

THE COURIER

Published Every Saturday

Entered in the Postoffice at Lincoln as second class matter.

OFFICE, 900-910 P STREET

TELEPHONE Business Office, 214
Editorial Rooms, 90

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per annum, in advance, \$1.00
Single Copy,06

*The Surveyor of the . . .
. . . Port of Lincoln*

Comparatively few steamboats with their discordant whistles arouse the citizens of Lincoln from dreamless slumber. No men-of-war have placidly steamed into port and cast anchor. Navigation on Salt Creek has never been a lucrative calling and the steamer which once upon a time ploughed the waters of the lake at Burlington Beach has long ago ceased to be remembered.

On account of this state of affairs a great many people do not understand just why Lincoln is designated as a port by the government. Just why Hon. L. L. Lindsey or Hon. C. H. Morrill or anybody else should be appointed surveyor and collector of the port also calls for a little explanation.

Many Lincoln merchants purchase goods abroad. On their account the government has established a port, keeps a surveyor and maintains a bonded warehouse. The salary paid the surveyor is \$900 and in addition he gets three per cent of his collections, with fees added.

The warehouse is in charge of a local transfer company. A bond is filed sufficient to meet the value of all goods entered therein. When a merchant imports goods he does not need to pay the

duty on the whole consignment at once. He can place the surplus stock in bond and draw out package by package paying the duty as he takes out his goods. For instance the duty amounts to \$2,000. The merchant need not raise the whole amount. It is only necessary to pay the charges on such merchandise as he urgently needs in his business. The importer may leave the goods in bond three years. For the accommodation of the importer, the government has established this warehouse system.

For the year ending June 30, 1900, the entries numbered 180. The duties and tonnage amounted to \$10,206.90. The expenses of the office, clerical hire and the like aggregated \$1,882.05.

The year ending last June was not nearly so favorable. The number of entries fell off and so did the tonnage. The collector, however, got practically the same sum out of it, \$1,831.74. The number of entries was 155 and the duties and tonnage footed up \$9,954.15.

Notwithstanding the establishment by the government of a port of entry here, very few firms take advantage of the opportunity to bring their importations direct to the city without breaking bulk on the way. In fact most of the imported goods sold in the city are purchased from eastern importers. Herpolsheimer & Co. bring in considerable toys, dolls and hosiery. The Fitzgerald Dry Goods company import hosiery in large lots; wines and liquors by the Lincoln Liquor & Cigar Co., musical instruments by the Curtice company, cotton cloths and handkerchiefs and woolen head shawls by Herman Bros., earthenware by Funke & Ogden, razors by the Rudge & Guenzel company, and tea in carload lots by the Raymond-Clarke company. Hargreaves Bros. and Grainger Bros. form the bulk of the imports. Perhaps one of the biggest items of imports is seeds by the Griswold Seed company.

F. J. Kunel of Crete imports a variety of Bohemian made goods for his trade, and three nursery firms, Youngers & Co., of Geneva, J. A. Gage, of Beatrice, and the Fairbury Nursery

company bring in lots of greenhouse plants and nursery goods.

The state university is by far the largest importer, but all of the articles purchased abroad by it come in free of duty. The toil and trouble of handling the material is one of the perquisites of the office. The importations consist chiefly of scientific and philosophical apparatus, books, chemicals and laboratory supplies. The high schools of the state also receive considerable supplies of the same general character free of duty.

The surveyor of the port also acts as custodian. For this work he receives no additional pay, although it is, in fact, the most of his trouble. If a window sticks, if the janitor has neglected his sweeping, if the radiator doesn't work properly, if any one of a hundred and odd things that may happen about a big building does happen the custodian is appealed to and his authority invoked. He has general charge of all of the employes about the building, is responsible for its care and cleanliness, looks out that too much gas and coal is not used, sees that new supplies are secured and has various duties. The book of instructions is a good-sized pamphlet, tells him just what he must require in the line of new furniture, informs him that dusters and brooms must not be wastefully used or stolen, directs him to see that when the sweeping is done the dust is got out of crannies and behind movable furniture, etc., etc.

The surveyor is allowed a clerk, who is paid out of the \$1,800 receipts of the office. Two spacious rooms on the third floor are set aside for his offices. From here he directs the staff of employes. All of these, save his clerk, are under the civil service, and cannot be removed except for cause.

* * *

Artist—Yes, I am badly paid for good work, but I am content.

The Other—In the love of Art?

Artist—Yes, and then, if I live long enough, the day will come when I shall be well paid for bad work.

TO STOP FLIRTING



The New York flirt must go. Assemblyman Bennett of the New York legislature will show him no mercy. If his bill becomes law, the making of "Goo-goo eyes" in the Empire state will become a criminal offense. Strange to say, the young women are not strongly supporting Mr. Bennett's measure.

Wife—Dear, aren't you drinking too hard?

Husband—What put that idea into your head?

Wife—Well, you know you have been detained at the office five times this week.

* * *

Eyebright—Well, I've got to begin wearing glasses.

Skidmore—Troubled with your eyes? Eyebright—Certainly. Didn't think I was going to move to Boston, did you?

* * *

Mrs. Bingo—"You must be careful what you say to the cook, dear, or she will leave." Bingo—"Why, was I hard on her?" "Were you? Why, anyone would have thought you were talking to me!"

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\$10.00

Any Women's 27-inch Jacket in the house in fine Kerseys, all colors, Skinner's satin lined, values to \$16.50,

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\$10.00

All wool Eiderdown Dressing Sacque, entire stock divided into three prices,

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25 Women's Jackets in Kersey, beaver, and Astrakhan cloths. These will go for each,

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75c

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