

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1899.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

—BY—

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs

Telephone 384.

SARAH B. HARRIS,

Editor

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$ 1 00
Six months.....	75
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

THE COURIER will not be responsible for voluntary communications unless accompanied by return postage. Communications, to receive attention, must be signed by the full name of the writer, not merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for publication if advisable.

OBSERVATIONS.

The Street Fair.

With something of the old enthusiastic Nebraska spirit the merchants are taking hold of the street fair and there is every prospect of a successful festival. The plan must have come from England or Ireland where they used to be held in the streets of the city in the midst of traffic. Instead of locating the fair at the end of two miles or more of dusty road, the fair is set up in the heart of the city and stimulates and encourages merchants of the city. With a revival of the old time spirit of co operation, energy and hopefulness, such as the plans for the fair, already adopted, exhibit, there is no chance except bad weather that it will not be a complete success.

Six O'clock Closing.

Letters from all the prominent dry-goods and clothing merchants of Omaha to one of the most successful and honorable merchants in Lincoln in regard to closing at six o'clock on Saturday, report unanimously in favor of the new plan. At the present time only two shops remain open on Saturday after six o'clock and they are a small grocery and a jeweller's shop. The World Herald says in a recent article that the movement commenced three weeks ago at the city council chamber, when a few of the representative retail merchants met in a conference with the Central Labor union and resolved to try as an experiment the Saturday closing movement. The movement had its origin in the discussion arising over

the new female labor and child labor laws passed at the last session of the legislature. Deputy Labor Commissioner Kent, realizing the necessity of getting the Omaha retail merchants together, caused the joint conference to be held and the great results which followed are a source of pleasure to all interested parties. The merchants have, with but one exception, expressed the conviction that the total of the three weeks' sales amount to as large a sum without the Saturday night sales as with them. The merchants themselves need the rest more than their clerks. If a committee were to select the three hardest workers in Lincoln the choice would most apt to be the three large drygoods merchants in Lincoln. Early and late they are to be found in their stores, inspecting the departments, conferring with traveling men, and directing their advertising managers or employing new clerks. It is easy to see from the outside that the detail of such a business is endless, minute, exacting and most exhausting. A clerk's labors and responsibilities compared with theirs is restful and refreshing. Yet these men, together with merchants in other lines are public spirited citizens. They help every institution in the city. They fulfill their obligations better than many wealthier and more leisurely citizens. At six o'clock on Saturday night their duties to the community and to their own business should be finished. Once, let customers understand that goods are on sale only between the hours of eight and six and they will be on hand to make their purchases in that ten hours instead of in the four hours after six o'clock on Saturday night, which are making all the trouble. Complaining and unsympathetic shoppers say they like to come down on Saturday night and watch the tired, drooping clerks work and others that the bread winners and dress buyers of the family do not get paid off till six o'clock Saturday night and that unless the money is spent then for family necessities and family adornment the money will reach the till of the saloon keeper, that for the clothing, drygoods, grocery, housefurnishing, market, jewelry, shoe and millinery stores to close at six on Saturdays means the deflection of the price of these things to the saloon keeper. That is a charge against the sobriety and judgement of the workmen of Lincoln that my observation convinces me is false, and it is up to the labor organizations to refute it. The laboring men of Lincoln have homes of their own, and are quite capable of carrying their wages from Saturday night to Monday morning without dropping them in the saloon.

The argument which some of the merchants make that there will always be a few small dealers who live over or back of their shops who will not make or keep any agreement to close at any certain time, is an un-

worthy one. These small dealers make small profits and have few customers. They are as gleaners in a harvest field to whom the landed proprietor does not begrudge the few handfuls they gather. Besides the man and wife who keep open late for the belated traveler is doing a worthy service to the victim of accidents or of constitutional procrastination and deserves to enjoy his profits. But large retail warerooms filled with employes cannot afford to remain lighted for these late customers who are only reminded of the coming of Sunday and rest by the closing of the doors and the exodus of the clerks.

Recreation.

It is only lately that stores in Council Bluffs, Iowa, have closed on Sunday. The people there said what some of us are saying about the Saturday night closing, namely that they were too busy to shop on week days, could not get away, or could not get away in company with the husband or the wife, forgetting that what we can do and what we can't is dependant on somebody's habits and the customs of the rest of the people who live in the same city with us.

A western man notices the first thing when he goes from the west to live in one of the eastern cities that recreation and rest form a much more important part of the lives of the business men there. They knock off earlier in the day and are not disposed to talk shop at night or after business hours. The talk in clubs, on the cars, and in the stations is of golf, yacht-racing, of base ball, fishing or hunting, even of horse racing and of sports less free from criticism than golfing, polo playing, etc. It does not matter, anything is better than the breathless, never diverted race of western men after the dollar. Their lives are sordid, entirely commercial and sweetness and light is fading appreciably year by year from the lives of western men. Woman's sentimentalism keeps her from shutting out the light entirely. The young, unmarried ones, enjoy the conduct of their own romances and the married women are busy keeping alive the sentiment in their own and their husband's love story and in matchmaking for other people. They also study history and read fewer newspapers and more books than the men do. And book reading (non-professional) has not so much connection with money making as newspaper reading. Newspapers are all business. They delfy and picture millionaires, they report the stockmarket and they print the news of the latest combine. The readers have no look of intellectual enjoyment or amusement on their faces, which are knotted and lined as though they were playing chess and getting badly beaten. They do not read for the sport of it, but to find out how to make more money or if and how someone else is making it. It is question able if the interest in prize fights,

which is so nearly universal is to be condemned in toto, when it is sufficient to dim, for the time it takes to read the four or five columns in a daily paper, the glitter of silver and gold in the eyes of the diggers and delvers. If a prize fight is the only thing that can delay the chase for the dollar, (and it seems that neither literature nor art, nor music, nor the drama can do it) then long may it flourish, for the unremitting, irresistible, rush of the people after money is making us a most uninteresting, selfish, heartless people, whom religion only affects artificially and to the eye only.

Lady Soldiers.

News of the reception given to the First Nebraska by the Capital City of the state from which the volunteers enlisted, will be telegraphed over the country. It is hoped that nothing so absurd as the evolutions of female soldiery will have a place in the "exercises" of the three days the boys are expected to spend with us. The Courier does not admit that women who are willing to dress as soldiers and carry guns in a street parade, not for the purpose of helping fight an invading enemy, after the men folks have all gone to the war, or on the stage as part of a spectacle and in the character of a supernumerary, but for the purpose of securing a conspicuous station in a parade. The Courier does not admit that these women are representative women either of Nebraska or of Lincoln. But for the sake of the reputation of the state and because the boys from Manila have been brave and faithful soldiers and do not deserve to be parodied by their female relatives, the young women who are spending the time drilling that might be more profitably employed swinging in a hammock, are almost unanimously requested by the community not to take any military part in the welcome to the First Nebraska.

Robert Ingersoll.

Mr. Ingersoll is dead. He was an orator of some power and a successful lawyer at the bar. He was neither better nor worse than the ordinary man. In his youth he became convinced that the bible was a lie and he hated, rather inconsistently, the God whose existence he denied. With the love and championship of youth for justice he rebelled against the hebraic conception of a divinity which approved of slavery and the mistakes, which he said, Moses made. He struck an attitude when he was still in his teens and, what he was pleased to consider, its originality and dramatic isolation pleased him so, that it became characteristic he ceased being a student and thereafter wrote and spoke dogma of his own. He was neither a deep nor a patient thinker. Nor was he more than a pleasing and brilliant orator. If it had not been that the defiant attitude he struck in his youth shocked a great many and