

ticians. "After" the resignation of Secretary Blish and the appointment of Mr. Hitchcock, it was evident that there were serious differences between Davis and his chief." Then the former said he required a vacation, and, enjoying all the honors and prestige of a United States government official, he visited the Boers. The opportunity to become conspicuous was tempting and the subject of this sympathetic sketch was not the man to resist it. He returned to America, resigned and took the lecture platform. Before retiring he started a vice presidential boom for himself as the "coming Missourian" and the President's personal favorite. The President objected to the false position Mr. Davis thrust upon him, and let it be known that he was rigidly opposed to the election of any federal office holder as delegate to the convention. This rebuff and the failure of his conspiracy to worm himself into another's place, are more obvious reasons for Mr. Davis' withdrawal from the party which has fed him too long.

Competition.

The common people who never talk about the common people, who never pose as willing to be butchered for more liberty to others and more justice are hoping that the council will grant a franchise to the second telephone company which has asked for it. The establishment of another company here means an immediate, fifty per cent reduction of rentals which in the aggregate is a saving of over thirty thousand dollars a year to the citizens, most of whom are the great common people referred to. The suspicion is gathering strength that the telephone company already here are making extraordinary exertions and using all their influence to keep the new company out. The former has charged exorbitant rentals for so long that it is alarmed at the prospect of a competitor and anxious to use what influence and power the company has to keep out competition. I hope the council can make it clear that the company which has erected its poles on our streets and charged an exorbitant rental for so long is not the influence which prevents the council from favorably considering an application from a new company. A reduction of rates is within the power of the council. If this were done relief from present existing conditions would be secured without the bother of a double telephone system.

Modus Operandi.

It is very doubtful if the Tired Mothers' Excursion and Rest, manoeuvre will have any effect on the election of a United States senator next winter.

Whose Business Is It?

With the democratic presidential candidate, a resident of Lincoln, it is likely that the state house grounds will be the place for many open air addresses before the summer is over.

With the present carelessness in regard to public property that exists at the state house some of the fine trees which have been planted by previous servants of the people will be entirely destroyed. The two large evergreen trees of twenty or thirty years' growth next the band stand were filled on Tuesday night with large boys who hacked and tore the branches in order to secure comfortable seats. Not one of the mob of janitors who are employed at the state house cared whether the trees were destroyed or not and apparently

no official elected by the people to care for their property cared either. I spoke to a police officer who was lounging about in characteristically indolent fashion. He replied that it was none of his business. Mr. McIntee at the state house when informed of the damage already done to these beautiful trees, was equally indifferent and impudently replied to a plea for future protection, with an intimation that the state house grounds are no republican's affairs.

In his speech on Tuesday evening on the Capitol grounds, Mr. Bryan said:

"There is a privilege in being an American citizen, and there is responsibility commensurate with the privilege. If we lived in a land where a king thought for us we would feel no responsibility for the action of that king. But we live in a land where the people determine the policy. We live in a land where the citizen impresses his own opinion upon the government, where the policy of the government may be determined by one vote."

It is said that Mr. Bryan has large influence with the state house officials. Consequently, he might be able to teach them that a man once elected to office is attending to the duties of that office for the whole people and not exclusively for those who voted for him. All the citizens have an interest in the preservation of the Capitol and the trees which have required so long to grow and so much cultivation. Republicans still pay taxes. But when they venture to call official attention to the vandalism such as that perpetrated by Commandant Fowler at the Milford Home or in the case just referred to, there seems to be no privilege in being an American citizen. We are reminded that we have no responsibility commensurate with the privilege, that we do not live in a land where the people determine the policy, nor where the citizen impresses his own opinion upon the government. The people of this community would take it very kindly if Mr. Bryan would occasionally say some of these things to those custodians of the state's property who regard their surroundings as inalienable conveniences to use for their own comfort irrespective of the time and taxes they have cost.

Quivera Legends.

A compilation of the Indian tales of this part of the country is promised by E. E. Blackman, the publisher of Quivera Legends. About all that survives of the early occupation of the "shallow-water" country is in the names of the streams. There are few hills and fewer rocks than the nomads named for us and the prairie which rolls in every direction, indistinguishably, could only be named by the white men who surveyed and marked it off into sections and counties.

If the publisher of Quivera Legends fulfil his promise after a scientific and scholarly pattern the historical and scholarly value of the magazine is unquestionable.

The Belgian Hare.

The hare was a pest in Australia and numerous expedients were adopted to drive it out of the continent. Periodical drives were organized, when thousands were slaughtered, infected hare were loosed to start an epidemic among the species, the mongoose a justly celebrated hare and snake killer was imported from India and became another nuisance, but nothing was effective until it was discovered that the hare was good to eat. The pot hunter has made the hare

scarce in Australia, and the farmers are now asking for game laws including the hare. There is no historical instance of a food animal becoming a pest. The timid, frightened little things that write editorials on the daily papers about the probabilities of a hare pest in this country might as well be shocked by the amount of food consumed by, and the rate of increase of sheep or cattle or hogs. All food animals are food of grain and grass, but they transmute them into a more valuable food product.

The Belgian hare has provided the millions of German, French and English peasants with an occasional meal of meat. The flesh of the hare is tender and very nutritious. His bones cook up into a soup and it is said by those who have experimented with broths for the sick, that hare soup is especially easy of digestion. Since the hare has been accepted as a staple meat we might as well be alarmed over the large coveys of a prairie chicken or of the quail. Both haunt the grain fields and eat quantities of grain, but it is a rare farmer who will allow pot hunters on his farm.

An Expensive Rest.

Almost all gifts are paid for by the recipient. Except those donations from parents to their children or from members of the same family to each other or from intimate friends, both donor and recipient know when the gift is received, acknowledged, and sometimes enjoyed and sometimes not, that the pay day will surely arrive. It is not always possible for the very poor who receive a gift to pay their own debts. In such cases a community sometimes rewards with its esteem the man who lets his benefactions be known, and sometimes it rewards him with votes. But communities are not to be depended upon in this regard. Lincoln is a suspicious community. In the last twenty or thirty years, and especially in the last five years, Lincoln people have seen a deal of politics, and they could pass an examination on the tricks and manners of the latter.

Mr. Thompson really under-estimates the price of a United States senatorship, and the intelligence of the voters who can send him to Washington or keep him here,—a hope-deferred suppliant.

About three or four years ago it occurred to Mr. Thompson that if he were United States senator he would be a distinguished man and would enjoy the consideration and deference that his Nebraska constituents at least would pay him. He was hampered by a record then as he is now. He was something of a boss and men who had felt his heavy hand while he was securing privileges and bargains for the gas company from the city would have to be conciliated. Then his close friends and allies were not of a calibre and a character that United States senators are apt to be surrounded by. Nevertheless Mr. Thompson doubtless decided that he could reach the altitude of a United States senator by making various and constant and well advertised donations to worthy objects. In pursuance, he got up an excursion to the Trans-Mississippi exposition for the children of poor people who had not visited the show; he gave various barrels of flour to the convenient "poor," and he loaned the state \$20,000 to bring the First Nebraska boys "back to the land that bred them." His anxiety to give something large and monumental is so apparent that when a site for the new library was needed, it was immediately assumed that Mr. Thompson would give it and he did offer two sites.

While Mr. Thompson was in Texas his allies of the old Mayor Graham days, who know nothing of the temper and cannot estimate the tone or number of those who oppose Mr. Thompson, got up the Abraham Lincoln club celebration which resulted in Mr. Hall's production of the fourteen affidavits proving Mr. Thompson's offer of sale of his vote and influence to the populist party.

On his return Mr. Thompson recognized that it was his play and he is now organizing a Tired Mothers' Excursion to Beatrice.

A Scandal.

It was not Mrs. Cohen of Utah who did a cake-walk at the Kansas City convention. Mrs. Cohen behaved very well. Some emotional woman impersonated Mrs. Cohen and every club woman who read of her performance in the next morning's papers, were shocked. They were willing to give up for the moment the principle no taxation without representation. But it was all a mistake. The woman who danced and sang with disheveled locks was a fanatic who had wandered in from the street. She was not a delegate and the morals which have been drawn from her conduct do not apply. Visitors to the convention report that Mrs. Cohen was as modest and shrinking as Mr. David B. Hill himself. It is a relief to know that politics alone cannot make a woman forget gentle birth and breeding and the proprieties of life and it has been completely demonstrated by competent witnesses that Mrs. Cohen's conduct was unexceptionable.

Reserve.

Lincoln people do not howl themselves hoarse when the city is honored by a visit from distinguished democrats, not because they do not appreciate the honor, but because we are a non-emotional people.

Army officers taking their commands from one coast to another in the late war, complained that when they reached Nebraska, although the people surrounded the station there was little cheering and that of a half-hearted sort. When great musicians, actors or actresses visit Nebraska they complain that their fame and their genius are wasted on a bucolic, stolid people, unwilling to confess that the music or the acting has moved them. I think we are a sophisticated people. Some of us have been to Chicago, a few to New York, and a very few to Europe. But we are unappreciative. Like the rustic who visits a city for the first time, we have steeled ourselves against surprises and the display of any emotion whatever.

It is therefore not because the inhabitants are mostly republican fellow townsmen of the democratic vice-presidential candidate that his distinguished visitors excite only an agricultural stare, but because, take us for all in all, we are cold-blooded and ungenerous.

Patriotism, heroism, self-sacrifice, are as spectacles. They do not affect us. The one man to whom Nebraskans are more indebted than to any other, who gave up his reputation and then his life that Nebraska troops might be prepared to fight a worthy fight and then to fight it, has not received any adequate recognition. The attempt to secure the surplus remaining from the amount subscribed to the celebration of the First Nebraska for the Stotsenburg fund was partially foiled by the determination to divert these funds to the uses of the state fair. When it is demonstrated that only the ex-