

fall to the new structure a rod away that will be finished by that time. This will make a little more high school room but not enough. To study now the students must be seated in the auditorium and its light is decidedly poor; aside from the laboratory there are only class rooms, from which the pupils are shifted every three-quarters of an hour. Rooms are needed where the pupils can study under a teacher, undisturbed, a thing impossible at the high school.

Many students are here from out in the country, out in the state, and outside its boundaries. Their tuition is \$4 a month at the high school and altogether it will be \$1,600 this year. At the graded schools they are admitted for \$2 a month if they are from outside the county, and \$1 a month if they live inside. Less than \$300 will be raised in this manner from the common schools this year. Last year the tuitions amounted altogether to \$1,424.92. Lincoln is chosen by these students because of the presence of the state university. As mentioned before the per capita expense of each pupil is \$21.54. In seventeen other cities of about equal size where text books are not furnished the per capita is \$21.21; in Omaha and four other cities where the books are provided the average per capita is \$26.23. The Lincoln school children are furnished their books. The difference is significant. As for the teachers, their salaries here range from \$40 to \$57.50, while the principals are paid from \$70 to \$90. The wages of the latter have been slightly raised during the last two years.

None of the teachers are paid as high salaries as they received during the hard times, even after the wages were supposed to have been cut to correspond to the situation. Moreover the commissions they then received on their warrants always amounted to about \$3 a month to each teacher. Now they are retained by the board. With the rise in price of everything it is obvious that the teachers are not feeling as well required as they should be for their services. The result is that many of them are seeking employment elsewhere. This does not mean that the teachers who stay are incapable but it does show that the tendency is to lose the best. There is also a need for more teachers. None should be required to manage more than forty pupils, yet many have fifty and fifty-five.

In methods of teaching and in results the progress of the past few years has been very satisfactory. The teachers have more freedom than ever before and are consequently more zealous in their work. That is, they are allowed more independence in methods of instilling facts and philosophy. Not being tied down to a set plan they feel warranted in putting vim and enthusiasm in their work and they do it. In reading, geography and drawing the labors of the children have been much better. In these days schooling is not tied down to the ossified curriculum of ancient days. There is variety for the sake of testing and developing all the powers and tastes of the pupils. Art is no uncertain educator and the students are given a good chance at it. Drawing is made a regular study and school decoration comes in for a good share of attention. Only the best grades of pictures are hung in the school rooms and the chromos of earlier days are quite out of date and custom. The students have cultivated a taste for pictures in their work in drawing and in the various art exhibits that have been held in town of late years.

One great need is better school libraries. Not general reading, but reference books—volumes that will be supplemental to the studies. In some of the schools the pupils have bought these libraries themselves. The board of education does not invest in them because it is practicing economy. Because of this campaign of frugality many rooms are in need of more up to date maps and globes. Blackboards are particularly poor. They are composed of material which has a bad habit of scaling off after a few months' use and this is disagreeable for all concerned.

If some new scheme is not adopted to do away with the overdraft the schools will trail along for years with but more and more sluggish progress. This debt is a drag anchor which is bound to hold the Lincoln schools far behind their peers in other cities.

## OBSERVATIONS

BY SARAH B. HARRIS

### New Jersey's Cross

In Nebraska a very bad wind with complications of dust, a wind that penetrates to the marrow bones and a dust that gets into the narrowest cracks of the best built houses, is the greatest drawback to happiness. The doctors say that it is the wind, the high wind that blows away malaria and that that is the reason why there are no cases of fever and ague in the state exported from Indiana or from some other low-lying country. Very likely; but when the wind blows one's hair and skirts out of the conventional order and besides fills the nose, eyes and mouth with gritty dust, the laws of health and the creditable health statistics of Nebraska are of inconsiderable importance. New Jersey, where a large number of well-to-do Americans go every summer, has a pest which can be mitigated, if not obliterated, by an appropriation from the legislature to buy coal oil. When this appropriation is put on the spots where it will do the most good, the mosquito eggs or the young mosquitos in whatever form the mosquito deposits them are killed painlessly and immediately. Ten thousand dollars will not kill all the mosquitoes in New Jersey, but it will kill a good many billions and the proprietors of summer hotels and cottages should exterminate the rest. They are directly benefited by the pilgrims fleeing the heat who pay New Jersey landlords high rent and it is up to them to prevent their guests from being bitten by poisonous insects. If only Nebraska dust-storms could be prevented by an act of the legislature this state might become an ante-room to the garden of Eden.

\* \* \*

### To the Neighbors for News

Eastern papers are commenting on the recent report made by the secretary of the Nebraska state banking board. In spite of the failure of the Nebraska staple the deposits made in the state this year exceeded those made last year by \$12,000,000. We lost one hundred million bushels of corn but nevertheless we gained twelve million dollars on the preceding year. Eastern people are pointing with pride to this state. Our prosperity is so near that we do not see it and estimate it. The Saturday Evening Post says:

Yet besides caring for home interests, the Nebraska banks, according to the secretary's report, have had so much money that at least twenty-five per cent of the loans and discounts have been to eastern financial institutions and on eastern securities. In plain English, Nebraska has become a "capitalist state." States, like individuals, change their manner according to their poverty or wealth. In a very old story, which is not read as much as it should be, the patriarch Job, wise, good and wealthy, is presented by the highest authority as a model—"A perfect and an upright man"—"None like him in the earth"—but when, at the suggestion of Satan, Job was deprived of his property and his children, he became sick in body and mind, went down into the dumps, and found the world so awry that with much eloquence of detail he cursed the day in which he was born, and his wife urged him to make the curse more comprehensive so as to include the designer and manager of all things. From poverty-stricken states, as from men reduced to penury, come all sorts of financial and social and moral heresies and lunacies, some of which are infectious, turning the heads of the people and unsettling business foundations. It would be invidious to name states where this has been the case, for no one can say with certainty that

similar disturbances may not begin, at scant notice, in one of the oldest and wealthiest.

But at present Nebraska deserves the congratulations of her sister states for having made so handsome a showing, and for having proved herself willing and able to spend less than she earned, and thus fortified herself against the bad years which always are possible.

\* \* \*

### Education and the Saloons

This is a free country and it is more than a question if one man or set of men can say to another man or men: "You shall not drink whisky or any kind of alcoholic drink." In prohibition communities men are driven to drink by the consciousness that they are under a childish regime and that the law is officious and intrusive. Whatever the temperance exhorters urge, it is still very difficult to dispossess the idea from an American citizen's head that he can put into his stomach whatever he and his wife shall agree is fit to be put there.

On the other hand the American community has no right to make whisky drinking or allow whisky drinking to be made more alluring than it is inherently to the youth of this country. There is one place in this city where a bar and billiard tables are almost in the same room. They are both under the same management. This place is making drunkards faster than all the rest of the saloons in Lincoln. Any passerby may see the room full of young men who are sent to the university by self-sacrificing parents in the expectation that they will improve the opportunity to prepare themselves for a strenuous life. The boys go in to play billiards and an invitation to the bar is inevitable and it is churlish to refuse. They play a game and take a drink between games naturally, sociably, easily. The proprietor claims that he can not afford to pay a two thousand dollar license. Lincoln can not afford to let him do business here any longer. If a two thousand dollar license would drive him out of the billiard saloon business it would be the most fortunate windfall to the business of Lincoln. Among the thousand boys who come here from the smaller places in the state there are many who return to their homes in the spring with depraved consciences, blackguardly manners and small increment of culture. Their first year away from the parental roof has not justified the sacrifice the parents are willing to make. Wise parents take such sons out of school and give them to understand that henceforth they are entirely on their own resources. Responsibility will sometimes make a man of a youth from whom parental love and unselfishness has had no response.

But as an educational community the Lincoln municipal administration should make new laws in regard to billiard tables in saloons. We have no right to allow the saloon keeper to entice the youth. Moreover, the policy, from a business point of view, does not pay. Parents with their eyes open are not going to send their boys to a sink of iniquity. An education is a valuable adjunct to a young man's career, but if its acquirement is complicated with too many spiritual and physical dangers the business career preceded by only a common-school education is preferable. There is no question that the boy who comes to the university and puts in his time smoking, playing billiards and drinking or idly hammering coon songs out of that fraternity beast of burden, the piano, is injured rather than helped by the process. His course amounts to four years of self indulgence. At

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