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OBSERVATIONS.

The First Nebraska.

News of the First Nebraska's good health and fine appearance as they marched through the cheering crowds at San Francisco was received with much joy in Nebraska where their folks live. In spite of the wetness and the warmth of the Luzon climate correspondents report the exceptionally fine condition of the Nebraska troops. When the tall, straight, strong fellows marched to the depot to embark for the Pacific coast many an old soldier shook his head and remarked dolefully that they would return wan and weakened from fever and exposure. But in contrast to many of the volunteers of the Rebellion the First Nebraska had the good fortune to be officered by a thorough soldier who knew how to be healthy and keep his men so, in camp, a man who paying no heed to civilian complaints dared and accepted temporary unpopularity for the good of the service and of his men. This paramount fact added to the Nebraska brawn and intelligence possessed by the Nebraska troops, has made them veterans in a year's campaign. Long before this, doubtless, the boys have been informed of the civic welcome the men and women of Nebraska are preparing for them and long before this they know that the governor who refused to send the congratulations and thanks of a state to men who were fighting and conquering an entrenched foe, has felt the condemnation of the citizens of the state, from men of all parties.

In the presence of the boys who have fought and bled and sent the name of Nebraska ringing round the world, the governor, considering the ungracious part he has played towards the regiment is rather an awkward figure. As the loyal men who had proved their loyalty marched by the reviewing stand in San Francisco the other day before the governor of the state whose chief glory just now, is that she can send such men when the government calls for them, the contrast was strong enough to be painful both to the men and to the governor. On the arrival of the transport bearing the Nebraska troops, it was as usual detained, awaiting the inspection of the health officer. Not to be delayed in greeting the boys, Mr. Whedon, Mr. Ryan and a newspaper correspondent went out to the transport in a launch, from which Mr. Whedon ascended the tall side of the transport by a ladder, finally getting near enough to Lieutenant Whedon to grasp his hand as he leaned over the railing. Several hours after when most of the soldiers were asleep the gubernatorial party arrived and got a drowsy welcome from the big ship. All this has been told in the dispatches and it is repeated here, because a good story is worth retelling and the situation was dramatic by force of contrast and as the climax of a long series of events, the actors in which met on the Pacific after many months.

The Lady Soldiers.

They are still drilling and inquiring for "light guns suitable for ladies use." Their uniforms are in process of construction and Miss Robertson, who is determined that her company shall carry real guns, even if ladies guns are not manufactured, says that her company will make a martial and imposing appearance and astonish and impress the soldier boys with the unusualness and reality of their welcome. Nothing that women with a more highly developed sense of propriety and fitness, have been able to urge has swerved Miss Robertson from her purpose of taking a prominent part in a military procession. Doubtless she possesses a martial spirit which frets at the inhibition of her sex from battle fields except as sisters of mercy and nurses. And being thus thwarted of a career in which she might bear no mean part she is willing to play soldier as little boys do, with a wooden sword and gun if no lady guns can be found for her by the distracted committee in charge. By representations that women are out of place in a street parade and out of character in a soldier's uniform Miss Robertson's faith in the decorative value of the parade she is arranging is unshaken and in the face of much masculine and feminine protest, she gets her company of fifty or so puzzled and misguided women together and drills

them with the assistance of a cadet from the university, several times a week. Such persistency and faith in a questionable mission is worthy of a more substantial reward than that of being for a few moments at the head of a few, straggling, self-conscious women rigged in gaiters and a petticoat adaptation of the rough riders costume. The committee holds no franchise to the middle of the street or it might insist that Miss Robertson devote her energies to a less disputed and more fertile field of usefulness.

Man Without a Country.

The Prince of Wales said William Waldorf Astor bored him and drew his pencil through a list of names sent him by the Duchess of Buccleugh as the guests at a house party at which H. R. H. had signified his willingness to be present. Wales is not accustomed to do impolitic things and in the present complacent and propitiatory attitude of England towards America he would certainly not offend a man because he was an American. It was rather because Mr. Astor has disavowed America and published over his own name, in his own paper a tirade against his country and then scurried over to this country to swear off the taxes on his property, that he bores the Prince. After all this the publication of his claims to noble blood through the duke d'Astorga, completed the disaffection of the prince and encouraged him to announce his refusal to be bored any longer. The comments of American newspapers on the snub indicate that we rather admire H. R. H.'s taste. Besides Mr. Astor's lapses from patriotism he is given to serious and solemn conversation at dinner parties and other inopportune moments when his intellect should be resting or disporting itself in playful periods. Even if he were a patriot of the William Tell type the Prince of Wales could not forgive him his ponderosity and awkward solemnity. The Prince is getting old. He has not much to do besides amuse himself and nobody can blame him for not defeating the object of his existence by encouraging bores. Especially when we reflect upon their painful numerosness in our own country, their solemnity, their long stories, their conceit and the difficulty of shaking them. It takes a prince to shake a supernaturally rich bore. But when he does, the hoi polloi on this side of the water can not be blamed for expressing the satisfaction which they feel at a feat, they themselves are too miserably poor ever to do more than envy the performer.

City Finances.

So long as the expenses of the city are not based upon the actual income but upon a standard established by other cities whose finances are apportioned and distributed by the

same system, there will be an accumulating deficit. The folly of living beyond his income will be admitted by every member of the city council and there is probably not one who orders his affairs so fatuously as to exceed this income. Yet everyone remembers the outcry that was made when a few non-official citizens proposed a salary retrenchment to the council. It was clearly indicated by the speeches that were made at that meeting, that the tax payers who proposed that the council should pay the city employes, wages corresponding to those paid by private parties for similar services, were offering advice in a matter which did not concern them. But when more money is needed, these officious people are among those who will have to pay it. More money is needed for the fire and police departments. The latter especially is in need of a competent and self-reliant chief. Every fire is a new demonstration of the danger of keeping the present incumbent in power. But an experienced, successful chief, a man of executive ability having the force and ability to investigate the source of every fire and fire education and inspiration enough to know where to turn the water and where to have the holes chopped for the hose, is worth more than a hundred dollars a month. Such a man cannot be hired for much less than eighteen hundred dollars a year. But such a man would be cheaper than a twelve hundred dollar chief who betrayed his helpless ignorance at the last fire by imploring his firemen to do something to stop it. The effect upon insurance rates of the employment of a fire chief who was capable of establishing strict discipline and of maintaining it among the firemen, and of directing them how to quickly extinguish a fire according to the effective methods of the best city fire departments would be to lower rates. His salary would be saved many times over. If the occupation tax proposed by certain members of the city council will aid in the employment of such a man, there will doubtless be few objections to the plan, though if the assessor did his duty without regard to favor or politics and adopted as a basis of assessment justice to the community and an equalized percent of every man's actual holdings such patchwork finances would not be necessary. Most of the financial puzzles which the city council has been called upon to solve would be answered if the county assessor and county politics were reformed and clarified of mixed motives.

A Summer Vacation.

Many people have left Lincoln for their summer vacation, looking for coolness, rest and freedom from responsibility and anxiety. So far the season here has been delightfully cool. Where ever a father or mother