallon of it taking into account both its expansive power and its latent cold, equals two horse power for one hour." "One gallon of it weighing seven and three quarter pounds has the cooling power of eighty five pounds of ice, besides being absolutely clean and absolutely dry." It can be used for what ever power, and intense heat and cold can be used for. As a high explosive it has the energy and irresistibility of dynamite and may be safely transported. Mr. Nordenfeldt, the great Swedish gunmaker, told Mr. Ostergren that liquid air would be used in the heavy ordnance of the future. As an illuminant, the German scientific reviews regard it as most important of all possibilities." They tell of complete success in producing calcium carbide with liquid air

without electricity. If the new force can be cheaply produced it will work a great revolution in prices and in providing the very poor with unseasonable heat and cold and light. The very poor have not shared much in the telephone and the telegraph and the several cold storage instruments for the voice, such as the gramophone. They have been hired to climb telephone poles and have been caught and burned to death in mid air by a live wire. Bless the Lord, this invention is almost as cheap as air and unless a trust buys the secret the poor can come into the luxuries of the rich at last.

### Professionalism.

Professionalism in all kinds of athletic sports is to a field of wheat—absolutely destructive of the wheat, but good for the grasshopper. Things must be kept separate. While the drummers who earn their living by selling golf clubs, etc., are pursuing an honorable business, their presence in a business capacity, on golf links, or in a golf or yacht club house is an intrusion and a menace to athletics. Likewise the man who makes his living by taking prizes for rowing, or in teaching rowing for money, or in golfing, or baseball or football playing is a professional and his rivalry of others who engage in it for sport destroys its meaning.

The U. S. Golf Association has revised its by-laws concerning professionalism in order to more closely define it. The revised version of section 9, reads:

No person shall be considered an amateur golfer who has played for a money prize in a match or in an open competition, or who has received money for giving lessons or exhibitions of his skill in the game of golf; or laid out or taken charge of golf links; or who has ever carried clubs for hire, after assuming the age of fifteen years, or who has ever personally made for sale golf clubs, balls, or any other articles connected with the game of golf; or who after the adoption of this section as amended shall be classed as a professional in any athletic sport."

The rigid exclusion of commerce from all forms of athletic sport is a sign of health and of sane recognition of the causes of disease. For the purpose of keeping things separate "professionalism" should be excluded from the game of politics, the game of law and statute making and from all other games which men have agreed to play together. It is frequently said that business is business, the opposite should be emphasized and acted upon just as insistently.

### House Rent

The investigating committee has discovered that ex Governor Holcomb drew more money per month for rent than the landlady charged him. Notwithstanding the effect these revelations have had upon honest members of his party Mr. Holcomb still cherish-

es hopes of the nomination for the judgeship. He does not realize the shocking effect of such disclosures upon a party organized to ferret out the corruption of the republican party and whose only claim to the voters of the people is an uncompromising honesty and purity. In addition, the position of a judge has more temptations than those which assail a governor and the populists are confronted with the alternative of suicide or the rejection of Mr. Holcomb.

### Lincoln en Fete.

When the fighting First gets back from the war Lincoln will be draped in red, white and blue from the humblest cottage to our top sided state capitol. There are a few very important services the women of Lincoln can perform for the boys who have done more to make Nebraska famous than all the political or other form of talent that has gone out of Nebraska to seek a fortune.

There are other things which the women of Lincoln can not perform for the soldiers that are returning. The women can see that the soldiers are fed. That is the most womanly, most precious, most grateful service they can perform and moreover it is one that the soldier boys, who have eaten most any old thing for a year, will most appreciate. It is hoped that the plan of marching young women in the middle of the street in uniforms and carrying guns over their shoulders to meet the boys, will not mature. The boys who have dreamed of their mothers and sweethearts have not thought of them in gaiters and their ideals should not be destroyed by the appearance of a regiment of Amazons commanded by young women, shouting commands in imitation of real officers. Imitation is never dignified and the dignity and impressiveness of the occasion are preparing for ought not to be interrupted and made ridiculous by female imitation soldiers. In the presence of those who have mastered the technique of drill and who have learned the horrors of war, such a feeble copy of a regiment can only make the sex ridiculous. It is through such parodies that men learn to laugh at women when they make just claim to the same pay for the same service. Doubtless these women volunteers have consented to this part with many misgivings as to its propriety but yielded to their anxiety to express their patriotism, headed by a brass band. But the community will excuse them from military service and gladly accept their help in passing refreshments to the real heroes of the occasion—the boys from Manila.

The American has been accused of brass-bandism, of loving a parade and a uniform, and of supporting an unconscionable number of secret societies for the opportunity it gives him to wear a uniform and march in