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SARAH B. HARRIS,

Editor

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OBSERVATIONS.

The Street Railway Compromise.

Instead of finding fault with the city council for the compromise it has made with the street railway company, the council deserves, and should receive our thanks for negotiating a very satisfactory settlement. The petition drawn up by Dr. Farnham's attorney, contains, according to the president of the council, Mr. O. W. Webster, a number of misstatements. Mr. Webster tabulates them as follows: Firstly, as to the amount of judgment and interest, which is \$106,000 instead of \$119,000 as alleged in the petition. Secondly, the petition states that the council holds Mr. Little's note. This is not so. Thirdly, the petition states that the street railway company has used corrupt means to procure this settlement. This is a very serious charge and an implication against the honesty and good faith to the city of every member of the council. Attorney L. C. Burr and his client should be compelled to produce the proofs of such a statement. The council is singularly free, even from a suspicion of double dealing and such an allegation is both impolitic and unjust. Considering the reputation Mr. Burr has acquired by a long residence in Lincoln, the members of the council may not regard themselves as insulted by any statement, however derogatory, proceeding from him. Yet a legal paper, like that which contains an appeal for an injunction, after it leaves the attorney's office, has more or less of an impersonal

character and those who hear and argue its points forget the moral obliquity or irreproachableness of the instrument which drew it up. Therefore it is incumbent on the individual members of the council to show that the charge of corruption is as baseless as the other paragraphs which president Webster contradicts. Fourthly, the petition recites that a majority of the city officers entered into an agreement with the street railway company, early in the year, to settle this suit. The president of the council, one of the most intelligent and faithful of the city officers says: "This has not a word of truth in it."

As chairman of the finance committee, Mr. Webster is exhaustively acquainted with the past and present status of this case. For a longer time than any other citizen he has been a member of the city council and to a larger degree, than others on account of his long and faithful service, he enjoys the confidence of his associates in the council and of his fellow citizens. Perhaps two men of more antipodal reputation could not be selected than the attorney who drew up the petition for an injunction and the president of the council who denies every clause of it in toto; and for this reason the other councilmen are doubtless content with his simple denial.

The Workers.

The men at work upon the streets are surrounded, or rather, flanked on both sides at all times by a crowd of men and boys who shift their position with the progress of the work and appear to be deeply interested in its processes which are repeated over and over again at intervals of half an hour or less. Among the audience there is little conversation and among the workers only laconic directions from the boss of each gang of ten or twelve men. The work is accomplished with surprising quickness and the men work harmoniously and make no false or unnecessary motions. It is perhaps the rapidity and harmony and purposefulness of the work that attract the town loafers from the vicinity of O and Tenth and O and Eleventh. They are so unaccustomed to the energetic accomplishment of a design which involves hard and continuous labor that workers of the kind described fascinate them and they uproot themselves from Tenth street and send down a tap into Twelfth street which fills the merchants on that street with consternation, this location having been comparatively free from this local pest in the past, except for the few degraded specimens which grow on the Funke opera house steps.

And these loafers remind me, that in America the only men and women who resemble Edward Markham's dull-eyed ox are not the laborers, but the loafers. The latter have the open mouth, the stupid stare, and the ar-

rested development features of "The Man with the Hoe." The workers in the street are alert and resourceful, the men with nothing to do but to lean and gaze and spit are a disgrace to their families, their country and their race. If anything were needed to make one feel the educational effects of labor these two groups of men composing the workers and their audience might supply it. Of course passers-by, on the way to or from activities of various kinds, stop to look at the really interesting processes of making a durable asphalt road, but these men and the cigarette boys watch them all day long only shifting their position with the extension of the asphalted rock or "binder" or final asphalt frosting. Gazing upon these two types of men, the conviction must seize the passer-by that labor is not the curse it is supposed to be and on the other hand that whatever circumstances have produced the degenerate young men extended upon the curbstone, they are unfortunate. For truly the only hopeless human being is that one who refuses to work and instead smokes cigarettes extended upon the curbstone or upon an advertising trunk or a convenient bicycle rack, showing both that he is lazy and is not ashamed of it. A western city like Lincoln contains the extremes of both types: the energetic world-conqueror and the laissez faire young man whom there are not enough policemen in town to keep moving any faster than from a stationary position on one corner to a stationary position on the next one.

Two Kinds of Democrats.

The contrast between the political leaders of eight years ago and those that are prominent and powerful now, is graphically presented in last week's Harper's Weekly. The difference in the aims, characters and inspiration is shown by portraits of Charles S. Fairchild and John P. Altgeld, Grover Cleveland and William J. Bryan, John G. Carlisle and James S. Hogg, Patrick A. Collins and Robert E. Burke, William L. Wilson and Benjamin Tillman, Clifton R. Breckinridge and Thomas Gahan. It will be observed that the first one in each couple is a type of the old style and voluntarily retired democrat and the second is a representative of the newest and most prominent democrats.

It is fitting that the picture of Charles S. Fairchild should lead the group. He was an intimate friend of Samuel Tilden, attorney general of New York and secretary of the treasury. He was genuinely interested in public matters, not entirely, for the political advancement which follows active participation in the discussion of national questions, but because he was interested in large affairs and had a patriotic desire to aid in the real expansion of democracy. But all the first mentioned men in each group have retired from the councils of the

party. And Messrs. Altgeld Bryan, Hogg, Burke, Tillman and Gahan are running it.

On all the faces of the latter group rests an expression of self satisfaction, of vanity, of self consciousness. The other group have the air of statesmen and the expression of unconscious manliness that characterizes every man who has led his people into a larger life and not into mischief, from Moses to Abraham Lincoln.

The Color Line in England.

A few Matabele savages have set up a kraal in London and some well bred women have become fascinated with the stalwart blacks. One woman, Miss Florence Jewell has run off with Lobengula and married him, and others have shown signs of a preference for the bronze men until a strong demand is made by the white men that the kraal, where the natives live be closed.

Lobengula and Miss Jewell vainly tried to get married in London but could not find any one to perform the ceremony. They have started for Africa. To his credit Lobengula tried to persuade Miss Jewell to give him up when he found her countrymen and family were entirely opposed to the match, but he did not succeed. As the groom has no money and his tribe in Africa is all broken up and in the first stages of civilization, nobody knows how the pair will live. A Matabele hut, without windows or doors and only a hole for ingress and egress which is too low for a young lady who cannot crawl on her hands and knees, will not seem so romantic and picturesque to Mrs. Lobengula from the inside as it did on the outside looked at from a London street, from a girl's romance-loving eyes.

The foolkiller slays millions every year. People get sick and die, not from malaria or from accidents on land or sea or even from microbes, but just because they have not sense enough to live. Death is the inevitable result of the cumulation of follies. Mrs. Lobengula, has a small income bequeathed her by her father who was a mining engineer, a sum which has educated and supported her, but is quite insufficient for an extravagant savage. Their sure goal is a dime museum whose walls, hospitable to all freaks will probably be the setting for this girl of twenty-one when the killer arrives.

Municipal Ownership.

In Philadelphia city administration of the water supply has been a failure. In London private control and administration of the water supply is a failure. The English drought is the most severe in seventy years, and it is reported that the Lea which runs through a certain part of London is so low that it is nothing more than an open sewer. The poorest people, never devotedly attached to water either for external or internal use,